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5-2014

### Rise Up Singing

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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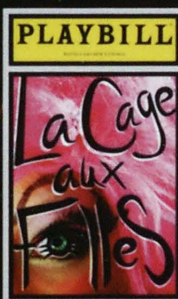
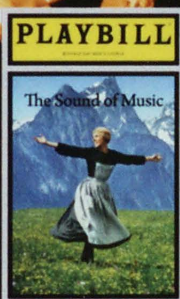
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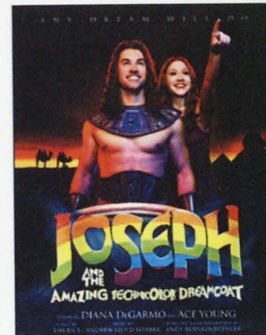


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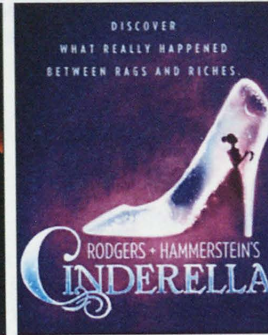
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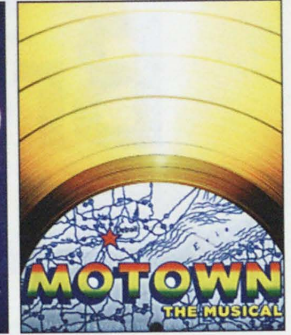
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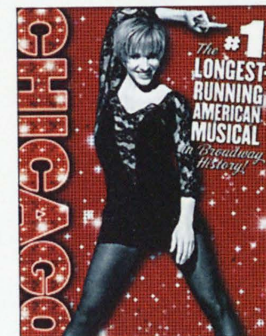
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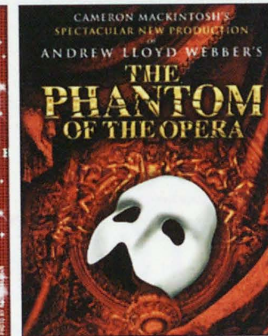
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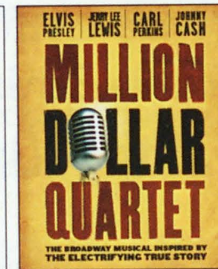


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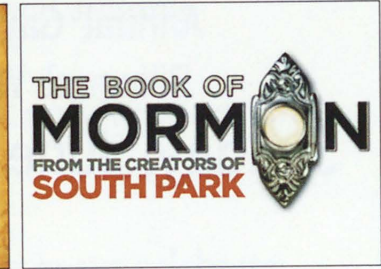
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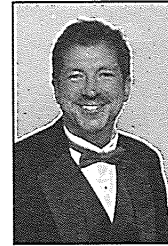
tickets available at [buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://buffalogaymenschorus.org),  
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# BOOMERANG

## Rise Up Singing

Gregory L. Ciupak, *President of the Board of Directors*



"I've heard it said, that people come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn, and we are led... to those... who help us most to grow if we let them, and we help them in return". Nearly seven years ago now, I was led to the chorus and sat amongst my BGMC brothers for the first time, virtually knowing no one that was around me. With a very heavy heart after losing my much beloved nephew, who was an accomplished musician, I knew that if anything was going to make my spirit light again, it would be music. As I looked around me, I wondered what each of these interesting men's stories might be. Such a diverse mix of ages, looks and personalities; did they too join to lighten a sad heart? What had brought them to the chorus? Would we somehow become friends?

Fast forward nearly seven years and I look around the same room and although some of the faces have changed, it is still a wonderful mix of ages, looks and personalities, that I now call my friends. I have heard many of their stories and I know why they are here. We have shared laughter, tears, triumphs and losses. We've shared life. And my heart today? Well, it's full of love for an organization that embraces each person's story. For an organization that helps to enlighten those that may not understand the struggles faced by a minority group-or who may be struggling themselves with living in a world that is not always accepting of who we are.

Three years ago next month, I was elected to the Board of Directors of the BGMC, and spent those three years on the Executive Committee, and two as President of this fine organization. My term ends next month. And while I will always treasure this time, I know that I will leave the Board in outstanding hands, and with a true sense of pride in our growth and accomplishments, both large and small over the past 3 years. This concert, "Rise Up Singing", could not have been more perfect or poignant for the end of my term. Not only do I have a strong passion and love for musical theatre, I have a strong passion for the messages that are found in each of the musicals that we showcase in our performance. Each selection painstakingly sought out to tell a story... through the safe arms of a familiar musical, culminating with an original piece written by the acclaimed Stephen Schwartz, specifically for an anti-bullying campaign, fittingly entitled "Testimony". These are stories of perseverance, acceptance and growth; our stories. As you sit back and enjoy tonight's performance, look around you as I did some 7 years ago and wonder what story each of you has to tell. How we are connected to each other-and how wonderfully diverse yet alike we are in our pursuit of happiness and acceptance.

*Continued*



It has been my complete pleasure serving as President of this organization and to give back to the BGMC, for the joy that this musical experience has given to my life. The pleasure of leading an organization that is guided by social justice for the LGBTQ and gay affirming community and the message we share will always be with me, "like a handprint on my heart".

"Who can say if I've been changed for the better... I do believe I have been changed for the better. Because I knew you, I have been changed... for good".

