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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

12-2015

Believe

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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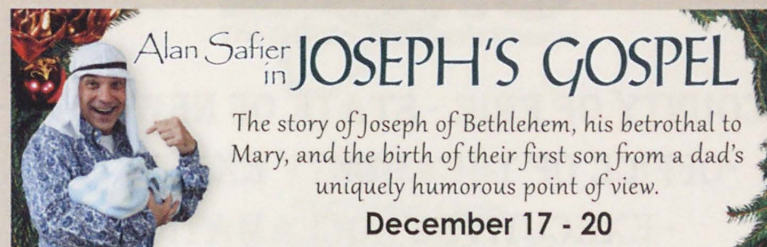


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- COUNTY OF ERIE - STATE OF NEW YORK -
 -OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE-
 - EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION -
 CELBRATING "BELIEVE"

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus has been singing with pride for fifteen years, providing gay and bisexual men a voice in Erie County culture; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus has performed numerous local concerts covering every major venue in Erie County, including two performances at Kleinhans Music Hall with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus has received numerous awards and other honors for their deft musicality and vocal prowess; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus has helped raise funds for many worthy organizations by performing benefit concerts; and

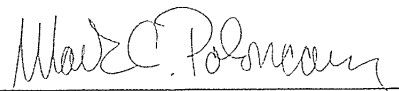
WHEREAS, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus will be holding a concert series entitled, "Believe", on December 11th, 12th and 13th, 2015.

NOW THEREFORE, I am proud to hereby congratulate the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus on this, the occasion of their "Believe" concert series.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the County of Erie, State of New York in the City of Buffalo this fourteenth day of November in the year two thousand and fifteen.

County of Erie, State of New York

By: 
 Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie County Executive



Office:
 51 Colonial Circle
 Buffalo, New York 14222
 716.883.1277
 buffalogaymenschorus.org
 info@buffalogaymenschorus.org

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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.



CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR



December, 2015

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

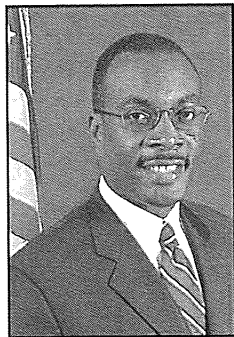
Greetings and salutations to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus on the occasion of your 15th season of holiday song!

We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "Believe" at the Riviera Theater on Friday, December 11th, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 12th and at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, December 13th.

Your continued success under the direction of Artistic Director Garrett F. Martin 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 your sounds are the fruit of hard work and many 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

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BELIEVE



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert "Believe." I am excited you decided to join us for what has become Buffalo's Best Holiday tradition. The men are excited to deliver a concert that will not only entertain, but hopefully enlighten under the direction of our new Artistic Director, Garrett F. Martin. We are very fortunate to have Garrett join our family as well as Accompanist Abigail Rockwood-Puehn.

I am honored to be a part of such an amazing organization, filled with remarkable men and women. Fifteen years ago a group of people came together because they believed a gay men's chorus in Buffalo was needed. It was through their belief that music could win the hearts and minds of others, that the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus was founded. Throughout the past fifteen years we have gained so many friends and allies. We are thankful for the continued support of you, our audience, who shares our belief that every person matters regardless of whom they love.

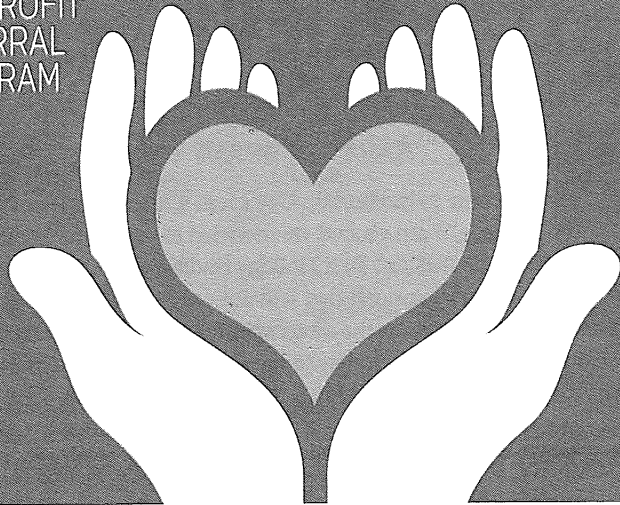
"Believe" brings me back to the naivety of childhood when Christmas was magical and mysterious, a snowman could magically come to life, a reindeer with a red nose could fly, and a jolly fat man in red could visit every child in one night. The belief that anything could happen if you just wished, hoped, and dreamed hard enough, if you just believed. It is through that lens that I invite you sit back, relax, and enjoy the music being presented tonight.

