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Joyful and Triumphant

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

proudly presents

Joyful and Triumphant

Friday, December 11, 2009
Unitarian Universalist Church
695 Elmwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY · 8pm

Saturday, December 12, 2009
Riviera Theatre
67 Webster St.
North Tonawanda, NY · 8pm

Sunday, December 13, 2009
Westminster Presbyterian Church
724 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY · 5pm

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B G M C
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

716.883.1277

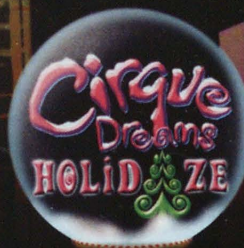
buffalogaymenschorus.org

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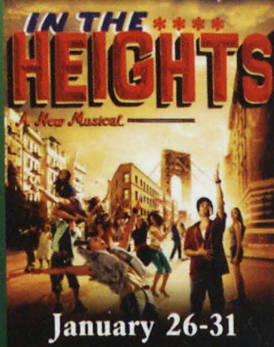


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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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51 Colonial Circle
Buffalo, New York 14222
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A NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

Our Mission

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing.

We seek through song not only to entertain, but also to enlighten.

We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in our communities and in ourselves.



CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR



December 2009

Dear Members and Supporters of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus:

Greetings and salutations to the BGMC on the occasion of your holiday season of song!

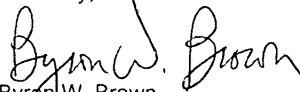
We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "Joyful and Triumphant!" at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on December 11th, at the Riviera Theatre on December 12th, and at Westminster Presbyterian Church on December 13th.

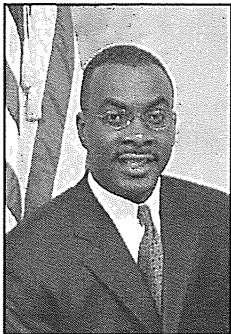
Your continued success under the direction of Maestra Barbara Wagner represents all that is best about the arts in our region: beauty, harmony and excellence!

While we listen to your "vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing," we know yours sounds are the fruit of hard work and man rehearsal hours.

Congratulations on the positive impact you have on our community and region and continued best wishes as you enlighten and entertain in our "City of Good Neighbors!"

Sincerely,


Byron W. Brown
Mayor



65 NIAGARA SQUARE / 201 CITY HALL / BUFFALO, NY 14202-3392 / (716) 851-4841 FAX: (716) 851-4360 / www.city-buffalo.com

Special Thanks

Our Friday Hosts

Rev. Joel Miller and the Unitarian
Universalist Church of Buffalo

Our Saturday Hosts

Frank Cannata and the Riviera Theater

Our Sunday Hosts

Rev. Thomas Yorty and the Westminster
Presbyterian Church

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and other gracious volunteers

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Norm Duttweiler, Jr.

Assistant to the Web Master

Jaime Goldfuss

Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at www.buffalogaymenschorus.org or by letter to the Chorus at 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, New York 14222.

BGMC has "gone green". Please recycle your concert program if you do not wish to keep it as a souvenir. You will find collection boxes at the rear of the concert hall. Thank you!

Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

From all of the BGMC Family, a very special and heartfelt thank you to the Friends of the BGMC. Your generosity allows us to bring enlightenment, inspiration, healing and harmony to the greater community and to all of us. We are most grateful that you have added your "voices" to ours.

The Friends of the BGMC listed in this program are those whose contributions were received between June 15, 2009 and November 30, 2009.

Maestro \$1,000 - \$2,999

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Peter and Belmore Bridgford

Honoring Barbara Wagner and Debbie Overton

Paul A. Cassavaugh
William H. and Marjorie A. Gardner
Joseph Grieco
Robert B. Race

Barbara L. Wagner, *Honoring Roger Parris*

Conductor \$200 - \$499

| | |
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| Thomas R. Alcamo | Fran Felser and Dave Shaver |
| Mr. and Mrs. George Black, <i>Honoring Rob Black</i> | Dr. and Mrs. Chester F. Franczyk, Jr. Andrew Giarrizzo |
| Bock & Whitman Roofing, Inc. (Ray and Mary Whitman), <i>Honoring Steve Young and Linda Reznick</i> | Ronald R. Houk Tom Kersch and Jim Amigone |
| Babs Conant and Camille Cox | Donald A. Licht, <i>In memory of James D. Haynes</i> |

Conductor \$200 - \$499 (Continued)

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Michael Osika and Daniel M.
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Bob and Luann Roberts
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Harriet Stewart
Gloria and Paul Stuart
Hans Tamberg
Edward J. Witul

Singer - Under \$100

| | |
|---|--|
| Vickie Agostini, <i>Honoring Jimmy Rigo</i> | Donald Callen Freed, Ph.D. and Larry P. Ebmeier |
| Laverne M. Behr | William J. Fay |
| Pamela and Alex Borok, <i>Honoring Jason Ward</i> | Clara Gillies |
| Pete Carroll, <i>In memory of Jim Cain</i> | Lynne Giroux |
| Helen M. Christian | Carl and Eloise Granger |
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| Daryl M. Ervolina | David C. Krieman, <i>In Memory of Dan, David and Ron</i> |
| John Fleischman, Jr. | Dorothy M. Lien |
| Marvin and Marcia Frankel, <i>Honoring Lucy Maya Cohen-Frankel</i> | Sam Maislin, Attorney Ed and Pat Malican |

