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Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

6-2011

Live Out Loud

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

proudly presents

Live *Out* Loud

Friday, June 10, 2011
First Presbyterian Church
1 Symphony Circle
Buffalo, NY · 8pm

Saturday, June 11, 2011
Orchard Park Presbyterian Church
4369 South Buffalo Street
Orchard Park, NY · 8pm

Sunday, June 12, 2011
Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo
805 Delaware Ave.
Buffalo, NY · 7pm
*Interpreted for the Hearing Impaired

B
G
M
C

buffalogaymenschorus.org

B G M C
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

716.883.1277



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BgMC

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Office:

51 Colonial Circle
Buffalo, New York 14222
716.883.1277

www.buffalogaymenschorus.org

A NEW YORK NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION

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.



CITY OF BUFFALO

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR



June 2011

Dear Members and Supporters of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus:

Greetings and salutations to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus on the occasion of celebrating your 9th season of song and performance.

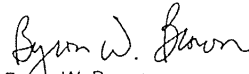
We send warm wishes on behalf of the City of Buffalo as you present "Live Out Loud!" on June 10-12, 2011.

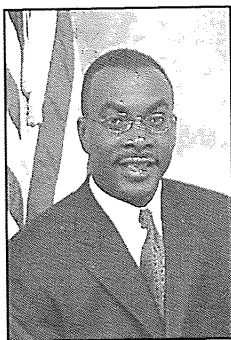
We extend our best wishes to founding director Maestra Barbara Wagner as she celebrates her final concert with the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus.

While we listen to your "vocal music of high quality in the rich tradition of men's choral singing," we know that your sounds are the result of hard work and many rehearsal hours.

Congratulations on the positive impact you have on our community and region and continued best wishes as you enlighten and entertain in our "City of Good Neighbors!"

Sincerely,


Byron W. Brown
Mayor



65 NIAGARA SQUARE / 201 CITY HALL / BUFFALO, NY 14202-3392 / (716) 851-4841 / FAX: (716) 851-4360 / www.city-buffalo.com

Special Thanks

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Our Saturday Hosts	Orchard Park Presbyterian Church
Our Sunday Hosts	Temple Beth Zion
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Please feel free to notify the Chorus of any changes or corrections for future programs at www.buffalogaymenschorus.org or by letter to the Chorus at 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo, New York 14222.

BGMC has "gone green". Please recycle your concert program if you do not wish to keep it as a souvenir. You will find collection boxes at the rear of the concert hall. Thank you!

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 your adding your "voice" to ours.

The *Friends of the BGMC* listed in this program are those who have contributed between April 1, 2010 and May 20, 2011.

Maestro \$1,000 - \$2,999

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Virtuoso \$500 - \$999

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& William H. Gardner*

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Rev. & Mrs. Peter Bridgford
Elizabeth Conant & Camille Cox
Norman Duttweiler
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With Deep Love & Appreciation to my Family & Friends

Conductor \$200 - \$499 (Continued)

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In Memory of Dan, David & Ron
Donald A. Licht
In Memory of James D. Haynes
Nicholas E. Marchelos
David K. Mathewson
Irene E. Norton
Roger Parris & Michael Longo
*Honoring Barbara Wagner's
9 years of service*
Andrew Pollard
Jeffrey H. Platt
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Soloist \$100 - \$199

Kirsten & Pierre Albrecht-Carrie
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In Memory of Scott Close
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Diana R. Foster
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Trisha Grace & David Dunn
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Russell Newbert
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Richard W. Price
Linda Resnick
Honoring All My Friends in the BGMC

John Rex
Robert & Luann Roberts
Harriet Stewart
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Singer - Up to \$99

Victoria Agostini
Honoring Jimmie Rigo
Anonymous

In Memory of Rachel Robbins

Christopher Babbitt
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Singer - Up to \$99 (Continued)

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Richard Frayne

In Memory of my friend Artie

Leigh & Daniel Fuller
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Bob & Marion Gibbon
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Gai M. Graesser

Robert Graves
Francie & Jerry Hace

Peter G. Hart
Jack Hogan

Honoring Roger Parris & Michael Longo

Nancy Holzerland

David & Martha Hornung

In Memory of Carl Druba, founder of The Master Coral of WNY

Paula Jack & Ellen Burkhardt

Honoring Roger Parris & Michael Longo

Suzie & Bill Jack
Samantha Jagow

Honoring Timothy Mahiques

Kent Johnston

Doris Jones

John & Carol Kociela

Ed Koryl

Norma Jean Lamb

Dorothy M. Lien

Marjorie Lord

In Memory of Donald Savage

Mark R. Mancuso

Andrew Martin

Donald A. Martin

In Memory of Betty S. Martin

Peter V. McNally

Peter Nimkoff

Betty J. Ott

Catherine Parker

Vivien Parker & Tracey Jennings

Honoring the BGMC

Michael J. Pawlak

Singer - Up to \$99 (Continued)

John Pellegrini
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Peterson
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In Memory of David Hoppy
Nichole M. Van Valkenburg
John & Noreen Visone

Honoring Many BGMC Friends
Kate Ward

*Honoring the Pilgrim-St Luke's
United Church of Christ*
Ron & Peggy Welker
Dr. Gerri Westwood
Robert Wiechman

BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Live Out Loud **Christopher S. Babbitt, President**



Our 10th season is coming to a close and it is a bitter sweet time for the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. Our beloved Director, Barbara Wagner is retiring and passing the conductor's wand onto a new Artistic Director. Barbara has taken the men of the BGMC from poor performers to a well-known and sought after singing group in just 9 years. As many of you are aware, the BGMC began its adventure on September 11, 2001, when the nation was grieving, the BGMC gathered in brotherhood and fellowship to bond, console and make beautiful music. That process has not changed in the past 9 years, and it is mainly due to the excellence of our very own Barbara Wagner.

