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Divas

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Divas

Friday, Saturday & Sunday
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THE BGMC WISHES

Susan Mangold

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

This Diva is celebrating her birthday with the BGMC and 100 of her closest friends!

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If you would like to celebrate your special event with the BGMC, please contact info@buffalogaymenschorus.org for information on group ticket sales or small group performances!

Divas



Good evening, and welcome to the BGMC Spring concert "DIVAS!" Tonight the BGMC will perform the music of many beloved Divas who have made significant impact and contributions to the LGBTQ community through their music.

Like these Divas, the BGMC endeavors to enlighten and entertain through music while celebrating pride in our community and in ourselves.

I recently heard an audience member say "Through their work, organizations like the BGMC have "normalized" the word 'gay' in our community. You now hear the word in 'gay' in a church, just like you would the word 'brunch' or 'handbag'" he said.

Although the word 'gay' may have been "normalized" for many of us in this community, there are still many people who are being marginalized simply for being gay. For this reason, I continue to stand on stage with my BGMC brothers as I have since 2001 -- to change the hearts and minds of people who think "gay" is "less", and to give hope to people who think less of themselves because they are gay.

As far as we've come, we still have a long, long way to go.

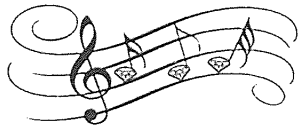
If you believe in creating a community where all people are able to live as who they truly are, and you believe in a community that is inclusive of all people regardless of their sexual orientation please support the BGMC and help us keep singing so we can give a voice to those who otherwise may not be heard.

There are many ways you can add your voice to ours. We welcome any male 18 or older to join us onstage as a singing member. Women, or men who are less musically inclined, can join the BGMC as non-singing members. If you are able to support the BGMC financially, I invite you to make a contribution to the Friends of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. In addition, we also have many opportunities for you to volunteer behind the scenes!!

Please sit back (or get out of your seat and dance) and enjoy tonight's performance!

Yours in Song,

Timothy H. Mahiques
President, Board of Directors



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The BGMC has been a proud member of *GALA Choruses* since our first season in 2001. Formed in 1982, *GALA Choruses* is open to all GLBT and GLBT-allied choruses and reports 150-plus member choruses and 7,500 singers. *GALA Choruses* produces choral festivals, educational conferences and publications, and facilitates networking among members. The BGMC has performed at GALA Festivals in Montreal (2004), Miami (2008) and Denver (2012), and plans to return to Denver in July 2016.

Divas



Good evening and welcome to DIVAS presented by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

Tonight we are celebrating the Divas that have stood by and inspired the LGBTQ community. Their unforgettable songs range from just fun to those that we connect with on a fundamental level. They give voice to the emotions and passions within us, pushing us to do more and to be more – no matter what our sexual orientation may be.

We are proud this weekend to honor the chorus' own diva, Founding Artistic Director Barbara Wagner. Barbara was an inspiring and passionate leader for the chorus; challenging us in our mission and music, and provides the strong foundation we stand on today. She, like the Divas in this concert gave our community a voice and presence in the community so that we could "celebrate pride in the community and in ourselves". We are who we are largely because of Barbara and we are proud to honor her this weekend.

We invite you to sing along with your favorites tonight and enjoy the concert! I get such a thrill at meeting our audience member so if you have a chance, make sure to say hello before or after our concerts!

Yours in harmony,

Ciaran Krueger
Artistic Director



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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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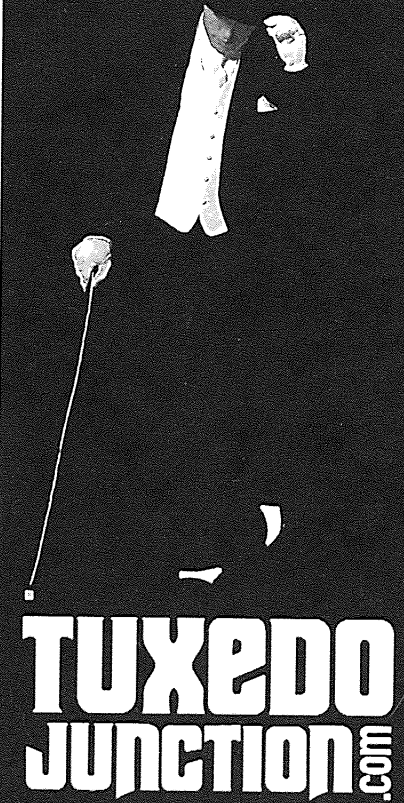
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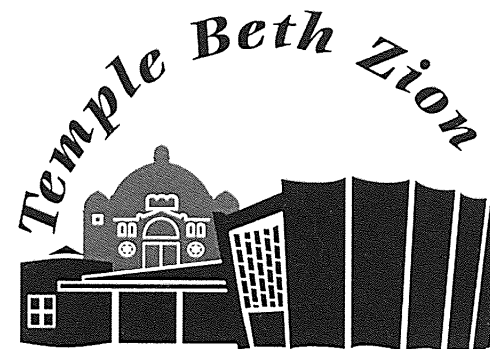
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Divas

