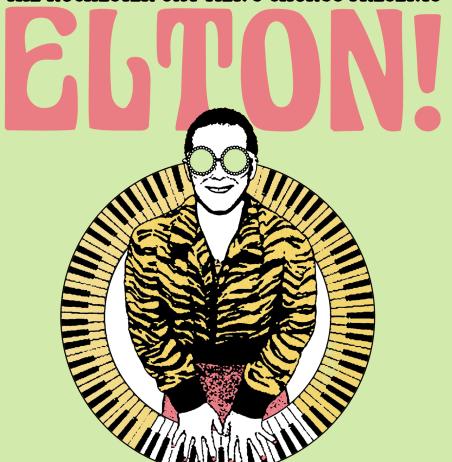
THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS



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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to this weekend's performance of **Elton**, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus tribute to gay icon and legendary singer, songwriter, pianist, composer, and philanthropist Sir Elton John. This concert has been over two years in the making.

The Chorus started rehearsing in January 2020 to perform **Elton** in March of that year but the Covid shutdown struck. COVID was still hanging over us in March 2021, so we looked to the future again. Now this most rehearsed concert in the history of the Chorus is finally upon us!

Our performance this weekend is brought to you through the generosity of Trillium Health. We are thrilled to have with us Dr William Valenti who has been on the front lines of AIDS research in the greater Rochester area from the early days of the HIV/AIDS crisis and is still actively involved in finding a cure for HIV/AIDS today.

Tonight's featured artist, Sir Elton John, has also been a major supporter of HIV/AIDS research and the hunt for a cure. Sir Elton established the Elton John AIDS Foundation in 1992, after the death of Ryan White in 1990. Since then, the foundation has become one of the leading independent AIDS organizations in the world and their mission is "to be a powerful force in the end to the AIDS epidemic."

Now, 808 days since the first rehearsal, the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is pleased and excited to bring to you the songs of Sir Elton John.

Enjoy the show.



Robert Neale Board Chair



Theodore W Smith Chair Emeritus

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Congratulations to the RGMC on its continued contributions to music & entertainment for the community.

A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to **ELTON!** The RGMC has been waiting for two years to share this with you, our beloved audience and supporters. When the world shut down in March 2020, we were a couple weeks away from presenting this, but now... to paraphrase a song we're offering this weekend... THE BITCHES ARE BACK!

You will enjoy dancing by our own Rochettes, under the choreographic genius of Jamie Lee Porteus. You'll enjoy music from The Teddy Bears, the elite auditioned ensemble of the RGMC. They are newly under the direction of Associate Music Director, and brilliant pianist, Alex Kuczynski.

The full chorus will offer music and message with <gasp> choreography. Yes, we are adding extensive choral-orgraphy to the menu! We are also expanding our horizons by singing many selections from memory. There are so many exciting new things on the way for your RGMC. I'm honored you chose to spend your time with us for ELTON!

Wilson Southerland
Artistic Director

In Memory of Rob Sweeney...



The RGMC would like to thank
Jerry Estes for his generous
donation of a Yamaha NU1 Upright
Piano. The piano belonged to
Jerry's partner Rob Sweeney who
passed away in May 2018.
The chorus has set up the piano in
the office and will be using it for
sectionals and small group
rehearsals.

Thank you, Jerry, for you continued support!

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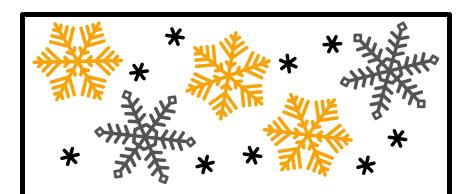
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Kevin Berry, Member at Large Sam Beach, Member at Large Bob Caruso, Member at Large Dick Madden, Member at Large

ARTISTIC STAFF:

Wilson Southerland, Artistic Director
Alex Kuszinski, Associate Music Director
Nicholas Williams, Artistic Director
Emeritus

OPERATIONS STAFF:

Jim Janssen, *Operations Director*Shane Allen, *Graphic Design*Kennan Beckstrand, *Marketing Director*R. Blaine Cox, *Media Coordinator*

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Wilson Southerland, Music Director/
Conductor
Elier Ruiz, Production Stage Manager
Jamie Lee Porteus, Choreographer
Cat Hardesty, CT Sign Language

Interpreter

Mission Statement:

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus creates social change through excellence in the choral arts.

Vision Statement:

• We, the members of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, unite proudly to seek a better world for ourselves, our community, and for our nation by sowing the seeds of harmony through the universal language of music. • We sing for ourselves to make glorious music with friends who experience the world as we do and who share our joy in standing together. • We sing for our sisters and brothers in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community to embody pride, family, and a sense of home. • We sing for our friends and supporters who join with us to rebuke ignorance and prejudice. • We sing for those unknown and unseen, awakening to who they are, in closets of oppression, or in search of community, that they may see our faces and hear our joy and know that the night is not forever and that there are friends and brothers to light their way and to welcome them home.

