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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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### Glorious Jazz, Gospel, and Sacred Music

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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*Glorious*

JAZZ, GOSPEL

AND

SACRED MUSIC

THE BUFFALO GAY MEN'S CHORUS  
- AND -

THE UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF BUFFALO CHOIR

SUNDAY, APRIL 24 2005 | 4 PM  
BLESSED TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH  
BUFFALO, NY





## Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

What a marvel, this church! We are blessed, indeed, to have it grace our city. Look around! Enjoy the sights, and the sounds!

This neighborhood was settled largely by German working class families, who in the early 1920's decided to build this gorgeous church. The cornerstone was laid in 1923, and it was blessed in 1953. The church was consecrated in 1953 (forever consecrated as a house of worship when debt-free). The design is that of 12th century Lombard Romanesque with Byzantine details (Northern Italy), and this church is one of the purest examples of this style in the U.S. Unique features of the church include handmade bricks produced and set in medieval fashion and large scale use of ceramics (terra cotta) for structural and decorative purposes. The bricks were made without molds in Exeter, New Hampshire. The terra cotta was made in Crum Lynne, Pennsylvania, where each piece was hand built, fitted together, fired, individually marked and shipped to Buffalo.

Architects:  
Chester Oakley and Albert Schallmo

Design of Iconography:  
Rev. Thomas Plassman, President, St. Bonaventure College

Paintings of Dome, transept, choirloft:  
Joseph Mazur

Paintings of Sanctuary, Stations of the Cross:  
Vincent Mondo, New Haven, CT

Ceramic reliefs over each doorway:  
P. Kuhnle

Design of altar and baldachino:  
Michael Hoffman

Wood drawings:  
Albert & Richard Lippich Bowmansville

Total cost: \$513,000  
Replacement cost: \$425,000,000 as of 1976  
Realistically, the building is priceless

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo

The Universalist Church and the Unitarian Church of Buffalo were both founded in 1831. One of the early founders of the Unitarian Church recalled, "During the early part of 1831, and for some years preceding, there was at times much religious excitement in Buffalo.

Millard Fillmore, who became the thirteenth President of the United States, was a charter member of the Unitarian Church. The son of an early minister recalled that "in 1861, a noteworthy scene was held in the church at Buffalo. Mr. Fillmore stood in his usual place... By his side stood a man, gaunt, sallow, who, with melancholy face,

bent reverently at the sound of prayer. The minister spoke with solemn words; then coming from his pulpit, looked for a moment into the serious eyes of the visitor, while he pressed his hand. It was Abraham Lincoln passing on to the fulfillment of his stormy destiny."

In 1953, the Unitarian and the Universalist churches combined to form the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, which used as its place of worship the Unitarian Church building at Elmwood and Ferry streets. The congregation is proud to host the rehearsals and offices of the Buffalo Gay Mens Chorus.



The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC) performs a rich catalogue of classical, contemporary, Broadway, pop and multi-cultural selections. The repertoire is as diverse as the 70 men who are singing with pride as members of the BGMC.

The BGMC has performed in a variety of venues throughout the Niagara Region and for many community events, including gay pride activities, the arrival of the Amistad, the annual World's AIDS Day memorial service, and the AIDS Community Services fundraiser Cause for Celebration. In 2004, the BGMC performed with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra at Kleinhans Music Hall. Later that year, the group traveled to Montreal to participate in the seventh annual GALA Festival of Choruses, an



international gathering for gay and lesbian choruses. The group also performed at "Gusto at the Gallery" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and at an Ars Nova Musicians "Viva Vivaldi" concert.

The next BGMC concert is titled "Fearless" and will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo on Friday, June 17 and at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, June 18.

Incorporated in 2001, the BGMC is a membership association dedicated to producing high quality vocal music in the rich tradition of men's choral singing. Through song, the Chorus endeavors to entertain and enlighten, create harmony and celebrate personal and community pride.



The Unitarian-Universalist Church of Buffalo is truly blessed to have such a fantastic choir, currently 70 members strong. All are volunteer with the exception of a leader/soloist in each section.