Thank you for choosing the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus to be part of your holiday tradition. I wish to you and your family the Happiest of Holidays!

Peace and Love,

Robert M. Egan
President, Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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BELIEVE



Dear Friends,

In what do we believe? What beliefs have remained with us through the years and what beliefs have fallen off? Santa Claus? The Tooth Fairy? The Spirit of the holidays? My beliefs have certainly been put through the fire as I grew from adolescence into adulthood and continue to change as I learn more about people and society. But there are still constants: kindness, the human spirit, charity, good will, a Higher Being and a Divine Spirit.

As a child, there is a magic and sense of awe around this season. Where did that magic lose its spark? My hope is that the men you see in front of you tonight will transport you to another place and time. A time where things may have been easier or simpler. A time where you believed in the magic of the season. A time where kindness and good will ruled supreme.

The BGMC extends a warm welcome to all who have chosen for the first time to make us part of your holiday traditions; we welcome back those friends who are rejoining us this year to kick-off their holiday. Welcome to *Believe* and to our family.

With Warmest Regards,


Garrett F. Martin
Artistic Director

BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

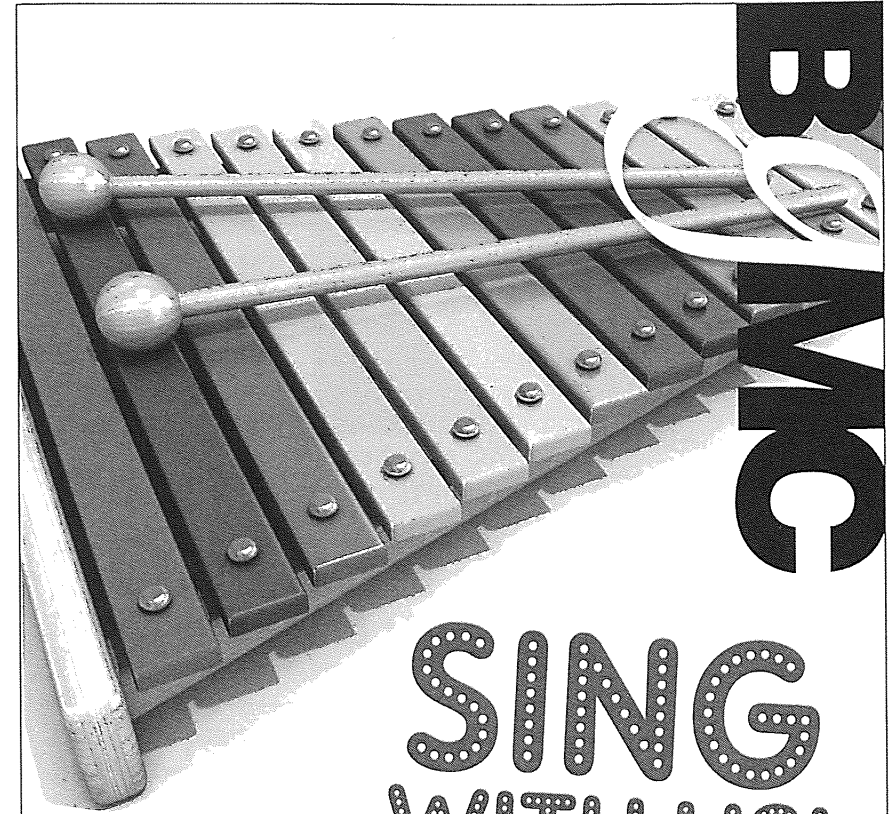


Special Thanks

Our Friday Hosts	The Riviera Theatre
Our Saturday Hosts	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Our Sunday Hosts	Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
House Manager	Christopher Pearson
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Graphic Designer	John Carocci
Chorus Photographer	Lori Joyce, <i>Lori Joyce Photography</i>
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Archival Recording Producer	Mark Morrette, <i>Mark Custom Recording Service, Inc.</i>
Rehearsal Recordings	Roger Parris
Receptions Coordinator	Marge Maloney

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.

The 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.



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Tuesday, January 26, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.