Mr. Ciaran Krueger, *Artistic Director*
Mr. Jonathan Rizzo, *Accompanist*
Mr. Christopher Hart, *Percussion*
Mr. Timothy Mroz, *Bass*

PROGRAM

Express Yourself/Vogue	Madonna, Stephen Bray and Shep Pettibone Arranged by: Tim Sarsany
Dark Lady	John Robert "Johnny" Durrill Arranged by: Tim Sarsany
People	Bob Merrill and Julie Styne Arranged by: Tim Sarsany
Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy	Don Raye and Hughie Prince Arranged by: David Monseur Small Ensemble
The Trolley Song	Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane Arranged by: David Monseur Kevin Thompson, <i>Tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Over The Rainbow	Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg Arranged by: Mark Hayes
If I Could Turn Back Time	Dianne Warren Arranged by: Tim Sarsany Robert J. Szustak, <i>Tenor</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Like A Prayer	Madonna and Patrick Leonard Arranged by: Chad Weirick

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Respect	Otis Redding Arranged by: Steve Milloy Sydnie Aria Perkins, <i>Guest Soloist</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Don't Rain On My Parade	Bob Merrill and Jule Styne Arranged by: Tim Sarsany
Friends	J. Slate/D. Morrison Arranged by: Steve Milloy Robert J. Szustak, <i>Tenor</i> and Zak Kineke, <i>Baritone</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
My Man	Bibo/Woods/Yvain Arranged by: David Monseur Small Ensemble
I Will Survive	Dino Fekaris and Freddie Perren Arranged by: Tim Sarsany Sydnie Aria Perkins, <i>Guest Soloist</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Happy Days Are Here Again / Get Happy	Jack Yellen and Milton Ager Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler Arranged by: Philip Kern John Macomber, <i>Tenor</i> and Zak Kineke, <i>Baritone</i> with <i>The Chorus</i>
Ain't No Mountain High Enough	Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson Arranged by: Tim Sarsany

*Please join us for a reception immediately
following Saturday and Sunday's performances.*

Program Notes

Judy Garland

One of the gay community's most beloved artists of all-time has remained, Judy Garland. Her strong stage presence, her iconic movie roles and her recordings continue to live on. "Over the Rainbow," without question is one of the most popular movie songs in history. No tribute to this lady could be done without her "anthem." "The Trolley Song," from the 1944 film *Meet Me in St. Louis*, is also closely identified with Judy. In 1963 CBS produced *The Judy Garland Show*. On October 4th, a young singer, Barbra Streisand appeared. That appearance brought the now legendary duet with Judy singing "Get Happy," one of Judy's standards with Barbra's "Happy Days Are Here Again."

Barbra Streisand

Another long admired singer, Barbra Streisand, often referred to simply as Barbra, has spent the last several decades amazing audiences with her vocals. *Funny Girl*, a Broadway musical based on the life of Fanny Brice sold to packed houses nightly. Her 1964 album, *People* knocked The Beatles, *A Hard Days Night* album out of No.1. While the song "People" is closely identified with her, "Don't Rain On My Parade" also coming from *Funny Girl* was a huge showstopper. In 1965 she sang a medley of songs on her one woman special *My Name is Barbra* in which she closed with an original Brice song, "My Man," that has been a long Streisand favorite.

Cher

Another Diva with long staying power is Cher. Starting her career with husband Sonny Bono, they were the most popular singing couple from the 60's till the early 70's. During this time Cher did a lot of solo singles and albums that did even better. The haunting "Dark Lady" was a big hit for her. After some time her popularity slowed down a bit. Then in the late 80's she returned with even bigger hits like "If I Could Turn Back Time," which included a scandalous video at the time of its release. Today Cher continues to pack arenas everywhere. With her outlandish style, her iconic voice, her dance hits, her LGBTQ advocacy and her transgender child, Cher's connection with the gay community has grown over the years. She's one of the greatest gay icons. Her longevity in entertainment owes much to having one of the largest and most loyal gay followings ever.

Aretha Franklin

Aretha Franklin, who spent her early years in Buffalo, New York began singing in church. As she approached her late teens she began performing jazz, pop and soul with great success on the popular Columbia label.

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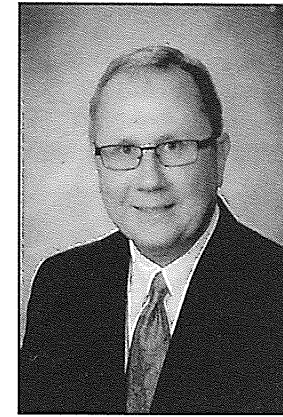


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However, when her contract ended she signed on Atlantic Records where she was crowned The Queen of Soul. Her No.1 hit, "Respect," was written and first recorded by a man, the late Otis Redding ("Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay"). She turned it big with the women's liberation movement and made it her anthem.

