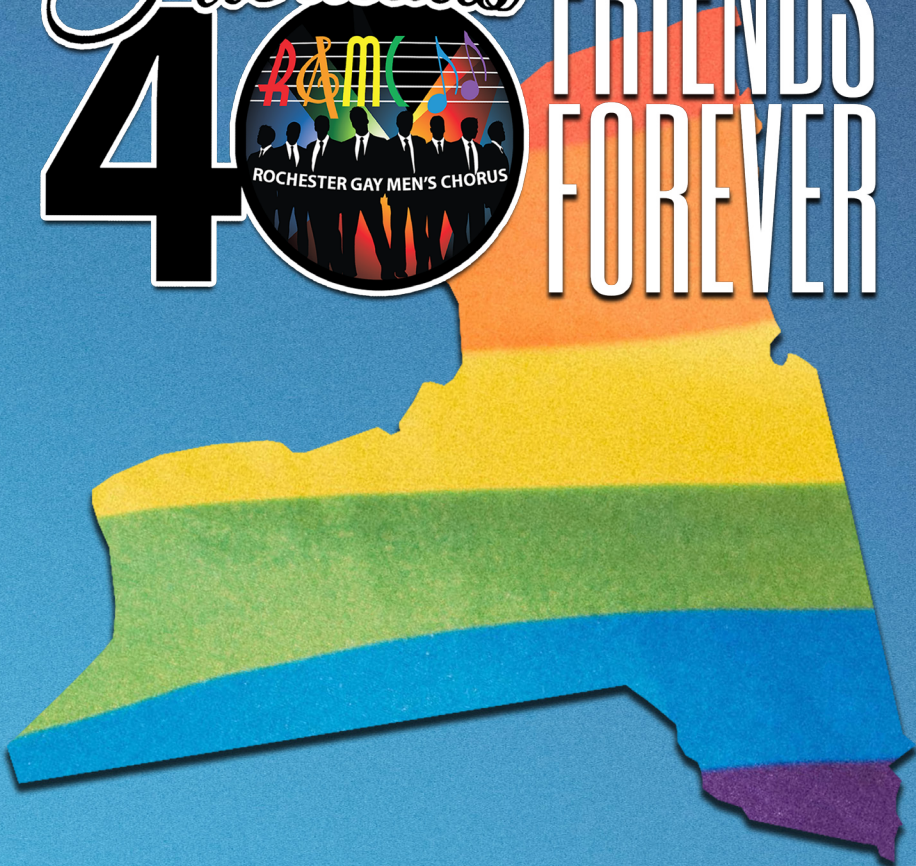


R&M ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Fabulous
4



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Letter From The Chair

Happy Pride!

Welcome to **Friends Forever**, the third and final concert of the **Fabulous 40th Season** for the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. We are pleased to have with us this evening the **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus**, under the direction of Dr Robert Strauss. Dr Strauss served nine years as Artistic Director for the RGMC just prior to Wilson Southerland our current Artistic Director. We appreciate the contributions Dr Strauss made to the RGMC during his tenure. We welcome **Transpose: Ithaca Queer Singers Alliance** from Ithaca, NY under the direction of Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum. Also joining us on stage this evening are frequent guests the Rochester Women's Community Chorus and the Flower City Pride Band.

Thomas Warfield has supported the Chorus for many years, he is gracing us this evening with a special performance to commemorate our 40th Anniversary.

This letter from the Board Chair will be my last as I will be stepping off of the Board at the end of my term in August. I appreciate the support I have been given during my seven-year tenure on the board. As a staunch supporter of the Chorus my goal was always to leave it in a stronger position than when I joined the board. We have a younger board today one with great new ideas that will move the chorus into the future.

Thank you for joining us tonight as we present **Friends Forever!**

Sit Back, Relax and Enjoy the Show!

Robert Neale
Board Chair



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on its continued contributions
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Letter From The Associate Director

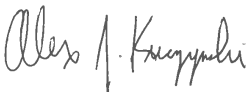
Welcome to **Friends Forever!** As our 40th Anniversary season comes to a close, the RGMC takes this time to reflect on the importance of unity, and our gratitude for all the people who have lifted the chorus up over the years – especially you, our dedicated friends and audience.