Singer - Under \$100 (Continued)

| | |
|---|---|
| Dr. Horace Mann | Joe Schuder, II |
| Delwyn Milander | Debbie M. Sheehan |
| Louis M. Molisani | Carol D. Speser |
| Susan H. Nealon, <i>Honoring Russell Link and John Jubulis, 30 years together</i> | Curt Steinzor and Elaine Gardner Summer Street Cat Clinic |
| Hugh J. and Ann O'Hear | E.J. and R.D. Venator, <i>Honoring Russell Link and John Jubulis' Anniversary</i> |
| Donna Parris, <i>Honoring Roger Parris</i> | John and Noreen Visone |
| John J. Pellegrini | Robert A. Wiechman and John R. Molinaro |
| Benjamin Phillips | Diana Williams-Foster |
| Paula and Alan Rosner, <i>Honoring Russ Link's 77th Birthday</i> | Theresa Wise |



COME JOIN US IN SONG

The BGMC thanks all its members, volunteers, and audiences, past, present and future. We also extend to the entire Western New York community an invitation to join our organization as either a volunteer or singer. We welcome new singers with open arms. And, as always, we welcome any man, straight or gay, who wishes not only to sing but to join our mission to seek through song to enlighten as well as to entertain.

Open auditions will be held December 29th and January 5th at 6 pm at St. John's Grace Church, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222 or phone our Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner, at 668-1124 or 359-1894 to make an appointment for an audition.

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Friday, February 5 at 7:30 pm

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Sunday, February 28 at 8 pm

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Joyful and Triumphant

Christopher S. Babbitt, President



Good evening and welcome to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus second annual Holiday concert "Joyful and Triumphant". We are very honored that you have chosen to spend the next few hours with us as we enlighten, entertain and celebrate this wonderful holiday season that is upon us. We, the BGMC, know that you have many options when choosing Holiday entertainment and we are thrilled that you have chosen us.

It is my pleasure to not only be a member of this enormously talented group, but also to be the President of this organization. I am honored to have the opportunity to thank you for all the support you have shown the BGMC over the past 8 years, but mostly I am excited to be on stage with all of the Men and Women of the BGMC to perform for you. The energy and love we feel from each audience is why we perform and is why we know that our mission: ***the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. We seek through song not only to entertain, but to enlighten. We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in the community and in ourselves,*** is not only important, but is needed.

"Joyful and Triumphant" separately are adjectives describing feelings and accomplishments. When brought together, "Joyful and Triumphant" becomes the success story of the BGMC. Over the past 8 years, the BGMC has developed into an arts organization that cares about its community and continues helping where ever needed. Tonight we perform our much anticipated 2nd annual Holiday concert. As we sing for you this evening, you will hear some classic holiday songs, some not so familiar songs, and what would a BGMC concert be without a classic song with a twist that only the BGMC could pull off.

During this holiday season, please remember those who have passed on, reach out to someone you have lost contact with and celebrate with friends and family. Surround yourselves with happiness, warmth and love while you give thanks to the past and look forward to a happy and healthy new year. Please sit back, relax and enjoy the performance. It is our pleasure to be performing for you and we do appreciate your continued support.

Yours in Harmony and Love,
Christopher S. Babbitt

Joyful and Triumphant

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director

Dear Friends and Music Lovers,



Welcome to our second annual Holiday Concert, "Joyful and Triumphant". It's wonderful to see so many old and new friends here, and we hope you'll find something special on this concert that will touch your heart and keep you warm for the rest of the winter. For me, each of the songs are special, but there are two this time that touch my heart every time we work on them. I'm not going to tell though - we'll check with each other during the receiving line.

One of the fine conductors in our GALA movement shared with all of the other Artistic Directors on our E-List the following excerpt from a wonderful new book called *The Elegance of the Hedgehog*. It's from the journal of a precocious 12 year old French girl, who happens to be on her way to the gymnasium for the school concert. Every word went directly to my soul - I laughed and cried and my heart was full. I hope you feel the same way!!

She says, "Every time, it's a miracle. Here are all these people, full of heartache or hatred or desire, and we all have our troubles and the school year is filled with vulgarity and triviality and consequence, and there are all these teachers and kids of every shape and size, and there's this life we're struggling through full of shouting and tears and laughter and fights and break-ups and dashed hopes and unexpected luck- it all disappears just like that when the choir begins to sing. Everyday life vanishes into song, you are suddenly overcome with a spirit of brotherhood and sisterhood of deep solidarity, even love, and it diffuses the ugliness of everyday life into a spirit of perfect communion. Even the singers' faces are transformed. I see human beings surrendering to music.

"Every time, it's the same thing, I feel like crying, my throat goes all tight and I do the best I can to control myself but sometimes it gets close. I can hardly keep myself from sobbing. So when they sing a canon I look down at the ground, because it's just too much emotion all at once. It's too beautiful with everyone singing together, this marvelous sharing. I'm no longer myself, I am just one part of a sublime whole, to which the others also belong, and I always wonder at such moments why this cannot be the rule of everyday life, instead of being an exceptional moment, during a choir.

"When the music stops, everyone applauds, their faces all lit up, the choir radiant. It is so beautiful. In the end, I wonder if the true movement of the world might not be a voice raised in song."

I believe those words with my whole heart because beautiful and loving choirs have taught them to me.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season, and we hope that you enjoy our concert.

