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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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# We've Got Rythm

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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# THE BUFFALO GAY MEN'S CHORUS SINGS THE AMERICAN SONGBOOK

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CIARAN KRUEGER Artistic Director DEBI OVERTON Accompanist

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# **Our Mission**

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is dedicated to producing vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing.

We seek through song not only to entertain, but also to enlighten.

We sing to create harmony as we celebrate pride in our communities and in ourselves.

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# We've Got Rhythm Gregory L. Ciupak, President of the Board of Directors



Welcome to our spring season concert "We've Got Rhythm", as we celebrate some of the most influential music written in the 20th century by American composers. What a pleasure it is for the BGMC to bring music from the American Songbook alive for you this evening; music that many of you have asked us to perform for years. I believe it is also a very poignant time for LGBT Americans as we celebrate composers who brought us iconic music, some of which has

been embraced for decades by our community but also some who were gay themselves. Our whole season this year brought you music unlike any we've done before; inspired by the rich tradition of American jazz and swing. It has been a remarkable year.

This is an exciting time for the LGBT community in America as we are now proudly taking our place in the American fabric and history and demanding that our right to be open about who we are in our personal lives, our military and in our relationships be acknowledged and equal in the eyes of our government. We've seen several more states legalize marriage since this time last year, we've seen the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and we've seen two landmark gay rights cases presented before the United States Supreme Court. This is OUR time. But this movement does not happen in a vacuum, it happens through visibility-one BGMC concert at a time, through one supporter at a time and one message at a time. We together, by you being part of the BGMC family, help us to "entertain and enlighten" to change the hearts of ALL Americans-from sea to shining sea. So it's with great pride that we bring you music that is an American treasure at this important time in gay American history. Let's enjoy this time together as we can imagine and celebrate an America where we are all equal and where we celebrate our diversity.

If this is your first concert, I know that you will have an experience you won't forget. If you are returning, know how much we appreciate seeing you back. In all cases, I thank you for your ongoing and continued support of our mission, and for making what we do so very enjoyable and meaningful.

With love and gratitude, Gregory Ciupak



# We've Got Rhythm

Ciaran Krueger, Artistic Director



#### Good Evening,

I would like to welcome you to "We've Got Rhythm: The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus Sings the American Songbook". I am particularly excited that the chorus is presenting a program of American songs tonight, as it is music that is near and dear to my heart.

The early 20th century was an exciting time for music. Jazz began to change and influence all forms of music. The synthesis of the syncopated rhythms of jazz with the harmonies of the European tradition resulted in music that took the world by storm. The composers we are featuring today each navigated the frontier of what is undeniably the soul of American music. Jerome Kern bridged Old World operettas to New World musicals with productions like "Showboat". George Gershwin, more than any, straddled the line between popular and classical sensibilities. The resulting product is the lasting music and lyrics penned by these masters of song.

Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Harold Arlen, Jerome Kern, and Cole Porter provide the unforgettable tunes that are ingrained as part of American culture. Whether you like the romantic harmonies of "Summertime" or "Embraceable You", or the upbeat jazzy rhythms of "Blue Skies" and "Anything Goes", we know there is something on the program to get your toe tapping and your heart racing.

As always, we thank you for joining us tonight and encourage you to sit back and relax and enjoy the music!

> Yours in Harmony, Ciaran Krueger





After completing a competitive grant process, the New York State Council of the Arts (NYSCA) has awarded the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus a Decentralization (DEC) grant.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus is grateful that our spring program is funded in part by the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Administered by Arts Services Initiative of Western New York. We are truly grateful to ASI and NYSCA.

In addition, our good friends at EmbraceWNY have awarded the Chorus the seed money towards the purchase of portable concert risers. We are looking forward to being able to perform safely and easily in a wider variety of venues!

EmbraceWNY is dedicated to equality and fairness within Western New York and seeks to raise awareness, understanding and acceptance of the LGBT community amongst all citizens.

We are honored to have been recognized by both funders as an important presence in the Buffalo cultural community.











Please help us reach our goal of \$3000 for new risers! Please make your tax-deductible donation at www.buffalogaymenschorus.org or by mailing a check to the BGMC office.

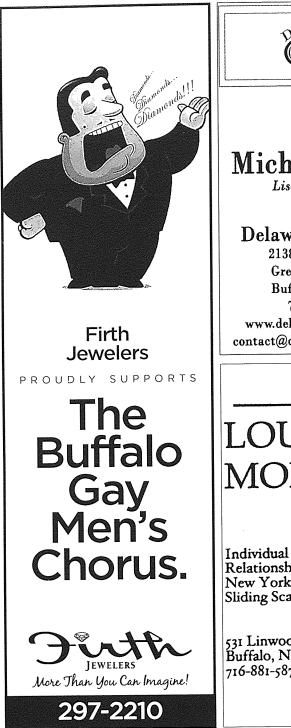


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# Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus proudly presents

# We've Got Rhythm

Mr. Ciaran Krueger, Artistic Director Ms. Debi Overton, Accompanist Mr. Christopher Hart, Percussion Mr. Timothy Mroz, Bass Mr. Mike Ihde, Saxophone and Clarinet Mr. Drew Karkau, Trombone Mr. Matt Schroeder, Trumpet Ms. Kara Mayer, Trumpet

# PROGRAM

## Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

"Listen kid, take my advice: never hate a song that's sold half a million copies." ~Irving Berlin~

*"Irving Berlin has no place in American music – he is American Music".* ~Jerome Kern~

#### Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning

Irving Berlin Steve Milloy, arr.