St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222

Auditions are open to all men age 18 and up. A prepared audition piece is NOT required.

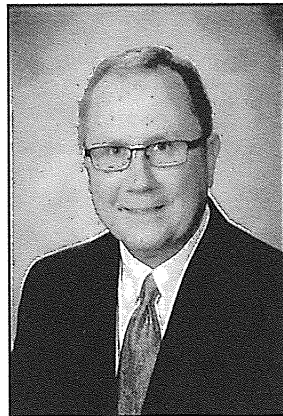
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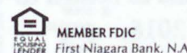
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Our thing.

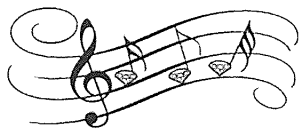
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BELIEVE

Mr. Garrett F. Martin, *Artistic Director*

Ms. Abigail Rockwood-Puehn, *Piano*

Mr. Christopher Hart, *Percussion*

Mr. Timothy Mroz, *Bass*

PROGRAM

<i>Hallelujah from Mount of Olives</i>	Ludwig van Beethoven
Believe	Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard Arranged by: Eric Lane Barnes <i>A gift to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus from Jason Higbee</i>
Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day	John Gardner
Ave Maria	Franz Biebl Rob Black, <i>tenor</i> Dan Galley, <i>tenor</i> Mike Rogers, <i>tenor</i> David Lewis, <i>baritone</i> Paul LaDuca, <i>bass</i>
The Music of Living	Dan Forrest
Frostiana No. 6: <i>Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening</i>	Randall Thompson
African Noel	Arranged by: André J. Thomas
Sure on This Shining Night	Morten Lauridsen
Hanukkah Nagilah	Linda Spevacek
Cantique de Jean Racine	Gabriel Fauré
Audience Sing-a-Long Jingle Bells I'll Be Home for Christmas Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree	Arranged by: Danny Ray

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Ding-a-Ding-a-Ding	Greg Gilpin
The Twelve Days of Christmas	Traditional
Mrs. Santa (<i>High atop the North Pole lounge</i>)	Arranged by: Danny Ray
Glory to God in the Highest	Daryl Williams Arranged by: Danny Ray
I Love You/What a Wonderful World	Arranged by: Craig Hella Johnson Dan Galley, <i>tenor</i> Tim Stuff, <i>tenor</i> Robert Szustak, <i>tenor</i> Kyle Tobin, <i>tenor</i>
God Help the Outcasts	Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz Arranged by: Danny Ray David Tear, <i>tenor</i> David Campbell, <i>tenor</i>
Peace, Peace	Richard and Sylvia Powell Arranged by: Fred Bock


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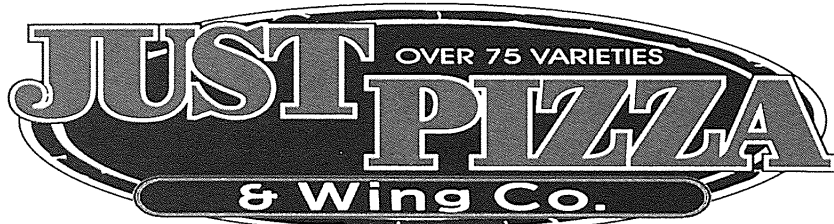
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Doreen Rao, *music director* John Fleischman, Jr., *music director*

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Saturday, December 12, 2015 – Orchard Park Presbyterian Church – 7:30PM
Sunday, December 13, 2015 – First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo – 4:00PM

BUFFALO NIAGARA YOUTH CHORUS – WINTER CONCERT
with Guest Artists vocal ensemble *The Lake Effect*
Sunday, January 31, 2016 – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo – 4:00PM

CROSS BORDERS CARMINA BURANA
with *The Amadeus Choir of Toronto*
Sunday, April 3, 2016 – Toronto Center for the Performing Arts – 4:00PM

BNYC INVITATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL
Friday & Saturday, April 22 - 23, 2016 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Buffalo.
Festival Concert Saturday – 3:00PM

AFFIRMATION OF HOPE – ALL THINGS IRISH
with Guest Artists *Kindred*
Friday, May 6, 2016 – Trinity Methodist Church, Grand Island – 7:30PM
Saturday, May 7, 2016 – Salem Lutheran Church, Buffalo – 7:30PM

BUFFALO NIAGARA YOUTH CHORUS – SPRING CONCERT
Sunday, May 22, 2016 – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo – 4:00PM