With love,
Barbara Wagner

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Tenor 1

Jerrod Baldwin
Robert Black
Norman Boyer
Shaun Doyle, Jr.*
Norm Duttweiler, Jr.*
Ronald Houk
Dion Johnson
G. ('Spike') Michael Liska*
Michael Rogers
Hanford Searl, Jr.
Robert J. Szustak**

Tenor 2

Donald Behr
Edward Ciszek, Jr.
Joseph Grieco
William C. Hardy
Gerry Klein
Delwyn Milander
Cliff Moore III
Scott Nachbar
Nelson Alan Neels
Roger Parris
Mark J. Peszko
Nathan E. Phillips**
Cedric "Flip" Taporco
Jason A. Ward

Baritone

Dave Batt
Paul Berglund
Denis Bolton
Dan Folwell
William H. Gardner
Jeffrey C. Hunt
Paul LaDuca
Raymond Neil
Andy Newbert**
Joe Puma
Jimmy Rigo
Dennis C. Stuart
Sherwood "Woody" Sipprell
Mark Smith*
Tom Villeneuve

Bass

Pierre Albrecht-Carrie
Christopher Babbitt*
Michael Cacho
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss
Lorne E. M. Gretsinger
Jason Higbee
Randall D. Kozlowski
Russell Link
Timothy H. Mahiques
David K. Mathewson* **
L. Martin Palcic
Brian Rotach
Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen
Joseph A. Zimmerman

* Board Member

** Section Leader

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (continued)

Non-Singing Members

Robert C. Donner
David Gannon
Michael Gillis
Michael Hunter
John Jubulis
Michael Longo
Ryan McDonald
Mark Meyer
Kyler Miller
Ben Phillips
Linda Reznick
Michael Shanahan

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Accompanist

Debi Overton

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2009-2010

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Jaime Goldfuss
Dion Johnson
Tim Mahiques
David Mathewson
Nelson Neels
Andy Newbert
Marty Palcic
Nathan E. Phillips
Robert J. Szustak
Cedric "Flip" Taporco
Damian Tremblay
Barbara L. Wagner
Jason Ward



Joyful and Triumphant

Processional

- Veni, veni, Emanuel** Thirteenth Century Carol
(Bibliothèque Nationale MS)
Arranged by Charlie Beale
- Shehecheyanu** Traditional Hebrew Chant
Arranged by Charlie Beale
- Sure On This Shining Night** Music by Morten Lauridsen
from *Nocturnes*, for TTBB and Piano
Poetry by James Agee
- Am I Welcome Here?** Eric Lane Barnes
Commissioned by Seattle Men's Chorus
Dennis Coleman, Artistic Director
Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Patrick Coyle, Artistic Director
St. Paul United Methodist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio
- Goin' to Bethlehem** Words and Music by Jay Althouse
- The First Noel/Canon in D** Johann Pachelbel
Arranged by Michael Clawson
Raymond Neil, Piano Secondo
- The Virgin's Slumber Song** Music by Max Reger, Opus 76, No. 52
German Text by Martin Boelitz
Arrangement by Larry Moore
Soloists: Jerrod Baldwin, Denis Bolton,
Norman Duttweiler, Joseph Grieco, Cliff Moore, III,
Scott Nachbar, Mike Rogers, Cedric "Flip" Taporco

El Nacimiento

The Birth
Robert Szustak, Tenor

Los Reyes Magos

The Three Kings

La Huida

The Flight

From *Navidad Nuestra* by Ariel Ramirez

A folk drama of the Nativity based on the rhythms and traditions of Hispanic America

Arranged for Men's Chorus by J. W. Kawarsky

— Intermission —

Nigun Bialik

A wordless Chassidic Song
Arranged by Abraham Wolf Binder

Believe

From *Polar Express*

Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard
Arranged by Eric Lane Barnes

A gift from Jason W. Higbee to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus
under the direction of Artistic Director, Barbara Wagner

The Annoying Drummer Boy

by Joanne Bogart and Eric Rockwell
Arranged by Eric Lane Barnes

A silly spoof on the unlikely presence of a "punk" drummer boy who appears at the stable where the rather large baby Jesus was born. Much to the dismay of his very tall mother, Mary, and his father, Joseph, the drummer boy is a bit clumsy to say the very least. Enjoy the frolic.

Drummer Boy - Dion Johnson

Mary - Nate Phillips

Joseph - Lorne Gretsinger

Baby Jesus - Jason Ward and the Chorus

Lamb - Jimmy Rigo

12 Days of Christmas (audience participation - don't be shy!!!)

Hard Candy Christmas

Music and Lyrics by Carol Hall
Arranged by Chad Weirick

White Christmas

Music and Lyrics by Irving Berlin
Arranged by Charles Beale

O Tannenbaum

Traditional German Carol with a nod
to "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer

Arranged for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus by Eric Lane Barnes

Robert Szustak, Soloist

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl
David Mathewson, Soloist

We Rise Again

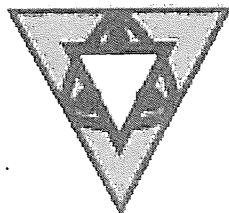
Leon Dubinsky

Auld Lang Syne

From a song of the olden times known as
"I fee'd a lad at Michaelmas",
lovingly arranged for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus
by Kathleen McGuire, Artistic Director of the San Francisco
Gay Men's Chorus, with many thanks to Robert Black,
who commissioned the work.



*Please join us for a Reception
immediately following the Performance.*



To the BGMC & its members:

Thank you for your support
of our youth and all that you do
to make WNY
a safer place for them.

Gay & Lesbian Youth Services



Music Notes

Cedric "Flip" Taporco, Jason Ward and Barbara Wagner

Veni, veni Emmanuel is a synthesis of the great "O Antiphons" that are used for Vespers during the octave before Christmas (Dec. 17-23). These antiphons are of ancient origin and date back to at least the ninth century. The hymn itself was composed in the 12th century in French and the Latin version of the hymn is from the 18th century. BGMC is singing the first antiphon, which is sung on December 17, in both Latin and English.