John Iremar Clayton and Scott Nachbar, *tenors* Ralph Valente, *baritone* Paul LaDuca, *bass* with *The Chorus* 

Alexander's Ragtime Band

**God Bless America** 

**Blue Skies** 

Scott Nykiel, *tenor* with *The Chorus* 

Irving Berlin Kirby Shaw, arr.

Irving Berlin Roy Ringwald, arr.

.

Irving Berlin Steve Zegree, arr.

### George Gershwin (1898-1937)

"True music must repeat the thought and inspirations of the people of the time. My people are Americans and my time is today." ~George Gershwin~

"In composing we combine what we know of music with what we feel." ~Irving Berlin~

Embraceable You

-

George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin Jay Althouse, arr. Robert J. Szustak, *tenor* 

Scott Nachbar, trombone with The Chorus

Summertime

George Gershwin, DuBose and Dorothy Heyward and Ira Gershwin Mark Hayes, arr.

I Got Rhythm

George Gershwin Christopher Clapham, arr.

Jason Ward, *tenor* with *The Chorus* 

Gershwin for Girls

George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin Teena Chin, arr.

John Iremar Clayton, *tenor* with *The Chorus* 

# **INTERMISSION**

Harold Arlen (1905-1986)

Jerome Kern (1885-1945)

"His songs live. His songs seep into the heart of a people, a nation, of a world and stay there." ~E.Y. Harburg~

> "He's the most original of all of us." ~George Gershwin~

Get Happy

Harold Arlen and Ted Koehler Philip Kern, arr. Can't Help Lovin' That Man

Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II Neal Richardson, arr.

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes

Jerome Kern David Blackwell, arr.

Small Ensemble

# **Cole Porter** (1891 - 1964)

"It's delightful, it's delicious, it's de-lovely." ~Cole Porter~

"I was lucky enough to have the songs in my first show written by George and Ira Gershwin. Then Cole Porter wrote five shows for me." ~Ethel Merman~

**Anything Goes** 

Cole Porter David Maddux, arr.

Let's Do It

Cole Porter David Maddux, arr.

Small Ensemble

Cole Porter

Tom, Dick or Harry David Campbell and Scott Nachbar, tenors Jimmy Rigo, baritone Paul LaDuca, bass with The Chorus

Blow, Gabriel, Blow

Cole Porter Joseph Wood, arr.

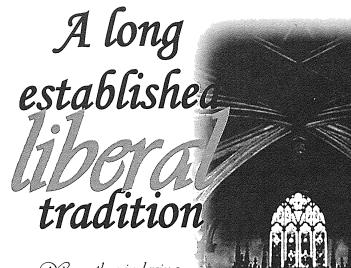
Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye

Cole Porter Steve Milloy, arr.

All pieces for jazz band were reduced and prepared by Mr. Christopher Hart for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

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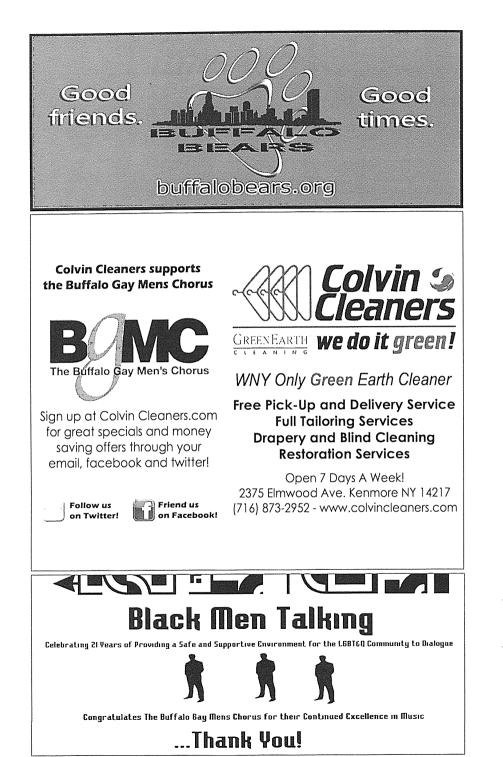


Freing Berlin

Irving Berlin (May 11, 1888 – September 22, 1989) was a great American composer and lyricist of Belarusian Jewish origin (born near Mogilev in Russian Empire, nowadays Belarus), widely considered one of the greatest songwriters in American history. He published his first song, "Marie from Sunny Italy", in 1907 and had his first major international hit, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" in 1911.