TICKET INFO: BNCHOIRS.ORG – "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK – FOLLOW ON TWITTER @SINGBMC

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Tenor I

Rob Black #
 David Campbell +
 Peter Cheney
 Norm Duttweiler, Jr.
 Daniel Galley
 Ron Houk
 Mike Rogers
 Robert J. Szustak
 David Tear

Tenor II

Nicholas Becht
 Robert M. Egan
 William C. Hardy
 Thomas Korzelius
 John Macomber
 Larry Mancine +
 Nelson Neels
 Christopher Parada
 Roger Parris
 Mark J. Peszko
 Cameron Schraufstetter
 Andrew Svalina #
 Kyle Tobin
 Jake Wagner
 Jason Ward
 Frankie Williams

Indicates Section Representative

+ Indicates Section Leader

Baritone

David Batt
 J. Denis Bolton
 Leonard Cercone, Jr.
 Gregory L. Ciupak
 Don Colligan
 Christian DiCanio
 Xavier Guillaume
 Craig Hinman
 Peter "PJ" Hubbard #
 Jeffrey C. Hunt
 Zachary Kineke
 David J. L. Lewis
 Ramón Meléndez
 Ray Moore, Jr.
 Raymond Neil
 Andy Newbert +
 Eric Nowak
 Joe Puma
 Aaron Reslink
 Jim Rigo
 William Roof
 Woody Sipprell
 Dennis C. Stuart
 Ron Sutz
 Cedric "Flip" Taporco
 William Wachob
 Kevin Woodcock

Bass II

Pierre Albrecht-Carrie
 Pete Bleckinger
 Gerry Frenette
 Randy Kozlowski +
 Paul LaDuca
 Timothy H. Mahiques
 L. Martin Palcic
 Brian Rotach
 Michael A. Smyntek
 Donald Yager #
 Joseph Zimmerman

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Non-Singing Members

Scott Akdogan
 William H. Gardner
 Ron Gentner
 Joseph Grieco
 Susan C. Gruttadauria
 Vincent Kuntz
 Marge Maloney
 Mark Mancuso
 Christopher T. Pearson
 Hanford Searl, Jr.
 Michael Shanahan
 Jeffrey J. Strauss
 Keven L. Thompson
 Larry Van Heusen
 Cynthia Van Ness

Silent Members

Danny Winter aka Vicky Vouge
 1934-2012
 Michael P. Gillis
 1955-2013

Artistic Director

Garrett F. Martin

Accompanist

Abigail Rockwood-Puehn

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Musicians

Christopher Hart, Percussion
 Timothy Mroz, Bass



Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

From our entire 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 to you for adding your "voice" to ours.

The *Friends of the BGMC* listed in this program are those who have contributed between July 1, 2014 - November 30, 2015.

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William J. Roof, *In loving memory of James J. Murray*
Robert J. Serpa Jr., *With honor and gratitude to Barbara and my BGMC family, for helping me find my voice. All my love and hugs.*
Hans J. Tamberg, *In honor of Marjorie Gardner,*
In memory of Dr. Ulo Roorand

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Roger Parris & Michael Longo, *In honor of Barbara Wagner*
Kurtice C. Luther, *In memory of Scott Willett*
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Margaret Reeves, *In honor of Ron Sutz*
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Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen & Robert A. Scharf,
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Roger Mark Seifert & Dennis Stuart, *In honor of Marjorie A. Gardner*
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Thomas R. Alcamo, <i>In honor of my parents</i>	<i>all the talented people in the BGMC</i>
Michael Shanhan & Dave Batt, <i>In honor of Barbara Wagner</i>	Vera & David Kozak
Christopher & Celine Belling	Andree & Joel Lippes
Paul Berglund, Ph.D.	Earl Mahiques, <i>In honor of Timothy H. Mahiques</i>
Peter Bleckinger	M. Lynn McCulloch, <i>In honor of Hanford Searl</i>
Debbie Bleich	Andy Newbert, <i>In memory of Marjorie Gardner</i>
Michael J. Bonilla, <i>In memory of Lawrence J. Greco</i>	Bernard Olszewski
Rodney A. Bradley, <i>In honor of Dennis Stuart</i>	Benjamin Philips
Eileen S. Braniecki	Arthur J. Picogna, <i>In memory of Arthur E. Neeb</i>
Sheila & Max Casey, <i>In honor of Bruce Jenner</i>	Wendy Pierce
Charles A. Deacon	Richard W. Price
James E. Derby	Bob & Luann Roberts
Joan M. Doerr, <i>In honor of Ron Silverio</i>	William & Mary Jane Russell
Albert Litto & Jane Anne Grace, <i>In honor of Dennis Stuart</i>	Rabbi Adam Scheldt
Robert P. Graves	Rachael H. Schuh, <i>In memory of Dee Taylor</i>
Lorne E. Gretsinger, <i>In honor of Tim Mahiques from goddaughter Jane Gretsinger</i>	Gilbert Schulenberg, DDS
PJM	Mark J. Skesavage, <i>In honor of Dennis Stuart</i>
Peter G. Hart	Phil Trifiletti & Andy Steck, <i>In honor of Barbara Wagner</i>
David & Stanley Harvey	Gloria & Paul Stuart
Robert & Norma Henderson	Ronald H. Sutz, <i>In honor of Andy Newbert</i>
George & Barbara Hole, <i>In memory of Hank Mann and Don Savage</i>	John Molinaro & Robert Wiechman
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Masterworks Service Sunday, March 13

