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We Tell the Story

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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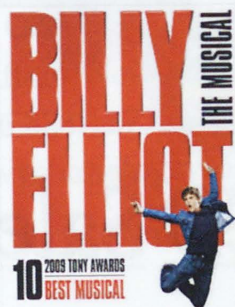
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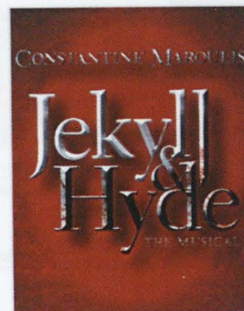
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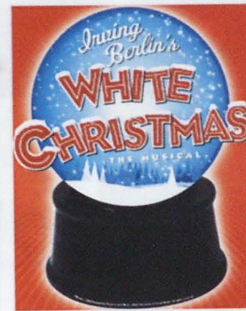
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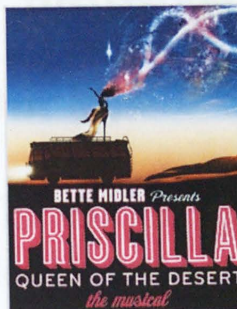
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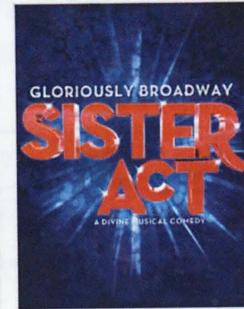
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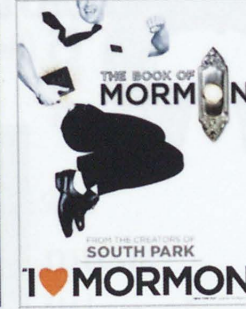
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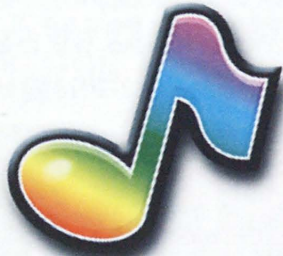
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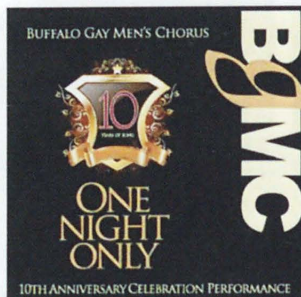
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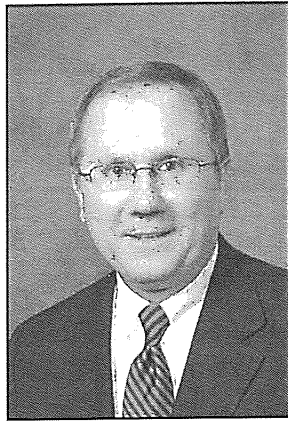
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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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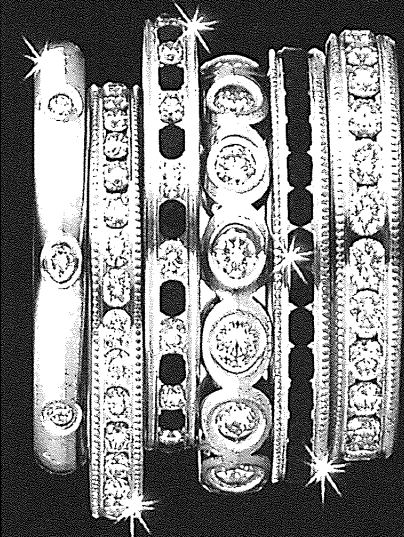


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Shaun Doyle, Jr., President



We all have our own story.

From love and loss, passion and pain, celebration and conflict -- we share one thing. We have a story to tell. Why we tell our story can range from enlightenment to entertainment. What I have found in situations where people of disparate backgrounds are together is that once we start telling our stories, we find that we aren't that different after all.

The story of the BGMC is changing and evolving even as I write. Our combined stories are moving this group of beautiful men into the next chapter of this story. Traveling to the GALA Chorus Festival in Denver, Colorado this summer to hear and share stories with thousands of LGBT men and women will teach us once again that we are all more the same than we are different.

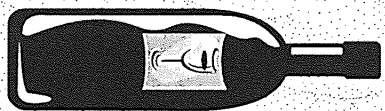
I truly think that communicating our personal libretto through song is how we will heal this world of the intolerance and hate that is still very real for our community.

Share your story. Be part of this change. We will continue to enlighten and entertain through the music we make.

YOU are why we tell our story. Thank you for listening with your hearts.

Peace,
Shaun Doyle, Jr.

Cheers to 10 Great Years



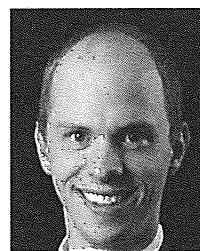
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We Tell the Story

Ciaran Krueger, Artistic Director



I'd like to welcome you to "We Tell the Story", presented by the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. We are delighted that you have decided to spend your evening with "the guys" in the chorus.

Very early into working with the Chorus, many members approached me at informal events to start telling me their stories. They would tell me an important experience in their life, offering a window into who they re. I heard long stories, short stories, stories of pain, love, grief, hope, and faith.

There is a basic need for us to express our experiences - to tell our stories. They shape our own identity and our relationships with others. There is joy and a catharsis in the telling and re-telling.

We as musicians have an important role in this storytelling element of life. We share experiences, viewpoints, and emotions through the expressive medium of music. Each selection on the program has some meaning to us as individuals or a group. Some were picked or inspired by those early conversations.

So listen as we call out to you to share our laughter and our tears. The stories that we weave knit us together as a community.

As always, thank you for supporting us, as "We Tell the Story".