Bette Midler

Bette Midler, or as more commonly referred to by her informal stage name, The Divine Miss M, is a singer, songwriter, actress, comedian, and film producer with a career spanning over a half of century. Bette started to rise to prominence in 1970 when she began performing in the Continental Baths, a gay bathhouse in the Ansonia Hotel. During this time she became close to her piano accompanist, Barry Manilow, who produced her first album in 1972, *The Divine Miss M*. Bette's first album became a million selling platinum album making Billboards Top 10 and earning Midler the 1973 Grammy Award for Best New Artist. The Album featured three hit singles - "Do You Wanna Dance?", "Friends," and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"- the third which became her first No. 1 Adult Contemporary hit. In the late 1990's, during the release of her *Bathhouse Betty* album, Bette commented on her time performing there, "despite the way things turned out [with the AIDS crisis], I'm still proud of those days. I feel like I was at the forefront of the gay liberation movement, and I hope I did my part to help move it forward. So, I kind of wear the label 'Bathhouse Betty' with pride."

Madonna

Often referred to as the "Queen of Pop," Madonna achieved popularity by pushing the boundaries of lyrical content in mainstream popular music, and imagery in her music videos. Madonna is known for reinventing her music and image, and received critical acclaim for her musical productions which have been known to induce controversy. In January of 1989 Madonna signed an endorsement deal with Pepsi, where she debuted her song "Like a Prayer." The corresponding music video featured images of many Catholic symbols, leading the Vatican to condemn the video. This resulted in Pepsi revoking her commercial and sponsorship. The song went on to reach No. 1 when it was released on the album *Like a Prayer*. "Express Yourself" was also a hit single from the *Like a Prayer* album. The lyrics talk about rejecting material pleasures and only accepting the best for oneself. "Express Yourself" received positive reviews from critics, who applauded the gender equality message of the song and complimented the song for being a hymn to freedom and encouragement to woman and all oppressed minorities. Shortly after the success of *Like A Prayer*, Madonna came out with "Vogue." The song

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Continued from page 22

and video were inspired by the dance of the same name, performed in New York clubs in the underground gay scene, in which dancers used as series of complex hand gestures, body poses and movements to imitate their favorite Hollywood stars and cover models from "Vogue" magazine. Madonna has been known for speaking out for the LGBTQ community, she has spoken out against bullying, anti-gay laws in Malawi and Russia, and the Boy Scout's anti-gay policy. Madonna's advocacy for the LGBTQ community was acknowledged when gay news magazine "The Advocate," named her the "greatest gay icon" in 2012.

In June 2011, Madonna urged her fans to support same-sex marriage in New York, posting the following message on her website: "New Yorkers your voices must be heard. Tell your state Congressmen to support same sex marriage bill. All you need is love." The Marriage Equality Act passed one week later, legalizing same-sex marriage in New York.

Tina Turner

Tina Turner first covered "Proud Mary" in 1971 with her husband at the time Ike Turner. The Ike and Tina version differed greatly from the original version of the song, but has become one of Tina's most recognizable signature songs. Tina was recognized by the Kennedy Center Honors where then President George W. Bush commented on Tina's "natural skill, the energy and sensuality," and referred to her legs as "the most famous in show business."

Gloria Gaynor

Gloria Gaynor made her major breakthrough into the disco dance scene with her hit "I Will Survive." "I Will Survive" will always be a quintessential gay anthem because of its message of triumph over heartache and fear. The song was awarded the only Grammy Award ever for Best Disco Recording in 1980. Gloria would forever emblazon herself in the hearts of gays everywhere when she released "I Am What I Am," a cover of the song from the Broadway show *La Cage aux Folles* in 1984.

Diana Ross

"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" was Diana's first No. 1 hit after launching her solo career. Diana had been the lead vocalist with the Supremes. In 1980 she would launch her album *Diana*, which included international hit "I'm Coming Out." "I'm Coming Out" is one of the most energetic and inspirational gay anthems ever, forever enshrining Diana Ross, the beautiful, stylish pop legend, in the pantheon of gay icons. She's the epitome of glitz, glam, talent, a diva personality, big hair and an over-the-top wardrobe. With her 1980 hit she has made gay men feel like bosses just like Ms. Ross the Boss.