"Alexander's Ragtime Band" sparked an international dance craze in places as far away as Berlin's native Russia, which also "flung itself into the ragtime beat with an abandon bordering on mania." Over the years he was known for writing music and lyrics in the American vernacular: uncomplicated, simple and direct, with his aim being to "reach the heart of the average American" whom he saw as the "real soul of the country."

He wrote hundreds of songs, many becoming major hits, which made him "a legend" before he turned thirty. During his 60-year career he wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards. Many songs became popular themes and anthems, including "Easter Parade", "White Christmas", "Happy Holiday", "This is the Army, Mr. Jones", and "There's No Business Like Show Business".

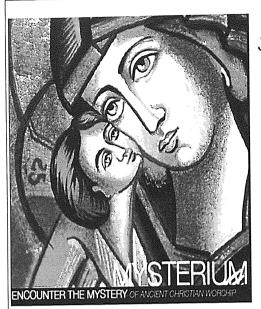




**George Gershwin (September 26, 1898 – July 11, 1937)** was an American composer and pianist. Gershwin's compositions spanned both popular and classical genres, and his most popular melodies are widely known. Among his best known works are the orchestral compositions "Rhapsody in Blue" and "An American in Paris", as well as the opera *Porgy and Bess*.

Born in Brooklyn in 1898 to Jewish immigrant parents from Odessa, Ukraine (then part of the Russian Empire), Gershwin studied piano under Charles Hambitzer and composition with Rubin Goldmark and Henry Cowell. He began his career as a song plugger, but soon started composing Broadway theatre works with his brother Ira Gershwin and Buddy DeSylva. He moved to Paris to study with Nadia Boulanger, where he began to compose "An American in Paris." After returning to New York City, he wrote *Porgy and Bess* with Ira and the author DuBose Heyward. Initially a commercial failure, *Porgy and Bess* is now considered one of the most important American operas of the twentieth century.

Gershwin moved to Hollywood and composed numerous film scores until his death in 1937 from a brain tumor. Gershwin's compositions have been used in numerous films and on television, and several became jazz standards recorded in many variations. Countless singers and musicians have recorded his songs.



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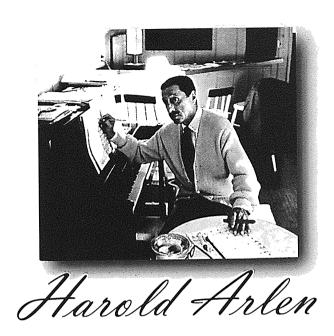
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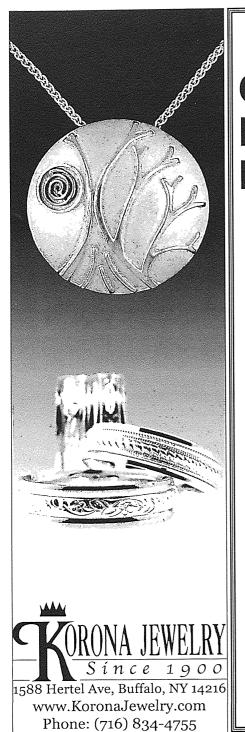




Harold Arlen (February 15, 1905 – April 23, 1986) was born Hyman Arluck in Buffalo, New York, the child of a Jewish cantor. Arlen was an American composer of popular music, having written over 500 songs, a number of which have become known worldwide. In addition to composing the songs for The Wizard of Oz, including the classic 1938 song, "Over the Rainbow," Arlen is a highly regarded contributor to the Great American Songbook. "Over the Rainbow" was voted the twentieth century's No. 1 song by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

In 1929, Arlen composed his first well-known song: "Get Happy" (with lyrics by Ted Koehler). Throughout the early and mid-1930s, Arlen and Koehler wrote shows for the Cotton Club, a popular Harlem night club, as well as for Broadway musicals and Hollywood films. Arlen and Koehler's partnership resulted in a number of hit songs, including the familiar standards "Let's Fall in Love" and "Stormy Weather." Arlen continued to perform as a pianist and vocalist with some success, most notably on records with Leo Reisman's society dance orchestra.

Arlen's compositions have always been popular with jazz musicians because of his facility at incorporating a blues feeling into the idiom of the conventional American popular song. Arlen was a longtime friend and former roommate of actor Ray Bolger who would star in The Wizard of Oz, the film for which "Over the Rainbow" was written.