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About the Artistic Director



Mr. Garrett F. Martin holds a Master of Music Degree
from the University of Texas at Austin in Sacred Music
and Organ Performance, a Performer's Certificate in
Organ and Accompanying from Vanderbilt University's
Blair School of Music as well as a Church Music and
Organ Performance Degree from Carson-Newman
College in Jefferson City, TN. His major teachers include
Gerre and Judith Hancock of The University of Texas

(formerly of St. Thomas Church, New York), Peter Fyfe and Carl Smith
of Vanderbilt University, and J. Ryan Garber of Carson-Newman College.
He has done further organ, accompanying, and vocal coaching study in
Germany and Austria with Michael Gailit of the Vienna Conservatory and
Kristen Orkerlund of the Vienna State Opera.

With performances and improvisations described as "Masterful...
rhythmic...transcendent...spellbinding," wrote Classics South Africa,
Martin is in demand as a church musician, conductor, and recitalist as part
of "the new generation of organ virtuosi," wrote The George Herald. He
has won prizes in organ improvisation and organ literature competitions.
Though well-versed in classical repertoire, choral music, Broadway, popular
and contemporary styles, he feels that his greatest calling and strength is
choral conducting, sacred music, liturgy, improvisation, and service playing.

Since 2013, Martin has served as the Organist and Director of Music at
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, New York, where he directs and
oversees the church's five choirs and The Westminster Choir School, plans
worship and liturgy, sees to the maintenance of the two historic Aeolian-
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Presents and visiting artists, and conducts and plays all weekly worship and
special services alongside Westminster's Glynda Stephens Taylor Organ
Scholar, Käthe Wright Kaufman, and Westminster's Associate Conductor
and Composer-in-Residence, Jenece Gerber. A native of Tennessee, Martin
has served churches in Tennessee, Florida (Coral Ridge Presbyterian
Church, where he was the youngest person to ever hold the post and the
youngest successor to famed organist Diane Bish) and Texas. As a concert
artist, he is managed exclusively by JSE Artist Management in South Africa.

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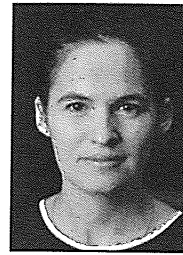
11:15 am Traditional Anglican Choral Mass

Weekday Mass: 12:05pm

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About the Accompanist

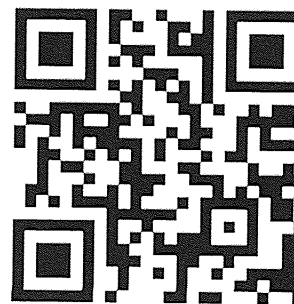


Abigail Rockwood-Puehn is honored to join the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus as their accompanist. Ms. Rockwood currently divides her time between DMA work at The Eastman School of Music in Rochester, the music program at St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, and teaching at Buffalo State College. At Eastman, Ms. Rockwood studies organ with David Higgs, with a minor in harpsichord. At St. Paul's Cathedral, Ms. Rockwood acts as Assistant

Organist-Choirmaster. Here she is responsible for much of the service playing, and also maintains the choir training system for the boys' and girls' choirs. She also teaches piano classes and accompanies at Buffalo State College.