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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 - April 30, 2015

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 Roger Parris & Michael Longo, *in honor of Barbara Wagner*
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 Rabbi Adam Scheldt
 Roger Mark Seifert & Dennis Stuart, *in honor of Marjorie A. Gardner*
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in honor of Rev. Kirk A. Laubenstein
 Pamela & Dr. Ilja Weinrieb

SOLOIST - \$100 - \$199

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David Batt & Michael Shanahan, <i>in honor of Barbara Wagner</i>	Vera & David Kozak, <i>in honor of Dennis Stuart</i>
Christopher & Celine Belling	Andree & Joel Lippes
Carolann M. Besch, <i>in honor of Bill Gardner</i>	Earl E. Mahiques, <i>in honor of Timothy H. Mahiques</i>
George & Deanna Black, <i>in honor of Robert Black</i>	M. Lynn McCulloch, <i>in honor of Hanford Searl, Jr.</i>
Peter Bleckinger	Miracle Ear Center
Michael J. Bonilla, <i>in memory of Lawrence J. Greco</i>	Andy Newbert, <i>in memory of Marjorie A. Gardner</i>
Rod & Ginny Bradley, <i>in honor of Dennis Stuart</i>	Arthur J. Picogna, <i>in memory of Arthur E. Neeb</i>
E. S. Braniecki	Wendy Pierce
Max & Sheila Casey <i>in honor of Bruce Jenner</i>	Richard Price
Robert O. Day	Bob & Luann Roberts
Charles A. Deacon	Rachael H. Schuh, <i>in memory of Dee Taylor</i>
Jim & Mary Fran Derby	Gilbert Schulenberg, DDS
Joan M. Doerr, <i>in honor of Ron Silverio</i>	Mark J. Skesavage, <i>in honor of Dennis Stuart</i>
Jane Anne Grace & Albert Litto, <i>in honor of Dennis Stuart</i>	Andy Steck & Phil Trifiletti, <i>in honor of Barbara Wagner</i>
Robert P. Graves	Gloria & Paul Stuart
Lorne E. Gretsinger, <i>in honor of Tim Mahiques from goddaughter Jane Grëtsinger</i>	Ronald H. Sutz, <i>in honor of Andy Newbert</i>
David Harvey & Stanley Fernandez	Robert Wiechman & John Molinaro
Bob & Norma Henderson	James N. Wieland, DDS, <i>in honor of Barbara Wagner</i>
George & Barbara Hole, <i>in memory of Hank Mann and Don Savage</i>	

SINGER - UP TO \$99

Victoria Agostini, <i>in honor of Jimmy Rigo</i>	Shirley G. Berglund
Ellie Ando	Thaddeus V. Bieniek
Andy Anselmo, <i>in memory of John Harris</i>	Philip & Barbara Brogadir
James & Connie Bailey, <i>in honor of Christopher Reybrouck</i>	Pam & Matt Buehler
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Marion T. Dann, *in honor of*
"Woody"
Joseph M. Draicchio
Colin & Margaret Drury
Bill Engelbrecht
Linda J. Facklam
William J. Fay, *in honor of Ramón*
Meléndez
Kathy Frost
Angela P. Georgi
Marion & Bob Gibbon
Sylvia G. Gold
Janet A. Guambana
Gerald J. & Francie Hace
Peter G. Hart
Orie Hebard
Judith A. Hefner
Sandra Hoehn
Jack Hogan
Nancy D. Holzerland
Shirley P. Hudders
Jim Jagow
Doris Jones
Dorothy Keller
John & Carol Kociela
Ed Koryl
Norma Jean Lamb
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Lane
Donald M. Langreck
Dr. Richard J. Lee
Al Liberante, Jr.
Dorothy Lien, *in memory of Mark*
Faltyn

Donald A. Martin, *in honor of Andy*
Martin, Mark Smith & Tom Crann
Margaret M. Mergenhagen
Delwyn Milander & Mark Meyer
Edwin A. Mirand, *in honor of*
Michael Warner
John Owen
John J. Pellegrini
Larry & Carolyn Pillard
Dennis A. Pines
Rabbi Gary Porkas
Jim & Trudy Possinger
Paula B. Radice
Marnise R. Reaves, *in honor of all*
of the people who have come out
and have support
Maria T. Rosa, *in honor of Ricky*
Marcka
Howard & Valerie Rosenhoch
Joan Roy
Mary Jane Russell
Marsha Shapiro & Gregory Pavlov
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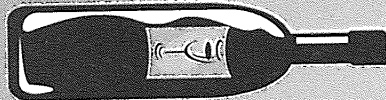
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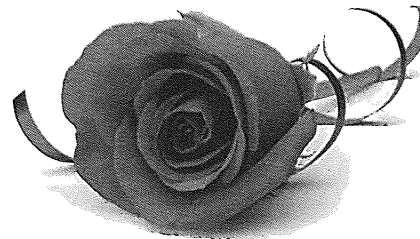
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BGM

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Tenor I

Rob Black #
 David Campbell + *
 Ron Houk *
 Frank Miller
 Mike Rogers *
 Hanford Searl, Jr.
 Robert J. Szustak *
 Kevin L. Thompson *

Tenor II

Nicholas Becht
 Robert M. Egan
 Gerardo Gaddi *
 William C. Hardy
 John Macomber # *
 Larry Mancine + *
 Devin Rooney *
 Jeffrey J. Strauss

Baritone

Paul Bostaph
 Gregory L. Ciupak
 William H. Gardner
 Peter "PJ" Hubbard
 Jeffrey C. Hunt
 Zak Kineke + *
 Vincent Kuntz
 Andrew Lisitsky
 Raymond Neil
 Andy Newbert #
 Eric Nowak
 Joseph Puma *
 James Rigo *
 Woody Sipprell
 Dennis C. Stuart
 Ron Sutz *
 Cedric "Flip" Taporco
 William K. Wachob *
 Kevin Woodcock