Yours in harmony,
Ciaran Krueger

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We Tell the Story

Program

- Over the Rainbow** E.Y. Harburg and Harold Arlen
Andy Beck, Arr.
Cedric "Flip" Taporco, Denis Bolton,
John Iremar Clayton and Scott Nachbar
with the Chorus
- If You Were Gay** Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx
Alex Rybeck, Arr.
- Not While I'm Around** Stephen Sondheim
Robert Page, Arr.
- The Longest Time** Billy Joel
Roger Emerson, Arr.
David Campbell, *Tenor*
with the Chorus
- Ständchen** Franz Schubert
- Because** John Lennon and Paul McCartney
Ciaran Krueger, Arr.
Zak Kineke, Robert J. Szustak, David Campbell, John Iremar Clayton,
Mike Rogers, Cedric "Flip" Taporco, Paul LaDuca and Brian Rotach
- Color of Colorado** Dick Gallagher and Mark Waldrop
- I Am That Man** Mark Hayes
John Iremar Clayton and Jason Ward, *Tenors*
with the Chorus

— INTERMISSION —

- Chorus of Gipsies** Giuseppe Verdi
- I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair**
Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II
Mark Brymer, Arr.
James Rigo, *Baritone*
with the Chorus
- Danny Boy** Erick Lichte, Arr.
Robert J. Szustak, *Tenor*
*with John Iremar Clayton, Scott Nachbar, Mike Rogers, Zak Kineke,
Jaime Goldfuss, Andy Newbert, Denis Bolton, Brian Rotach,
Lorne Gretsinger and Randy Kozlowski*
- Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren** Johannes Brahms
- Get Me to the Church On Time** Alan Lerner and Frederick Loewe
William Stickles, Arr.
- One Hand, One Heart** Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim
Ciaran Krueger, Arr.
- Why We Tell the Story** Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty
Additional lyrics by David Major
Steve Milloy, Arr.
*Commissioned for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus
For GALA 2012 in Denver, Colorado*
Christopher Hart, *Percussion*
Timothy Mroz, *Bassist*

*Please join us for a Reception immediately
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Program Notes

Over the Rainbow

Often referred to as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" this piece is a classic Academy Award-winning ballad song with music by Harold Arlen and lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, both of whom are Buffalo natives. It was written for the 1939 movie, *The Wizard of Oz*, and was sung by actress Judy Garland in her starring role as Dorothy. Over time it would become Garland's signature song.

In the film, part of the song is played by the MGM orchestra over the opening credits. About five minutes into the movie, actress Judy Garland playing the lead character, Dorothy, sings "Over the Rainbow" after unsuccessfully trying to get her aunt and uncle to listen to her relate an unpleasant incident involving her dog, Toto, and the nasty spinster, Miss Gulch (Margaret Hamilton). Dorothy's Aunt Em tells her to "find yourself a place where you won't get into any trouble", prompting Dorothy to walk off by herself. She muses to Toto "Someplace where there isn't any trouble. Do you suppose there is such a place, Toto? There must be. It's not a place you can get to by a boat, or a train. It's far, far away. Behind the moon, beyond the rain...", commencing with singing the song. The song is ultimately a piece about hopes, dreams and wishes for something more.

If You Were Gay

Avenue Q is an American musical in two acts, conceived by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, who wrote the music and lyrics. The book was written by Jeff Whitty and the show was directed by Jason Moore and produced by Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman, and Jeffrey Seller. *Avenue Q* is an "autobiographical and biographical" coming-of-age parable, addressing and satirizing the issues and anxieties associated with entering adulthood. Its characters lament that as children, they were assured by their parents, and by children's television programs such as PBS's *Sesame Street*, that they were "special" and "could do anything"; but as adults, they have discovered to their surprise and dismay that in the real world their options are limited, and they are no more "special" than anyone else. The musical is also notable for the use of puppets alongside human actors. "If You Were Gay" is sung early in Act 1, when Nicky, who is straight, suspects that Rod is gay, and assures Rod it is okay with him if he is; but Rod insists he is not.

Not While I'm Around

Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* is widely regarded as the finest musical of the second half of the 20th Century. The infamously shadowy, bitter and blackly humorous work has long been admired by director Tim Burton, who

trimmed the famed score and cast a superb Johnny Depp in the title role in the 2007 film version of the musical. "Not While I'm Around" reminds you of the power of hope and a promise for protection and solace: "No one's gonna hurt you, no one's gonna dare. Others can desert you, not to worry; whistle, I'll be there."

The Longest Time

"The Longest Time" is a doo-wop single by Billy Joel. The song was released as a single in 1984 as the fourth single from the album *An Innocent Man*. It reached number fourteen on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and number one on *Billboard's* Adult Contemporary chart. Overseas, the song went to number twenty-five on the UK Singles Chart. The original song features Billy Joel and lead and all backing vocals. Joel recorded 14 different background tracks which were mixed into the song.

Ständchen

Franz Schubert wrote the dreamy *Ständchen* (*Serenade*) at the end of his brief life. *Ständchen* is considered one of the most beautiful melodies in the world, and is one of Schubert's most well known songs. It is from a collection of songs published after his death, aptly titled by his publisher Schwanengesang (Swan Song):

"Hesitantly, quietly, in the dark's nocturnal stillness, we are here.
And with fingers gently bent, lightly, lightly we knock at our sweetheart's
chamber door.

But now increasing, swelling, rising, with a loud, united voice, we call out
confidently:

'Sleep not when the voice of affection speaks!'

Once a wise man with a lantern searched far and near for friends.
How much rarer than gold are people who are gracious and kind.
So, when friendship or love speaks, friend, sweetheart, do not sleep!

But what in all the world would be comparable to sleep?
So, instead of words and gifts, you shall now also have rest.

One more little greeting, one more word!

The joyful melody becomes silent; quietly, quietly, again we steal away."

Because

According to John Lennon, the song's close musical resemblance to Ludwig van Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" was no coincidence. He said, "Yoko was playing Beethoven's 'Moonlight Sonata' on the piano ... I said, 'Can you play those chords backwards?', and wrote 'Because' around them. The lyrics speak for themselves ... No imagery, no obscure references." Our version, arranged by Artistic Director Ciaran Krueger, takes apart the accompaniment and

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*Congregations participating in the
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Continued from page 16

triple dubbed voices of Lennon, Harrison and McCartney and assigns each part/voice to one line. Originally recorded in 1969, the song appeared on the "Abbey Road" album.

Color of Colorado

Written by Dick Gallagher, with lyrics by Mark Waldrop, for the humorous, offbeat 1996 musical, *When Pigs Fly*, this delightful musical romp gleefully enumerates the many reasons why "you need 'us' to make the U.S. great!" We sing this song as a celebration of who we are and our place in our country as "doctors, lawyers, movers, shakers, friends of neighbors and policy makers" as it poses the question "Don't you realize who WE are?"

I Am That Man

The text of this stunningly uplifting ballad was inspired by President Obama's inaugural address. It calls men to take a stand, "to arise to love, arise to lead, arise to serve, no matter what the need." Set in a stirring ballad style, it builds steadily towards the climactic ending, stating "I am that man."