The end of this season also sees me ending my term as President of the BGMC. It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the Board of Directors for the past six years and as President for the last two. These years have been a learning and growth experience for me personally, and I am thankful for Barbara Wagner's friendship and guidance. To my brothers in song; THANK YOU for the past 2 years. We have been through a lot, but in the end, all of our experiences have made us stronger and a better singing group. I love each and every one of you. I would be remiss if I didn't thank my family for their continued support and guidance; Chris, you are the rock of our family and the glue that keeps us stuck, Patrick and Andrew thank you for your unconditional love and support.

Thank you friends, donors and supporters for all that you do for the men of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, our music and our mission. Our faithful supporters have enabled the BGMC to grow and prosper these past nine years and your continued support is what will help propel us forward on our journey as we embark on our next chapter.

To our fans, I thank you for your continued support and for attending this final farewell concert for the original Artistic Director of the BGMC, Barbara Wagner. Again, know of my gratitude for the love and support that you have shown the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus over the years and please join with me in conveying to Barbara, on behalf of the entire BGMC family, our warmest regards and best wishes as she retires from our podium, but never from our hearts.

Yours in Harmony,
Christopher S. Babbitt

Live Out Loud

Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director

How Can I Keep From Singing?



When we stood in a circle and held hands in pensive silence on that horrific night almost ten years ago, we were numb with disbelief and fear. Some wondered why we were even there. Was it disrespectful? We didn't even know each other. It was September 11, 2001 and the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus was born in the midst of the stark terror of that day. We learned a little song by rote – "from you I receive, to you I give, together we share and in this we live." We looked deep into each other's eyes as we sang those words with increasing trust in each other. We sat down in the chairs that I'd arranged in typical choral seating and began to sing in earnest. Such a sound!!! How can I keep from singing? Every choral rule I knew was challenged in that one phrase! "How became at least a two syllable word as the sound swooped ever so brightly into the next word – "can." Then came another 2 syllable word "I" followed by "keep" sung so brightly it hurt my ears. Every unacceptable sound was joyfully fixed with much laughter. After all, we're from Western New York and we DO have a nasal WNY accent. That's what makes us so special. We've come a long way - take a look at our bio – oh, the amazing songs we've sung in so many languages we've lost track, the places we've been, the people who've come to us struggling with who they are, the people who tell us we've changed their lives. There are no more complaints about foreign languages because we all know that there is no such thing. We sing Bach, Brahms, Rachmaninoff, Morten Lauridsen, Mozart, - arrangements by our favorite GALA composers like our beloved Kathleen McGuire, Steve Milloy, Eric Lane Barnes, Phil Sims and so many more. We've sung fiendishly difficult songs like "Yes" by Adolphus Hailstork and the Adamic Songs by Ron Martin. It goes on and on --- we've come a long way. Early on, most people told me that we should sing only showtunes. It didn't happen and now we are recognized and respected by our brothers and sisters in the GALA movement and our audiences for being so adventurous. After our very first concert in Buffalo, one of the members told me that I needed to have much more discipline and that I would never make it in the Navy!!! I replied that I didn't know that I'd signed up for the Navy and I didn't think I'd make a very good sailor anyway!! I never even tried to emulate the characteristics of a good sailor and it seems to have turned out all right. One of our well meaning singers even told me that he should plan all of the rehearsals

because he knew what was needed!!!! I think he might have been a sailor though, because, as it turned out, he had had absolutely no musical training.

I can tell you now, with no reservations whatsoever, that I have loved and respected these men from the very first time we met. They were and are strong and brave and determined to be successful. They were even willing to take a chance on a "straight old broad!" We were filled with optimism and hope and were looking forward to the huge challenge of trying to reach every part of the Buffalo community. We turned away at least one hundred people for our very first concert and we were off to the races. For me, I feel like working with the strong men of this beautiful, shiny chorus has been the most important work I've done in my life. It came late to me and perhaps that's the way it was supposed to be. I think all of my many years in music were preparation for this biggest and most important challenge of my life. These astonishing men have kept themselves and me on our toes for all of these years and I'm filled with love and gratitude for every moment of it. Our lives go on and how, indeed, can we keep from singing?

With much gratitude to all of you, our beloved audiences, we thank you for your support and faith in us.

With love,
Barbara Wagner, AD

*Thank You
Barb!*

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ALL WELCOME

ALL YEAR ROUND

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Tenor I

Jerrod Baldwin
Robert Black
Mark Dauria
Norm Duttweiler, Jr.*
Ronald Houk ++
Dion Johnson
G. Michael Liska
Brett Ransom
Hanford Searl, Jr.
Robert J. Szustak +*

Tenor II

Donald Behr
Jeffrey Berger
Joseph Grieco
William C. Hardy ++
Gerry Klein
Delwyn Milander
Clifford Moore, III
Scott Nachbar
Nelson Alan Neels
Roger Parris
Mark J. Peszko
Nathan E. Phillips +
Mike Rogers
Jason Ward

Bass I

Franklin G. Ball
Dominic V. Ballachino
Dave Batt
Paul Berglund
Gregory Ciupak +
Shaun Doyle, Jr.*
William H. Gardner
Andy Giarrizzo
Jeffrey C. Hunt
George Frankie Lane, III
David J. L. Lewis
Vincent Kuntz
Andy Newbert ++
Joe Puma
Jim Rigo
Sherwood 'Woody' Sipprell
Mark Smith *
Dennis C. Stuart

Bass II

Christopher S. Babbitt *
Michael Cacho
Pierre Albrecht-Carrié
William F. Donaldson
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss ++
Jason Higbee
Randy Kozlowski
Timothy H. Mahiques
David K. Mathewson +*
Ryan McKane
L. Martin Palcic
Christopher Reybrouck
Brian Rotach
Don Yager
Joseph A. Zimmerman