# Cathode Ray Bar 4726 Allen Street **Buffalo** NY 14202 TO

To The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus



ferome Kern

Jerome David Kern (January 27, 1885 – November 11, 1945) was an American composer of musical theatre and popular music. One of the most important American theatre composers of the early 20th century, he wrote more than 700 songs, used in over 100 stage works, including such classics as "Ol' Man River", "Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man", "A Fine Romance", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", "All the Things You Are", "The Way You Look Tonight", "Long Ago (and Far Away)" and "Who?". He collaborated with many of the leading librettists and lyricists of his era, including George Grossmith Jr., Guy Bolton, P. G. Wodehouse, Otto Harbach, Oscar Hammerstein II, Dorothy Fields, Johnny Mercer, Ira Gershwin and E. Y. Harburg.

A native New Yorker, Kern created dozens of Broadway musicals and Hollywood films in a career that lasted for more than four decades. His musical innovations, such as 4/4 dance rhythms and the employment of syncopation and jazz progressions, built on, rather than rejected, earlier musical theatre tradition. He and his collaborators also employed his melodies to further the action or develop characterization to a greater extent than in the other musicals of his day, creating the model for later musicals.

Although dozens of Kern's musicals and musical films were hits, only *Show Boat* is now regularly revived. Songs from his other shows, however, are still frequently performed and adapted. Although Kern detested jazz arrangements of his songs, many have been adopted by jazz musicians to become standard tunes.

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ale Porton

Cole Albert Porter (June 9, 1891 - October 15, 1964) was an American composer and songwriter. Born to a wealthy family in Indiana, he defied the wishes of his domineering grandfather and took up music as a profession. Classically trained, he was drawn towards musical theatre. After a slow start, he began to achieve success in the 1920s, and by the 1930s he was one of the major songwriters for the Broadway musical stage. Unlike many successful Broadway composers, Porter wrote both the lyrics and music for his songs.

After a serious horseback riding accident in 1937, Porter was left disabled and in constant pain, but he continued to work. His shows of the early 1940s did not contain the lasting hits of his best work of the 1920s and 30s, but in 1948 he made a triumphant comeback with his most successful musical, Kiss Me, Kate. It won the first Tony Award for best musical.

Porter's other musicals include Fifty Million Frenchmen, DuBarry Was a Lady, Anything Goes, Can-Can and Silk Stockings. His numerous hit songs include "Night and Day", "I Get a Kick Out of You", "Well, Did You Evah!", "I've Got You Under My Skin", "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "You're the Top".

He also composed scores for films from the 1930s to the 1950s, including Born to Dance (1936), which featured the songs "You'd Be So Easy to Love" and "I've Got You Under My Skin"; Rosalie (1937), which featured "In the Still of the Night"; High Society (1956), which included "True Love"; and Les Girls(1957).

# 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 November 17, 2012 and April 20, 2013.

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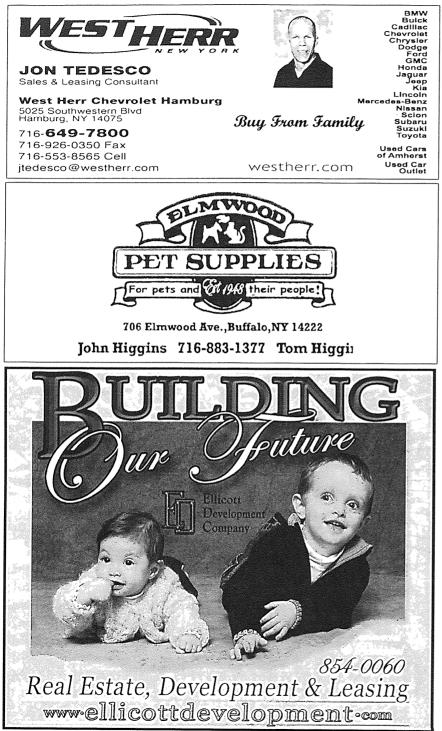
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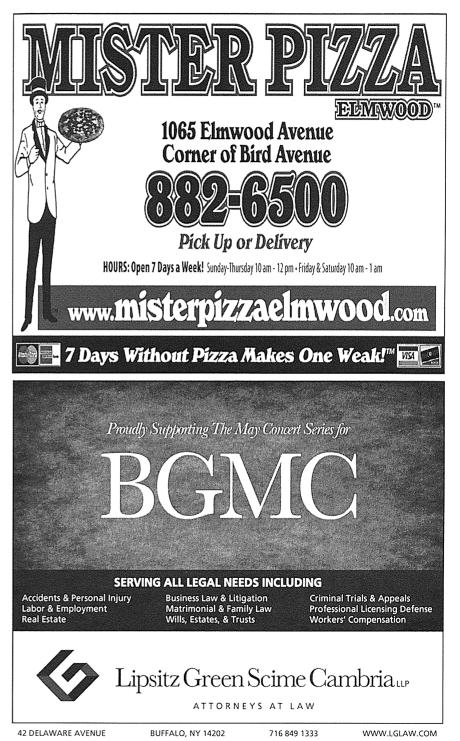
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## Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning

Irving Berlin was drafted into the Army in 1918 and was inspired to write the song when he overheard a colonel telling a group of buglers to play "Over There". The buglers were unable to obey the order as their instruments did not have the range needed. Berlin, a famous night-owl, had some difficulty adjusting to the schedule of the Army. He, like many soldiers, resented the early wake-up calls. He described the song as "a protest written from the heart out, absolutely without the slightest thought that it would ever earn a cent". The song quickly gained popularity in the camp and even earned him a special exemption from reveille.

