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Crescendo! The Newsletter of the Buffalo Gay
Men's Chorus

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Spring 2014

Crescendo!, Spring 2014

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC) rounds out our 2013-2014 season with our final concert series, *Rise Up Singing*, which celebrates the powerful messages of "It Gets Better," acceptance, and love through the lens of some of Broadway's biggest hits.

Coming off of a highly successful holiday concert with nearly three sold-out performances, we are pulling out all the stops to bring Broadway to Western New York, sung by a 70-member male chorus. The concert is divided into several sets highlighting each musical, including the Tony-award-winning musicals *Wicked*, *Hairspray*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Ragtime*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Whether you like the upbeat tunes in *Hairspray* such as "Welcome to the Sixties" or "You Can't Stop the Beat" or the more classic arrangements of "Do-Re-Me," "The Sound of Music," or Edelweiss, you will be humming familiar tunes all evening! Through song, story and script we will tell the stories of hope, love, compassion, acceptance, and adversity that are important messages for LGBT youth and their families and allies.

Conducted by Ciaran Krueger, accompanied by pianist Debi Overton-Niles, and featuring an instrumental ensemble, you will experience the magic of Broadway that only the BGMC can deliver. We strive to make every concert series an experience that every patron will enjoy, from the time you are seated.

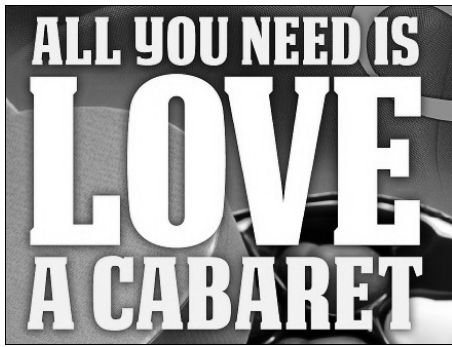
Not only will you be enthralled by the music you hear masterfully executed, you will be entertained by the enchanting spectacle performed. You'll even be able to participate in a number or two! The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is thrilled to bring you this concert as we stand proudly not only in the Buffalo music scene, but as a tradition in the Western New York community.

Performances are:



- Friday, May 16 - 8:00 pm at The Historic Riviera Theatre; 67 Webster Street, North Tonawanda
- Saturday, May 17 - 8:00 pm at Temple Beth Zion; 805 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
- Sunday, May 18 - 3:00 pm at Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo; 695 Elmwood Avenue Buffalo. Sunday's performance will be interpreted for the hearing-impaired.

All shows are \$20 General Admission, \$18 for Students/Seniors. Tickets are available at www.buffalogaymenschorus.org, by calling 716-883-1277, or at the door one hour prior to start.



Love was in the air on Saturday, February 15th as members of The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus hosted the second annual Cabaret fundraiser, **All You Need is Love**, at the Hamlin House. Throughout the night, we were entertained by solos, duets, laughter, and love through many different acts from the guys.

The Hamlin House has become a popular venue for our Cabaret as it sets the perfect mood for a date-night for two or a group of friends looking for a little something different on a Saturday night. Located in the heart of the historic Allentown District in the city of Buffalo, this restored 19th century mansion is the place for you to experience great food, friendly service and splendid old-world architecture.

The Hamlin family built this Italianate style mansion in 1865 at the height of Buffalo's renaissance period. It now houses a great place to relive a part of Buffalo's great past and experience its growing future. It is the perfect venue for this event and we are truly grateful for the staff and volunteers who helped put this event together.

The night consisted of 50/50s, raffle baskets, silent auctions, singing, food, food, and more food! Oh, and we can't forget the tables of desserts! It was a beautiful evening filled with song and laughter.

Each year we get more requests to hold an informal Cabaret concert, and so we are already set for 2015 when we take the Hamlin House over for our 3rd annual Cabaret on Saturday, February 21st. If you missed the event this year, you will want to mark your calendars for next February! Next year's cabaret moves away from the classic love theme that we have programmed around Valentine's Day. Now we look at the many different talents of the men of the BGMC and are going to bring them together for one BIG show!

Thank you again to all of the singers, volunteers, and of course, you, our loyal patrons for coming and spending a romantic evening with us! It is a highlight of mine each year and I hope if you missed it, to see you next year!