With love and gratitude,  
Gregory L Ciupak

## "Changing Our World Through Song" .....

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*The Gay And Lesbian Association of Choruses, Inc. (GALA Choruses)* is the world's only association committed to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered choral movement.

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.

## Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus GALA Fundraiser



Two Season Tickets:  
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2014 - 2015 Broadway Series

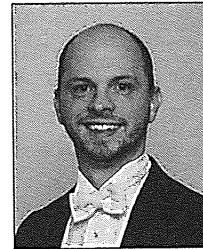
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of the State of New York*

## Rise Up Singing

Ciaran Krueger, *Artistic Director*



Dear Friends,

Tonight we bring you some of Broadway's best music. From the classic team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II to the newer dynamic duo of Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, the words and music of Broadway have become part of our American identity. They have also acted as powerful tools for shaping hearts and minds. They fearlessly tackle issues like bullying, racism, and ignorance head on.

Tonight's centerpiece is the awesomely inspiring and moving work "Testimony", by the American musical icon Stephen Schwartz. You might recognize his name as the writer of the wildly popular musical "Wicked", or perhaps from his earlier successes "Godspell" or "Pippin".

In 2012, the chorus and I traveled to Denver to participate in the GALA Festival, a gathering of over 6,000 singers that perform and sing for each other for nearly a week. There we heard the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus perform "Testimony" in front of an audience of thousands and you could have heard a pin drop. We knew immediately that it was a piece that needed to be brought back to Buffalo to perform for our audiences. It has quickly become an anthem for the GALA movement and we are proud tonight to present it to you.

"Rise Up Singing" is a testament to the power of music to help us overcome any obstacle and thrive as we continue to move forward. We are thrilled you have joined us this evening.

We welcome you to this evening and to our BGMC family!

Yours in Harmony,  
Ciaran Krueger

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus



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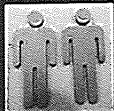
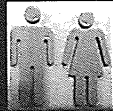

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Our Saturday Hosts	Temple Beth Zion
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Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at [www.buffalogaymenschorus.org](http://www.buffalogaymenschorus.org) 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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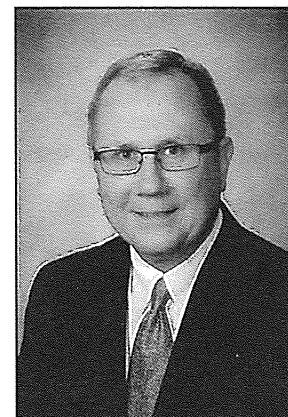
  
 The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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<p><b>B</b></p> <p>Behavioral Healthcare Network.....49</p> <p>Benedict House.....10</p> <p>BGMC 2014 - 2015 Season Announcement..... Inside Back Cover</p> <p>BGMC Amazon Smiles.....32</p> <p>BGMC Raffle.....6</p> <p>BGMC Spaghetti Dinner.....4</p> <p>Black Men Talking.....16</p> <p>Boomerangs Bar and Grill...16</p> <p>Buffalo Bears.....10</p> <p>Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus.....44</p> <p>Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.....23</p> <p>Buffalo Saturday Artisan Market.....30</p> <p><b>C</b></p> <p>Cadets Federal Credit Union.....31</p> <p>David W. Campbell - Licensed Real Estate Salesperson....29</p> <p>Colvin Cleaners.....46</p> <p>Cone Five Gallery.....10</p> <p>Michael Culeton - Licensed Real Estate Salesperson.....3</p>	<p><b>E</b></p> <p>Ellicott Development.....48</p> <p>Embrace WNY.....17</p> <p>Evergreen Medical Group .... Inside Front Cover</p> <p><b>F</b></p> <p>Forest Wind Siberians.....10</p> <p><b>G</b></p> <p>Gates Circle Wines &amp; Liquor.....46</p> <p>Joseph Golombek - Common Council, Buffalo.....25</p> <p>Great Arrow Wine &amp; Liquor.....50</p> <p>Gurney Becker &amp; Bourne...41</p> <p><b>H</b></p> <p>Hamlin House.....41</p> <p>Harmonia.....46</p> <p>Housing Opportunities Made Equal.....49</p> <p>Hunt Real Estate.....36</p> <p><b>I</b></p> <p>In the Loop.....31</p> <p><b>J</b></p> <p>Just Pizza.....25</p>
---	---



<b>K</b>	KeyBank.....33	<b>R</b>	Realty USA .....29
	Korona Jewelry.....47		
<b>M</b>		<b>S</b>	Shea's Performing Arts
M&T Bank.....52		Center.....1	
James Mack - Licensed Real		St. John's Grace Episcopal	
Estate Assoc. Broker.....41		Church.....44	
Mark Custom Recording		St. Paul's Cathedral.....8	
Service.....32			
		<b>T</b>	
Maureen's Buffalo Wholesale		Taj Grill .....47	
Flower Market.....16		Temple Beth Zion .....21	
Jennifer Maxian - Associate		Tuxedo Junction.....39	
Real Estate Broker .....36			
Mister Pizza.....42		<b>U</b>	
Mother Nature Plant		U.A. Group Trust.....41	
Emporium.....25		Unitarian Universalist Church	
My Buffalo Pride.....31		of Buffalo .....45	
		Upstate New York	
<b>N</b>		Mankind Project .....39	
Nickel City Opera.....47		Urban Valet Dry	
		Cleaners .....39	
<b>P</b>			
Pano's on Elmwood .....44		<b>V</b>	
Mark J. Peszko - Attorney at		Vilardo Printing .....43	
Law .....13			
The Pharmacy at		<b>W</b>	
Evergreen .....51		Wegmans .....49	
Pilgrim St. Lukes & El		West Herr Chevrolet of	
Camino UCC .....2		Hamburg .....48	
Positively Main Street.....31			
Premier Group .....45			
Presbyterian Senior Care of			
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Tenor II