In Memoriam:

Ariel
David Ammering
Jacqueline Archer
Gary Bauer
Stephen Berds
Tom Carr
Steven Chabot
Bill Coleman

Bob DeGrandchamp

John DiPrima
Jeffrey Freeland
Tom Glasow
Bob Griffith
Paul Kelly
Charlie Kruppenbacher
Chuck Lundeen
Edward "Ted" Lyons

Stanley Malinowski

Chuck Mathewson Peter Nickles John Owen Paul Pape David Pellow Bob See Jim Siciliano William A Smith Bob Titus Del Titus

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Tickets are 5 for \$1, 25 for \$5, 125 for \$20.



This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Re-grants Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of The Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.



First Tenor

Robert Caruso
Cory Cummings
Kole Johnson
Terry Quataert
Daniel Reeder
Dennis W.
Rosenbaum*
Lazarus Watts

Second Tenor

Second Tenor
Sam L. Beach
Kevin Berry
Jeffrey
Elsenheimer Jr.
Ronald S.
Herman
David C. Knoll
Dick Madden
Nicholas
Schramm
David M.

Skinner*

Baritone

Evan Church

David Clinton
Peter House
Michael Kiba
Robert S.
Parsons
Sean Scott
Yu Yin Tsang
John Villani
John Yayonditte

Bass

Kennan
Beckstrand**
Marty Green
Tony Jagla
Rob Keefe
Bill Miller
Steven Randell
James Tavolaro
Charles Weber
Jorge Yacila

The Teddy Bears

Sam L. Beach
Peter House
Bill Miller
Daniel Reeder
Dennis W.
Rosenbaum
Nicholas Schramm
Jorge Yacila

Directed By Alex Kucyznski

The Rochettes

Cory Cummings Tony Jagla Robert S. Parsons Steven Price Terry Quataert Jorge Yacila

Choreographers
Jamie Lee Porteus
Donna Brett

*Section Leader

**Membership Concerns Chair

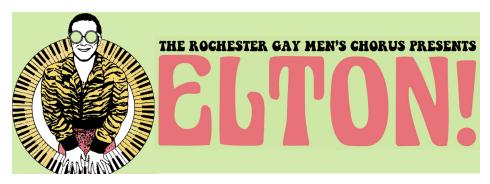
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ACT 1

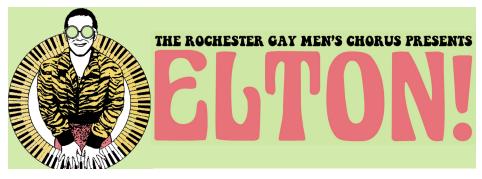
Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Goodbye Yellow Brick RoadWords and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. David Monseur
The Bitch is Back
I Guess That's Why They Call It the Blues
Can You Feel the Love Tonight?
Candle in the Wind
Your SongWords and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. Stephen DeCesare
The Teddy Bears
NikitaWords and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. Dennis W. Rosenbaum

The Rochettes

Saturday Night's Alright For Fighting

INTERMISSION



ACT 2

The Rochettes

I'm Still Standing

The Teddy Bears

Daniel.......Words and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. David Monseur Bob Parsons – Flute

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Rocket Man Words and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. Tim Sarsany

Philadelphia Freedom . Words and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. David Monseur

The One Words and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin

Arr. David Monseur

The Last Song...... Words and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. David Monseur

"I dedicate this to my mom, Shirley A. Quataert, who passed away recently.

She loved to sit in the front row and hear us sing."

Terry Quataert

Crocodile Rock...... Words and Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin Arr. Tim Sarsany

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ARTISTIC STAFF



Wilson Southerland, Artisite & Music Director / Conductor

Wilson is in demand throughout the U.S., Africa, Europe, and the Middle East as pianist, conductor, coach, and educator. He made his conducting debut to high acclaim with Philip Glass's Les Enfants Terribles at North Carolina Opera in 2012 and subsequently made his NYC soon after.

Wilson has traveled the world as a pianist, coach, assistant conductor, and recitalist at opera companies such as Opera Africa in Pretoria, South Africa, the New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv, Les Azuriales Opera in France, Si Parla Si Canta in Italy, AIMS-Graz in Austria, and the Royal Opera House in Muscat, Oman. He was one of 24 singer/pianist duos worldwide chosen to compete in the Wigmore Hall International Art Song Competition in London. Stateside, Wilson was a principal coach at

Seattle Opera for 3 seasons, as well as an associate conductor/pianist at Gotham Chamber Opera and Chelsea Opera (NYC), Opera Omaha, Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Birmingham, Opera Memphis, Spoleto USA, and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

He spends his summers as a principal conductor at The Ohio Light Opera. Wilson holds degrees in piano from Vanderbilt University and The Juilliard School, and he is currently an Assistant Professor of Opera at the Eastman School of Music.



