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

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Spring 2012

Crescendo!, Spring 2012

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Stunning Debut of New Artistic Director Ciaran Krueger



Even before a note was sung, the visual appearance of the chorus onstage was appealing and impressive. The men looked wonderful in new scarlet vests and, with numbers swelled, they filled the sanctuary. The singers appeared composed and focused on their conductor, lending a strong impression of professionalism and seriousness of purpose.

Ciaran Krueger's clear and confident conducting created a pervading sense of stability that put the audience at ease, allowing us to relax and enjoy the performance. The communication between conductor and chorus was obvious and sent the strong message that the BGMC was there to sing with focused artistic intent.

But then the sound. Oh, the sound! Balanced. Blended. Warm. Nuanced. Controlled. Full. Masculine. These qualities were consistent throughout the performance, framed by confident entrances, cutoffs that landed spot-on, and the cleanest choral diction I've ever heard the BGMC produce. Dynamic contrasts were integrated to noticeable artistic effect. There were no peaks and valleys. It was a men's choral ensemble truly making music together.

The holiday concert left no doubt that the BGMC has moved to a new level of choral performance.

This should be seen as a resounding affirmation of the BGMC's new artistic director, Ciaran Krueger, whose skill, artistic sensitivity, poised professionalism, and warm heart were everywhere on display.

It should also be seen as an affirmation of the search committee that brought us Ciaran, and of the board members and presidents (Christopher Babbitt and Shaun Doyle) who steered this organization into the promising waters of its new course to excellence.

Finally, it should be seen as an affirmation of the wonderful company of men who filled the stage, the men of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. This group of men should know the power, beauty and importance of what they did on that stage.

The sound I heard reached inside and touched me with warmth, tenderness, friendship. Our music is an invitation home and a summons to community. It comes from the heart, touches the mind, lightens the soul. It slaps you on the back with a laugh and sidles up next to you in moments of exquisite tenderness.

This is what the BGMC has always done, but after hearing the chorus last night, it is clear that the BGMC is solidly on a path to making better music than it ever has.

--Unsolicited feedback from a chorus member who was unable to perform in the holiday concert



Photo by Nancy J. Parisi



President's Message

Shaun Doyle, Baritone

There is a song by Heather Small called *Proud* that I can't seem to get out of my head. The refrain asks over and over again, "What have you done today to make you feel proud?" It plays the loudest when I am with the incredible group of men I have been singing with for the last eight years and when I meet with the phenomenal board I have the privilege of leading. The best part is that I never have trouble answering the musical question that this anthem poses.

As part of this chorus, we do things that make us feel proud. We gather to celebrate in song every week; to enlighten and entertain through the music we sing. Together, we work to let people in our community know that it does indeed get better and use our combined powers to heal and not to harm. This year, our mission to create harmony in our community has never seemed so vital.

"Every day as members of this amazing chorus, we have the ability to change hearts and minds."

We are getting ready for a really significant year. In 2012 our chorus will celebrate 10 years of men's choral singing. In doing so, we'll honor the traditions that have made us who we are and start some new ones, too. Every day, we are planning and working towards going to Denver to sing with choruses from around the country as part of the GALA chorus movement. Born from a time of great struggle in our history, the GALA movement has been integral in lifting up men and women of all ages through powerful music.

Moving forward and looking toward the next decade, I'm going to keep singing to myself "what have I done today to make me feel proud?" Every day as members of this amazing chorus, we have the ability to change hearts and minds. When we're not singing--whether it's marching in remembrance, creating strategic plans, or raising funds- we gather with great pride knowing that we can accomplish much more together than we can by ourselves.

Being a part of the BGMC has allowed me to, as the song says, "step out of the ordinary" and be part of the change. By coming to support us, our audiences are doing the same. We do this work together. I feel incredibly proud and it's something that, as part of this leadership team, I get to experience today and every day.



Hang this on a bulletin board or refrigerator near you!

BUFFALO GAY MEN'S CHORUS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

ONE NIGHT ONLY

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012 AT 8 PM
TEMPLE BETH ZION, 805 DELAWARE AVENUE, BUFFALO
PERFORMANCE WILL BE INTERPRETED FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

COME JOIN OUR
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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TICKETS:
\$25 GENERAL ADMISSION
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CIARAN KRUEGER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
DR. DAVID BOND, ACCOMPANIST
FEATURING FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR,
BARBARA WAGNER

Ten Years of Excellence

A look at our 10th anniversary concert
Robert J. Szustak, Vice President of the Board of Directors

On September 11, 2001, that fateful day in American history, a group of brave men met for the inaugural rehearsal of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. The difficult decision to proceed with the rehearsal, despite the tragedy of that day, proved wise. Forty men, many not knowing each other, gathered in an eerie silence. As they and Ms. Barbara Wagner, founding Artistic Director, held hands for the first time in a circle, there were anguished murmurs of meditation, grief, and prayer.