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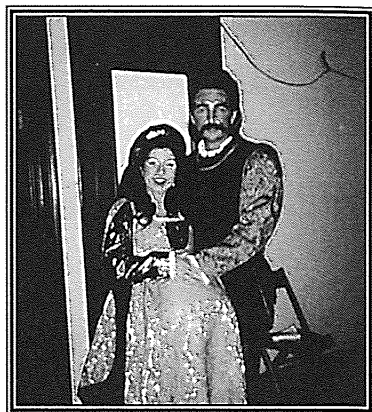
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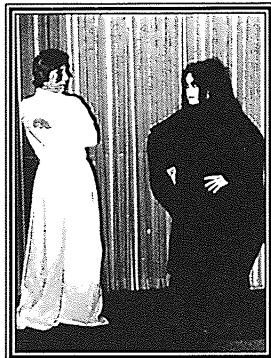
# We grew up singing...



Rob Black, Tenor I



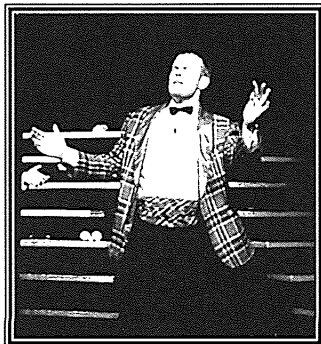
David Campbell, Tenor 1



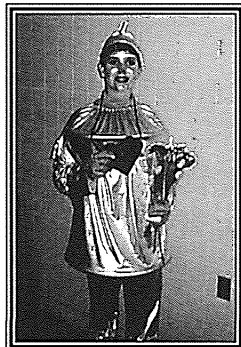
Mark  
Peszko,  
Tenor II



Ciaran  
Krueger,  
Artistic  
Director



Artie  
Vanderpool,  
Tenor II



Chris  
Reybrouck,  
Bass II



Jeffrey Strauss, Tenor II

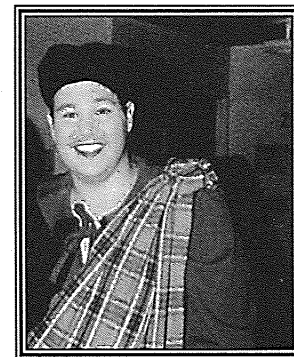
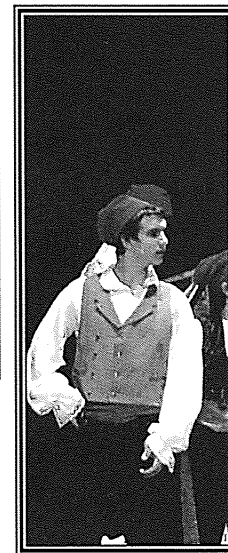


Devin Rooney, Baritone



Tim Stuff, Tenor II

Zak Kineke, Baritone

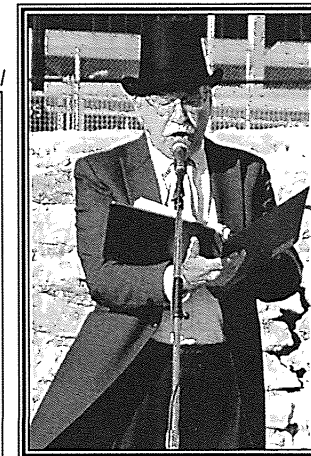


Eric Nowak, Baritone



Jimmy Rigo, Baritone

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Andy  
Newbert,  
Baritone



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## "Rise Up Singing"

Mr. Ciaran Krueger, *Artistic Director*  
Ms. Debi Overton-Niles, *Accompanist*  
Mr. Christopher Hart, *Percussion*  
Mr. Timothy Mroz, *Bass*

### PROGRAM

#### from *The Sound of Music*:

Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

**The Sound of Music** Arranged by: Clay Warnick

**Do-Re-Mi** Arranged by: Rich Cook  
Tim Stuff, *tenor I*  
with *The Chorus*

**Edelweiss** Arranged by: Rich Cook  
Tim Stuff, *tenor I*  
Kevin L. Thompson, *tenor I*  
with *The Chorus*

**Nuns' Chorus & Climb Ev'ry Mountain** Arranged by: Kathleen McGuire  
Cedric "Flip" Taporco, *baritone*  
with *The Chorus*

#### from *Hairspray*:

Music by: Marc Shaiman  
Lyrics by: Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman

**Welcome to the 60's** Arranged by: Roger Emerson

**I Know Where I've Been** Arranged by: Edward Connell

**You Can't Stop the Beat** Arranged by: Roger Emerson  
Additional Lyrics by Bill Hardy

#### from *Ragtime*:

Music by: Stephen Flaherty  
Lyrics by: Lynn Ahrens

**Make Them Hear You** Arranged by: Jeff Funk

**Wheels of a Dream** Arranged by: John Leavitt

### INTERMISSION

**I Don't Like Showtunes** Eric Lane Barnes  
William C. Hardy, *tenor II*  
with *Small Group Ensemble\**

from *La Cage aux Folles*:  
Jerry Herman

**Song on the Sand**  
Kevin L. Thompson, *tenor I*  
Nicholas Becht, *tenor II*

**I Am What I Am** Arranged by: Steve Milloy

from *Into the Woods*:  
Stephen Sondheim

**Children Will Listen** Arranged by: Tim Sarsany  
David Campbell, *tenor I*  
with *The Chorus*

from *Wicked*:  
Stephen Schwartz

**One Short Day** Arranged by: Roger Emerson

**I'm Not That Girl** Arranged by: Audrey Snyder

**Testimony** Inspired by the *It Gets Better Project*  
Norm Duttweiler, Mike Rogers, Jeffrey J. Strauss, Joseph Zimmerman,  
David Campbell, Gregory L. Ciupak, Cedric "Flip" Taporco  
with *The Chorus*

**For Good** Arranged by: Alex Rybeck  
David Tear, *tenor II*  
with *The Chorus*

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



## Program Notes

### *THE SOUND OF MUSIC*

Few Broadway shows are as familiar and recognizable as *The Sound of Music*. Popularized by the 1965 film starring Julie Andrews, the show actually first opened on Broadway in 1959 with music written by Rodgers & Hammerstein. The show follows Maria, a nun in Salzburg, Austria sent to be the governess of the seven children of a naval captain, Georg von Trapp. The plot unfolds immediately before the start of World War II, with Nazi Germany preying on surrounding countries including Austria. When Captain von Trapp is drafted into the German Navy, he faces a choice: sacrifice his identity as a proud Austrian and join the Nazis, or resist the Anschluss and flee.

*The Sound of Music* reinforces the importance of being true to oneself and to resist outside forces trying to change that. This is seen in Maria's character by her refusal to give in to the Captain's militaristic upbringing of his children, and in the Captain's resistance to the Nazi regime by staying true to his Austrian heritage. We reflect these themes in the LGBT community every day, by making the conscious decision to be ourselves and live our lives as LGBT men and allies despite the pressures by politics and society.

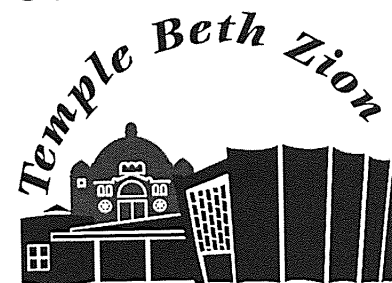
### *HAIRSPRAY*

Composer Marc Shaiman helped turn John Waters' 1988 campy movie *Hairspray* into perfect fodder for a new Broadway musical—teenage angst, racial integration, a lot of dancing, and a whole lot of hair. Plump heroine Tracy Turnblad dreams of dancing on the *Corny Collins Show*, a local television dance program, but is upstaged by the prettier, but less talented, current "It-girl" Amber Von Trussle. Through Tracy's resilience, she eventually dances her way onto the show, launches a campaign to integrate the show, and gains acceptance for all teens of every size, shape, and color. The songs include 1960s-style dance music and downtown rhythm and blues. In "Welcome to the Sixties" Tracy helps her agoraphobic mother, Edna realize the world around her is changing and to let go of her past, and embrace the rhythm of a brand new day. Motormouth Maybelle, host of "Negro Day," remembers the long fight for equality in "I Know Where I've Been." A poignant, powerful, and inspiring ballad reminding us that there is a struggle we have yet to win, and to sit and do nothing would be a sin. "You Can't Stop the Beat," the show's finale, is a joyous celebration of Tracy

*Continued on page 22*

Congratulations to the  
**Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus,**  
On their outstanding concert events.

Wishing you continued success!



Kenneth Rogers, President

Gary Pokras, Sr. Rabbi

Adam Scheldt, Assistant Rabbi

Penny Myers, Cantor

Mark Criden, Executive Director

Susan Goldberg Schwartz,  
Director of Lifelong Learning

And the Trustees and Members of

Temple Beth Zion,

Buffalo, New York



Continued from page 20

winning the love of heartthrob Link Larkin, and the integration of the *Corny Collins Show*. *Hairspray* opened on August 15, 2002 at the Neil Simon Theater in NYC and ran for 2,642 performances. The show also won the 2003 Tony Award for Best Musical, and won 8 of the 12 Tony nominations it was up for.

### RAGTIME

Based on E.L. Doctrow's novel, *Ragtime* opened on Broadway in 1998. A riveting tale of families dealing with changing times and ideals at the turn of the 20th century, two of its central characters are Coalhouse Walker Jr., a musician turned revolutionary and his young love Sarah. Living in a world where they are unequal because of the color of their skin, they are faced with many injustices. Yet when they sing "Wheels of a Dream," they can't help but have hope. Hope for the future of their son, and hope for the future of their country. When Sarah is tragically killed, Coalhouse becomes militant and angry, often resorting to retaliation and violence. And when he is at the end of his rope, he instructs his men to 'go out and tell our story' in the stirring anthem "Make Them Hear You." He realizes that the best way to enact change is to be seen and heard; to stop hiding and demand justice. The messages of "Wheels of a Dream" and "Make Them Hear You" can be keenly felt among the gay community. We need to have hope that the world can change, and that we can live our best lives until it does. Making our voices heard and refusing to be silent, we must go out and tell our stories and not let ourselves be ignored and make the changes happen.