Chorus of Gypsies

The *Anvil Chorus* is the English term for the *Coro di zingari* (Italian Gypsy chorus), a piece of music from Act 2, Scene 1 of Giuseppe Verdi's *Il trovatore* (*The Troubador*, 1853) which depicts Spanish Gypsies striking their anvils at dawn – hence its English name – and singing the praises of hard work, good wine, and their Gypsy women . . . our take on this brings it to an all male world of dominance, hard work and men. In American sporting events of the early twentieth century, the Anvil Chorus was commonly sung by the spectators or played by a band when a player, especially an opponent, committed an error, or to "rub it in" to the losing side.

I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair

"I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair" is a song from the musical *South Pacific*, sung by Nellie Forbush, the female lead, originally played by Mary Martin in the Broadway version, beginning in 1949. Her character, fed up with a man (Emile De Becque) and singing in the shower, claims she will forget about him. Her friends show her support by harmonizing. (Can you see where the BGMC is going with our version?) The song was written by Oscar and Hammerstein in response to Mary Martin's request. She had starred on Broadway for years and "had never washed her hair on stage" and said she wanted to give it a try.

Danny Boy

There are various theories as to the true meaning of "Danny Boy". Some listeners have interpreted the song to be a message from a parent to a son going off to war or leaving as part of the Irish diaspora. The 1918 version

Continued on page 20

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Continued from page 18

of the sheet music included alternative lyrics (“Eily Dear”), with the instructions that “when sung by a man, the words in italic should be used; the song then becomes “Eily Dear”, so that “Danny Boy” is only to be sung by a lady”. In spite of this, it is unclear whether this was Lyricist Frederic Weatherly’s intent, or simply a publisher’s note; Weatherly did, however, acknowledge that “Danny Boy” was sung “all over the world by Sinn Feiners and Ulstermen alike”, and noted that the song had “nothing of the rebel song in it, and no note of bloodshed”. Originally written for a different tune, Lyricist Frederic Weatherly modified the lyrics to fit the popular tune “Londonderry Air”.

Lass dich nur nichts nicht dauren

This motet was composed around 1859, when Brahms was a choral conductor in Hamburg, Germany. It is a double canon, with the Tenor 1 and Baritone parts in counterpoint with the Tenor 2 and Bass parts. The remarkably expressive piece is dedicated to Clara Schumann after her husband Robert was confined to an asylum. (The introduction quotes from Robert Schumann’s Fourth Symphony, which he had dedicated to Clara.) The final “Amen” abandons the canon and unfolds over a held low E-flat from the organ.

“Let nothing ever grieve you; be at peace.
Whatever God ordains, accept it gladly, my soul!
Why do you want to worry today about tomorrow?
The One who is lord of all; he also gives to you that which is yours.
In all things be not inconstant; stand firmly.
Whatever God ordains is and signifies the best.
Amen.”

Get Me to the Church On Time

“Get Me to the Church on Time” is a song composed by Frederick Loewe, with lyrics written by Alan Jay Lerner for the 1956 musical *My Fair Lady*, where it was introduced by Stanley Holloway. It is sung by the cockney character Alfred P. Doolittle, a dustman, the father of the show’s main character Eliza Doolittle. He has received a surprise bequest of four thousand pounds a year from an American millionaire, raising him to middle-class respectability. Consequently he feels he must marry Eliza’s “stepmother”, the woman he has been “living in sin” with for many years. Doolittle and his friends have one last spree before the wedding and the song is a plea to his friends not to let his drunken merriment forget his good intentions and make sure he gets to his wedding.

One Hand, One Heart

West Side Story is an American musical with a book by Arthur Laurents, music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and conception and choreography by Jerome Robbins. It was inspired by William Shakespeare’s play *Romeo and Juliet*. The story is set in the West 50s and West 60s of the Upper West Side neighborhood in New York City in the mid-1950s, an ethnic, blue-collar neighborhood. (In the early 1960s much of the neighborhood would be cleared in an urban renewal project for Lincoln Center, changing the neighborhood character.) The musical explores the rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds. The members of the Sharks from Puerto Rico are taunted by the Jets, a white working-class group. The young protagonist, Tony, one of the Jets, falls in love with Maria, the sister of Bernardo, the leader of the Sharks. The dark theme, sophisticated music, extended dance scenes, and focus on social problems marked a turning point in American musical theatre. “One Hand, One Heart” appears at the end of Act 1, when our two star-crossed lovers, Tony and Maria, sing to each other at the bridal shop where they dream of their wedding. Our arrangement, arranged by Artistic Director Ciaran Krueger, takes the song and makes it more universal, as we, the men of the BGMC, sing this song about a hope and a love that we all dream of.

Why We Tell the Story

The Caribbean re-telling of Hans Christian Anderson’s *The Little Mermaid*, the musical *Once On this Island* is a brilliant love story that defies the social customs which consume everyday society. The idea that love can conquer over every other aspect of human existence gives this controversial story meaning. This selection from the musical, was artfully and lovingly arranged for the BGMC by Steve Milloy as we celebrate the end of our first season with our second Artistic Director, Ciaran Krueger and as we travel to the GALA festival in Denver, Colorado in July 2012. The messages of hope, faith, love and common ties that bind ring true in this joyous anthem, as we celebrate the notion that “Our lives become the stories that we weave.” This exciting conclusion to our concert series broadcasts the powerful message that:

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Pain is why
Love is why
Grief is why
Hope is why
Faith is why
You are why
We tell the story.”

