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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

12-2011

# Make the Yuletide Gay

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

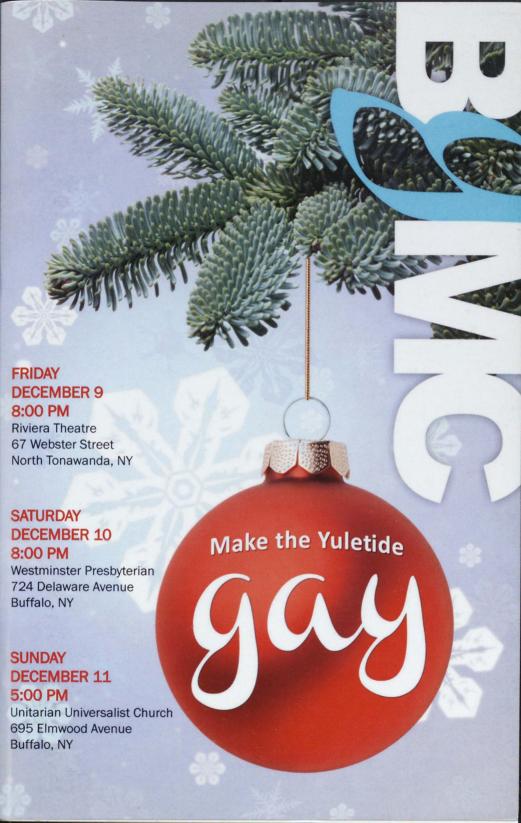
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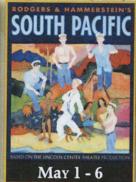
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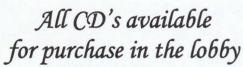












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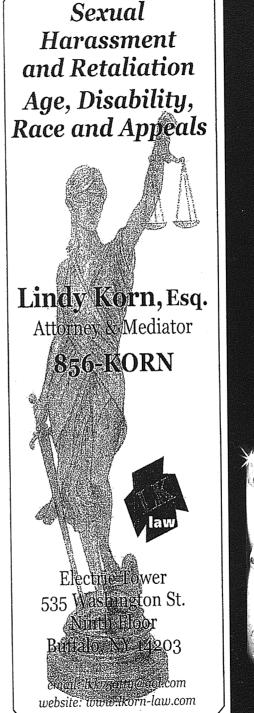


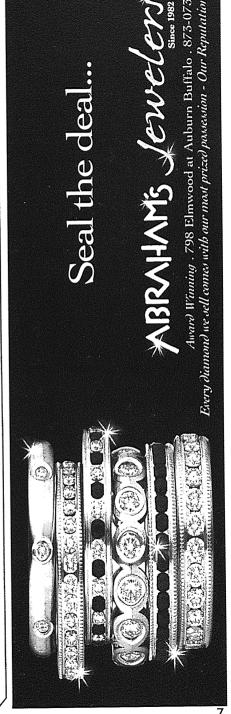
# "Changing Our World Through Song".....

.....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 next summer at GALA Festival IX in Denver.

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus would like to graciously acknowledge AIDS COMMUNITY SERVICES OF WNY for their sponsorship of our sign language interpreters for the 2011-2012 season. Thank you for supporting us and our patrons!





# Make the Yuletide Gay

Shaun Doyle, Jr., President



Welcome to our holiday concert, "Make the Yuletide Gay!" This time of year can be incredibly exhilarating and for some, melancholy and very sentimental. Whether you are decorating your tree with a Rankin-Bass television special on, making hundreds of latkes with your bubbie for Hanukkah or just quietly remembering past holidays, we are so pleased you took some time out to be with us.

This coming year is a special one. We will be celebrating 10 years of song together and travelling to Denver, Colorado to perform with choruses from around the country. We also welcome Ciaran Krueger, our new Artistic Director. Together, we have been working hard to make this concert special for you. We have some exciting new music, and of course our very favorites too.

Please know that you are what makes us great. Spending this time with you is a vital part of our holidays. Many thanks from each of us for being with us tonight. To quote Dr. Seuss from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas": "Christmas Day is in our grasp so long as we have hands to clasp. Christmas Day will always be. Just as long as we have we."

Peace, Shaun Doyle, Jr.

# **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, straight or gay, 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 11<sup>th</sup> season will take place Tuesday, December 27, 2011 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.

# Make the Yuletide Gay

Ciaran Krueger, Artistic Director



Welcome, and thank you for joining us this evening as we "Make the Yuletide Gay". Whether you are new to seeing us perform or look forward to our concert as part of your holiday traditions, we are glad we can share the music of the season with you. Holidays are a special time for all of us no matter what your background. They are a time of gathering and fellowship. This year we have chosen music that means family and friendship

to us. We have music from favorite holiday movies as well as classical and traditional songs. The music we sing reminds us of warm times together in spite of the cold Buffalo weather.