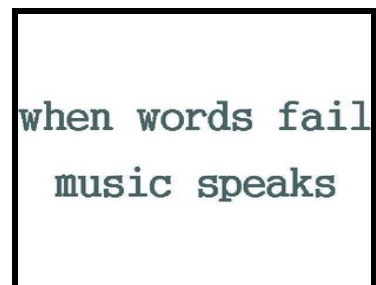
-Chris Reybrouck, Director of Business and Communications

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is intrinsic to the LGBT community and is one of the largest Pride organizations in our community. It behooves us to support an organization that helps one of the largest issues that affects the lives of our LGBT allies. The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is a major sponsor of the AIDS Walk every year.

Walk with us! Please join us on Saturday, May 10th. Help make a difference by joining hundreds of other Western New Yorkers in the 22nd annual AIDS Walk Buffalo. Walk solo or with our team, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, and help raise funds and awareness to fight HIV/AIDS.

To register, please visit
www.aidswalkbuffalo.kintera.org

-Eric Nowak, AIDS Walk Team
Captain for the Buffalo Gay Men's
Chorus



Please post this at your neighborhood store, library or church bulletin board

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Proudly Presents

RISE UP SINGING

BUFFALO GAY MENS CHORUS



CIARAN KRUEGER *Artistic Director* DEBI OVERTON-NILES *Accompanist*

Friday, May 16, 2014 @ 8pm
THE RIVIERA THEATRE
67 WEBSTER STREET
NORTH TONAWANDA, NY 14120

Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 8pm
TEMPLE BETH ZION
805 DELAWARE AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY

Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 3pm
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
695 ELMWOOD AVENUE
BUFFALO, NY

**Interpreted for the hearing impaired*

Tickets: \$20 General Admission / \$18 for Students/Seniors/Disabled

For Tickets Call 716-883-1277 or Visit:

www.BuffaloGayMensChorus.org



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Use this link to sign up for your own free cloud storage (2GB!) and the Chorus gets 50MB for our documents.

flickr

Join Our Flickr Group:

www.flickr.com/groups/bgmc/

Flickr is a free photo sharing & management tool. We have 1009 photos. Please add your chorus images to our group!



Constant Contact[®]

We use Constant Contact for email communications. To get on our mailing list, drop a line to:

info@buffalogaymenschorus.org



groupanizer

organize. connect. breathe.

The BGMC won a free one-year subscription to Groupanizer.com, an online chorus management tool. We use it for our member database, MP3 practice files, seating & riser placement charts, and scheduling.



@TheBGMC

We have 364 followers on Twitter



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We have 1453 likes on Facebook

Grace Notes



On January 9, **Johnny Mora** [B1] took his oath of citizenship in the Robert H. Jackson U.S. Courthouse and became the newest American in the chorus. Several BGMC members were on hand to witness and celebrate the occasion. In May, he leaves Buffalo to move back to New York City.

The Board of Directors was saddened to accept the resignation of Board Secretary **Travis Ballard** [B1] due to illness in his family. Our hearts go out to the Ballard family.

This year, **Chuck Alaimo** celebrates ten years as the Chorus archivist. He recently curated a Buffalo map exhibit in the Rare Book Room at the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library.

Ron Houk [T1], a speech language pathologist at Erie 1 BOCES, has announced his retirement effective July 1. He plans to pursue other professional opportunities.

Wegmans has promoted chorus vice-president **Robert J. Szustak** [T1] from Division Pastry Chef to Bakery Manager at the Losson Road store in Depew.

Steve Bukowski [B1] has been promoted to a full-time position at Thinking Outside of the Square, an exhibition design firm, as Director of Interpretive Services and Social Media. Steve also works weekends as a docent at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site.

In March, the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus appointed **Cedric “Flip” Taporco** [B2] as Bass section leader.

Ron Sutz [B1] vacationed in Costa Rico with his nephew and his nephew’s wife.

The March 21 “My View” column in the *Buffalo News* was written by **Eric Nowak** [B1]. His essay was about the importance of a serenity token given to him by **Jason Ward** [T2].

The bungalow owned by **Mark Peszko** [T2] and his partner David C. Schopp was featured in the Spring 2014 issue of *American Bungalow* magazine.

Tim Mahiques, Board of Directors [B2] took a mid-winter break and traveled to sunny Playa del Carmen Mexico for one week in late February.

“The only thing better
than singing
is more singing.”

Ella Fitzgerald



Artistic Director: Ciaran Krueger
Accompanist: Debi Overton-Niles
Director of Business & Communications:
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Ticket Sales: Susan Gruttadauria
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Board of Trustees:
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Timothy Mahiques
Mark Mancuso
Jimmy Rigo
Donald Yager

Mission Statement:

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 sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in the community and in ourselves. We seek through song not only to entertain, but to enlighten.



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