### "Children Will Listen" from INTO THE WOODS

Written by Stephen Sondheim for the award-winning fairy tale musical *Into the Woods*, "Children Will Listen" serves to warn us that our voices are always being heard by someone. Children can learn hatred and negativity from the mouths of adults. We teach them about whom they are and who they can become. We must be aware that we are being heard. We can teach hatred, but we can also teach love. We can teach prejudice but we can also teach acceptance. We can teach self-doubt, but we can also teach self-celebration. So be aware of what you are putting out into the world because it doesn't stop with you. "Careful the things you do, children will see and learn."

### "I Don't Like Showtunes"

The ever witty and talented Eric Lane Barnes is a writer, composer, singer, and comedian who has a knack for writing parodies. In 2000 Barnes

Continued on page 24


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Continued from page 22

formed the vocal ensemble Captain Smartypants, touring the Pacific Northwest and singing with the likes of Kristin Chenoweth and Jennifer Holliday. In their rip-roaringly funny show, *Pantylines*, Captain Smartypants sings one of Barnes' original songs: "I Don't Like Showtunes." It is a hilarious recanting of everything annoying about show tunes put into a song that is, itself, a show tune. With a catalog of music tonight stretching all of Broadway's genres, it seems appropriate to have at least one song tailored for those of you who don't like *Hairspray* or *Wicked*.

### LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

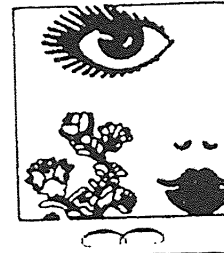
The Tony Award winning, *La Cage aux Folles* is one of the longest running shows on Broadway, and continues to delight audiences who fall in love with the story of Georges and Albin. Though deeply in love, the couple is faced with the outside views of loved ones who do not feel as comfortable explaining the partnership, and that test the bonds of their marriage. In "Song on the Sand" Georges confesses that no test would ever take away the feeling of being young and in love with Albin, but for the sake of his son, they must pretend, but for only a moment. The strong-willed, and proud Albin responds to Georges with the powerful showstopper "I Am What I Am" refusing to stand in the shadows. The show is a romantic comedy with a songbook that reinforces the overall theme of being proud, and surrounding yourself with those who love you for exactly who you are.

### WICKED

*Wicked: The Untold Story of Oz*, has been noted as one of the most successful Broadway musicals ever produced, breaking records for award nominations, wins, and box-office proceeds. The Tony Award winning show opened on Broadway in 2003, and now is a standard for touring companies bringing the show to theatres across the country. More than two-million people have seen the captivating musical, and know the before, during, and after story of Dorothy's sudden landing in Oz, from the perspective of the witches, Elphaba and Glinda. In "One Short Day" the once quarrelsome duo Elphaba and Glinda share one magical, wondrous day exploring the Emerald City and meeting the wizard. Elphaba finally has the feeling of acceptance and belonging. However, in "I'm Not That Girl" Elphaba fights an inner m  le with romantic feelings she is having for Fiyero, a Winkie Prince thought to be the apt partner for Glinda. It's a humbling ballad about a struggle we all face, accepting that true love, may not be well accepted among our peers. As we close the show, "For Good" finds Elphaba and Glinda once again reunited, singing a duet about how their friendship, however strained, has forever changed each of them for the better.

Continued on page 32

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The *Friends of the BGMC* listed in this program are those who have contributed between May 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014.

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Hans Tamberg, *honoring Andy Newbert & in memory of James Kuwik*

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Anonymous  
Thomas R. Alcamo, *in memory of my parents*  
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Camille Cox & Babs Conant  
Molly & Bill Gray  
Stanley & David Harvey  
John F. Herbert  
David Hetherly  
Barbara & George Hole, *honoring Dennis Stuart*  
Ronald R. Houk  
Kathleen S. Ludwig  
Kurtice C. Luther, *in memory of Scott Willott*  
James Mack  
Nicholas E. Marchelos  
Andy Newbert  
Roy Olsen  
Roger Parris & Michael Longo,  
*honoring the marriage of Douglas Jack & Ki Tea Park*

### **CONDUCTOR - \$200 - \$499 (CONTINUED)**

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Rev. John Rex  
Christopher P. Reybrouck  
Roger Mark Seifert & Dennis C. Stuart, *in memory of James J. Murray*  
Pearl Spoerl  
Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen & Mr. Robert A. Scharf, *in memory of bisexual Buffalo State student and friend, 1LT Charles H. Emery Jr.*  
*KIA Sept 28, 1969 US Army*  
Pam & Ilja Weinrieb, *honoring Barbara Wagner*  
Chris Wolf, *in memory of Meg & Bob Wolf*  
Donald R. Yager, Jr.