Beginning in the 60's with just 8 members, the choir started with small musical performances, sometimes during church services and often in public. The music chosen was always of the highest quality; challenging, but always something with which the choir could be successful. In their first glowing newspaper review in 1964, the critic suggested that he would like to hear more from this stunning choir. The choir took the suggestion very seriously and went from oratorio to staged operas, always looking to do the unusual - music that was of high quality, but rarely performed.

There were many area premieres - "A Child of Our Time," "The Music Makers," "The Sacred Service," by Ernest Bloch and many more reaching to the present day: the Christmas Music Sunday work this year was the Magnificat by Sammartini. Music Sundays are morning services in which the choir is featured along with a chamber orchestra of Buffalo Philharmonic Musicians. There are now two Music Sundays each year. These Sundays have become a tradition, attracting not only UU's but

many people from the community at large. Patron letters are sent out in June to a long list of donors, and the choir often raises \$5,000-\$6,000 with which to make beautiful music.

The choir has a rich history of community service, both here and abroad. They have sung two Memorial Services for assassinated abortion doctor, Bart Slepian. They have sung in local temples, including Temple Beth Zion and Temple Beth Am, performed services in UU Churches without substantial music programs, and sung at award programs for the Urban League. Last year, the choir did a benefit concert for the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. The choir has also performed several times with the Ars Nova Musicians. The list goes on and on.

Overseas, they have sung in UU churches all over Germany, England, Ireland and Scotland, as well as churches of other denominations in those countries. After singing in a Lutheran church in Dortmund, the choir was told by the minister, who was initially very concerned about their liberalism, that everyone in Germany should hear them sing. He said that they had built a bridge that night between liberals and conservatives. It was a touching moment for all.



## Combined Choirs

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Antya Laba

African Gathering Song  
collected by Sonya Garfinkle

## The Unitarian-Universalist Church Choir

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El Yivneh Hagali  
Brothers, Sing On  
Standchen  
Wie Melodien  
Nessun Dorma

Julius Chajes, arranged by Michael Chikinda  
Edvard Grieg  
Franz Schubert, arranged by Tim Seelig  
Johannes Brahms, arranged by Richard Herr  
Giacomo Puccini, arranged by Robert Callaghan  
from "Turandot"  
Traditional Spiritual arranged by Kirby Shaw  
Merle Travis  
Cy Coleman and Dorothy Fields,  
arranged by Richard Barnes  
from "Sweet Charity"  
Jason Shelton

Sinner Man  
Sixteen Tons  
Rhythm of Life

Standing On the Side of Love

## Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Walk Together Children  
I'm Gonna Sing  
We Are  
Will You Harbor Me?  
Oseh Shalom  
Shalom Rav  
Old Time Religion  
The Storm is Passing Over  
Don't Get Around Much Anymore  
It Don't Mean A Thing  
if It Ain't Got That Swing

Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan  
Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan  
Ysaye Maria Barnwell  
Ms. Barnwell  
Ben Steinberg  
Mr. Steinberg  
Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan  
Charles Albert Tindley arranged by Barbara W. Baker  
Duke Ellington  
Duke Ellington

## Combined Choirs

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When I Hear Music  
Non Nobis Domine

Michael Martin  
Patrick Doyle

### What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat is a not-for-profit ecumenical Christian group of committed volunteers which wants to see families in safe, clean, warm, and affordable housing. It works with selected low-income families toward the goal of home ownership by renovating existing houses or building new houses and selling them to the new owners at no profit with a zero-interest mortgage.

### How big is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat was founded in 1976 in Americus, GA, where its international headquarters is housed. Today, there are more than 1,600 affiliates across the U.S. and more than ninety projects in countries around the world. Habitat has renovated or built tens of thousands of houses around the world. Former President Jimmy Carter is the most famous Habitat volunteer.

### Who helps make all this possible?

Habitat/Buffalo uses resources from every level of the community giving all involved, including the homeowners, the opportunity to share with others. House recipients help build more houses by making monthly mortgage payments which go back into the building fund. Thus, donated dollars are used many times over. By working together, volunteers are turning the dream of adequate housing for all people into reality.

### What are Habitat/Buffalo's accomplishments?

Habitat/Buffalo began in 1985 patterned after the original program in Americus. To date in 2004, 124 houses have been built. The local affiliate has forged many partnerships with individuals, churches, businesses, agencies, and grant funding institutions to carry its mission forward.