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TENOR 1

David Campbell
John Iremar Clayton
Norm Duttweiler, Jr.
Cory James Gallagher
Ronald Houk++
Mike Rogers
Hanford Searl, Jr.
Robert J. Szustak+

BARITONE

Franklin G. Ball
Tray Ballard
David Batt
Paul Berglund
Denis Bolton
Gregory Ciupak+
Darrel Davis
James Estep
William Gardner
Andrew Giarrizzo
Jeffrey C. Hunt
Zak Kineke
Vincent Kuntz
Ramón Meléndez
Raymond Neil
Andy Newbert++
Eric Nowak
Murphy Palazzo
Joseph Puma
James Rigo
Woody Sipprell
Dennis C. Stuart
Asa Swain
Cedric "Flip" Taporco
Ralph Valente
Tom Villeneuve

TENOR 2

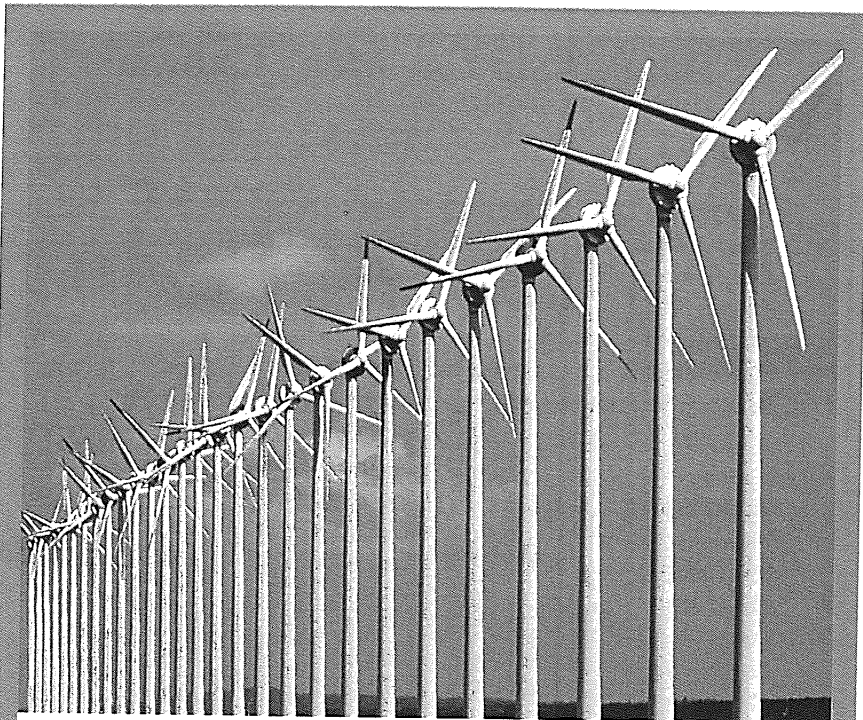
Mike Geary
Joseph Grieco
William C. Hardy++
Gerry Klein
Aaron Mrowka
Scott Nachbar
Nelson Neels
Roger Parris
Mark J. Peszko
Nathan Phillips-Frey+
Joe Sergiej
James Simonis
Jason Ward

BASS

Pierre Albrecht-Carrié
Christopher Babbitt
Gerry Frenette
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss++
Lorne Gretsinger
Randy Kozlowski
Paul LaDuca
Timothy H. Mahiques
L. Martin Palcic
Christopher Reybrouck+
Brian Rotach
Michael Smyntek
Donald Yager
Joseph Zimmerman

+ indicates section leader

++ indicates associate section leader



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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (Continued)

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Norm Boyer
Bryan Day
Willy Donaldson
Shaun Doyle, Jr.
Jason Higbee
David Lewis
Mike Longo
Mark Mancuso
David Mathewson
Brett Ransom
Tom Romans
Michael Shanahan
Mark Smith
Lawrence Van Heusen

Artistic Director
Ciaran Krueger

Accompanist
Debi Overton

Interpreter for the Hearing Impaired
Cat Hardesty

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Mark Mancuso
Nathan Phillips-Frey
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Joe Sergiej
Robert J. Szustak

BGM
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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 May 21, 2011 and May 20, 2012.

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William H. Gardner

Joseph Grieco, *honoring my supportive family & friends*
Timothy H. Mahiques & Ingram Micro, Inc,
Corinne & Victor Rice

VIRTUOSO - \$500 - \$999

Anonymous, *honoring William H. Gardner*
Paul A. Cassavaugh

Douglas Charles & Gary Bienkowski
David K. Mathewson
Scott G. Nachbar
Dan & Gloria Norton

Cynthia Van Ness, *honoring Kitty Lambert*

CONDUCTOR - \$200 - \$499

Thomas R. Alcamo, *in memory of my parents*
Shirley G. Berglund

Bud & Dea Black, *honoring Rob Black*
Max & Sheila Casey

Bonnie & Jim Collins, *in memory of Tom Hammond*
Babs Conant & Camille Cox, *honoring Barbara Wagner*
Charles J. Giarrizzo

Carla J. Hengerer, *honoring Gerard & Borden*
Ramón A. Meléndez, *honoring Michael A. Warner*
Irene E. Norton

Michael Osika & Daniel M. Salcedo, MD
Jeffrey H. Platt
Andrew C. Pollard

Roger Mark Seifert & Dennis C. Stuart,
honoring the marriage of Roger Parris & Michael Longo
Pearl Spoerl

Dr. Lawrence Van Heusen & Robert A. Scharf

SOLOIST - \$100 - \$199

Jonathan & Jennifer Attea
Paul Berglund

Carolann M. Besch
Michael J. Bonilla

E. S. Braniecki

Robert Carlson & Tim Socha

Laurie Dann & Thomas Hunt

Rev. Charles A. Deacon

Bill Fay, *honoring the wedding of*
Mark Meyer & Del Milander

Jim & Mary Fran Derby

Debbie Di Matteo

John Fleischman, *honoring the*
Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus

Trish Grace & Dave Dunn

Anne Grace & Al Litto, *honoring*
Dennis Stuart

Rev. Judith Ann Hefner

John F. Herbert

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memory of Hank Mann & Don
Savage

Ron Houk, *honoring family &*
friends

Karen & Tom Keil, *honoring*
Dennis Stuart

Howard & Janet Krack

Dedee & Joel Lippes

Bennett-Lombardo, *honoring*
Dennis Stuart & Roger Mark
Seifert

Ms. Kurtice C. Luther

James Mack

Robyn N. Mandell

Nicholas E. Marchelos

Mark Meyer & Del Milander,
honoring Barbara Wagner

Dr. Edwin A. Mirand, *honoring*
Michael A. Warner

Lou Moran & Doug Van Dine
Andy Newbert

Bernard Olszewski

Sharon Osgood, *honoring Russell*
Link

Dennis Overholt, *in memory of*
Edward Benns

Roger Parris & Michael Longo,
honoring the Hon. Tracey A.
Bannister, Erie County Justice,
for officiating at our wedding on
August 27, 2011.