Bass II

Pete Bleckinger
 Gerry Frenette
 Randy Kozlowski + *
 Timothy H. Mahiques
 L. Martin Palcic
 Michael A. Smyntek
 Donald Yager #
 Joseph Zimmerman

+ Indicates Section Leader

Indicates Section Representative

* Indicates Small Group Ensemble



The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Non-Singing Members

Pierre Albrecht-Carrie
 Travis Ballard
 David Batt
 Dennis J. Bolton
 Leonard Cercone Jr.
 Norm Duttweiler Jr.
 Joseph Grieco
 William Griener
 Susan Gruttadauria
 Geoffrey Kutnyak
 Michael Longo
 Marge Maloney
 Mark Mancuso
 Ramón Meléndez
 Roger Parris
 Christopher T. Pearson
 Mark J. Peszko
 Christopher P. Reybrouck
 Michael Shanahan
 Mark Smith
 Larry Van Heusen
 Cynthia Van Ness
 William Woodle

Silent Members

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

Artistic Director

Ciaran Krueger

Accompanist

Jonathan Rizzo

Director of Business and Communications

Christopher P. Reybrouck

Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Cat Hardesty

House Manager

Christopher Pearson

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Susan C. Gruttadauria

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 Jeffrey J. Strauss
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 William Wacob

Musicians

Christopher Hart, Percussion
 Timothy Mroz, Bass

Diva Soloist

Sydney Aria Perkins

Choreographer

Timothy P. Stuff





The Community Services Foundation is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)-3 of the Internal Revenue code. We do business under the name of The Imperial Court Of Buffalo. The "Court" of Buffalo is a part of the International Court System, started by José Julia Sarria "Jose the Widow Norton" in San Francisco in 1965. The Court System today consists of almost 70 chapters or Courts in the US, Canada and Mexico. These chapters are each chartered by the International Court Council but are independently governed in accordance with national and local charitable organization requirements.

The Imperial Court Of Buffalo, founded in 1990, raises funds for the Buffalo Community and HIV/AIDS related charities, while providing fun and entertaining events for the community, including shows, theme parties, pageants, dinners, the Big Gay Boat Ride, and many others. Members not only help by raising funds, but also by volunteering time and manpower. If there is a cause or event which needs help, you are very likely to find members of the Imperial Court Of Buffalo pitching in to help.

The ICOB is governed by the members of the organization who elect the Emperor, Empress and the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors oversees all the activities and financial matters of the organization. They are assisted by the College of Monarchs, a standing committee made up of past monarchs of Buffalo who have remained active within the organization and have met the criteria established to maintain membership on the College. The Emperor and Empress act as the public leaders of the organization and oversee all fundraising activities during the one year period they reign.

The general meeting for the Imperial Court Of Buffalo is normally held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. You are permitted to attend your first meeting as a guest. Please feel free to contact us for additional information about the ICOB or to attend one of our meetings. We look forward to hearing from you!

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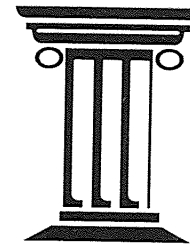
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Best Wishes to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus!



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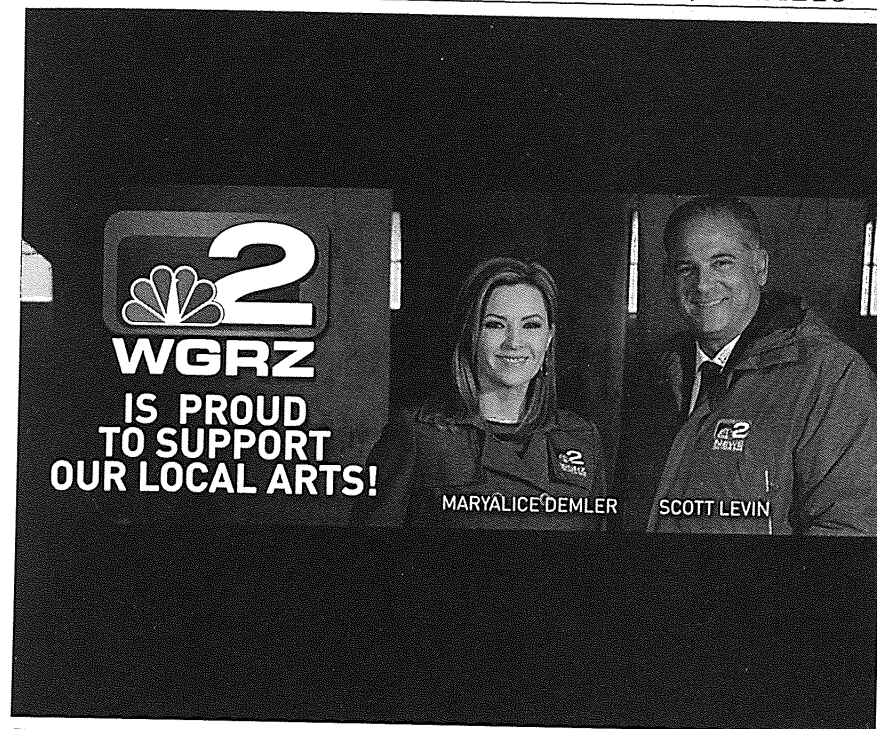
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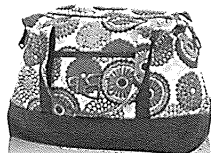
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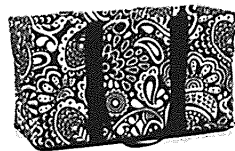
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About the Artistic Director