Berlin frequently performed the song on stage and in performance, despite a self-described inadequate voice. "As for my voice, I made a recording. When the record was first played on the set, one of the electricians, who didn't know whose voice it was, said, "If the guy who wrote that song could hear the record, he would turn over in his grave"--which gives you a fair idea. However I am hoping it won't be too bad."

### Alexander's Ragtime Band

Alexander's Ragtime Band is a song by Irving Berlin, and was his first major hit in 1911. There is some evidence, although inconclusive, that Berlin borrowed the melody from a draft of "A Real Slow Drag" by Scott Joplin that had been submitted to a publisher. Vaudeville singer Emma Carus, famed for her "female baritone", is said to have been largely responsible for successfully introducing the song in Chicago and helping contribute to its immense popularity. It became identified with her, and soon worked its way back to New York where Al Jolson also began to perform it.

### **God Bless America**

Irving Berlin originally wrote this famous song in 1918 for *Yip Yip Yaphank*, but the song was cut and didn't resurface until 1938. Berlin felt he needed to respond to the rise of Hitler, and Kate Smith premiered the song on Armistice Day. *God Bless America* has become one of Berlin's most enduring and beloved songs. It embodies his deep love of America and also his generosity; the royalties from the song are donated to the God Bless America Fund, which supports the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

### **Blue Skies**

*Blue Skies* is a last-minute addition to a Rodgers and Hart musical *Betsy*. The lead singer Belle Baker was unhappy with the original solo written for her and contacted her friend Berlin for a song. He had just finished writing

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to a larger audience when Al Jolson sang it in the very first "talkie", The Jazz Singer in 1927. Since then, *Blue Skies* has remained one of Berlin's most popular songs, recorded countless times and featured in many films.

#### **Embraceable You**

*Embraceable You* is a popular song, with music by George Gershwin and lyrics by Ira Gershwin. The song was originally written in 1928 for an unpublished operetta named *East is West*. It was eventually published in 1930 and included in the Broadway musical *Girl Crazy*, where it was performed by Ginger Rogers in a song and dance routine choreographed by Fred Astaire. Billie Holiday's 1944 recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2005, and other notable recordings of the hit song include Frank Sinatra, Idina Menzel and Liza Minelli. The song yearns for the embrace of one's love, and chronicles a nearly lovesick demeanor in its sweeping melody and lyrics. It was quickly adopted by a generation of great jazz singers.

#### Summertime

*Summertime* is an aria composed by George Gershwin for the 1935 opera *Porgy and Bess*. The lyrics are by DuBose Heyward, the author of the novel *Porgy* on which the opera was based, although the song is also co-credited to Ira Gershwin by ASCAP.

The song soon became a popular and much recorded jazz standard, described as "without doubt... one of the finest songs the composer ever wrote....Gershwin's highly evocative writing brilliantly mixes elements of jazz and the song styles of African-Americans in the southeast United States from the early twentieth century." Composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim has characterized Heyward's lyrics for "Summertime" and "My Man's Gone Now" as "the best lyrics in the musical theater". The song is recognized as one of the most covered songs in the history of recorded music, with more than 33,000 covers by groups and solo performers.

It was recorded for the first time by Abbie Mitchell in July 1935, with George Gershwin playing the piano and conducting the orchestra.

## I Got Rhythm

When George Gershwin wrote *I Got Rhythm* for the 1930s musical *Girl Crazy*, he created one of the most catchy melodies in American history. But little did he know that his lovable song — apart from becoming a hugely popular jazz standard — would evolve into something far greater.

The song itself, on the most basic level, became the perfect vehicle for jazz improvisers. Swing and bebop musicians thrived on its formula: a memorable 32-bar AABA structure and irresistible chord progression. This structure served as a model for many other successful jazz tunes, some say

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OperaBuffs of WNY proudly supports the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus hundreds, like Duke Ellington's *Cotton Tail* and Nat King Cole's *Straighten Up and Fly Right*. Remarkably, the *I Got Rhythm* form rivals only the blues structure as the most adapted, mimicked or ripped-off, depending how you look at it.

### Gershwin for Girls

Make no mistake – yes this piece is called *Gershwin for Girls*, but we identify with the messages of longing love in the piece. This medley takes Gershwin's most notable pieces about love, and combines them into one sweet, melodious piece. The three pieces featured include the ever-popular Someone to *Watch Over Me, The Man I Love* and *I've Got a Crush on You*. Each piece was featured in separate Broadway shows, but were made popular as singles, being recorded by greats such as Sarah Vaughan, Lena Horne and Etta James. Each song sends a message of longing for the man of one's dreams and dreaming of that moment when that fateful connection is made to one's love.