In doing so, we could not be more thrilled to welcome our upstate family of choruses, our siblings, for a pride concert extravaganza we will never forget. Tonight, we join hands in song with the Flower City Pride Band, the Rochester Women's Community Chorus, Transpose: Ithaca Queer Singers Alliance, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, Thomas Warfield, the Rochettes, VersiTone, and the Teddy Bears.

Since nobody is an island, we remember that our voices, our intentions, our expressions, and our love form a force that is greater than any individual person. With this unified energy, we present tonight's concert as a family in which we are all one. We sing in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ people and allies everywhere to remember the progress we have made and the generations who fought for it.

We also sing in a continued fight for so many within our community who face numerous forms of discrimination and an uphill battle for basic human rights, and for those in places such as Florida and Uganda where any semblance of such rights has recently seen massive deterioration of various sorts. As recent events have shown, we must always continue to stand for these rights, as any complacency results in their erosion and elimination, and the erasure of our humanity. We must particularly stand with those around us who face disproportionate amounts of discrimination, such as trans men and women, non-binary people of every possible kind, and LGBTQIA+ people of color, and every person imaginable who does not fit into a preconceived box or label. We do this because our humanity demands it.

This is why it is more important than ever to be visible, to be seen, to be heard, and to proclaim time after time that we are born this way. From the bottom of our hearts, the RGMC wishes everyone a happy PRIDE.



With Gratitude And Love
Alex Kuczynski
RGMC Associate Director



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RGMC Artistic Staff



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 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!



Wilson Southerland, Artistic & 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.

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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.

The People That Make It All Come Together

RGMC BOARD:

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Daniel Reeder, *Secretary*

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Nicholas Schramm, *Member at Large*

Cory Cummings, *Choral Representative*
Sean Scott, *Choral Representative*

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and Chuck Lundeen
Artistic Directorship*
Alex Kuczynski, *Associate Music Director*
Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

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Bob Dietch, *Pianist*
Elier Ruiz, *Production Stage Manager*
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
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We Care About Your Feedback

Help us help you. We want to make your RGMC concert experience fun and enjoyable. Please take a few minutes to tell us your thoughts about today's concert.

As a "thanks" you will be entered into a drawing for 2 season tickets for our 23-24 concert series!



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ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

First Tenor

Robert Caruso
Cory Cummings
Tripp Hanson
Terry Quataert
Daniel Reeder
Dennis W.
Rosenbaum*
Alan Van Camp

Second Tenor

Matt Bereza
Jeffrey
Elsenheimer, Jr.
David Flynn
Sam Fortunato
David C. Knoll
Dick Madden
Nicholas Schramm
David M. Skinner*

Baritone

Sam Beach
Evan Church
David Clinton*
Evan Dorscheid
David Gregory
Peter House
Michael Kiba
Robert Parsons
Sean Scott
Yu Yin Tsang

Bass

Kennan Beckstrand
Marty Green
Rob Keefe
William Kelly
James McGrath
Bill Miller
James Tavolaro**
Charles Weber*
Jorge Yacila

**Section Leader*
***Membership*
Concerns Chair

The Rochettes

Cory Cummings
Dan Flaherty
Marty Green
Anthony Jagla
Bob Parsons
Steven Price
Terry Quataert
Nicholas Schramm
Sean Scott
Riley Sullivan
Jorge Yacila

Choreographer

Jamie Lee Porteus

The Teddy Bears

Sam Beach
David Flynn
David Gregory
Tripp Hanson
Bill Miller
Dennis Rosenbaum
Jim Tavolaro
Alan Van Camp

Director/Pianist

Alex Kuczynski

VersiTone

Corey Cummings
Anthony Jagla
Sean Scott
Nicholas Schramm

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The Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus (BGMC) idea was conceived in 1999 and auditions were held in May 2001. The first rehearsal 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. More than 50 people, many not knowing each other, gathered in an eerie silence. With founding Artistic

Director, Ms. Barbara Wagner, they held hands for the first time in a community circle; anguished murmurs of meditation, grief and prayer followed. They learned the classic American hymn, "How Can I Keep From Singing?," which remains to this day the BGMC's theme song – and a continuing reminder of mutual family togetherness the BGMC always aspires to attain. The BGMC produces a vibrant sound that entertains and enlightens, touching the soul with the power of high-quality vocal music, sung honestly from the hearts of a diverse membership. Performing in a variety of venues throughout Western New York, the BGMC produces music in many styles. Listening to the changing world, the BGMC transforms this dissonance into music to fulfill its mission: delivering stories of the struggles, triumphs, celebrations, and dreams of one community through song. The BGMC softens hearts and minds with the power of this sound, creating a space to foster meaningful dialogue to understand and celebrate all that makes Western New York an exciting and thriving place to live and work.