* Indicates Board Member
+ Indicates Section Leader
++ Indicates Associate Section Leader

The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (Continued)

Non-Singing Members

Mark Mancuso
Michael Shanahan
Andrew Pollard
Norm Boyer
Lorne Gretsinger.
Cynthia VanNess

Board of Directors

Christopher Babbitt, President
Norm Duttweiler, Jr., Vice President
David Mathewson, Secretary
Shaun Doyle, Jr.
Mark Mancuso
Andrew Pollard
Mark Smith
Robert Szustak
Christopher Reybrouck, Treasurer

Artistic Director

Barbara L. Wagner

Accompanist

Dr. David Bond

Archivist

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Christopher S. Babbitt
Gregory Ciupak
Jaime Stephan Goldfuss
William C. Hardy
Ronald Houk
Dion R. Johnson
David K. Mathewson
Andy Newbert
Nathan E. Phillips
Robert J. Szustak
Barbara Wagner



Live Out Loud

- I Wanna Hold Your Hand** John Lennon & Paul McCartney
Arr. Steve Milloy
Jerrod Baldwin, *tenor*
and *The Chorus*
- Holding Out for a Hero** Pitchford and Steinman
Arr. Steve Milloy
- Rosa Sat** Amy Dixon-Kollar
Arr. J. David Moore
- Our Children** Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens
from *Ragtime*
Christopher Babbitt and Jason Higbee
- Send in the Clowns** Stephen Sondheim
Arr. Michael Martin
- You Walk With Me** David Yazbek
from *The Full Monty*
Robert J. Szustak, Brett Ransom, Norman Duttweiler,
Mike Rogers, Jeffrey Berger, George Frankie Lane,
Robert Black and Dion Johnson
- I Can See It** Tom Jones & Harvey Schmidt
from *The Fantasticks*
Arr. Larry Shackley
Shaun Doyle and James Rigo, *baritones*
and *The Chorus*
- Expressing Yourself** Elton John
from *Billy Elliott*
Dion Johnson and Brett Ransom, *tenors*
and *The Chorus*
- In taberna quando sumus** Carl Orff
from *Carmina Burana*
- Festival Gloria** Randall Johnson

INTERMISSION

- Ritmo** Dan Davison
- Nessun Dorma** Giacomo Puccini
Arr. Robert Callaghan
- Cantique de Jean Racine** Gabriel Faure
- Avinu Malkeyn** Max Janowski
Arr. David K. Mathewson
Penny Myers, *soprano*
and *The Chorus*
- I Know Where I've Been** Marc Shaiman & Scott Wittman
Arr. Edward Connell
- Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye** Cole Porter
Arr. Steve Milloy
- Finally Here** Eric Helmuth



David Bond, *Accompanist*
Raymond Neil, *Pianist*
Christopher Hart, *Percussion*
Timothy Mroz, *Bassist*



*Please join us for a Reception
immediately following the Performance.*

Music Notes

Written by Gregory Ciupak, Dion Johnson,
David K. Mathewson, Nathan Philips, Robert J. Szustak
and Barbara Wagner

I Wanna Hold Your Hand

Written by the legendary John Lennon and Paul McCartney, this was the first single by the Beatles in 1964 to really take off in the US. One of Lennon's favorite songs, "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" starts with a falling melody and ends with a cadence with a quarter-interval, such as is commonly found in other Lennon/McCartney hits like "From Me to You". Our version of the song, which was lovingly arranged by our friend Steve Milloy, features a different spin on the song, starting as a subtle, tender ballad and building up to a moving, powerful, buoyant song.

Holding Out for a Hero

Many of us still envision that famous scene with Kevin Bacon being challenged to a game of "Chicken" on tractors whenever we hear the opening of this song. Released in 1984 by Bonnie Tyler for the soundtrack to the iconic 80's movie, *Footloose*, "Holding Out for a Hero" is always a favorite. This arrangement takes on a slightly different feel. From the Benedictine opening and its plea for salvation, a haunting piano line is added to the mix before taking off towards the finish like the "white nights on fiery steed" that are referenced here. It's driving beat and sense of urgency makes it a challenge to stay still.

Rosa Sat

Written by Amy Dixon-Kolar, Rosa Sat was the first runner-up in the *2010 Music2Life Songs for Social Change Award*. "I wrote this song right after the election of Barack Obama. I had been reading this quote numerous places and knew it had to be a song."

"Rosa sat so Martin could walk.

Martin walked so Barack could run.

Barack ran, he ran and he won so that our children could fly"

Our Children

One of the things that Fred Smalls says in his wonderful piece "Everything Possible" is "some raise children and some never do." In our case, at least two of the men in our chorus are, indeed, raising children; two families and four wonderful young boys. It's magical and possible. This heartwarming song from the musical *Ragtime* is sung by two parents who don't know each other, but are connected by their children as they play on the beach: "How they play, finding treasure in the sand, they're forever hand in hand . . .

How they dance, hearing music of their own." The music is elegant and the words are truly a blessing.

Send in the Clowns

This iconic song is from Stephen Sondheim's 1973 musical *A Little Night Music*. The character Desirée sings this song as she reflects on the ironies and disappointments of her life. It became Sondheim's most popular song after Judy Collins and Frank Sinatra recorded it in 1975.

You Walk With Me

From the 2000 Broadway stage adaptation of the film *The Full Monty*, the musical by the same name scored nine Tony award nominations, but no wins. "You Walk With Me" by David Yazbek is the culmination of the budding love affair between suicidal momma's boy Malcolm and the daredevil Ethan. Our special adaptation is a sweet reminder that you are "never alone for you walk with me", and reminds us that we will always have each other in any time of need as a member of the BGMC family.