# Get Happy

Influenced by the *Get Happy* tradition, it is most associated with Judy Garland, who performed it in her last MGM film *Summer Stock* (1950). An instrumental, hot jazz arrangement of the song, performed by Abe Lyman's Brunswick Recording Orchestra, served as the original theme music for Warner Bros'. *Merrie Melodies* cartoons in 1932. Garland sang this song with Barbra Streisand in a medley that also included *Happy Days Are Here Again* on *The Judy Garland Show*.

The song lyrics incorporate the title phrase in the longer phrase "Come on, get happy", but it should not be confused with the *Partridge Family* theme song *C'mon Get Happy*.

In a more recent pop culture reference, this song was featured in a Target Department store advertisement in late 2012.

# Can't Help Lovin' That Man

*Can't Help Lovin' That Man* was extremely associated with 1920s torch singer Helen Morgan, who played Julie in the original 1927 stage production of *Show Boat*, as well as the 1932 revival and the 1936 film version. While Morgan was alive, she "owned" the song as much as Judy Garland owned "Over the Rainbow". However, Morgan died prematurely in 1941. Her recordings are seldom played or reissued today, her films are infrequently seen, and the 1936 film version of *Show Boat* was taken completely out of circulation in 1942 to make way for MGM's 1951 remake, which featured Ava Gardner as Julie (with singing dubbed by Annette Warren). Therefore, modern audiences unfamiliar with the 1936 film have most likely never heard Helen Morgan's performance of the song. Another singer who had a big hit with it was Lena Horne, who sang it in the Jerome Kern biopic *Till the* 

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Clouds Roll By, and could have easily played Julie in MGM's Show Boat had the studio not been nervous about casting her in the role. The song, written in a blues tempo, is sung in the show Show Boat by several characters, but is most closely associated with the character Julie, the biracial leading lady of the showboat "Cotton Blossom".

### **Smoke Gets in Your Eyes**

Smoke Gets in Your Eyes is a show tune written by American composer Jerome Kern and lyricist Otto Harbach for their 1933 musical Roberta. It was sung in the original show by Tamara Drasin and originally recorded by Gertrude Niesen on October 13, 1933, on the Victor label 24454. It was performed by Irene Dunne for the 1935 film adaptation, co-starring Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and Randolph Scott.

Possibly the most famous version was recorded in 1958 by The Platters, which became a number one hit on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 — it reached number three on the R&B charts in 1959 — and on the UK charts, where it spent five weeks at the top in February and March of that same year.

It has been covered by numerous artists, beginning with Paul Whiteman and His Orchestra with Bob Lawrence on vocal, which went to the top of the charts in 1934, and including Nat "King" Cole, who first covered it in 1946. It also featured in Lovely to Look At, a 1952 remake of Roberta, where it was sung by Kathryn Grayson. In 1956, Vic Damone covered this song with a very different rendition, which became one of his most famous songs.

## **Anything Goes**

Anything Goes is a musical with music and lyrics by Cole Porter. The original book was a collaborative effort by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse, heavily revised by the team of Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse. The story concerns madcap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London. Billy Crocker is a stowaway in love with heiress Hope Harcourt, who is engaged to Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and Public Enemy #13 Moonface Martin aid Billy in his quest to win Hope. The musical introduced such songs as "Anything Goes", "You're the Top", and "I Get a Kick Out of You."

Since its 1934 debut at the Neil Simon Theatre (at the time known as the Alvin) on Broadway, the musical has been revived several times in the United States and Britain and has been filmed twice.

## Let's Do It

Let's Do It, Let's Fall in Love (also known as Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love) or simply Let's Do It) is a popular song written in 1928 by Cole Porter. It was introduced in Porter's first Broadway success, the musical Paris (1928) by French chanteuse Irène Bordoni for whom Porter had written the musical as a starring vehicle.



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#### Tom, Dick or Harry

Made popular by the Cole Porter musical Kiss Me, Kate, *Tom, Dick or Harry* is performed during a musical performance of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew* (the subplot of *Kate*), three suitors (Gremio, Lucentio and Hortensio) compete to win Bianca's affections (Gremio claiming wealth; Hortensio offering social standing; and Lucentio with a promise of love). Whereas other songs from *Kiss Me, Kate* (such as "So In Love" and "Too Darn Hot") were released as singles and achieved commercial success outside the show. "So In Love" reached the top ten on the Hit Parade in 1949 and has since been covered by scores of recording artists.