Dr. Alex Kuczynski, Associate Music Director

Dr. Alex Kuczynski holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music (MA and PhD, piano studies in the studio of Rebecca Penneys) and Vassar College (BA in music and cognitive science). A collaborative pianist since the age of twelve, Alex had an early career accompanying in school choirs, music festivals and the church. Under real-time pressure at a young age, he quickly sharpened a diverse set of musical skills including sight reading, sight singing, playing an open score, improvisation, music theory, and the coordination of timing and interpretation while playing with other musicians. In high school, Alex competed in state-wide choral festivals as accompanist and won awards at district, regional and all-state levels in Pennsylvania. He was then employed as staff accompanist at Vassar and Nazareth Colleges

over the course of college and graduate school.

Currently, Alex serves as pianist, organist and music director at Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rochester, principal pianist and associate director of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, staff accompanist for the Geneseo Central School District, and freelance pianist for opera singers, voice studios, and collegiate instrumental soloists. In addition to concert and church accompanying, Alex also serves as pianist and music director for theater groups such as the Off Monroe Players, Rochester Association of Performing Arts, The Lyric Theatre, the Geneseo Community Players and more. Additionally, Alex continues to enjoy performing solo piano music in a range of styles from the 17th - 21st centuries. An expert teacher in both music theory and piano, Alex has served as Visiting Instructor of music theory at Nazareth College and previously as Graduate Instructor at the Eastman School of Music during the length of his graduate studies, where he taught the whole undergraduate music theory and aural musicianship curriculum. Currently, in addition to performing and music directing, Alex teaches about 30 piano students of all ages, providing a solid music education for individual pianists as they reach and exceed their goals and dreams.



Catherine J. Hardesty, CT Sign Language Interpreter

Catherine "Cat" J. Hardesty is a Nationally Certified Interpreter for the Deaf who joined RGMC as the Artistic Interpreter in 1999. She is a freelance Community Interpreter, but her favorite venue is music, especially with RGMC. She lives in Greece with her Life Partner, Robert Slater. Her son Christian and his wife Amber live in Columbus, Ohio where they are both practicing attorneys, and are the proud parents of their daughter Elana Paige!



A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO OUR DONORS

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff and Members of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus we would like to recognize and thank our donors listed below. Over the past year we have relied on your continued support more than ever to keep the chorus running. Thank you for your generosity. A special thank you to Jim Moran on establishing the James R Moran Endowment for the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus through the Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF.org).

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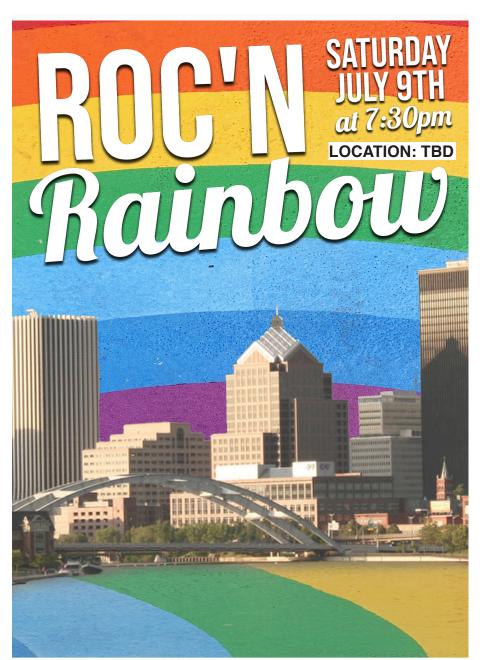
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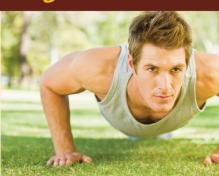
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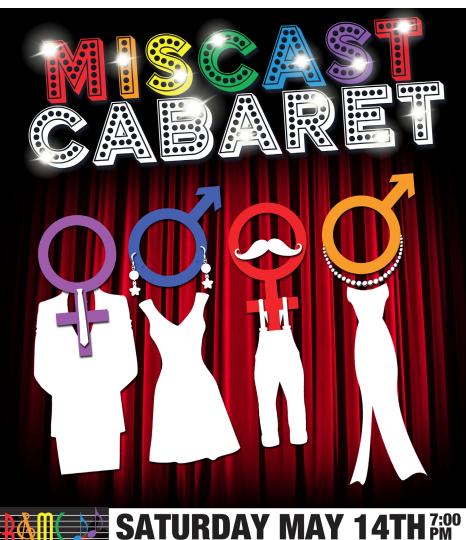


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