Dr. Robert Strauss, BGMC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Dr. Robert Strauss has been praised for his sensitive, intelligent interpretation, his attention to musical and textual nuance, and his versatile tenor voice. An avid recitalist, he has presented the programs Chamber Music of Benjamin Britten, Seasons in Song and The Recital That Dare Not Speak Its Name with Eastman School of Music emeritus faculty member Benton Hess. On the stage, he has sung Pedrillo in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Peter Quint (The Turn of the Screw), Tony (West Side Story), as well as Federico in L'amico Fritz, with the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival in Urbania, Italy. In February 2016, he sang Bastianello the Younger in the premiere of the orchestrated version of John Musto's Bastianello. Strauss has also appeared as one of the tenor soloists in Rossini's Messa di Gloria in the composer's hometown of Pesaro. He has toured Italy performing opera scenes and arias from the standard Italian operatic literature with the Centro Studi Italiani Opera Festival. Having served on the voice faculty of the Fredonia School of Music since 2007, Strauss is also a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), serving on the Executive Board for the Central New York-Finger Lakes Chapter first as Auditions Chair then Vice-President, and currently as President. He holds degrees from SUNY Fredonia, UNC-Greensboro, and earned his Doctor of Musical Arts in Performance and Literature from West Virginia University and serves on the voice faculty at SUNY Fredonia.



Tenor

- David Campbell
- Norm Duttweiler, Jr.
- William Justyk
- Jim Simonis
- David Sisson
- Jeffrey Strauss
- Emiel Vizzi

Baritone

- Justin Benton
- Paul Berglund
- Jim Calvalcoli
- James Le
- Andy Newbert
- Sherwood Sipprell
- Ron Sutz
- Ralph Valente

Bass

- Lorne Gretsinger
- Jason Higbee
- Vincent Kuntz
- Tim Mahiques
- Brian Rotach
- Mark Smith



Ithaca Queer Singers Alliance is a non-auditioned community chorus that celebrates queer, trans, and non-binary identities through the joy of singing. Our mission is to create beautiful music in a supportive and accessible environment which empowers LGBTQIA+ singers. Our membership welcomes singers of all genders and sexualities, and any background, disability, voice type, or experience level, including those with changing voices and fluid identities.

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jennifer Lawrence Birnbaum is a music teacher, choral director, and performer with music education degrees from Ithaca College and Columbia University. She is the co-founder of Justice Choir Ithaca and has held choir director positions at many local churches. In addition, she was the conductor of the Interfaith Pride Chorus (2019) and the Ithaca Ecumenical Choir (Mozart Missa Brevis – 2012). During her time in New York City, she sang professionally and taught at the Little Red Schoolhouse/Elisabeth Irwin High School. She is now the music teacher at Namaste Montessori School, directs the adult recorder ensemble at the Community School of Music and Arts, serves on the boards of various non-profits, sings with the Cayuga Vocal Ensemble, and maintains a private studio.



Transpose Members 2022-2023 season

participating in the RGMC celebration concert

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Emily Altschuler | Em Haak | Sona Minasian # |
| Shelby Buche # | Katt Hass # | Eric Nicholson # |
| Chuck Burch | Caleb Harned | Stephen Nunley # |
| Jamie Dye # | Jonah Hirst # | Alex Pasqualini # |
| Lee Fenyes # | Skye Ink | Chase Penick # |
| Kirsten Ferguson # | Mark Lawrence # | Emily Richards |
| Martha Fitzgerald | Zeke Lawrence # | Otto Sanaker |
| Even Fae # | Em Lighthall # | Anissa Sanford |
| Myles Gideon # | Noa Livernois # | Arrow West # |
| Sasa Grodsky # | Kerr Mesner # | |



Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

- Hey Look Me Over* Music by Cy Coleman
arr. Clay Warnick
- Crazy Little Thing Called Love*..... Music & Words by Freddie Mercury
arr. Kathleen McGuire
- I'm So Excited*..... Music & Lyrics by June, Bonnie & Anita Pointer
Arr. David Maddux
- The Way You Look Tonight*..... Dorothy Fields, Jerome Kern
arr. Chris Pethers

The Teddy Bears

- Big Girls Don't Cry*..... Marco Montagnini
arr. David Maddux

Rochester Women's Community Chorus

- Lead With Love*.....by Melanie DeMore
- Crowded Table*..... by The Highwomen
- You Learn (from Jagged Little Pill: The Musical)*by Alanis Morissette

Transpose: the Ithaca Queer Singer's Alliance

- Come Love Away*.....Brendan Taaffe
- I Am a Voice that Sings*..... Michael Bussewitz-Quarm,
lyrics by Ronald W. Cadmus

*Soloists: Kerr Mesner, Eric Nicholson, Myles Gideon
Piano: Sona Minasian*

- Love Is Love Is Love*.....with Friends

Thomas Warfield

- Inside the Light*..... Thomas Warfield

- - - Intermission - - -



Flower City Pride Band

- Pompeii*..... Words & music by Dan Smith
arr. Tom Wallace and Tony McCutchen
- Firework*..... Words & music by Mikkel Eriksen, Tor Erik Hermansen,
Esther Dean, Katy Perry, and Sandy Wilhelm
arr. Michael Brown
- Africa* Words & Music by David Paich and Jeff Porcaro
arr. Ralph Ford
- Mr. Brightside*..... Words & music by Brandon Flowers, Dave Keuning,
Mark Stoermer, and Ronnie Vannucci
arr. Matt Conaway and Jack Holt
- Poker Face* Words & music by Stefani Gennanotta & RedOne
arr. Tom Wallace and Tony McCutchen
- You Can't Stop the Beat* Music by Marc Shaiman
Lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman
arr. Michael Brown

The Rochettes

Medley of Songs Showcasing a Brief Rochettes Dance History Evolution.....featuring guest dancers including Erika Atkinson

VersiTone

Proud Mary..... by Tina Turner

Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus

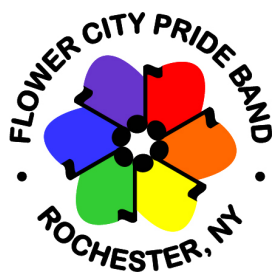
- I Life My Voice* Words & Music by Andrea Ramsey
- Peace* Music by Martin J. Wimmer
Words: Chinese Proverb/Latin Traditional
Lorne Gretsinger, soloist
Jack Oliver, flute
- Names* Words & Music by Mark Alan DeWaters
Javannah Jasmeen, reader
Scott Shutts, soloist
Hannah Vanderbilt, percussion

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

- I'm Still Standing*..... Words & Music by Elton John and Bernie Taupin
- Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend* Words by Leo Robin,
Music by Jule Styne
arr. Steve Milloy

All Choruses

The Great Spirit of Love Tony Jones and David Conte



The Flower City Pride Band has been marching with pride in Rochester NY since 1994. We are an all-volunteer community band open to adult LGBTQ+ musicians and allies. Flower City Pride performs at community events throughout western New York. Join us to march this summer! All LGBTQ+ friendly musicians are welcome to join, on any traditional band instrument or color guard. There are no auditions, and we work with all skill levels.

We perform popular music from the 1950's to today's hits to bring fun and enjoyment to all ages at community events throughout the greater Rochester area.



Benjamin Storer

Conductor / Assistant Artistic Director

Ben is the Assistant Artistic Director for the Flower City Pride Band. In addition to being a trombone player and part-time conductor, Ben is a research associate at the University of Rochester, studying ocean energy dynamics. In his free time, Ben enjoys cycling, walking, playing board games, and tending his growing plant collection. He is also a Trekkie; live long and prosper.