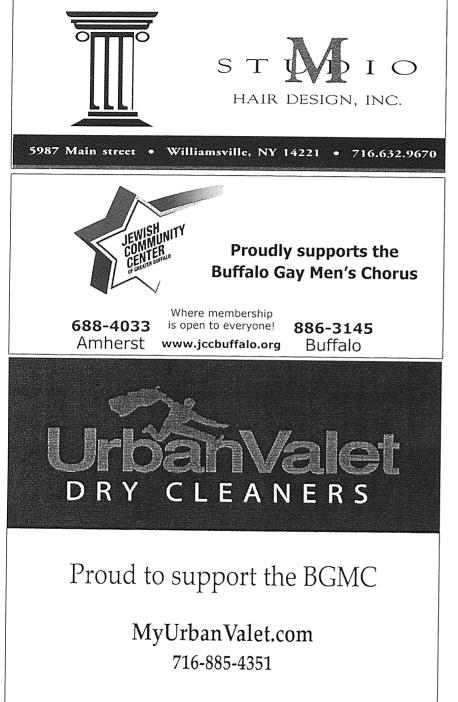
Tom, Dick or Harry was written expressly to advance the Shrew subplot and is, therefore, a showtune in the truest sense of the word. This is why many studio (non-cast) recordings of *Kiss Me, Kate* do not include the song. Perhaps the best-known example of this is Frank Sinatra's *Kiss Me, Kate* studio album which is part of his four album (four show) project that also includes *Finian's Rainbow* (1947), *South Pacific* (1949) and *Guys and Dolls* (1950) and which he produced in 1963 to promote his fledgling label, Reprise Records; hence the project title, the star-studded *Reprise Musical Repertory Theatre.* 

#### Blow, Gabriel, Blow

From the hit show *Anything Goes*, *Blow*, *Gabriel*, *Blow* takes place at a pivotal point in the beginning of the second act of the show, as the mood is changing and a revival of spirit is upon the passengers of the S.S. American. The piece is a mood changer and lifts the spirits of the characters within the show.

### Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye

*Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye* is a song with lyrics and music by Cole Porter. It was introduced in 1944 in Billy Rose's musical revue, *Seven Lively Arts*. Notable is Porter's clever use of word painting: As the lyrics "There is no love song finer / But how strange the change / From major to minor / Ev'ry time we say goodbye" are sung, the song literally changes its tonality from major to minor. The song has since become a jazz standard after gaining popularity in the late 50's and early 60's.



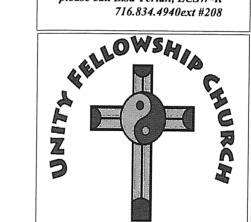
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# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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#### **Baritone**

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### <u>Tenor 2</u>

Nicholas Becht Jeffrey Berger William C. Hardy Scott Nachbar\* Nelson Neels Scott Nykiel Roger Parris Mark J. Peszko Joey Sergiej Cedric "Flip" Taporco\* Jason Ward\*+

#### <u>Bass</u>

Pierre Albrecht-Carrié Don Colligan\* Gerry Frenette Jaime Stephan Goldfuss Randy Kozlowski Paul LaDuca\*+ Timothy H. Mahiques L. Martin Palcic Christopher P. Reybrouck\* Brian Rotach Mark Smith Michael Smyntek Donald Yager Joseph Zimmerman

\* indicates small ensemble + indicates section leader

# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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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. Mr. 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.

# About the Accompanist



A native of North Carolina, **Debi Overton** (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 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.

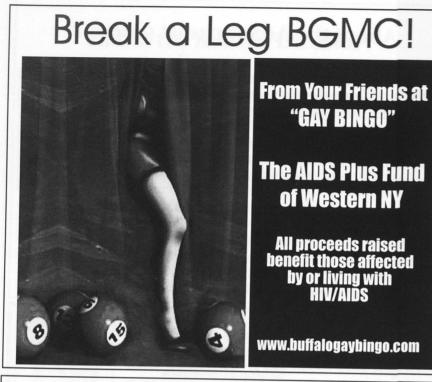
Following a succession of esteemed organists/choirmasters, Debi served, most recently, for 18 years as the Director of Music Ministries at Calvary Episcopal Church in Williamsville.

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).