Ciaran Krueger is a native of Buffalo and a veteran of the concert hall and stage. He has a familiarity in a wide range of repertoire in everything from classical to gospel to musical theatre. Krueger's musical career began at age six when he joined St. Paul's Cathedral Men and Boys choir under the direction of Bruce Neswick. Since then, he has been involved in music constantly. Mr. Krueger holds a Master's of Music in Choral Conducting under the instruction of Harold Rosenbaum at the University of Buffalo. In 2011, Mr. Krueger joined the BGMC as the organization's second Artistic Director. He is currently the Music Director at St. James UCC in Hamburg and a full time Pre-K - 6th Grade Music Teacher in the Niagara Falls City School District. Mr. Krueger lives in Clarence with his wife, Lisa and their three beautiful daughters, Caoimhe, Maisie Joy and newborn Norah Grace.

BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus



Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Fundraiser



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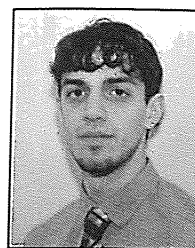
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MAJOR PERFORMANCES

May, 2015 Divas
December, 2014 Merry and Bright
May, 2014 Rise Up Singing
December, 2013 Our Favorite Things
May, 2013 We've Got Rhythm
December, 2012 Cool Yule
July, 2012 GALA Festival of Choruses, Denver
June, 2012 We Tell the Story
March, 2012 One Night Only
December, 2011 Make the Yuletide Gay
June, 2011 Live Out Loud
December, 2010 Sounds of the Season
June, 2010 Once Upon a Time
December, 2009 Joyful and Triumphant
June, 2009 BGMC on Vacation
March, 2009 The Land Where the Good Songs Go
December, 2008 Hope for the Holidays
July, 2008 GALA Festival of Choruses, Miami
June, 2008 Connections
January, 2008 The Proud and the Passionate
June, 2007 Colors of Our Lives
January, 2007 Celebrate
June, 2006 Let us Entertain You
January, 2006 A Winter's Tale
June, 2005 Fearless
January, 2005 Brothers in Song
July, 2004 GALA Festival of Choruses, Montreal
June, 2004 Singing With Pride
January, 2004 If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On
June, 2003 Songs of Freedom
January, 2003 Of Sweet Harmony
June, 2002 Sounds of Summer
February, 2002 Music from the Heart



About the Accompanist



Jonathan Rizzo has been performing as a pianist, keyboardist, and percussionist in the WNY area for the past decade. Originally studying percussion and euphonium as a music education major at SUNY Fredonia, he began to take seriously the idea of performing as a pianist after studying there with international award-winning pianist Sean Duggan. After graduating from Fredonia with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, Mr. Rizzo began studying classically with pianist Steven Bianchi and then with Dr. Emily Boyce at Buffalo State College. While attending Buffalo State, he won the school's concerto competition, performing the first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto No.20 in D Minor with the Buffalo State Philharmonia.

Mr. Rizzo holds the position of "Music Accompanist" at St. James UCC in Hamburg, performing services on both piano and organ. An avid songwriter, Mr. Rizzo's original material can be heard at jonrizzomusic.bandcamp.com and soundcloud.com/jonrizzosmusic.

As a member of the band Blueshift, Mr. Rizzo has performed at many venues both in Western New York and beyond, playing such events as Warped Tour in Cincinnati and The Niagara Falls Arts Festival, and has opened for such internationally-known acts as Tony Levin's Stickmen and Consider the Source. Locally, Blueshift performs at such venues as The Tralf, Waiting Room, and Mister Goodbar.

An avid songwriter, Mr. Rizzo is currently in the mixing stage of a solo album in which he performs his songs on piano, keyboards, drums, bass, guitar, and vocals, satirically entitled "Generic Pop Music." His music can be heard at www.jonrizzomusic.bandcamp.com.



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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

At end of 1999, the vision for a Gay Men's Chorus in Buffalo was conceived. Guided by Roger Parris, a vigorous group of men explored this concept thoroughly. With the support and success of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus behind them, these men decided that it was time for Buffalo to join the growing list of LGBT choruses all over the world.