Shehecheyanu

The Shehecheyanu blessing was introduced to encourage the Jewish people to offer thanks for new and unusual experiences. It is typically recited at the beginning of holidays and to celebrate special occasions. Hence, it is always recited or chanted on the first day of Hannukah. The Hebrew text and translation follow:

Baruch atah Hashem (Adonai*) eloheinu melech ha'olam shehecheyanu v'ki manu v'higiyanu lazman hazeh.

Blessed are you, our God, Creator of time and space, who has supported us, protected us and brought us to this moment.

The use of Hashem replaces Adonai. Both words mean God. Hashem, which literally means "the name", is used in more casual speech.

Sure On This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen

Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side of ground.

The late year lies down the north
All is healed, all is health.
High summer hold the earth.
Hearts all whole.

Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder
Wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

James Agee

Named an "American Choral Master" by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2005, Lauridsen was awarded the 2007 National Medal of Arts, the highest artistic award in the United States, by the President in a White House ceremony "for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth. The men of BGMC and I couldn't agree more!

Am I Welcome Here?

Eric Lane Barnes

Many gay people (male and female) have struggled with finding acceptance in a community of faith. This tender ballad describes the journey of a gay man as he tries to find a loving church home.

Goin' To Bethlehem

Jay Althouse

This rollicking modern spiritual by Jay Althouse is a celebration of the birth of Jesus by those who were witness to it.

The First Noel/Canon in D

This lovely arrangement by Michael Clawson combines the tune and text for the traditional English Carol, The First Noel, with the tune for the well known Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706), one of the most famous composers of the Baroque Period. The result is charming.

The Virgin's Slumber Song

Max Reger (1893-1916)

This seemingly simple lullaby finds us listening to the new Mother, Mary, singing to soothe her newborn baby into slumber. "Mary rocks her Jesus Child, while the Summer breeze sighs through the leaves. A tiny bird sings softly – sleep sweet, tiny baby. Sleep now. Happy is your smile. Lay your tired head on your Mother's breast. Sleep, sweet tiny baby."

Max Reger was a prolific composer, contributing to every genre. He was considered a revolutionary composer, yet he had the distinction of drawing passionate criticism from both ends of the musical spectrum. To conservatives, his harmonic progressions were harsh and unmannerly; to musical progressives, his love of Bach, Brahms and Mozart as well as his elaborate counterpoint were considered "retro!" He is quoted as saying, "I can say with a clear conscience that of all living composers, I am perhaps the one who is most closely in touch with the great masters of the past." This comment, of course, pretty much alienated him from both sides, although Debussy, Bartok, Szymanowski and Prokofiev were his staunch admirers.

El Nacimiento

"The Birth"

"The night of love's power is announced. Jesus is born of petals and flowers. All is silent. Peace to the people – it is Christmas. Low in the manger, the baby sends peace and love. His smile brings a radiant glow. Angels are singing over the door. The baby has been born. It is Christmas."

Los Reyes Magos "The Three Kings"

"Three Kings have come riding from afar – Melchor, Gaspar and Balthazar. They bring soft, white alpaca ponchos and Christmas cakes. See how sweetly the baby sleeps. The kings are weary from following the star. The infant awakes and laughter lights his eyes and then he smiles and the sun lights the skies."

La Huida

"The Flight"

"Move on, little donkey. Herod is here with a sword at his side. We must hide the baby. Hush little one, don't cry. I am holding you safe in my arms. Move on little donkey. Beautiful child, don't cry. The land where we take you is lovely. We will be there soon. Move on ("Vamos")."

"Navidad Nuestra," "Our Birth," was created for a native tableau, in which each moment of the Mystery of the incarnation is expressed in a popular manner, with all of the tenderness that the Miracle of two thousand years ago evokes in the spirit of the "simple people." Ariel Ramirez gave to each episode of the "Navidad" a distinctive regional voice. Tender and simple verses were necessary: words which were able to repeat the emotion with which the Nativity miracle was felt. Felix Luna was the poet who collaborated with Ramirez. The music and the lyrics together made possible the success of a form that has Hispanic American characteristics without losing its universal content. This presentation has joined together the creative talent and interpretative emotion of many men and women who give testimony to the continuing mystery of love and faith whose dimension acknowledges no boundaries, that expresses with dignity and beauty, with words and melodies the vivid spirit of the Hispanic American land.

Nigun Bialik

Traditional Melody arranged by
Abraham Wolf Binder

A Nigun is a wordless or humming tune often used as "centering music" by Jews prior to the start of worship. Considered to be the language of children, some Jews say that singing a Nigun is the fastest way to "get the ear of God." This Nigun is by Abraham Binder and is a tribute to Hayyim Nahman Bialik (1873-1934), who is called the "national poet" of Israel to this day.

Believe

Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard

Arranged by Eric Lane Barnes

A gift from Jason Higbee to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

My dearest Barbara and to the most amazing group of men I will ever know, I began this journey of having this piece written just after our last Christmas concert. I was amazed with the arrangement and performance of "Thankful" last season and wanted to choose another piece that opened my eyes and made me see the beauty and joy that are the voices of the BGMC.

The lyrics in the refrain really touched my heart and soul most often in the times of change and indecision in my recent past.

"Believe in what your heart is saying,
Hear the melody that's playing.
There is no time to waste,
There so much to celebrate.
Believe in what you feel inside,
Give your dreams the wings to fly."

You have everything you need, if you just believe. I often teach my employees about my "blind faith" and how we may not know what the future will bring or why we do certain things, but know in our souls that, just as the lyrics state, "you'll have everything you need, if you just BELIEVE" This statement also holds true for our amazing group. Regardless of what is happening in the world, we are a family, we must stick together, if not for ourselves, for those in whose lives we make a difference. The BGMC has truly changed my life for the better. I couldn't imagine my life without it! "Just Believe."