I Can See It

"I Can See It", is a number taken from the world's longest running musical *The Fantasticks*, which debuted Off-Broadway in 1960, and is still being played to audiences around the world today. Music by Harvey Schmidt and Lyrics by Tom Jones, the *Fantasticks* is story freely adapted from an 1894 play *Les Romanesques* and tells an age old tale of young love, two fathers . . . and a wall. Two fathers wanting to unite their children in a love match, concoct an elaborate scheme to make this happen, only to have it all fall apart. The story ends well; making this one of America's endearing musical shows. Timeless songs from this score, such as "Try to Remember", have been a fabric of musical culture now for over five decades. Tonight you'll hear another, as we perform: "*I Can See It*", sung at a pivotal plot point in Act 2 of the *Fantasticks*, as the lovers break up and the young boy sets off to see the world. We've all felt that sense of wonderment when discovering something new about ourselves. "Bright lights somewhere, invite me to come there . . . and learn"; the lyrics and music sweep you away in an ebb and flow fashion, almost giving you the sense of forward motion and moving onward. Enjoy the journey through this triumph in classic American musical fare.

Expressing Yourself

"Expressing Yourself" is one of the many songs from the musical, *Billy Elliot*. Billy is a young boy from a British mining town. He is torn between the values and struggles of his close-knit, embattled community, and the lure of a future in the world of ballet. A jaded local ballet teacher, Mrs. Wilkinson, spots Billy and encourages him to try ballet. However, Billy's dad clings to

traditional notions of masculinity. He forbids his son to study ballet until he realizes it could be a ticket out-of-town that will make provide money to his relatively poor family. In “Expressing Yourself”, Billy and his cross-dressing pal, Michael, try on ladies’ frocks. It is the first time that Billy realizes the fun of trying on different types of clothing that are untraditional and taboo to many. Billy experiences freedoms that he never knew existed. Michael tells him that there is nothing wrong with “bucking the trends” and that he should do what he wants to do and wear what he wants to wear. After all, what is wrong with expressing yourself? Everyone is different. Pretty soon, you will start to feel like a different man.

In taberna quando sumus from *Carmina Burana*

Put a group of naughty monks in a tavern filled with gambling, alcohol and some “loose” women and you have yourself a song! In taberna quando sumus (*Latin for “When we are in the Tavern*) can be likened to the modern day adage “What happens in Vegas...stays in Vegas”. This drinking song is part of a scenic cantata (*Carmina Burana*) composed by Carl Orff in 1935, and is based on 24 medieval poetic collections. Sung in Latin, this number, referred to as “The Tavern”, describes in lively detail the carrying on by a group of monks as they “let down their halo” and do not think about the afterlife, but concentrate on their life today! A great song for male chorale voices, listen for the accentuated harmonic complexities and rhythmic changes that create an almost “conversational” feel that speaks of how the “*the master drinks, the soldier drinks, the priest drinks, the woman drinks*”...EVERYONE drinks. We give you, “In taberna quando sumus”... but beware; you may need some black coffee afterwards!

Festival Gloria

An exuberant contemporary setting of a traditional Latin text:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those of good will. We praise you. We bless you. We worship you. We glorify you. We give thanks to you according to your great glory.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You, who take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. You, who sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to all those of good will. Glory!

Ritmo

With its joyous and exuberant energy, “Ritmo”, meaning *rhythm*, is best performed by a large group and will be sure to make you want to leap out

of your seats. Complex part divisions along with extensive hand percussion make this piece spring to life. The hand percussion is meant to be seen as well as heard.

We will sing with joy.
With love and hope.
We will sing of peace.
We will sing of love.
We will sing with happiness and with joy.
Rhythm

Nessun Dorma

Puccini’s final opera, Turandot, is saturated with exotic characters and colorful harmonies. The tell the tale of the handsome Prince Calaf, who is given the chance to spare his life from a death sentence placed on him by the cold-hearted Princess Turandot – if he can correctly answer three riddles. Act 3 opens in gloom of night, with shadowy voices promulgating the death sentence. With a key change to a bright, strong, major mode, the Prince vows to find the answers, save his life, and win the hand of the Princess.

Our arrangement jumps to the final pages of the opera as all celebrate the power of light and love.

*No one sleeps; no one sleeps...even you, O Princes, in your cold room
Watch the stars that tremble with love and with hope.
But my secret is hidden within me; My name no one shall know, no, no,
On your mouth I will speak it when the dawn’s light shines, and my kiss will
dissolve the silence that makes you mine.*

*No one will know his name and we all must, alas, die.
Vanish, O night! Set stars! At daybreak I shall conquer!
Love! O sun! Life! Eternity! Light of the world and love! We celebrate
our happiness in the infinite sun! Glory to you! Glory!*

Cantique de Jean Racine

Cantique de Jean Racine, a setting for men’s voices of words by the 17th century dramatist and poet Jean Racine, was Fauré’s first significant composition. Written during his final year at the École Niedermeyer (the ‘École de musique religieuse et classique’), *Cantique de Jean Racine* received the composition prize in 1865. The following literal translation is by Pierre Albrecht-Carrie’.

Word equal to the most high, our unique hope,
Eternal day of the earth and of the skies
We break (tear open) the eternal silence,

Divine Saviour, cast upon us your eyes,
 Pour out on us the fire of your grace,
 That all of hell, that all of hell should flee
 at the sound of your voice.
 Scatter the languishing sleep that leads
 to forgetfulness of your laws.
 O Christ, be favorable to this faithful people
 now gathered to bless you.
 Receive the songs we offer to your immortal glory,
 and may it return overflowing with your gifts.