After 15 months of intense work, a Steering Committee had written by-laws, filed papers of incorporation, raised seed money, written a mission statement and elected officers. After a thorough search, Barbara Wagner was asked to be the Founding Artistic Director and would join the ranks of only two female conductors of Gay Men's Choruses. Wagner, in turn, requested that Debi Overton-Niles be invited to serve as the Founding Accompanist.

The first auditions were held in May 2001, and rehearsals were to begin on September 11, 2001, a day of infamy in our nation. The men and Wagner held hands that first rehearsal and sang- "from you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live." We also learned "How Can I Keep From Singing" and began forging the bonds that still hold us together today. "How Can I Keep From Singing" became our theme song and was the very first music our first audience heard as the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus processed down the aisles of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo.

Our February 2002 inaugural concert, "Music From the Heart", set the tone for our future. The energy that surrounded the BGMC that night validated the reality of our beloved chorus, and the bonds we formed continue to remain strong. The audience that first night was huge- the church was filled, chairs lined the aisles and sadly, people had to be turned away at the door. Our audiences continue to be large and diverse, and we now sing three performances in each concert series.

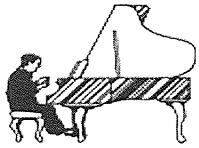
We have been the gracious recipients of many awards, including three awards from Artvoice's "Best in Buffalo" found us elected as "Best Chorus" and the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council Award for exceptional contributions to the arts and cultural community in Western New York. The BGMC has also been a recipient of community service awards from AIDS Community Services, and has been recognized by the Empire State Pride Agenda in 2005 with the ESPA Award for Community Service for the excellence of their music and their dedication to the community. We have also had the tremendous honor of performing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra twice, once in 2004 and again in 2006 under the direction of Joann Faletta. We have also performed on the Ars Nova "Viva Vivaldi" series, by the request of Marylouise Nanna.

Continued on page 45

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Continued from page 43

In December 2008, the BGMC presented its first series of holiday concerts, entitled "Hope for the Holidays." There were three totally sold out performances, and it has become a holiday tradition for the Western New York Community, including being offered the opportunity to sing each year at the lighting of the Albright Knox Christmas Tree.

At the end of the 2010-2011 season, Founding Artistic Director Barbara Wagner retired from her position as Artistic Director of the BGMC, and turned her baton over to our organizations second Artistic Director, Mr. Ciaran Krueger. Since the Fall of 2011, Mr. Krueger has led the chorus to new heights with growing audiences, new musical adventures, and dedicated musicianship.

COME JOIN US IN SONG



The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus wishes to extend an invitation to the entire Western New York Community to join our organization as either a volunteer or singer.

As always, we welcome any man, gay or straight, who wishes not only to sing, but to join our mission to entertain and enlighten through song.

Auditions for our next season will take place Tuesday August 18 and Tuesday August 25 at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222. Auditions take place at 6:00pm. A prepared piece is not required to audition. Please email info@buffalogaymenschorus.org for more information.

Rehearsals start Tuesday August 18, and run every Tuesday through May from 7:00pm – 9:45pm.

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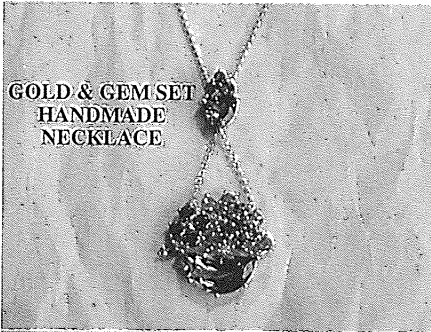
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God Loves You... *NO exceptions!*

{ All are Welcome }

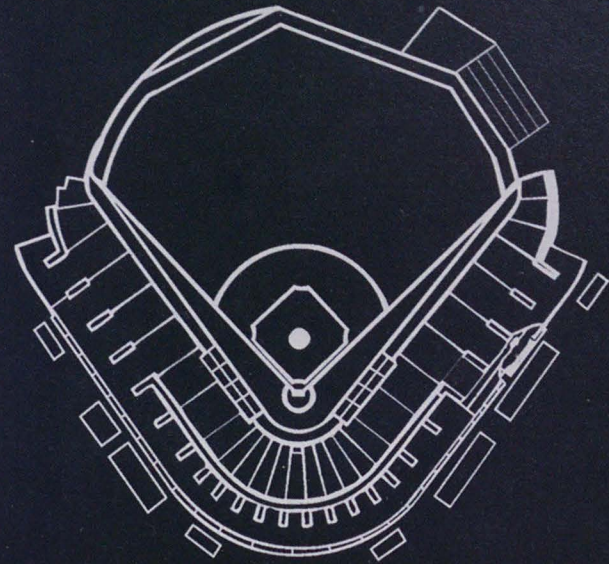
Sunday: 8:00 am Spoken Mass
9:00 am Contemporary Music Mass with *Joyful Noise*
11:15 am Traditional Anglican Choral Mass

Weekday Mass: 12:05pm

SPCBuffalo.org



THE PRIDE CENTER AND THE BUFFALO BISONS PRESENT



Out AT THE **BALLPARK**

AN EVENING OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CELEBRATING
THE VIBRANCY OF THE WNY LGBTQ COMMUNITY.