The Annoying Drummer Boy

Eric Lane Barnes

In a twist on the familiar tale of the young percussionist, the "Silent Night" is interrupted, much to the dismay of residents (human and otherwise) of Bethlehem. Needless to say, those present at the manger are not at all appreciative of the incessant drumming.

Hard Candy Christmas

Carol Hall

This song was written by composer/lyricist, Carol Hall for the musical, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." It's sung near the end of the show when the girls of the brothel are preparing to leave. This song is widely attributed to Dolly Parton, who played the role of Miss Mona in the film version of the musical and was the featured soloist for the piece.

White Christmas

Irving Berlin

One time Buffalonian Irving Berlin wrote this song in 1940 while sitting poolside at the Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa in Phoenix. It was introduced by Bing Crosby in the 1942 film, "Holiday Inn", where he sang it as a duet with Marjorie Reynolds. The song went on to win an Academy Award for best original song. "White Christmas" was also the title theme for the 1954 film starring Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen and Danny Kaye

O Tannenbaum/Trees

This lovely arrangement (by a favorite composer of the BGMC, the one and only Eric Lane Barnes) pairs the traditional German carol with a poem by the American poet, Alfred Joyce Kilmer, known as "Trees." Kilmer was a prolific poet whose works celebrated his religious faith, as well as the common beauty of the natural world.

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

Probably German composer Biebl's best known and beloved choral composition, the work was brought to the United States by the Cornell Glee Club after hearing it while on a European tour.

We Rise Again

Leon Dubinsky

Leon Dubinsky lives with his wife and children on Cape Breton Island at the tip of Nova Scotia, in Canada. On the day he composed "We Rise Again," he recalls, he was watching his ailing father play with his grandchildren. Dubinsky's father had immigrated to Canada from the Ukraine, settling in Cape Breton. He would die a year later in 1985. The words just came to him, Dubinsky says, explaining that the words, "waves roll on over the waters and the ocean cries", refer to the cycles of immigration and the struggles of the uprooted who must begin anew in a strange land. Young Leon, the immigrant's son, grew up in Temple Sons of Israel in Nova Scotia. It was there that he sang in the Temple choir and was soon developing his own musical style.

Auld Lang Syne

Old Scottish Tune

Arranged by Kathleen McGuire

Auld Lang Syne is a traditional Scottish poem that was adapted by Robert Burns in 1788. In English, a literal translation is "old long since," or more colloquially, "long, long ago" or "days" of long ago. When Burns presented the song to the British Museum, he remarked: "The following song is an old song, of the olden times, and which has never been in print or even in manuscript, until I took it down from an old man's singing." The arrangement emphasizes the song's Scottish roots, including voices imitating bagpipes, melodic ornamentation and accompaniment provided by tin whistle and acoustic guitar.

About the Artists



Incorporated in 2000, the **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus** (BGMC) performs a rich catalog of classical, contemporary, Broadway, pop and multi-cultural music. The repertoire is as diverse as the 62 men who are singing with pride as members of the BGMC.

The BGMC has been honored by the Empire State Pride Agenda with a Community Service Award. This award was given in recognition of BGMC's efforts to raise awareness and to enlighten our region through song. To that end, the BGMC has performed in a variety of venues throughout Western New York and in Pennsylvania and Ontario for many community events. Additionally, the BGMC traveled in 2004 to Montreal and again in 2008 to Miami to participate in the seventh and eighth quadrennial GALA Festivals, international gathering of gay and lesbian choruses. BGMC won the *Artvoice* Best of Buffalo 2008 Award for Best Choral Group. Also in 2008, the BGMC was honored by the Arts Council of Buffalo and Western New York, with its prestigious award for Community Service. It was a glorious day.

While maintaining a strong presence within the gay community, the BGMC also has been privileged to perform with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall on two occasions. It has also done benefits for the Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church music program, Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church's restoration, the annual World AIDS Day Memorial Service and the AIDS Community Services fundraiser, *Cause for Celebration*. Additionally, BGMC performed for the arrival of The Amistad, participated in Gusto at the Gallery at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, sang a Viva Vivaldi Concert with the Ars Nova Musicians, sang at Fredonia College for its diversity and multicultural groups and also performed at the Nichols School as part of its Diversity Week activities. Of course, our six major concerts annually bring our work to thousands of listeners in the Western New York area.

The BGMC is a New York not-for-profit corporation of member singers and supporters, dedicated to producing high quality vocal music in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. Through its music, the Chorus endeavors to entertain and enlighten, create harmony and celebrate personal and community pride.



Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 45 years and was Director of Vocal Activities at Nichols School for more than 24 years.

The Choir at the UU Church, in addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, enjoyed two highly acclaimed European tours: the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The Choir, under Ms. Wagner's direction, has recorded for American Public Radio, performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO), the Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the Ars Nova Musicians. Ms. Wagner was the conductor for the Peace Odyssey Concert Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the US participated in this tour.

She ran a choral program at Nichols High School that involved more than 100 young singers, including a Concert Chorus, Women's Ensemble, Men's Ensemble and a Mixed Chamber Group. She was also guest conductor for the City of Good Neighbors Chorale, Buffalo's Gay/Lesbian chorus in the mid 1980s.

Ms. Wagner earned a BFA Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied organ with Squire Haskin, and completed graduate work at Westminster Choir College. Her advanced studies include organ with Karl Richter at the Munich Conservatory and conducting with Raymond Harvey, formerly Assistant conductor of the BPO and presently Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony.