Russell Penner

Arthur J. Picogna, *in memory of*
Arthur E. Neeb

Richard Price

Brett & Melissa Ransom

John Rex

Christopher Reybrouck, *honoring*
the Founding Artistic Director
Barbara Wagner

Linda Reznick, *with thanks for 10*
years of fun, friendship &
beautiful music

Bob & Luann Roberts

Mark Skesavage

Andy Steck & Phil Trifiletti,
honoring all our BGMC friends
Harriet Stewart

Hans Tamberg, *in memory of*
Sally Wright

Barbara L. Wagner, *honoring the*
members of the Buffalo Gay
Men's Chorus

Drs. David & Mindy Weinman

SINGER - UP TO \$99

Anonymous	Linda Facklam, <i>in honor of Equality</i>
Anonymous, <i>honoring Don Behr</i>	Fran Felser & Dave Shaver
Anonymous, <i>honoring Greg Miles</i>	David & Anne Floyd
Regina & Mitch Abramowitz, <i>honoring Russell Link & John Jubulis</i>	Marvin & Marcia Frankel, <i>honoring Glenn Adam, Lucy & Noah</i>
Vickie Agostini, <i>honoring Jimmy Rigo</i>	Dave Gannon
D. Jeanne Aydelotte, <i>honoring Russell Link</i>	Angela Georgi
Connie Bailey, <i>honoring Christopher Reybrouck</i>	Joe & Lynne Giroux
Phyllis Bornand	Sylvia G. Gold
Philip & Barbara Brogadir	Robert Graves
Deb Burhans, <i>honoring Mark Meyer & Del Milander</i>	Michele Greco & Bill Faught, <i>in memory of Dick Scalessa</i>
Dennis & Sally Burns, <i>in memory of Mickey Garcia</i>	Jerry & Francie Hace
Pete Carroll	Monty Hale & Frank Summit
Helen M. Christian, <i>in memory of the 1980s Thursday Group Members and in honor of those still with us.</i>	Peter G. Hart
Michael & Joyce Cianciosi	Carol Hauser, <i>honoring Don Behr</i>
Therese C. Clarke	<i>Orie Hebard</i>
Mary & Harold Cohen, <i>honoring Jim Rolls, Attorney</i>	Jack Hogan
Dave Davis	Barbara D. Holender
Sandie Davison	Nancy D. Holzerland
Dominic DeFillippo & Arlan Peters	Paula Welch Jack, <i>honoring Douglas & Kitea</i>
Ann Deveau & Doug Milander, <i>honoring Mark Meyer & Del Milander</i>	Jim Jagow
Joan M. Doerr	Doris Jones
Judith Clarke & Alan Dozoretz	Dorothy Keller, <i>honoring Dennis Stuart</i>
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Ted & Phyllis Drews, <i>honoring Ciaran Krueger</i>	William & Barbara Laderer
Bill Engelbrecht	Norma Jean Lamb, <i>honoring Barbara Wagner</i>
Daryl Ervolina & Russell Fulton	Mr. & Mrs. John P. Lane
	Richard J. Lee, Ph.D.
	Rev. Gail Lewis, <i>in memory of Lois White</i>
	Dorothy M. Lien, <i>in memory of Mark Faltyn</i>
	Russ Link & John Jubulis <i>with love to Barbara Wagner</i>
	Kathleen S. Ludwig

SINGER - UP TO \$99

(CONTINUED)

Sam Maislin, Esq.	Michael Rogers, <i>honoring Roger Parris & Michael Longo</i>
Peter V. McNally	Joan Roy
Peg Mergenhaben	Dr. & Mrs. W.J. Russell
Kathryn Meyer,	Marsha Shapiro & Gregory Pavlov
Melissa M. Micciche, <i>honoring Del Milander & Mark Meyer</i>	Bill & Estelle Siener, <i>honoring the wedding of Del Milander & Mark Meyer</i>
John Ognibene, <i>in memory of Charles Ognibene</i>	Ronald Silverio
Vivian Parker & Tracey Jennings	William H. Smith
Jean Peglowski	Curt Steinzor & Elaine Gardner
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Larry & Carolyn Pillard, <i>honoring the beautiful people and music</i>	Alan Thompson
Rabbi Gary Pokras, Temple Beth Zion	John & Noreen Visone
Thekla Putnam, <i>in memory of John G. Putnam, Jr.</i>	Ron & Peggy Welker, <i>honoring our Armed Forces</i>
Hon. Gregory P. Rabb, <i>President Jamestown City Council</i>	Robert Wiechman
Paula Radice	Louise Zgoda
	Tom Zimpfer, <i>honoring Andy Newbert</i>

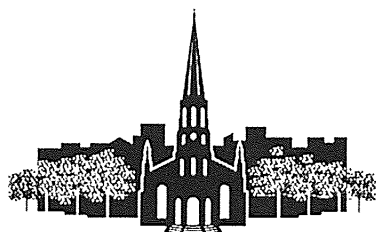
Come Join Us in Song

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. And, 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 12th season will take place Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 6pm and Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 6pm at St. John's Grace, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, NY 14222. Please phone our office at 716.883.1277 to make an appointment for an audition.

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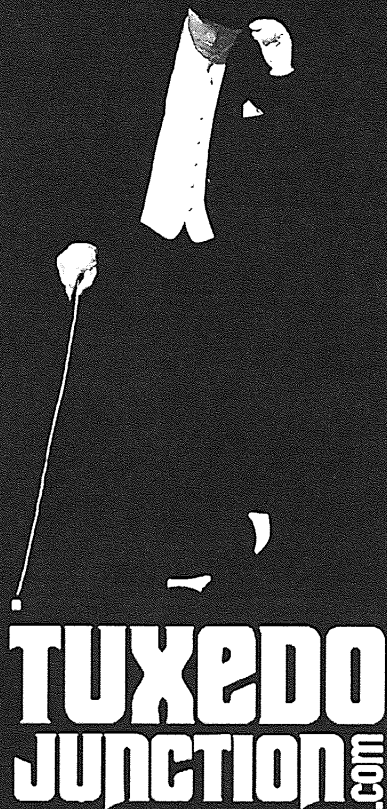
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St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 3 pm
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo

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Saturday, May 18, 2013 @ 8 pm
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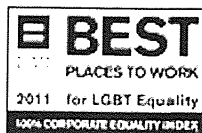
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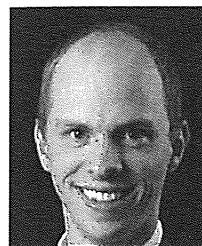
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About the Artistic Director



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. Ciaran'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, Ciaran has been involved in music constantly.