Avinu Malkeynu

Our Father, our King, hear our voices.
 Our Father, our King, we have sinned before thee.
 Our Father, our King, have mercy on us and upon our children.
 Our Father, our King, keep us from pestilence, war and famine.
 Our Father, our King, cause all hate and oppression to vanish from the earth.
 Our Father, our King, inscribe us for blessing in the book of life and grant us a year of happiness.

This beautiful prayer of supplication is most often sung during the solemn High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The slow, repetitive chanting you hear in this gorgeous setting by Max Janowski represents the pious pleading of this timeless prayer. Max, born in Berlin in 1912, was a prodigious composer and his settings of the prayers from the Jewish liturgy are matchless in their beauty, in my humble opinion. Some of you may remember that BGMC sang Max's setting of Sim Shalom (Grant Us Peace) with Cantor David Goldstein several years ago. And now we are fortunate to be singing Avinu Malkeynu with Penny Myers, who has been a student of David's. I had the great privilege of working with Max when I was the Music Director at Temple Beth Am many years ago. We commissioned him to compose a piece for the Temple Beth Am choir for the dedication of our newly rebuilt sanctuary. What an amazing experience it was to be able to speak live with this amazing man! Max died in Chicago at the age of 89, leaving behind a legacy of some of the most beautiful choral music ever written.

I Know Where I've Been

From the Tony award winning musical *Hairspray*, "I Know Where I've Been" is sung during a march to protest the "Miss Teenage Hairspray" pageant from excluding black teenagers, as well as the cancellation of "Negro Day" from the "Corny Collins Show". Set in Baltimore in 1962, the musical

follows the same trials and tribulations that gay people face all over the world every day, as they overcome obstacles and struggles that "we have yet to win". We sing this song with "pride in our hearts" knowing that while there are some struggles ahead for total equality, we will persevere.

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. We sing this song lovingly as we think about our time with founding Artistic Director Barbara Wagner and the legacy and love she will leave behind as she conducts her final concert series with us.

Finally Here

Eric Helmuth is a composer of choral, concert and church music with over 20 published works. His commissioned works have premiered in such venues as Carnegie Hall and Symphony Hall, Boston. When we performed our very first concert in 2002, we sang one of his beautiful love songs. We are grateful to be performing another piece nearly 10 years later. This song touches our hearts in so many ways, and so we want to dedicate this song to our friends and loved ones in the gay community and to our friends and loved ones who are always at our sides.

SAVE THE DATES

10 Year Anniversary Concert

Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 8pm
 Temple Beth Zion, Buffalo

Spring / Summer Concert Series

Friday, June 8, 2012 at 8pm
 Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 8pm
 Sunday, June 10, 2012 at 7pm
 TO BE DETERMINED

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 is now 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. 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

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.

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus takes great pride in what it has been able to do and accomplish in the first nine 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.

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

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

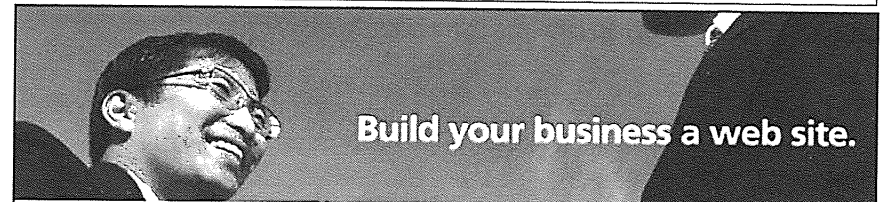
Major Concerts . . .

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, three performances)
March, 2009	Land Where the Good Songs Go
June, 2009	BGMC On Vacation
December, 2009	Joyful and Triumphant (Holiday Concert)
June, 2010	Once Upon a Time
December, 2010	Sounds of the Season

Musical Genres . . .

Classical, Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic and Modern Styles
 African-American Spirituals
 Jazz
 Contemporary
 Opera Choruses
 Du Wop
 Show Tunes
 Pop Standard
 Folk Songs of many countries
 Gospel
 Chant, and *so much more!!*



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- Customizable product catalog
- Complete E-Commerce functionality
- Real time, secure credit card processing
- Web site promotion & search engine tool
- 10 Gigabytes of storage space
- Unlimited bandwidth
- Domain Name Registration
- Email Accounts
- Live technical support
- Free software upgrades
- No lengthy contract commitments

www.GoingWeb.net

is the proud host of the BGMC website.

About the Artistic Director



Barbara Wagner, Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, has served as Minister of Music at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo for 48 years and was Director of Vocal Activities at Nichols School for more than 24 years.

The Choir at the UU Church, in addition to its Sunday morning responsibilities, enjoyed two highly acclaimed European tours: the first to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic, and the second to Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The Choir, under Ms. Wagner's direction, has recorded for American Public Radio, performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO), Amherst Saxophone Quartet and the Ars Nova Musicians. Ms. Wagner was the conductor for the Peace Odyssey Concert Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Choral singers from all over the US participated in this tour.

She ran a choral program at Nichols High School that involved more than 100 young singers, including a Concert Chorus, Women's Ensemble, Men's Ensemble and a Mixed Chamber Group. She was also guest conductor for the City of Good Neighbors Chorale, Buffalo's Gay/Lesbian chorus in the mid 1980s.

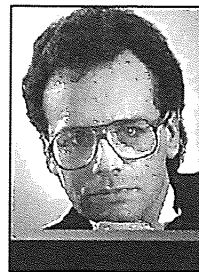
Ms. Wagner earned a BFA Degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she studied organ with Squire Haskin, and completed graduate work at Westminster Choir College. Her advanced studies include organ with Karl Richter at the Munich Conservatory and conducting with Raymond Harvey, formerly Assistant conductor of the BPO and presently Music Director of the Kalamazoo Symphony.

She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association, the Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network (founding member, former vice president and board member) NYSSMA, the American Guild of Organists (former sub-dean and program chair for the Buffalo Chapter) and the Chromatic Club of Buffalo. She was a member of the Hymnbook Commission for "Singing the Living Tradition" and served as chair of the New Hymns Task Force of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She is presently the Moderator of the 900 member Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network.