This concert series marks my BGMC debut. This is particularly special because holiday music carries great meaning with me - and many of us. I am honored to be part of this organization and look forward to continued singing and growing with the guys. This concert is the start of an exciting season with BGMC that culminates in singing at GALA in Denver, Colorado. Wow! What a first year to be with the chorus!

My family and I are delighted to share our first holiday season with the chorus. This is my daughter's second Christmas, and as we start new traditions together, we are delighted that this is one that she will grow up with.

We are thrilled that you took the time during this busy holiday season to spend the evening with us: "Faithful friends who are dear to us, gather near to us once more."

We hope that you enjoy the concert, and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

In the joy of the season, Ciaran Krueger



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# Make the Yuletide Gay Program

Welcome Christmas

Albert Hague Neal Richardson, arr. Lyrics by Dr. Seuss

Robert J. Szustak, tenor with The Chorus

Gloria in Excelsis

Antonio Vivaldi

Christmas Time is Here

Vince Guaraldi

The Yuletide Gay

Kent Carlson

Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

Randall Thompson

Brahms' Sacred Cradle Song

Johannes Brahms John-Michael Albert, arr.

John Clayton, tenor with The Chorus

Riu, Riu, Chiu

Jim Leininger, arr.

Lorne Gretsinger, bass Scott Nachbar, tenor Robert J. Szustak, tenor with The Chorus

**Merry Christmas Darling** 

Frank Pooler and Richard Carpenter Gary Simmons, arr.

Jimmy Rigo, baritone with The Chorus

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Johann Sebastian Bach

I'll Be Home for Christmas

Walter Kent and Kim Gannon

Ding! Dong! Merrily on High

Howard Helvey, arr.

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Traditional

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Nathan Phillips-Frey, tenor with The Chorus

O Holy Night

Adolf Adam

J.A. Kawarsky, arr.

Shaun Doyle, baritone with The Chorus

White Christmas

Irving Berlin

Roy Ringwald, arr.

Sleigh Ride

Mitchell Parish and Leroy Anderson

Hawley Ades, arr.

David Bond, Accompanist Daniel Darnley, Percussion Ashley Christ, Bass Raymond Neil, Pianist Ted Smeltz, Violin

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Good luck for another beautiful performance!



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# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

### Tenor I

Jerrod Baldwin
Robert Black
Norman Boyer
John Clayton
Norm Duttweiler, Jr.
Ronald Houk++
Brett Ransom
Hanford Searl, Jr.
Robert J. Szustak+

### Tenor II

Jeffrey Berger
Joseph Greico
William C. Hardy++
Gerry Klein
Delwyn Milander
Aaron Mrowka
Scott Nachbar
Nelson Neels
Roger Parris
Mark J. Peszko
Nathan Phillips-Frey+
Mike Rogers
Cedric "Flip" Taporco
Jason Ward

### **Baritone**

David Batt Denis Bolton Gregory Ciupak+ Darrel Davis Shaun Doyle, Jr. lames Estep William Gardner Andrew Giarrizo leffrey C. Hunt Zachary Kineke Vincent Kuntz David Lewis Ramón Meléndez Andy Newbert++ Murphy Palazzo Joseph Puma Jimmy Rigo Woody Siprell Mark Smith Michael Smyntek Dennis Stuart Asa Swain

Tom Villeneuve

### Bass

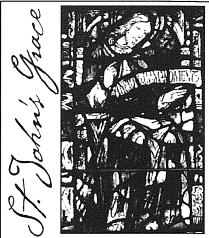
Pierre Albrecht-Carrié
Christopher Babbitt
Paul Berglund
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss++
Lorne Gretsinger
Jason Higbee
Paul LaDuca
Timothy H. Mahiques
L. Martin Palcic
Christopher Reybrouck+
Brian Rotach
Donald Yager
Joseph Zimmerman



<sup>+</sup> indicates section leader

<sup>++</sup> indicates associate section leader





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# The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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Andrew Pollard

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Ciaran Krueger

# Accompanist

Dr. David Bond

# Rehearsal Accompanist

Ben Phillips

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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 November 25, 2011.