Recent projects include first place in the 2013 Rodland Scholarship Competition, the 2014 Peter B. Knock Scholarship, Quarter-Finalist in the St. Alban's International Organ Competition, and the world-premier of Alan Kryszak's "Transparent Preludes" for two pianos.

Ms. Rockwood began her organ studies with Dr. Huw Lewis at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. She majored in music, with minors in French and mathematics. Ms. Rockwood was active as both soloist and accompanist at Hope. She received scholarships and awards including the Roossien Organ Jury Award, the Hope College Trustee Scholarship, and the Anthony Kooiker Senior Seminar Award. After graduating from Hope College, Ms. Rockwood went on to earn her M.Mus. in organ performance, studying organ with Todd Wilson at the Cleveland Institute of Music. During her time in Cleveland, she worked as Music Intern at Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights.



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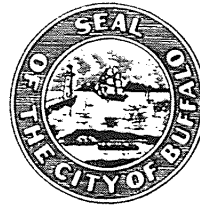
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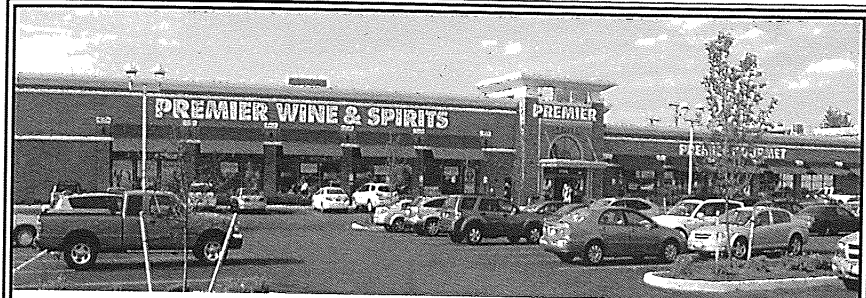


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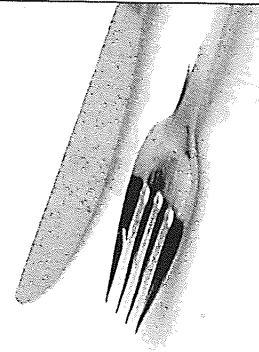
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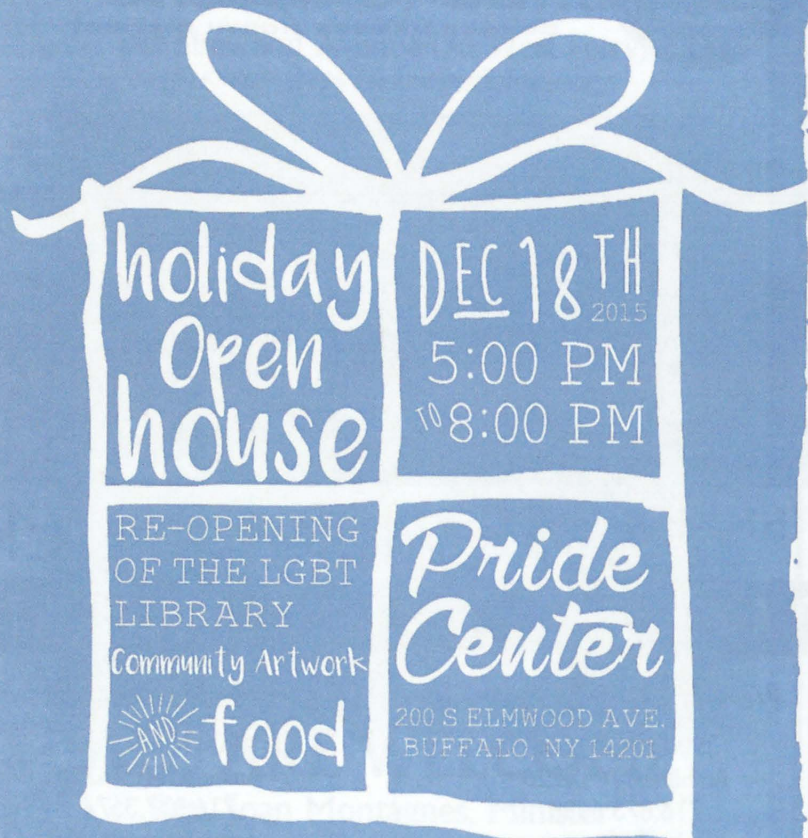
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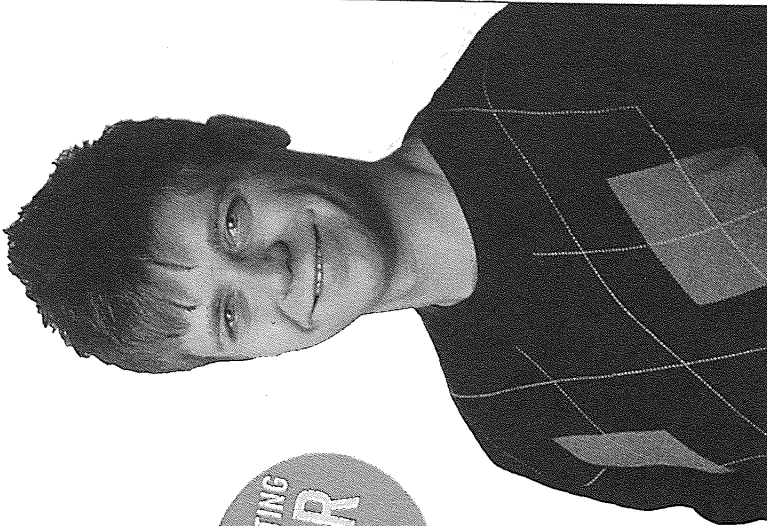