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## SINGER - UP TO \$99

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Anonymous, <i>honoring Glenn, Adam, Lucy &amp; Noah Cohen-Frankel</i>	Cat & Rusty
Anonymous, <i>honoring John Harris</i>	Peter G. Hart
Vickie Agustini, <i>honoring Jim Rigo</i>	Orie Hebard
James & Connie Bailey, <i>honoring Christopher Reybrouck</i>	Jack Hogan, <i>honoring Roger Parris &amp; Mike Longo</i>
Pamela Benz	Barbara D. Holender
Shirley Berglund	Shirley Hudders
Rod & Ginny Bradley, <i>honoring the BGMC</i>	Paula Welch Jack, <i>honoring the marriage of Douglas Jack &amp; Ki Tea Park on October 5, 2013</i>
Barbara & Philip Brogadir	Doanne Jackson, <i>in memory of Duane B. Copney</i>
Vicky-Marie J. Brunette	Doris Jones
James N. Connelly	Carol & John Kociela
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Judith Clarke & Alan Dozoretz	Paul LaDuca
Joseph M. Draicchio	Norma Jean Lamb
Dominic DeFillippo & Adam Peters	John & Jenneth Lane
Bill Engelbrecht	Dorothy M. Lien, <i>in memory of Mark Faltyn</i>
Linda Facklam	Peter McNally
Bill Fay, <i>honoring James Estep</i>	Earl Mahiques, <i>honoring Tim Mahiques</i>
Sarah Finnegan, <i>honoring Nick Allen Becht</i>	Richard F. Mallon
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Thekla Putnam, <i>in memory of John Putnam, Jr. Hon. Gregory P. Rabb</i>	Summer Street Cat Clinic
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Linda Reznick	Joanne Tarnowski
Kimberly Rowell	John & Noreen Visone, <i>in memory of Jim Murray</i>
Adrienne Roy	Valerie L. Wagner, <i>honoring wonderful music</i>
Joan Roy	Ron & Peggy Welker, <i>honoring the men &amp; women serving in our Armed Forces</i>
Rev. William Russell & Mrs. Mary	Dr. Gerri Westwood
Jane Russell	Leah Zicari, <i>in memory of Mike Maffei, Donna "NOA" Bursie &amp; Emile Lattimer</i>
Rabbi Adam Scheldt	Tim Zimpher
Marsha E. Shapiro & Gregory Pavlov	
Michael D. Sharrer	
Debbie M. Sheehan, <i>honoring our past, present &amp; future military members</i>	

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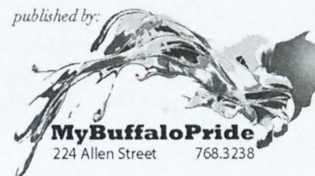
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Continued from page 24

### “Testimony”

The “It Gets Better Project” began in September 2010, as a response to the suicides of teenagers who were bullied because they were gay, or because their peers suspected they were gay. The internet based project is a collection of videos, letters, and poems contributed by people across the world of all sexual orientations with one clear, and supportive message: It Gets Better! More than 50,000 entries, and a host of other similar initiatives across the world have helped to give those struggling with thoughts of suicide an alternative; a positive and thoughtful voice affirming that it's ok to be who you are. Stephen Schwartz, legendary Broadway composer of the musical *Wicked*, among others, composed “Testimony” from submissions to the “It Gets Better Project,” from both those contemplating suicide, and those passionately against it. The piece debuted in March of 2012, when sung by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The breathtakingly poignant piece is hailed as the “It Gets Better Anthem” and has been adopted and sung by choirs across the country in effort to bring awareness of this heart breaking truth. In “Testimony” we remind you that you're more loved than you dare to know, and it gets more than better.

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## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

### Tenor I

Rob Black  
David Campbell +  
Peter Cheney \*  
Norm Duttweiler \*  
Ron Houk  
Mike Rogers \*  
Hanford Searl, Jr.  
Tim Stuff \*  
Robert J. Szustak  
Kevin L. Thompson

### Baritone

Leonard Cercone  
Gregory L. Ciupak  
William H. Gardner  
Jeffrey C. Hunt  
Zak Kineke \*  
Vincent Kuntz  
Ramón Meléndez  
John Morrison  
Raymond Neil  
Andy Newbert +  
Eric Nowak\*  
Elliot Ogorek\*  
Christopher Pearson  
Joseph Puma  
Jim Rigo  
Devin Rooney  
Woody Sipprell  
Dennis C. Stuart  
Ron Sutz  
Cedric "Flip" Taporco  
Ralph Valente\*  
William K. Wachob  
Kevin Woodcock

### Tenor II

Nicholas Becht  
Robert M. Egan \*  
Joseph Grieco  
William C. Hardy \*  
Nelson Alan Neels  
Roger Parris +  
Mark J. Peszko  
Jim Simonis  
Jeffrey J. Strauss  
David Tear \*  
Artie B. Vanderpool

### Bass II

Pierre Albrecht-Carrié  
Jack Ashwood  
Pete Bleckinger  
Steve Bukowski  
Gerry Frenette  
Randy Kozlowski \*  
Timothy H. Mahiques  
L. Martin Palcic  
Christopher P. Reybrouck \*  
Brian Rotach +  
Michael A. Smyntek  
Donald Yager  
Joseph Zimmerman

+ Indicates Section Leader

\* Indicates Small Group Ensemble

## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

### Non-Singing Members

Travis Ballard  
David Batt  
Scott Carr  
Jaime Goldfuss  
Susan C. Gruttadauria  
Michael Shanahan  
Scott Nachbar  
Mark Mancuso  
Marge Maloney  
Mike Longo  
Cynthia Van Ness  
Larry Van Heusen  
Jason Ward

### Silent Member

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

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Ciaran Krueger

### Accompanist

Debi Overton-Niles

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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 an area music teacher. Mr. Krueger lives in the Town of Tonawanda with his wife, Lisa and their two beautiful daughters, Caoimhe and Maisie Joy.