Ms. Wagner is the recipient of the Buffalo Philharmonic/Erie County Music Educators Award for Excellence in Choral Music in 2002, and has been included several times in *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*.

Ms. Wagner has proudly and joyously been privileged to serve as Artistic Director for the acclaimed Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus since its founding in 2001.

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.

About the Artist

Penny Myers, a native Buffalonian, has been serving Temple Beth Zion since October 2006.

Penny spent three years as Cantorial Soloist at Temple Sinai in Amherst. Prior to that, she was Cantorial Soloist at Judea Reform in Durham, NC. While she served Judea Reform, Penny worked as a music teacher at an inner-city elementary school in Durham, N.C. where she was a nominee for Teacher of the Year in 2000. She received her BA in Performance (Voice) from Buffalo State in 1996 where she was a primary soprano soloist for their Chamber Ensemble's Central European Tour in 1995. Penny went on to receive her M.A.T in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999. Penny is a member of the Womens Cantor Network, Guild of Temple Musicians and NATE, the National Association for Jewish Educators. Besides the bimah of Temple Beth Zion you can hear Penny around the Western New York community with the klezmir band BUPKES.

About the Artist (Continued)

In fall of 2010, Penny was quoted in the Jewish Women International magazine regarding women fulfilling mitzvah of blowing shofar. Penny will also be included in the comprehensive Journal of Synagogue Music with an essay reflecting on Hazzan Leib Glantz of the Golden Age of the Cantorate.

Penny is married to the neurologist Dr. Bennett Myers and they reside in Amherst with their three children; Hunter, Saul, and Corrinne.

Thanks So Much for
you leadership, friendship,
advisement and direction
for the past 10 years!
It's been a life changing
experience @ Tim H.

Thanks for
everything mama!
You are the world to me
Cliff

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 10th anniversary season will take place Tuesday, August 23, 2011 and Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 6 pm 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.

BGMC
The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

Barb,
Just a few words of
appreciation from
your men in the chorus...

Barb on
Words can never truly
express the impact you've
had on my life. Your
friendship, love and
guidance mean the world
to me. I love you!
Love always,
THANKS FOR XOXO
OUTSTANDING
MOTIVATION!
Vim

Thank you so much
for giving me the
opportunity to meet
and know you and
your wonderful boys.
Love you!
Lecesa

All my love
Always. Thank you
for your leadership and
friendship.

Christopher
Kuntz

A pleasure
and a distinction
to have sung under
your direction
Mark Papp

It's been a great ride!
many thanks -
Audy N.

THANK YOU FOR
EVERYTHING!
LOVE,
Bill HARDY

SHE'S A TRIP! Audy N.

I understand conducting now!

Thank you!
W. H. P.

Your love for us
is like a red
rose for all
the things
I love

you have been my inspiration!
With Donaldson
Irreplaceable! die long and prosper!
Love, Roger

Been 2 great
30+ years!
Nelson

Thank you
You have given me
so much and I can't
imagine my life
without being part of
this chorus
Love always
Jerrad.

You are
our heart!
Love & you!
Rob B.P.

Thanks
for everything,
you lovely lady.
Chuck

Barbara -
you have inspired
me by nine hundred
miles. & love you dearly
and look forward to many
years of friendship!
Love
Chris Beckwith

Barb,
Thanks for all of
the music you have
pulled out of us.
Love,
Beth

Thank you
so much, Barbara,
Beloved Barbara,
Forever always,
Bill Gardner

Love & Best
Wishes
Joe Z

Miss you
George Klein

For the love
for the love
for the love

Thank you
for the
music
Del Milander

With my
love & love!
Barb,
Steve

LOVE... WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU!
SAY HI FOR US!
LOVE...
#100

THANKS FOR ALL YOU
THINGS DONE -
MARK MANCUSO
YOU WILL BE
MISSED - IT
WOULD BE THE
SAME WITHOUT YOU!

Barb, your life & love
has changed me
for good...
love you
me

FXCC
& LOVE -
DDB

Working you things in
all good ahead
years ahead
Love you,
RFB

Seems like just
last year always
love you
love you
love you

Thanks for kick-starting
me into your
domestic
strut!

you love
my love
always

Thank you
for a fantastic
first year with BMC.
Looking forward to many
more years ahead
Jeff Berger

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
BARB!
Love,
DDB

BARB,
Thank you for
EVERYTHING!
and Bless for Future

Thank you for all the years,
for all the memories.

Love,
Thanks Jaime
for all of
you love
& dedication!

It has been
quite a run!
Thank you
DDB

Thank you
for the start of
something great!
Dominic B.

Barb, 10 years
you're the best!
I love you!
I love you!
I love you!
I love you!

Barb,
Love,
DDB

Thank you for
everything!
I love you!
I love you!
I love you!

10 years Barb!
I love you!
I love you!
I love you!

Thank you so much for your love & dedication to the chorus. You're an amazing lady. -Dion

Thank you for everything! Love you, Mom!

Thank you for forcing me to join! It's made a huge difference in my life. Love you Mama -George

Thanks for everything. We will miss you very much. Love, Mike & Jess

Barb, I love you with all my heart. Jeffery

You have been our lifeline

We love you and will miss you

Love Spiboy

Barb, you are very special. Thank you for all the love & support you give us!

Thanks for everything! Love, Es & Matt

With much love & appreciation

Barb, you inspire a big part of my life. Thank you for being a part of my life again. Love, Jay Neil

In Memory of

Charles J. Reineck

1950 - 2011

Loving Partner of 36 years to Dr. David Bond

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

- Please support our advertisers. Please buy their goods and services.
- Even if you cannot buy, please write letters. Or stop in and see them. Tell them you saw their ad in this Program and that you appreciate their support of the Chorus. They need to know.
- And please spread the word to your friends and families. Encourage them to add their voices of empowerment for local business people who support diversity and understanding.