She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC; Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (founding member, former vice president and board member); NYSSMA; the American Guild of Organists (former sub-dean and program chair for the Buffalo Chapter); and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo. She was a member of the Hymnbook Commission for Singing the Living Tradition and served as chair of the New Hymns Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She is presently the Moderator of the 900 member Unitarian Universalist Musicians' Network.

Ms. Wagner is the recipient of the Buffalo Philharmonic/Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Choral Music in 2002, and has been included several times in *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*.



A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton** (Accompanist/Conductor), has held positions as coach/accompanist at the University of Texas at Austin and served as Director of the Chamber Music Program at The New School of Music in Philadelphia. For many years she was active at the Summer Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. As the coach/accompanist for the Choral Department in Aspen, she served as assistant to noted conductor Fiora Contino. She has assisted in preparing choruses and soloists for such conductors as Tamara Brooks, John Nelson, Robert Shaw and Sergei Commissiona. Additionally, she has coached with coach/accompanists David Garvey, John Wustman, Brooks Smith, Dalton Baldwin, and the local master, Livingston Gearhart.

Ms. Overton has accompanied Master Classes for Luciano Pavarotti, Phyllis Curtin, Jessye Norman, Leontyne Price and Sylvia McNair. She has accompanied the regional Metropolitan Opera auditions in Greensboro, NC; Philadelphia, PA; Atlanta, GA; and New York City.

In addition to her duties as Organist and Choir Master at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, NY, Ms. Overton has enjoyed the position of accompanist for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus since it's inception in 2001; is a past chair of the Music Commission of the WNY Episcopal Diocese; currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the American Guild of Organists; and is active in Western New York teaching, guest conducting, accompanying and performing with singers and instrumentalists. In November of 2007, Debi was the musical director and conductor for the WNY premiere performance of Leonard Bernstein's MASS.

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The Cathedral Choirs of Boys, Girls and Men

Christmas Eve
Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*
Thursday, December 24 at 4:30 pm
Eucharist and Candlelighting at 5:00 pm
The Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Schola Cantorum
Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* at 10:30 pm
Eucharist and Candlelighting at 11:00 pm
The Cathedral Choirs of Boys, Girls and Men

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25 at 10:30am
Solemn Choral Eucharist
The Gentlemen of St. Pauls Cathedral

Feast of the Holy Name
Friday, January 1 at 12:05 pm
Solemn Choral Eucharist
The Schola Cantorum
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Epiphany service of Lessons and
Carols. This is a great way to cap off
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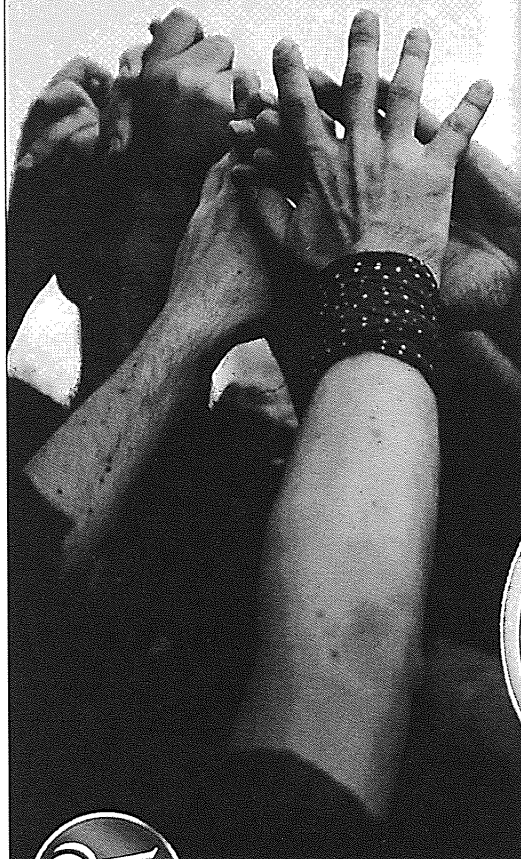
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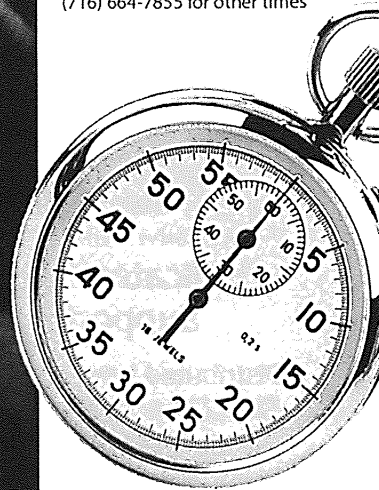
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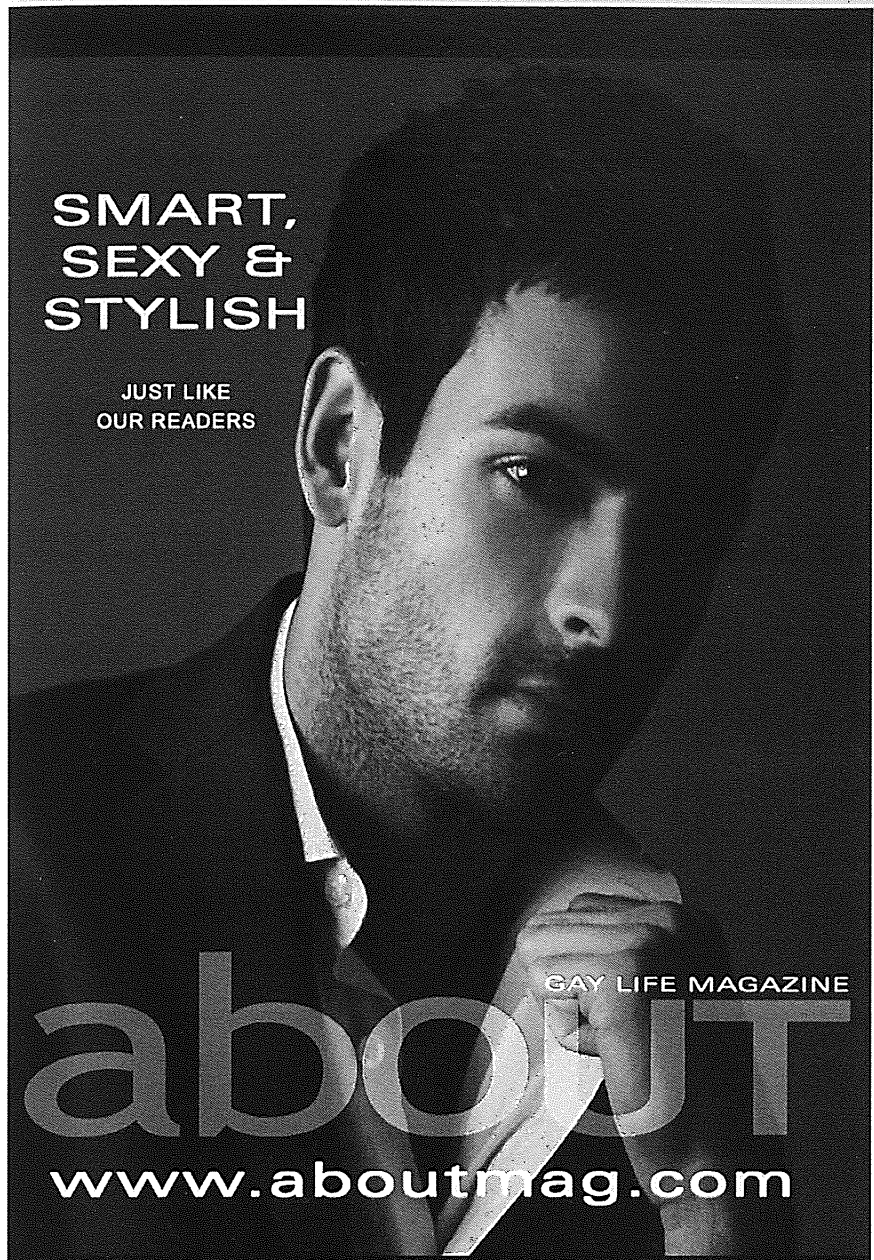
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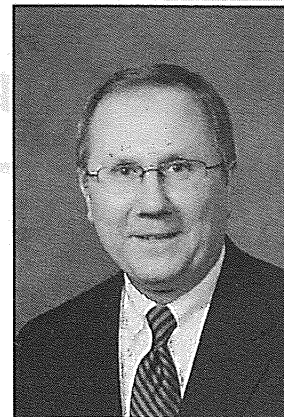