Ciaran holds a Master's of Music in Choral Conducting under the instruction of Harold Rosenbaum at the University at Buffalo. He is currently the Music Director at St. James UCC in Hamburg and an area music teacher.

About the Accompanist



A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton** 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 Fiora 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 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 is a current member of the WNY chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of AGO and continues to be active in WNY serving as guest organist/choirmaster at several local churches. In addition, she enjoys guest conducting, accompanying and both coaching performing with singers

About the Accompanist *(continued)*

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.

Following a succession of esteemed organists/choirmasters, Debi served, most recently, for 18 years as the Director of Music Ministries at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville.

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

To the BGMC

Thank you

Our hearts are lightened by your song

BUFFALO

Front Runners / Front Walkers

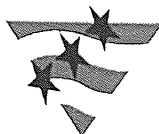
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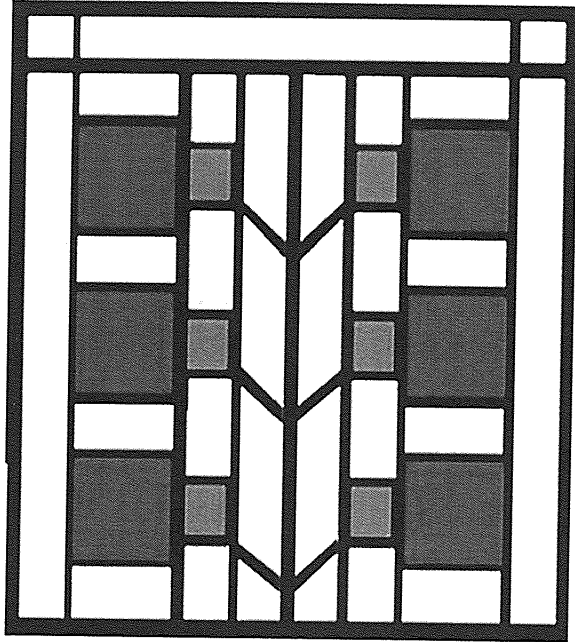
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History of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Historically, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) persons have seldom had a “voice”, a comprehensive, recognized presence with full participation in the American culture. Today, however, GLBT choruses are flourishing. The Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), the national support organization for GLBT singing groups, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008. The passage of New York State's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (2003) and Marriage Equality Act (2011), as well as the rising success of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus are three examples of many developments changing history for the better.

The BGMC idea was first conceived in 1999. Guided by Roger Parris (still one of our singers), a vigorous group of men worked throughout the coming year to make the BGMC organization a reality. With the support of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus to encourage them, a steering committee consisting of twelve or more dedicated members had written the by-laws and incorporation papers, held fundraisers for seed money, agreed on a mission statement, elected officers and directors and (after a thorough search) hired Barbara Wagner as BGMC's Artistic Director. She, in turn, arranged the appointment of Debi Overton as our charter accompanist. Both women are highly respected musicians. Barbara Wagner was one of only two female conductors of over 150 gay men's choruses in the United States and Canada.

Auditions were held in May 2001, with 36 chorus members on board after the first day. Soon, there were over 50. Rehearsals began on September 11, 2001, a day of shock and sadness throughout our land. The difficult decision to go forward with the rehearsal, despite the tragedy of that day, proved to have been wise. Forty men, many not knowing each other, gathered in an eerie silence. As they and Ms. Wagner held hands for the first time in a community 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*”). They learned that long-lived and classic American hymn, “*How Can I Keep From Singing?*”. It remains to this day the Chorus theme song and a continuing reminder for its members of the mutual family togetherness and inspiration that the Chorus always aspires to attain. It was the processional music at the opening of BGMC's first public concert (“*Music From the Heart*”) on February 9, 2002. The men of

the Chorus, singing this song with feeling and intensity, strode down the aisles of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Buffalo, with uninvited (but welcome) television news cameras recording the event.

The audience that night was huge -- the Church was filled, chairs lined the aisles and, sadly, people had to be turned away at the door. All concerts after that were offered twice in each performance weekend until, some years later, the Chorus began presenting three times in the weekend and, for a short time, with three weekend presentations each year instead of two. Audiences continue to be large, diverse and enthusiastic.

The Chorus has commissioned a number of compositions and special arrangements of music for its concerts. Two of them were especially commissioned for performance by the Chorus at the quadrennial Festival of GLBT choruses from all around the United States, Canada and elsewhere. The Chorus commissioned *Adamic Songs*, a six-part composition featuring poems by Walt Whitman, the creation of Buffalo's Roland E. Martin. *Yes!*, was based on a poem about the struggle for racial harmony, by Countee Cullen, the Harlem Renaissance writer in the early 1900's. *Yes!* was composed by the renowned Adolphus Hailstork, also on BGMC's commission. The Chorus performed these new works at the Festivals of over 100 GLBT Choruses at, respectively, Montreal in 2004 and Miami in 2008.

The Chorus has also enjoyed remarkable creative support from other Buffalo composers and arrangers. Madeline Davis, longtime leader of the GLBT movement in Buffalo and founder of the GLBT Archives, has provided the Chorus with many poignant tunes and texts. Along with many of the GALA composers, Buffalo's Phil Sims, musician extraordinaire, has composed many beautiful arrangements for the Chorus. And Marty Wimmer, a very capable and creative spirit with his moving words and music, continues as a faithful contributor to the BGMC repertoire.

Along with its efforts and growing musical success, BGMC has received honors in many forms and venues. A number of awards from Artvoice's "Best in Buffalo" proclaimed the Chorus the best local choral group. The Chorus was asked to sing on the Kleinhans Music Hall stage with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra on two occasions, once for a subscription concert in 2004 and another as a benefit for the Orchestra and the Olmsted Conservancy in 2006, with Maestra JoAnn Falletta conducting. Mary Louise Nanna, founder and conductor of Ars Nova, asked the Chorus to

Continued on page 40

www.buffalogaymenschorus.org

"Changing Our World Through Song"

.....the motto of GALA Choruses.

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) and Miami (2008) and is currently making plans to attend and perform this summer at GALA Festival IX in Denver.

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Makes One Weak!™**



Continued from page 38

sing in her Viva Vivaldi Series. BGMC was recognized by the Empire State Pride Agenda in 2005 with the ESPA Award for Community Service awarded to the Chorus for the excellence of its music and its dedication to the community. In March 2008, BGMC was chosen to receive the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council Award for exceptional contributions to the arts and cultural community in Western New York.