Flute:

Cindy Ames, Kathy Grace, Denise Lowery, Sarah Marasco

Clarinet:

Elizabeth Kirchner, Rebecca Knipp, Lisa Micciche

Soprano Sax:

Trey Pachuki

Alto Sax:

Judy Ames, Terri Cvetan, Anna Michel, Emily Robbins, Micah Wiesner, Erica Zak

Tenor Sax:

Nissa Padden, JJ Payne

Bari Sax:

Cindy Lau, Sarah Limberger

Trumpet:

Emily DiPaola

Trombone:

Axel Lubascher, Faye Vodicka, Laura Whitbeck

Tuba:

Keith Reitz

Percussion:

Tim Adams, Chrissi Heil, Kayla Jaruzel, Steve Lau, Franz Stegemann



The Rochester Women's Community Chorus

(RWCC) is a non-profit, non-auditioned chorus dedicated to using music as the vehicle for messages of peace, hope, understanding, and cooperation within the global community. We were founded in 1978 as a women's chorus, and we welcome any singers who can sing in the treble range

and are comfortable singing under the banner of the Rochester Women's Community Chorus. We welcome everyone to join our extended family as part of our

chorus, as a volunteer, or by attending our concerts.

Kristy Houston, Music Director

Originally from the Flint, Michigan area, she began singing with the RWCC when she first moved to Rochester in 2006. She took on the role of conductor and music director in 2011. Kristy has a B.Mus.Ed. from the University of Michigan-Flint and a M.Mus.Ed. from Indiana University. Her conducting influences and mentors include Mary Alice Stollak, Stephen Pratt, Dr. Mary Goetze, and Dr. Joe Miller. She has been teaching band, choir, and general music for twenty five years, and has been the band director at The Harley School since 2010.



Soprano 1:

Kim Benedetto
Amy Ewell
Genevieve Johnson
Stuber
Bonnie MacLeod
Laurie Moats
Susan Papa

Alto 1:

Kat Alberti
Kimberly Brown
Val Burrows
Amanda DiLella
Chloe Fisher
Lidia Kubicar-Kunz
Katy McNeill
Ginny Munson
Katie Valentin
Amy Zelazny

Alto 2:

Jen Feldman
Kelly Kamish
Shauna O'Toole
Amy Prenatt-Michaux
Karen Treadwell-Collins
Jessica Wicks

Accompanist:

Spencer Haynes

Soprano 2:

Karen Abbas
Jackie Alasimi
Carol Baumeister
Susan Baruch
Roxanne Burns
Diane Cianca-Tomasetti
Robbin DeHollander
Tina Gergely
Mel Kubicar-Kunz
Laura Leeper
Mandy Piazza
Jennifer Vallerand
Beth Wood



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welcome here!”**

Thomas Warfield



Thomas Warfield is an international performing artist born in Rochester, NY and has lived in 6 countries. He's performed on stage, television and film, in more than 100 cities worldwide; as a singer, dancer, actor, model, composer, choreographer, director, producer, educator, activist and poet... Performing at the Metropolitan Opera, 'The Yard' on Martha's Vineyard, a circus in Japan, 3 U.S. prisons, with Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Utah Symphony, Gateways Orchestra, a Command

Performance for Queen Elizabeth in London, and an east-coast tour of his original project *AstroDance* - combining dance and astrophysics funded by the National Science Foundation. This FLI he makes his debut with the Boston Symphony. He's founder/artistic director of 33yr old PeaceArt, a global peace organization.

For 25yrs Thomas Warfield has been Director of Dance at the Rochester Institute of Technology. He was a National Coalition Building Institute trainer facilitating workshops on racism and conflict resolution. He is the recipient of numerous awards including: NYS Commendation Award, Eastman School of Music Centennial Award, US Congressional Recognition Award, United Nations Peace Award, American Ethical Union Award, Empire State Pride Agenda LGBTQ Champion Award, Off-Off Broadway Award and awarded honorary citizen of Macau. He's served on many boards: City of Rochester AC3 (chair), Arts in the Loop, World Dance Alliance (Hong Kong), ARTWalk (president), Rochester Arts Council, Young Audiences, Greentopia, Rochester City Ballet, Gateways Music Festival, Rochester Area Community Foundation, Rochester Fringe Festival, Rochester Chamber Orchestra, NYS Association of Teaching Artists, NY Dance Festival, Garth Fagan Dance, RPO and former president of the Wm. Warfield Scholarship Fund.