# **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 13th season will take place Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 6pm and Tuesday, September 3, 2013 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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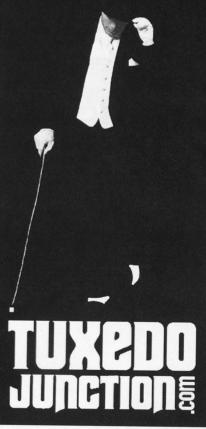
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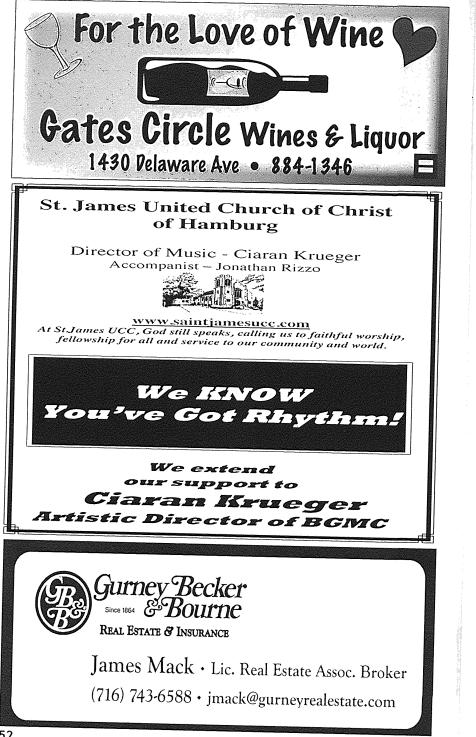
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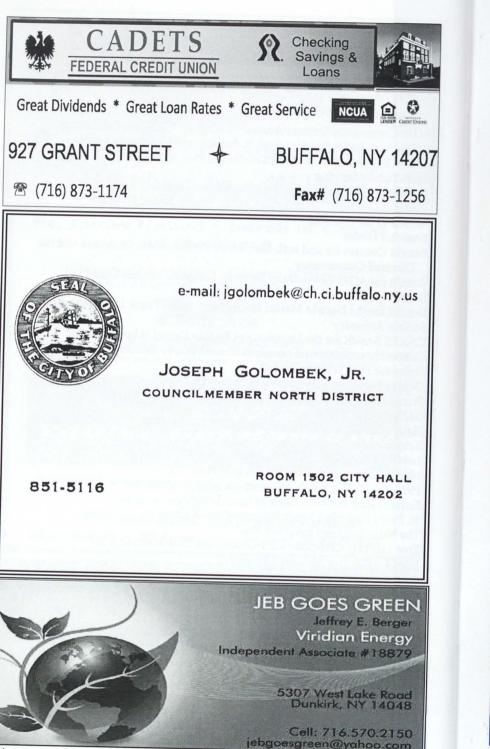
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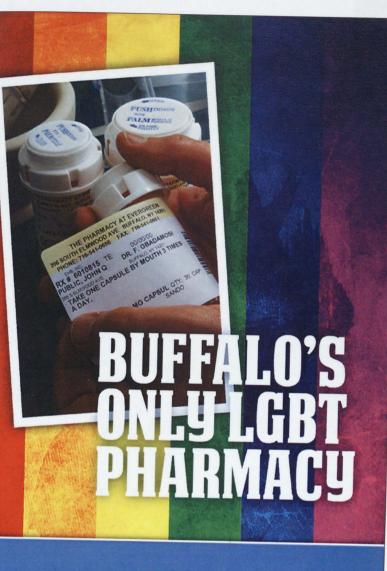
In addition to our 2 major concert series annually, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus frequently performs concerts to benefit other nonprofit community organizations. The following is a list of benefit concerts the BGMC has proudly performed at. AIDS Community Services Annual Fundraiser "Cause for Celebration" AIDS Community Services Benefit, Jamestown Community College AIDS Community Youth Services Benefit, Erie, Pennsylvania **AIDS Family Services** Amherst High School GSA Conference Amherst Unitarian Universalist Church Benefit Music Program Arrival of the Amistad Benedict House Benefit Concert for and with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and the Olmsted Conservancy Benefit for AIDS Community Services, Langston Hughes Center Benefit for MOCHA Benefit for the Darwin Martin House (Architect - Frank Lloyd Wright) **Buffalo Seminary** CARES Benefit for the University of Buffalo Dental School Concert benefitting roof repairs at Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church Delaware Park Winter Concert Domestic Violence Awareness Fundraiser Fredonia State College Diversity and Multicultural Program GLYS sponsored Gay and Straight Alliances Workshop Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert Katrina Relief Funds - Benefit Concert Love Unbound Benefit for Christian Unity Church Mark's Place Benefit Concert, Niagara Falls, NY PFLG and GBLT Youth Alliances complimentary tickets to every concert Roswell Park Institute, Carly's House Benefit St. Paul's Cathedral Youth Program Benefit Concert The Nichols School Diversity Week Tree Lighting Ceremony for Women's and Children's Hospital World AIDS Day Memorial Services

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# HE BUFFALO GAY MENS CHORUS

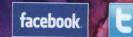
CIARAN KRUEGER Artistic Director DEBI OVERTON Accompanist Open Auditions August 27 @ 6 p.m. September 3 @ 6 p.m. St. John's Grace Episcopal Church 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo

Our Favorite Things Friday, December 13, 2013 @ 8 p.m. Saturday, December 14, 2013 @ 8 p.m. Sunday, December 15, 2013 @ 3 p.m.

Spring Auditions January 21, 2014 @ 6 p.m. January 28, 2014 @ 6 p.m. St. John's Grace Episcopal Church 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo

BGMC Valentine Cabaret Show Saturday, February 15, 2014 @ 8 p.m.

Rise Up Singing Friday, May 16, 2014 @ 8 p.m. Saturday, May 17, 2014 @ 8 p.m. Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 3 p.m.



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