Thank you for anything you can do.

A

AIDS Community ServicesInside Front Cover
AIDS Plus Fund of WNY.....42

B

Bison Automotive & Detail42
Boomerangs.....43
Buffalo Bears.....55
Buffalo Front Runners / Front Walkers11
Buffalo United Artists.....45

C

Cadets Federal Credit Union57
Cathode Ray41
Changes Construction42
David S. Clifford, MD, ABFP.....44
Colvin Cleaners.....47
Comfort Suites51

E

Episcopal Church of the Ascension.....40

G

Gay & Lesbian Youth Services47
Gay Bingo.....42
GoingWeb.net.....27
Great Arrow Wine & Liquor.....51
Joseph Golembek, Jr., Councilmember
North District.....47
Gurney Becker & Bourne, G. Michael Liska40
Gurney Becker & Bourne, Jim Mack.....59

H

David H. Haefner, Esq.49

I

Illios Piano60

J

Jones Pond.....55

K

Kenney Shelton Liptak Nowak LLP54
Korona Jewelry49

L

G. Michael Liska, Real Estate40

M

Jim Mack, Real Estate.....59
Mark Custom Recording Service, Inc.....59
Masterpiece Massage and Therapeutic Arts57
Louis J. Moran, Counselor.....44
Mother Nature Plant Emporium53
Mister Pizza.....49

N

Nickel City Opera52

O

Sharon Anscombe Osgood, Esq.51

P

Kay Patterson, Counselor.....53
Mark Peszko, Esq.....56
Pilgrim St. Luke's United Church of Christ.....58
Positively Main Street.....41
Premier Wines and Liquors.....59

R

Shari Jo Reich, Esq.....54
Richard J. Ridenour, CRPC.....57
Riviera Theatre50

S

St. John's - Grace Episcopal Church48

T

Temple Beth Zion46

U

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo.....44
Urban Valet53

V

Vilardo Printing.....11

W

David Weinman, DDS.....41
Mindy Patcoff Weinman, DDS.....41
Maria R. Whyte, 6th District Legislator55

Y

Your Perfect Gift Guy55

In honor of Barb's dedication to the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus from the beginning, please enjoy this tribute to her and every *concert series* she has brought to life...

A Note of Thanks to Barb

Once Upon A Time, you began a journey with a group of men that had a vision to begin *Singing with Pride* in Buffalo, NY. That journey began on a night of disbelief and disarray in our nation; September 11, 2001. As a *Fearless* leader you found the courage and strength to bring the first rehearsal of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus to life demonstrating the real spirit of "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

The men of the BGMC want to thank you for bringing us *Music from the Heart* for these past 10 seasons. You have given us *Songs of Freedom* made *Of Sweet Harmony* from the men you direct- your *Brothers in Song*. You have been a true inspiration and have taught us to *Celebrate* ourselves and to take pride in the *Colors of Our Lives*. You have guided us in bringing a message of *Hope for the Holidays*; in sharing *Sounds of Summer*; and even singing *On Vacation*.

The men of the BGMC have been able to say to an audience, *Let Us Entertain You* with song because we are *The Proud and The Passionate* men of the BGMC. Thank you for helping us to *Live Out Loud* with many *Sounds of the Season* and truly finding the *Land Where the Good Songs Go*. Our journey has been a *Joyful and Triumphant* experience; *A Winter's Tale* to tell for ages to come.

The men of the BGMC thank you for the *Connections* we have made with each other through music. We can only say, "*If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On*" and to that note we shall. We thank you for sharing your journey with us, for growing with us; and for being our sister in song.

Written by Norm Duttweiler, Jr.