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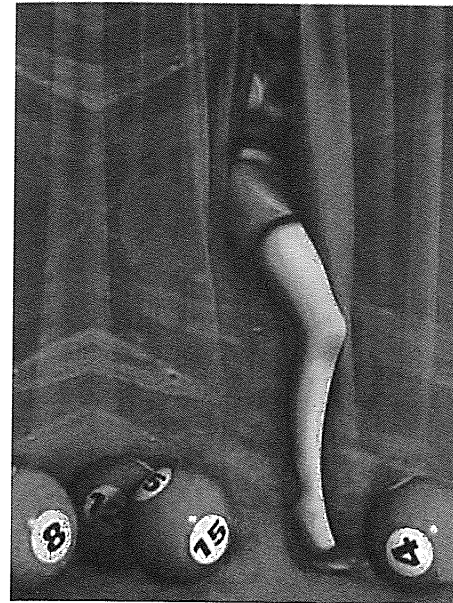
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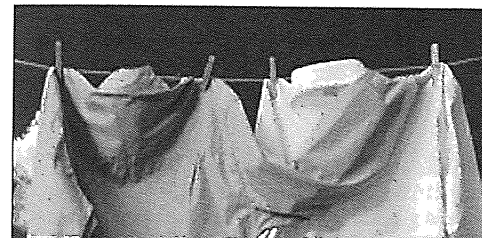


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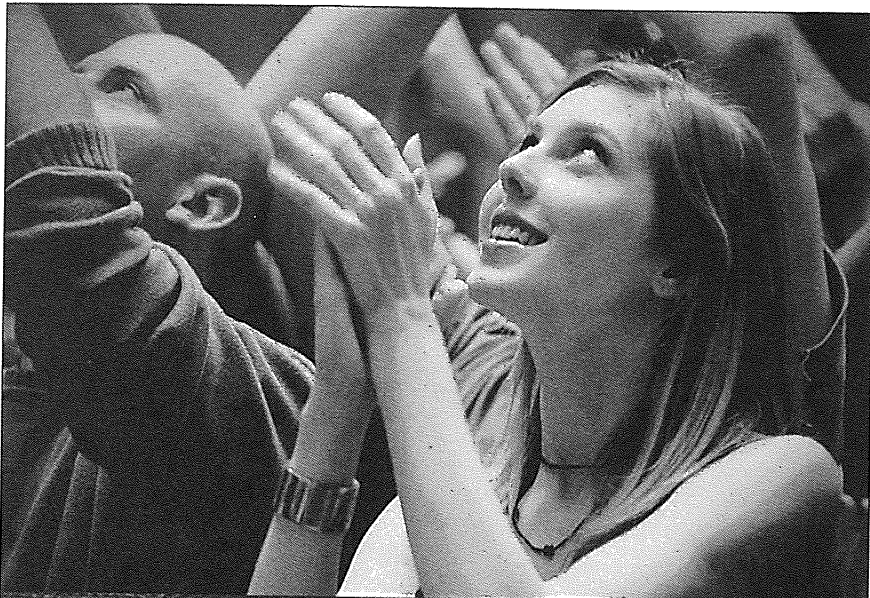
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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Buffalo's first gay chorus, the Queen City Chorus, was founded in the 1980s and was later renamed the City of Good Neighbors Chorale. It included men and women and survived into the mid-1990s.