They sang *From you I receive, to you I give, together we share and from this we live*, and they learned that long-lived and classic American hymn, *How Can I Keep From Singing?*. From these first notes and moments, the BGMC launched its rich 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."

Now, a decade later, we are proud and honored to celebrate our 10th anniversary in a special engagement on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8:00 pm at the beautiful Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. **One Night Only - 10 Years of Song** celebrates our rich history and looks ahead to our bright, promising future.

The program will feature audience favorites from past concerts plus new numbers, with thematic elements pointing to pivotal moments in our history, including our inception, performances with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and at Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) festivals. Favorites will include the proud anthem *I Ain't Afraid*, Puccini's majestic *Nessun Dorma*, and the soulful *Here's Where I Stand* from the film "Camp."

Under the direction of new Artistic Director Ciaran Krueger, the Chorus will take a fond look back and gaze ahead at what is yet to come. Watch for two pieces conducted by founding Artistic Director Barbara Wagner. Moderated by Buffalo composer Marty Wimmer, the evening will also include a multimedia presentation with congratulatory messages from some of our biggest supporters.

One Night Only will please our biggest fans and supporters as well as new friends who have yet to discover the power and pride that is the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

Tickets are \$25 General Admission and \$23 for Seniors/Students/Disabled, and are available from any Chorus member or by contacting the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (see below).

More information can also be found by liking us on Facebook. We look forward to sharing a part of our history with you in March and to the many milestones ahead.

Mark
your
calendar

▪ **March 3, 2012:**
BGMC 10th anniversary concert

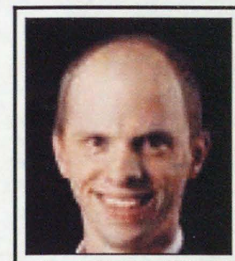
▪ **June 8-10, 2012:**
BGMC Spring concerts
"We Tell the Story"

▪ **July 7-12, 2012:**
BGMC travels to Denver
for the GALA festival

BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Artistic Director: Ciaran Krueger
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BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Greetings from our Artistic Director

Ciaran Krueger

I want to thank you for making our first concert series of the season and my personal debut with the chorus a resounding success. We thrilled audiences for three packed nights with our celebration of the holiday season!

Our upcoming concert is a particularly special one for the organization. It has been both challenging and rewarding preparing for "One Night Only." The difficulties lie in my recent appointment to the chorus; I have missed much history and tradition that are integral to this group. However it has been an absolute joy hearing the personal accounts and recordings of the memorable moments of the chorus. We have a spectacular evening planned for our audience. Join us in celebrating this marvelous occasion!

I have found my first few months with the chorus to be exciting, challenging, and most importantly, affirming. There is something incredible in working with this group of men and it is magnetic to our audiences and followers: affirmation. Here is a group of near 70 men singing their hearts out under the common banner of The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. These men are proud of who they are and proud enough to show it to the world.

As an audience member, it's overwhelming and inspiring. As a conductor it is powerfully humbling. From both views I see a group of men banded together in a bonded cause for singing. They come from all different backgrounds but they have the fellowship of shared experience, both joyful and painful. Here is a visible statement of overcoming any obstacle and being proud of doing so. We all have our own battles and difficulties and the important thing is to overcome them. We are who we are because of those defining moments. We have built a dedicated audience through the power of our voices in song and also through the knowledge of this fact.

I am honored to be part of this organization and look forward to continued singing and growing with the guys. This concert is the continuation of an exciting season with BGMC that culminates in singing at GALA in Denver, Colorado. Wow! What a first year to be with the chorus!

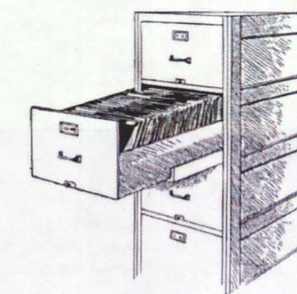


Chuck Alaimo has
been the Chorus
Archivist since
2004

Can You Help Preserve Our Archives?

I am especially proud of the Board's decision to keep their own archives for historical purposes. We welcome donations of the following:

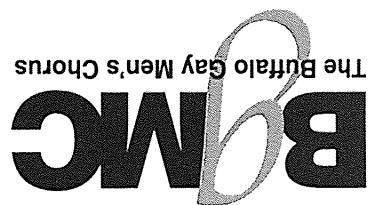
- All programs, flyers, posters, etc. related to concerts
- All articles, mentions, and listings of the Chorus in online and print publications, local, regional, or national
- All materials or objects related to the Chorus, such as T-shirts, pins, CDs, awards, proclamations, etc.
- All articles and newsletters about members or Board of Directors, provided that the BGMC is mentioned



Downsizing an office? The BGMC archives are in need of two (2) locking four-drawer file cabinets. Your donation is tax-deductable. Email Chuck at: <chuckalaimo@hotmail.com>

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