BUFFALO BISONS VS. COLUMBUS CLIPPERS
THURSDAY JULY 16 AT 7PM
CENTERFIELD TENT / PAVILION OPEN AT 5PM
COCA-COLA FIELD

TICKETING INFO AT: WWW.PRIDECENTERWNY.ORG
HONORING THE QUEEN CITY SOFTBALL LEAGUE
CEREMONIAL FIRST PITCH BY DOUG SCHEIDT, FOUNDER OF QCSL

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CENTER OF WESTERN NEW YORK



The Big Gay Sing!

Wednesday, June 3 – 8:00PM

Doors Open at 7:00pm | Cash Bar

@ The Evergreen Commons
262 Georgia Street | Buffalo, 14201
\$10 Per Person – Bring Friends!

Tickets available at buffalogaymenschorus.org or at the door

Do you love showtunes? Are you a Grammy-level shower-singer? Have you entertained the masses at a stop sign with your in-car full-voice, full-choreography rendition of "I Will Survive"?

THEN, YOU'RE PERFECT FOR THE BIG GAY SING!

At the Big Gay Sing, you will not be shushed. You will not have to endure eye rolls or head shakes. No, this is your night. We want you to be as loud as you are proud, and belt out your favorite hits at this sing-at-top-of-your-lungs sing-along event. Hosted by and featuring local celebrities (name drop: host Jimmy Janowski), this multimedia event is all about YOU. The Big Gay Sing was first performed in NYC and has been in many cities throughout the world. 2015 will mark the event's first appearance in Buffalo.

BPO BUFFALO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
JO ANN FALLETTA MUSIC DIRECTOR

CELEBRATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KLEINHANS MUSIC HALL WITH WONDERFUL ARTISTS AND FUN-FILLED THEMED CONCERTS

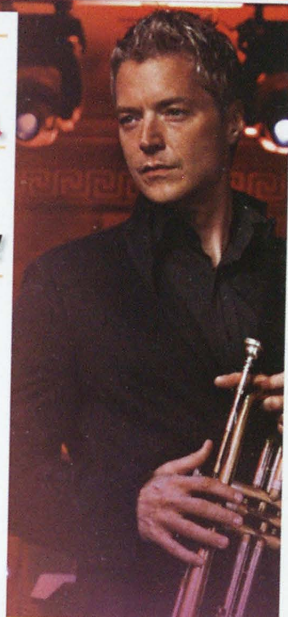


STARS. *Swing.* **Death**
BROADWAY. *Defying*
acts.

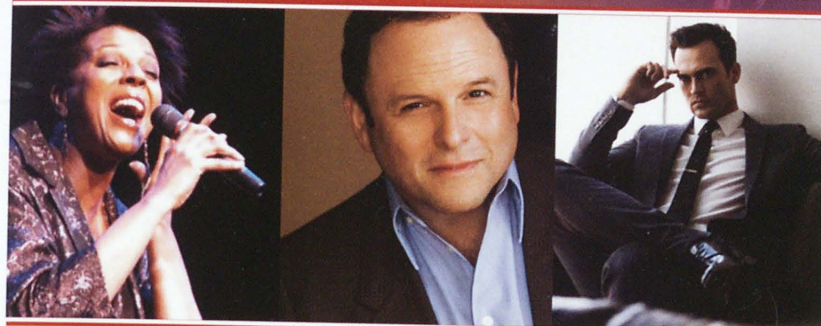
The 2015-16 Pops Series
has all this...and more!

Tony-winning actor **Jason Alexander**, the eclectic, genre-crossing "little orchestra" **Pink Martini**, Broadway and *30 Rock* star **Cheyenne Jackson** performing Music of the Mad Men Era, and the newest innovation of **Cirque Mechanics** just to name a few.

Add in trumpet superstar **Chris Botti**, **Dee Daniels'** styling of the Great Ladies of Swing, and *Celebrating Sammy: Broadway to Vegas* and there's no end to the excitement!



Chris Botti



Dee Daniels

Jason Alexander

Cheyenne Jackson

**The BPO has something for every listener
check out the full 2015-16 season offering at bpo.org today!
(716)885-5000 | bpo.org**

BUFFALO & WNY

PRIDE WEEK

**SHOW &
TELL**



JUNE 1-7, 2015

MON 6/1
FLAG RAISING
CEREMONY

WED 6/3
BIG GAY SING

THU 6/4
GAY 5K

FRI 6/5
CHROMA: LGBTQ
ART EXHIBITION

FRI 6/5
FLEX

SAT 6/6
DYKE MARCH

SAT 6/6
MOMENTUM

SUN 6/7
PRIDE PARADE

SUN 6/7
PRIDE FESTIVAL