*Worshipping, welcoming,
sharing God's healing love in
the city*

Sundays 10:30 am

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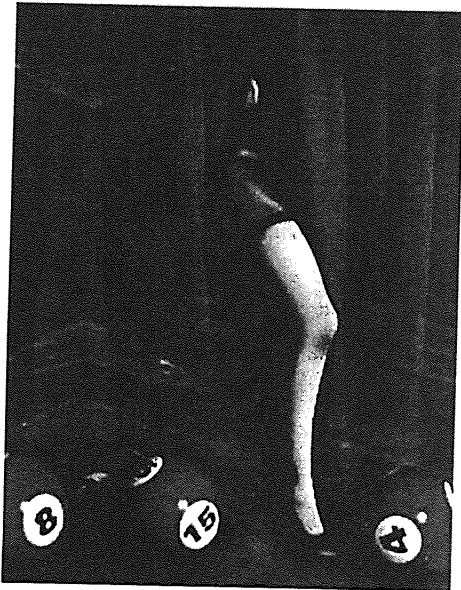
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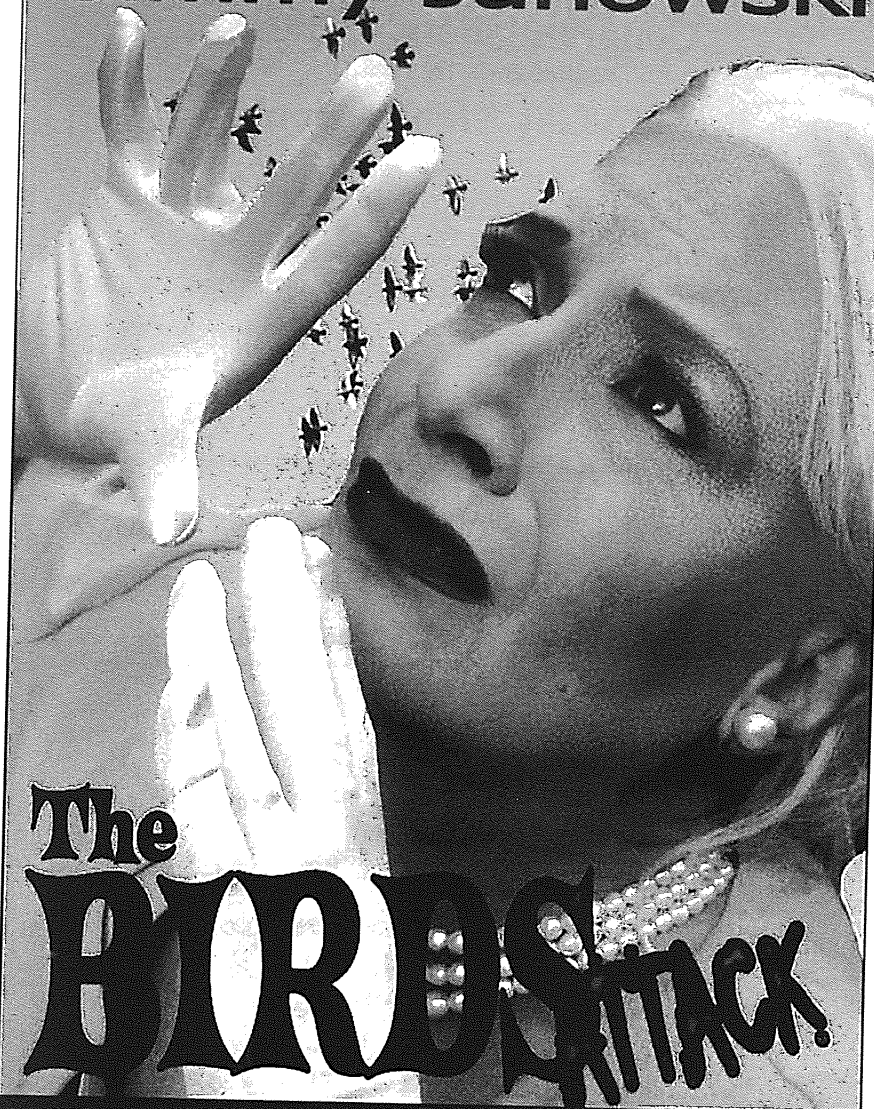
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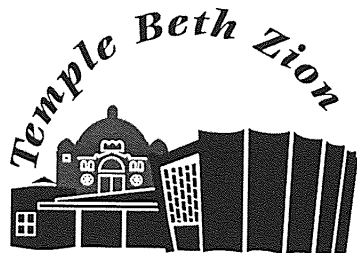
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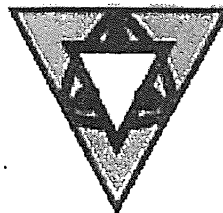


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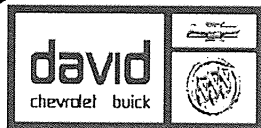
The Owl and the
Pussycat
August 18th

On A Clear Day You Can
See Forever
August 25th

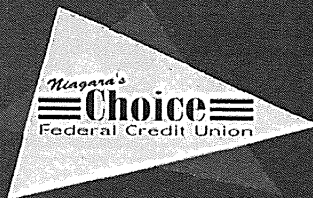
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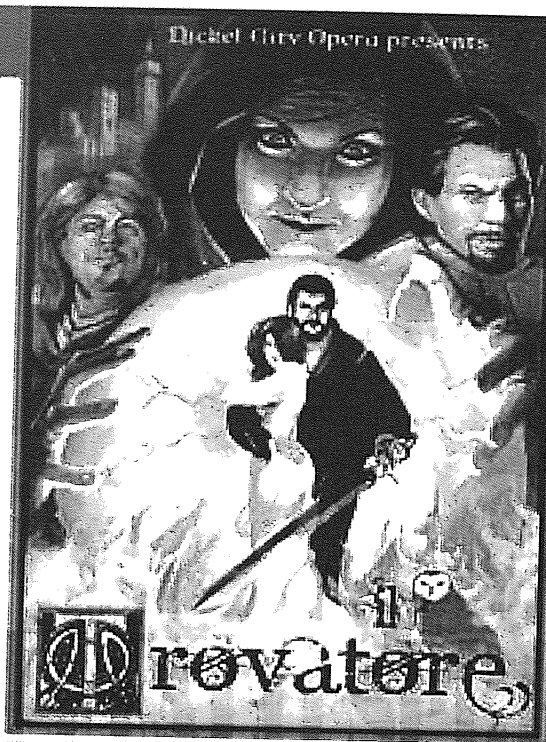
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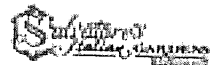
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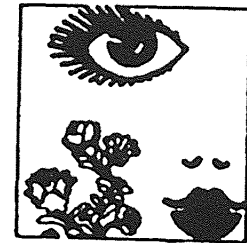
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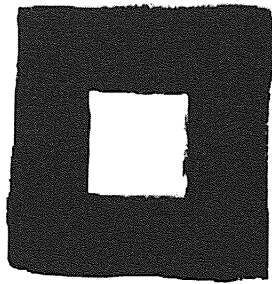
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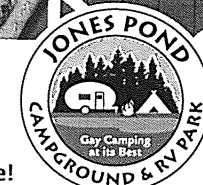
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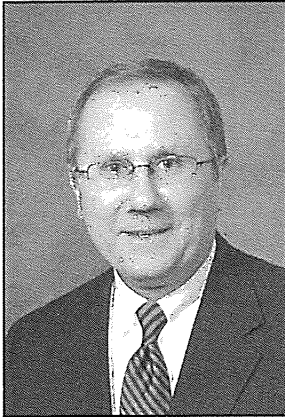
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