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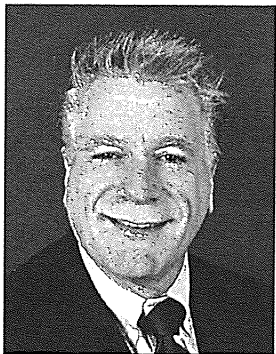
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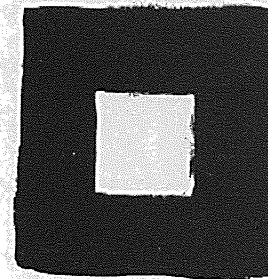
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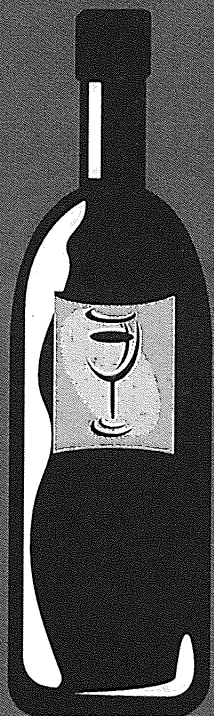
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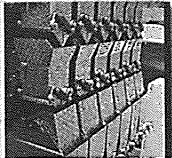


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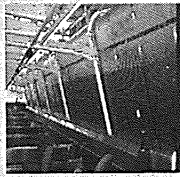
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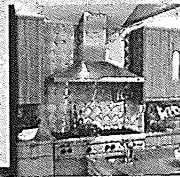


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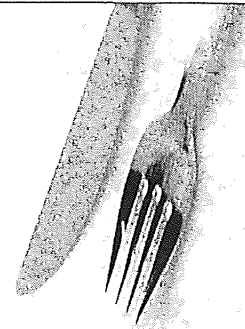