In 1999, Mike Rogers of Washington, DC, a former Buffalonian working as Director of Fundraising for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, Inc. (GALA), called Roger Parris in Kenmore and urged him to establish a new gay chorus in Western New York.

A small group of friends first met on January 16, 2000 and composed a brief mission statement. On March 26, 2000, five members of the group held a meeting at the Crane Branch Library on Elmwood Ave. The concept of forming a men's chorus was presented to an audience of thirty men and women.

A steering committee was formed and it decided that the new men's chorus would be a volunteer-led organization, directed by a nine-member elected Board of Directors. Musical decisions would be made by a salaried Artistic Director. By-laws borrowed from the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus and the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus served as our framework.

The BGMC was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and the by-laws were adopted by the Board of Directors on January 15, 2001. James Estep served as our first president.

The board selected Barbara Wagner to be our first Artistic Director. Ms. Wagner, a long-time Buffalo choral conductor and the Minister of Music at the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo, held auditions during the summer of 2001.

Our very first rehearsal with Ms. Wagner was held at the Unitarian-Universalist Church on Elmwood Avenue on an infamous day: September 11, 2001. Nine of the original 35 singers were still performing with us in 2014. Ms. Wagner retired in June 2011.

Our second Artistic Director from 2011-2015 was Ciaran Krueger, whose skill in vocal teaching made a noticeable and early improvement in our choral sound. His understanding of LGBT issues and his sensitivity to the personal histories of gay men was appreciated. He introduced The Big Gay Sing to Buffalo and drew raves from the audience.

In the Fall of 2015 Garrett Martin joined the BGMC as our first openly gay Artistic Director. Since 2013, Mr. Martin has served as the Organist and Director of Music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he directs and oversees the church's four choirs and The Westminster Choir School and accompanies Sunday services.

We have sung over 40 full concerts, commissioned original compositions, and performed on Buffalo radio and television, in churches, synagogues, schools, community centers, summer festivals, the M&T Plaza Series, and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in Kleinhans Music Hall.

We have performed numerous benefits for other organizations and are active in gay and other community events, including AIDS Walks, Pride parades, the Elmwood Festival of the Arts, and Buffalo Bison's baseball games.

We have been honored with awards from the Empire State Pride Agenda/Embrace WNY, the Arts Council of Buffalo and Erie County, Artvoice, and Evergreen Health Services (formerly AIDS Community Services). We performed to great acclaim at GALA Festivals.

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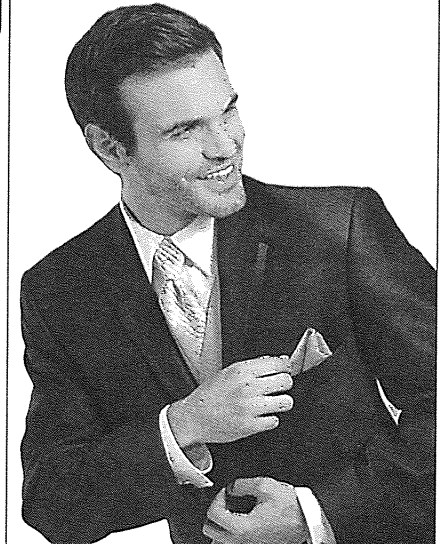
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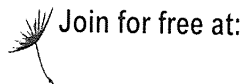
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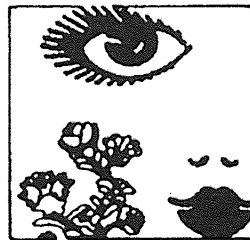
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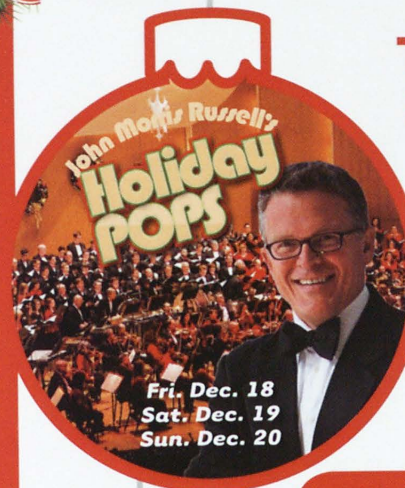
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