## **About the Accompanist**



A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton-Niles** (Accompanist/Conductor), has held positions as coach/accompanist at the University of Texas at Austin and served as Director of the Chamber Music Program at The New School of Music in Philadelphia. For many years she was active at the Summer Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado. As the coach/accompanist for the Choral Department in Aspen, she served as assistant to noted conductor Fiore Contino. She has assisted in preparing choruses and soloists for such conductors as Tamara Brooks, John Nelson, Robert Shaw and Sergei Commissiona. Additionally, she has coached with coach/accompanists David Garvey, John Wustman, Brooks Smith, Dalton Baldwin, and the local master, Livingston Gearhart.

Ms. Overton-Niles has accompanied Master Classes for Luciano Pavarotti, Phyllis Curtin, Jessye Norman, Leontyne Price and Sylvia McNair. She has accompanied the regional Metropolitan Opera auditions in Greensboro, NC; Atlanta, GA; Philadelphia, PA; and New York City.

Debi is a past chair of the Music Commission of the WNY Episcopal Diocese and has served on the board of the WNY chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In addition, she enjoys guest conducting, accompanying and both coaching with singers and instrumentalists. In November of 2007, Debi was most privileged to be the musical director and conductor for the WNY premiere performance of Leonard Bernstein's extraordinary and innovative MASS.

## About the Accompanist (Continued)

After having served for 18 years as the Director of Music Ministries at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville, Debi is thrilled to currently be the Minister of Music at The Church of The Good Shepherd in North Buffalo, NY.

After having enjoyed the position of accompanist for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus from its inception in 2001 until 2010, she is pleased to once again be a part of this important and thriving organization in WNY. Together for 14 years, she and her partner, Kathleen Bryce Niles, were married in November 2011 and share their lives with their feisty and lovable dogs Lucy, Maddie and Sophi, and their adorable and regal cats, Daphne and Walter (Dr. Walter Overton).

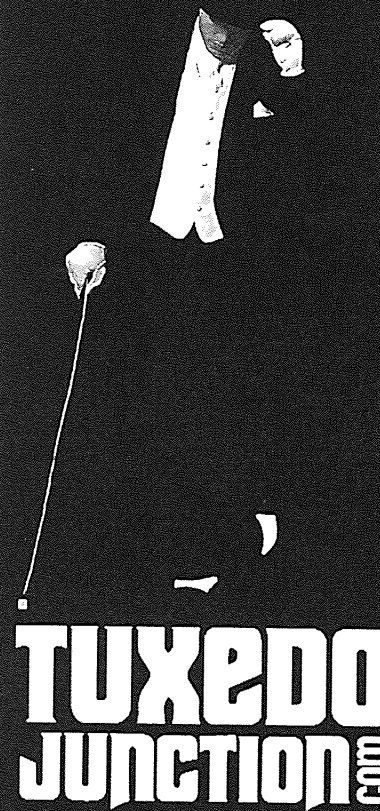


## Come Join Us in Song

The BGMC thanks all its members, volunteers, and audiences, past, present and future. We also extend to the entire Western New York Community an invitation to join our organization as either a volunteer or singer. We welcome new singers with open arms. As always, we welcome any man, gay or straight, who wishes not only to sing, but to join our mission to seek through song to enlighten as well as to entertain. Auditions for our 14th season will take place Monday, August 25 at 6 pm or Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at 6 pm at St. John's Grace, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222. Please email [info@buffalogaymenschorus.org](mailto:info@buffalogaymenschorus.org) for more information and to schedule an audition. Rehearsals begin at 7 pm on Tuesday, August 26, 2014.

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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" which elected us 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 42*

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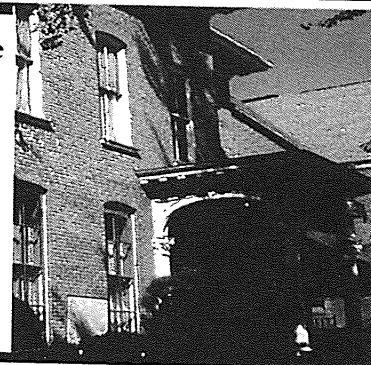
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Continued from page 40

## The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (Continued)

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.



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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

## VILARDO PRINTING

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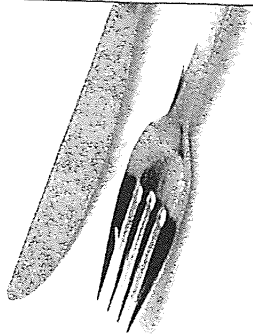
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~ 2013 - 2014 SEASON ~

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BUFFALO NIAGARA SYMPHONY OF CHOIRS

Featuring the Buffalo Master Chorale, Harmonia,  
St. Joseph Cathedral Choir, St. Louis R.C. Church Choir

Saturday, June 14, 2014 - St. Joseph Cathedral - 7:30PM

TICKET INFO: BUFFALOMASTERCHORALE.ORG-"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK

~ 2014 - 2015 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS ~

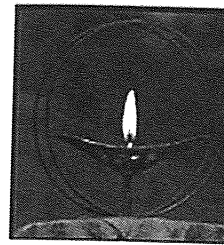
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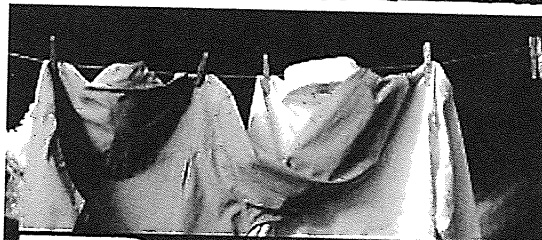
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[www.HarmoniaCS.org](http://www.HarmoniaCS.org)