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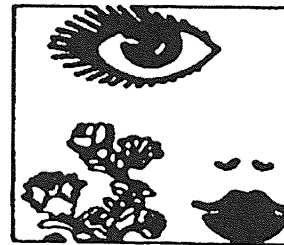
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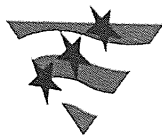
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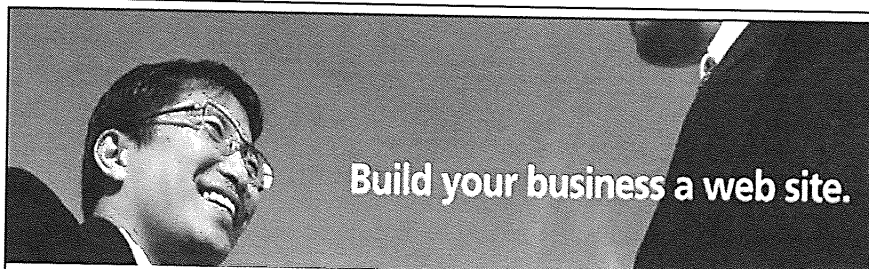
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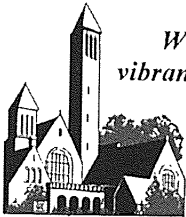
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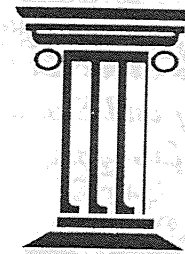
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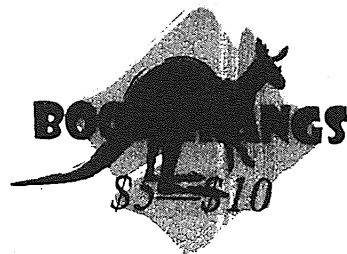
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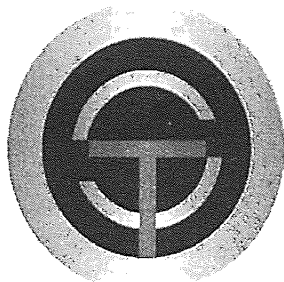
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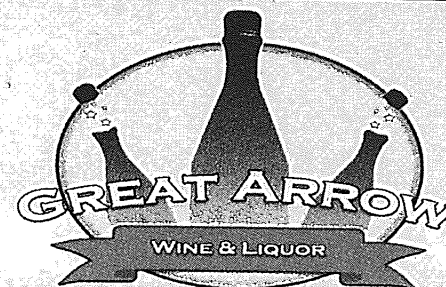


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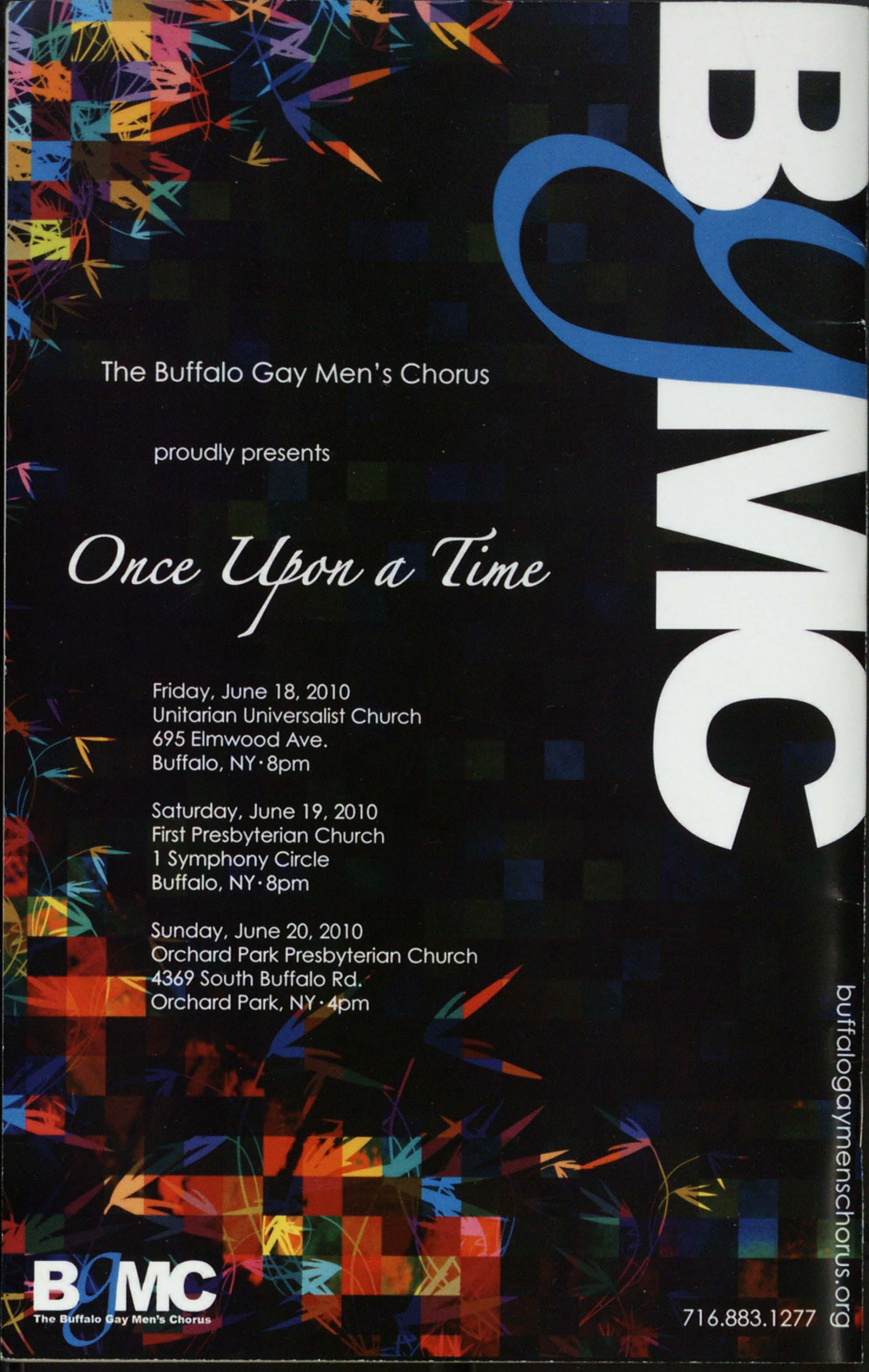
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