BGMC's success has brought many requests from worthy organizations to perform benefit concerts, and the Chorus attempts to honor these requests to the extent that it is able to do so. The Chorus has received grants and gifts and much support from both the GLBT community and the community at large. It is pleased to be able to reciprocate.

A major force in the BGMC success has been the impressive dedication, hard work and unflinching efforts by the Chorus singers, as well as the dedication of its non-singing members and volunteers.

The Chorus understands the need to create a positive social impact in the affected communities as effectively and meaningfully as possible. It finds itself in a relatively conservative environment, a factor that, if anything, should make its efforts and impact all the more important, and, it continues to hope, all the more effective. In addition to its influence on the community at large, it is clear that the Chorus has helped raise the self esteem of an historically marginalized portion of our society. Its high profile has helped to create a positive model for those who are grappling with the negativity that is too often imposed on GLBT people.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus takes great pride in what it has been able to do and accomplish in the first ten years of its existence. Probably the greatest accomplishment has been its success in weaving the different lives and personalities of its members and of the communities it serves through the tug and magic of music, sung from the heart. The Chorus is, truly, a family. We are delighted to have all of you join us in that bonding company, as you listen to our song.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary season, we welcome our second Artistic Director, Ciaran Krueger, to the BGMC family. We also welcome back charter accompanist, Debi Overton, to the BGMC family.

For those interested in more specifics of the varieties of our experiences and happenings, please browse through the lists of time and experience. The beat continues, with the concert you are now attending.

Events and Happenings . . .

World AIDS Day Memorial Services

AIDS Community Services Annual Fundraisers, "Cause for Celebration"

Continued on page 42

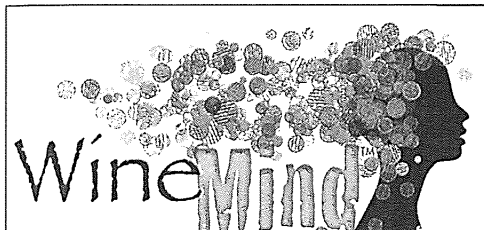
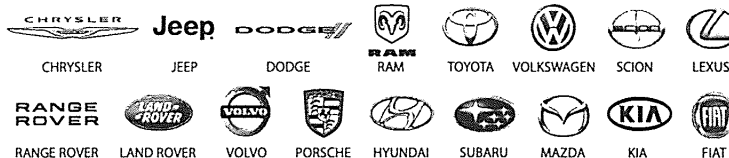
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Continued from page 40

Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraiser
Fundraiser on behalf of Police Officer Patricia Parete
Katrina Relief Funds, Benefit Concert
North West Pennsylvania Rural AIDS Alliance and the Unitarian
Universalist Church of Erie, Pennsylvania, Benefit
Southern Tier AIDS Community Services and the Katharine Jackson
Carnahan Foundation Benefit
Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert
Concert benefiting roof repairs at Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church
Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church, Benefit Music Program
Tree Lighting Ceremony for Women's and Children's Hospital
Benefit for the Darwin Martin House (Frank Lloyd Wright, architect)
Benefit Concert for and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the
Olmsted Conservancy
Mark's Place, Niagara Falls, NY, Benefit Concert
St. Paul's Cathedral, Youth Program, Benefit Concert
Opening Concert, St. Paul's Cathedral Music Series
Performance at Buffalo Seminary – High School for Young Women
Benefit for the Children at Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Carly's House
MOCHA Project Presents: "Creating Hope Through Art"
Collaboration with Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, Western NY Children's
Chorus in program of music by Benjamin Britten
Fredonia State College Pride Festival
Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Albright Knox Art Gallery
Pro Love produced by Amilcar Hill, inspired by the death of his six-year old son.
The audience was more diverse than any other for which BGMC has performed.
It was a defining moment for our organization.
BGMC's provision of complimentary tickets to BGMC performances for
GLYS (Gay and Lesbian Youth Services) and singing and presenting at
Gay and Straight Alliance activities in schools.

Performance Venues . . .

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
Temple Beth Zion
First Presbyterian Church
Albright Knox Art Gallery, Gusto at the Gallery Series
St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
Erie Basin Marina
Performing Arts Center, Rockwell Hall, Buffalo State College
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
First Baptist Church, Niagara Falls
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

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e-mail: jgolombek@ch.ci.buffalo.ny.us

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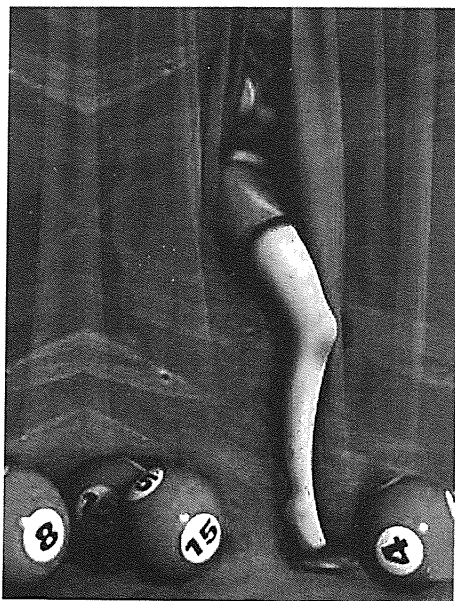
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Continued from page 42

Montante Center of Canisius College
 Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, two concerts
 The Performing Arts Renaissance Theater in Montreal, GALA
 International Festival
 The Nichols School
 Roush Recital Hall, Fredonia State Campus
 Statler Towers Golden Ballroom
 Trinity United Church, Beamsville, Ontario
 Performing Arts Theater of Ithaca, NY
 Langston Hughes Center
 Botanical Gardens
 Hochstein School of Music, Rochester
 First Presbyterian Church, Viva Vivaldi Series
 Buffalo Bisons Baseball Stadium, National Anthem
 Pride Parades and Performances
 MOCHA Awards Dinners
 Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church
 Buffalo Convention Center
 HSBC Bank Auditorium
 Elmwood Festival of the Arts
 Hamilton Collegiate Center, Jamestown Campus, Jamestown Community
 College
 Masonic Lodge, Erie, Pennsylvania
 Church of the Ascension
 Riviera Theater
 Orchard Park Presbyterian Church
 Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Albright Knox Art Gallery
 Chautauqua Institute, Gay and Lesbian Festival
 Carnival Theaters, Miami, FL (GALA Festival)
 M&T Plaza Concert Series

Major Concerts . . .