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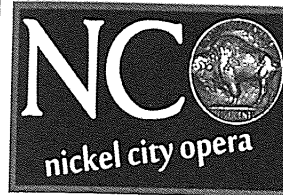
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and

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the opera

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Saturday Sept. 27th 8pm



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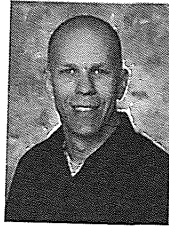
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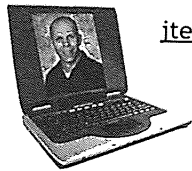
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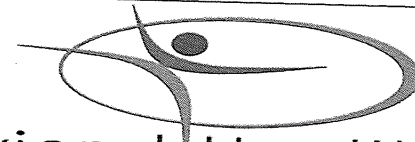
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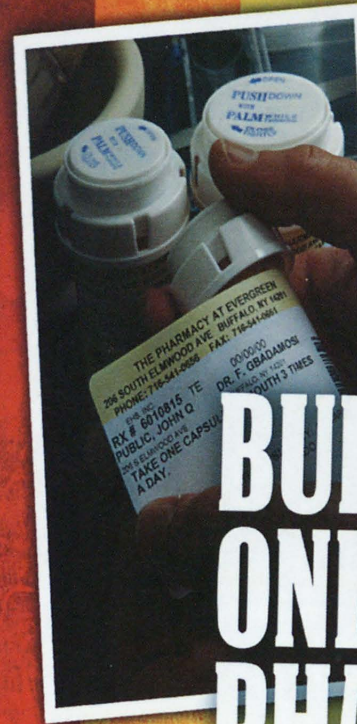
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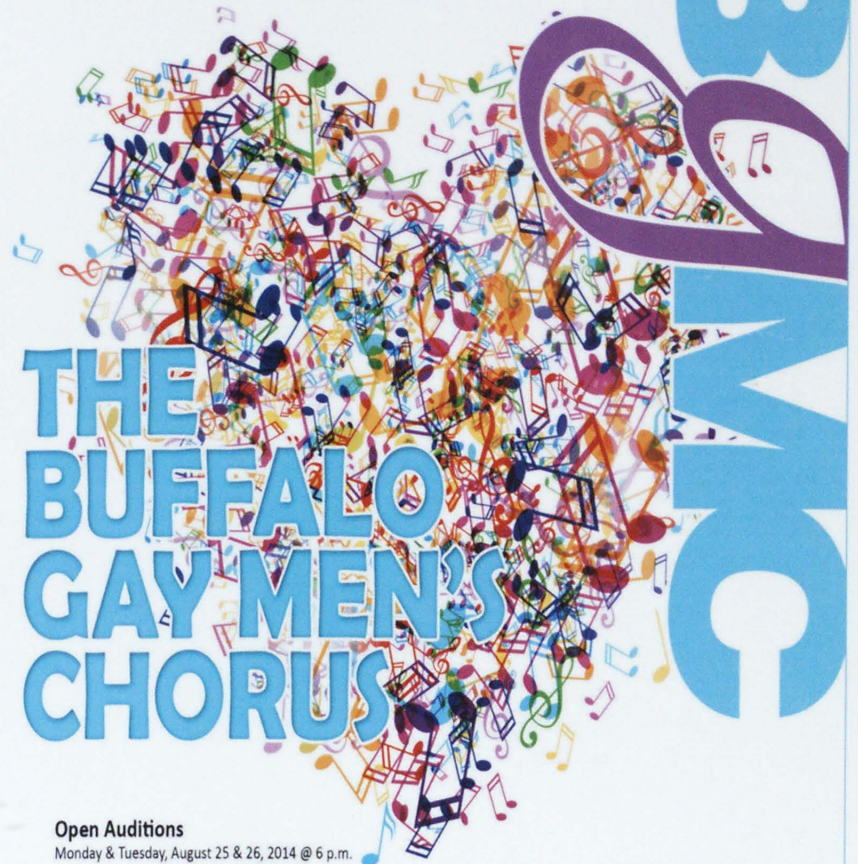
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## 2014-2015 Season Announcement



### Open Auditions

Monday & Tuesday, August 25 & 26, 2014 @ 6 p.m.  
Monday & Tuesday, January 19 & 20, 2015 @ 6 p.m.  
email info@buffalogaymenschorus.org for more information on auditions

### Semi-Annual BGMC Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, October 5, 2014 from 3 p.m. - 9 p.m., Boomerangs Bar & Grill, Buffalo  
Sunday, April 12, 2015 from 3 p.m. - 9 p.m., Boomerangs Bar & Grill, Buffalo

### Merry and Bright

Friday, December 5, 2014 @ 8 p.m., Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda  
Saturday, December 6, 2014 @ 8 p.m., Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo  
Sunday, December 7, 2014 @ 3 p.m., St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

### BGMC Annual Cabaret Fundraiser

Saturday, February 21, 2015 @ 8 p.m., Hamlin House, Buffalo

### DIVAS!

Friday, May 15, 2015 @ 8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, Buffalo  
Saturday, May 16, 2015 @ 8 p.m., Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda  
Sunday, May 17, 2015 @ 3 p.m., North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville



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