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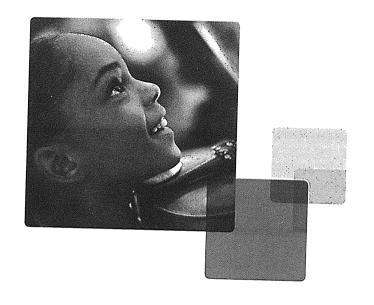
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# **About the Artistic Director**



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 of Buffalo. He is currently the Music Director at St. James UCC in Hamburg and an area music teacher

# **About the Accompanist**



David Bond is a native of Montana. He received a bachelor of music (cum laude) from St. Olaf College in 1974 and went on to attend the University of Michigan, earning a master of music in 1976 and a doctor of musical arts in 1981.

Dr. Bond has been honored in several regional and international competitions. As an active recitalist, his performances have been characterized as

"mesmerizing...an astonishing talent" (Altoona, Pennsylvania). He is "an organist to be reckoned with." (Buffalo, New York). His appearances are arranged through the courtesy of Widman-Roe Associates.

As an experienced church musician, Dr. Bond has held positions in Montana, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ohio. He is past dean of the Buffalo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was the District Convener for the WNY area of Region II of the AGO for four years. He has been Organist/ Choirmaster at First Presbyterian Church Buffalo since November 1985.



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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 (SONDA), as well as the rising success of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus are just two 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

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WALDEN GALLERIA DECEMBER I I TH I O AM TO 7 PM continued from page 33

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. Marty provides two of the musical presentations offered at this weekend's concerts.

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 sing in her Viva Vivaldi Series. BGMC was recognized by the Empire

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# **Kay Patterson**

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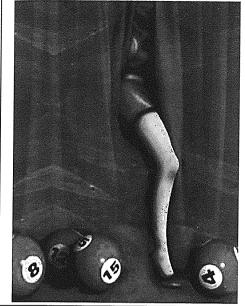
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State Pride Agenda in 2005 with the ESPA Award for Community Service awarded to the Chorus for the excellence of its music and its dedication to the community. In March 2008, BGMC was chosen to receive the prestigious Buffalo and Erie County Arts Council 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 unflagging 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 embark on our 10th anniversary season, we welcome our second Artistic Director, Ciaran Krueger, 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" 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

continued on page 42



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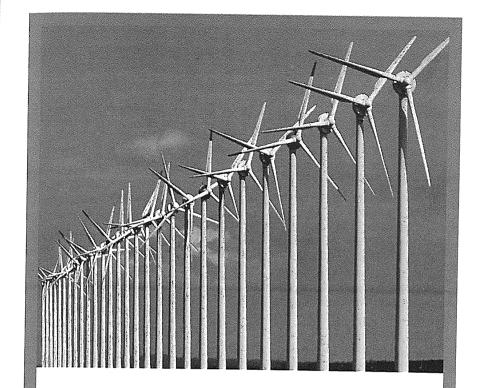
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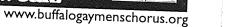
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Montante Center of Canisius College

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

Mansfield University, PA

Major Concerts . . .

February, 2002 June, 2002

Music from the Heart Sounds of Summer

January, 2003 June, 2003

Of Sweet Harmony 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) Land Where the Good Songs Go

March, 2009

**BGMC** On Vacation

June, 2009 December, 2009

Joyful and Triumphant Once Upon a Time

June, 2010 December, 2010

Sounds of the Season

June, 2011

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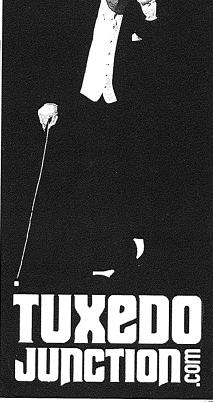
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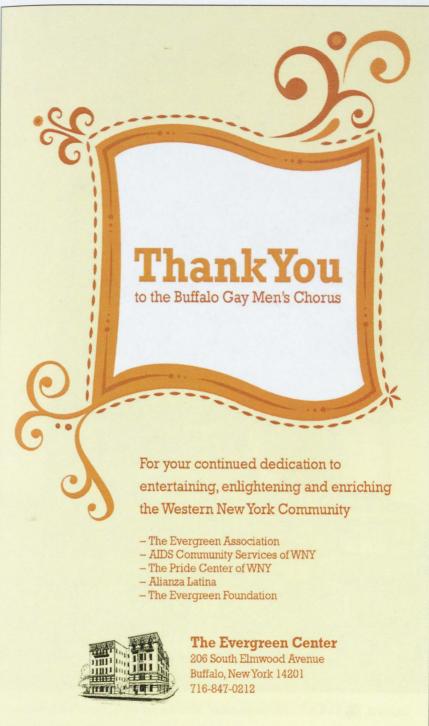
One Night of Queen Performed by Gary Mullen & The Works Mar 25



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