February, 2002	Music from the Heart
June, 2002	Sounds of Summer
January, 2003	Of Sweet Harmony
June, 2003	Songs of Freedom
January, 2004	If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On
June, 2004	Singing With Pride
July 2004	GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association) Festival of Choruses, 2004, Montreal
January, 2005	Brothers in Song

June, 2005	Fearless
January, 2006	A Winter's Tale
June, 2006	Let Us Entertain You
January, 2007	Celebrate
June, 2007	Colors of Our Lives
January, 2008	The Proud and the Passionate
June, 2008	Connections
July, 2008	GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association) Festival of Choruses, 2008, Miami
December, 2008	Hope for the Holidays (our first Holiday Concert)
March, 2009	Land Where the Good Songs Go
June, 2009	BGMC On Vacation
December, 2009	Joyful and Triumphant
June, 2010	Once Upon a Time
December, 2010	Sounds of the Season
June, 2011	Live Out Loud
December, 2011	Make the Yuletide Gay
March, 2012	One Night Only

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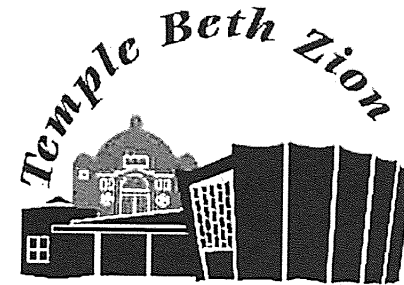


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Congratulations to the
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus,
On their outstanding concert events.
Wishing you continued success!



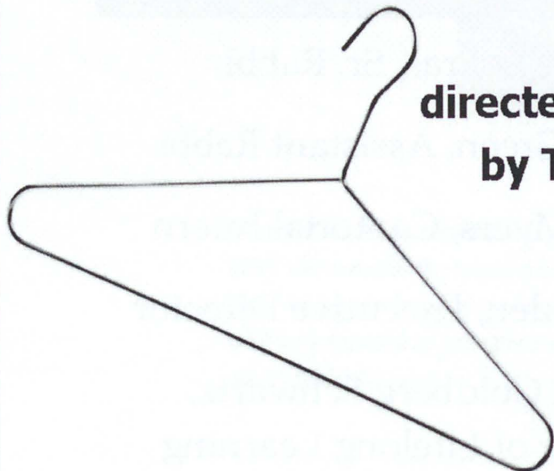
Howard Rosenhoch, President
Gary Pokras, Sr. Rabbi
Laurie Green, Assistant Rabbi
Penny Myers, Cantorial Intern
Mark Criden, Executive Director
Susan Goldberg Schwartz,
Director of Lifelong Learning
And the Trustees and Members of
Temple Beth Zion,
Buffalo, New York

JIMMY JANOWSKI IS

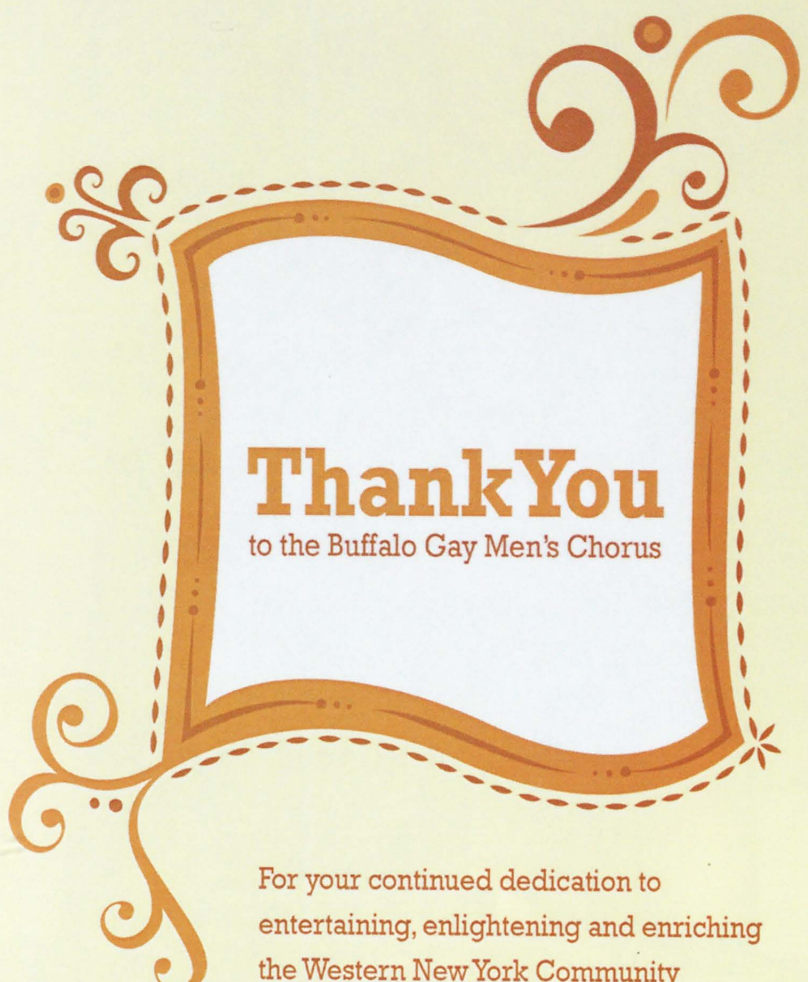
Mommie Queerest

by Jamie Morris

**directed & designed
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For your continued dedication to
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- The Pride Center of WNY
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Sonja Jensen, Director of Religious Education

CIARAN KRUEGER *Artistic Director*

DEBI OVERTON *Accompanist*

Upcoming Engagements

M&T Bank Plaza Event Series
August 23rd, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

2012-2013 Season Announcement

Winter Concert Series

Friday, December 7, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.
Riviera Theatre, North Tonawanda

Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo

Sunday, December 9, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo

Spring Concert Series

Friday, May 17, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, Buffalo

Saturday, May 18, 2013 at 8:00 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church, Buffalo

Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
North Presbyterian Church, Williamsville

Calling New Members

Auditions for our upcoming season will take place on Tuesday August 28th at 6 pm and Tuesday, September 4th at 6 pm. at St. John's Grace Episcopal Church.

No prepared piece required. For more details, email Bgmwebmaster@gmail.com!



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