His *Global Poem In Praise of Peace* has garnered global recognition in letters from composer Leonard Bernstein and Mother Teresa and hundreds of others. Mr. Warfield's first solo album, *Celebrate the Moment*, has sold throughout the world and can be found on itunes.com and Spotify.



The Rochette's Origin Story

In the summer of 1986 members of RGMC saw and fell in love with the Emerald City Stompers, a tap-dancing troupe from Seattle. The fledgling RGMC had flown to Minneapolis to attend the second Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) festival, and there discovered not only beautiful choral singing, but dance!

Upon returning from Minneapolis the chorus decided that Rochester needed a dance troupe too! Telephone calls started to Jerry Algoser who recommended Cayla Allen as a potential choreographer, and she said YES for the next 20 years! It was decided that the initial troupe would be limited to 8 dancers and auditions were held. The first Rochettes were David Merrit, Michael Holden, David Knoll, David Skinner, Randy Wiscomb, Charles Weber, Chuck Lundeen and Bruce d. McClung who is credited with naming the "Rochettes" in homage to the Radio City Rockettes!

With the first Rochette troupe assembled, the first performance would be SIX WEEKS later for a debut at a GALA exchange concert in Detroit, Michigan! From there the Rochettes would go on to dance in cities stretched across the map from Seattle to Tampa, from Montreal to Toronto, from Chicago to Jones Pond Campground!

For many years the Rochettes sang while tap dancing. Remember "On the Good Ship Lollipop" in Shirley Temple drag? That's a good example of what the Rochettes brought to many concerts. Some would say the dancers were "lavender lovelies" providing a relief valve during more serious concerts. Others have said of our dance, "It was another vulgar spectacle." We can own both of those descriptors as we've chosen to celebrate our bodies and experiences as gay men through dance.

What seems a distant, though important part of our history is that the RGMC and the Rochettes were born during the beginning of the AIDS crisis. Standing up and singing for and dancing for our lives was a reality. With gay men, lovers, and friends dying around us, it was imperative that we bring beauty and laughter and dignity into our shared lives and into the public sphere.

For nearly 40 years the Rochettes have taken to the stage, often in colorful costumes, with as many as 15 dancers and as few as five. To date 73 men have stepped into dance shoes as a Rochette and all have been shaped by dedicated choreographers like Cayla Allen, Ericka Atkinson, and Jamie Lee Proteus. In dance studios across Rochester, our choreographers have taken us from basic tap to jazz squares to hip hop - all on a count of 8 - and we are grateful!

We find ourselves in the year 2023 and again (or still) we are singing and dancing for our lives; this time in the face of legislation aimed at erasing our identity and denying our trans siblings healthcare. As long as we have breath and can count to 8, we won't stop dancing for the inclusion of, and celebration of our LGBTQ+ lives. **Thank you, Rochester, for your support all along the way.**

2023-24 SAVE *the* DATES

❖ Holidays Around the World ❖

Hochstein Performance Hall
Saturday 12/2/23 at 7:30 PM
Sunday 12/3/23 at 3:00 PM

THE ROCHESTER GAY MENS CHORUS

LIVE IN COLOR

HOCHSTEIN PERFORMANCE HALL

SATURDAY 3/23/24 AT 7:30 PM
SUNDAY 3/24/24 AT 3:00 PM

RGMC AT THE TONY'S

HOCHSTEIN PERFORMANCE HALL

SATURDAY 7/6/24 AT 7:30 PM



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).

Maestro (\$2500 & Over)

Bob Caruso & Dennis
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Marche
James Moran
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Conductor (\$1000 - \$2499)

Mark Ellenwood
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Robert Neale
William Valenti
& James Wolk
Alan Van Camp
& Rob Anderson
Sally & Jamie
Whitbeck
John Williams

Friends (Under \$125)

Lon Baratz & Joseph Arena
Lee Beckhusen &
Carrie Klinge
Nancy Brown
Tom Burke
Mary Callaway
Edwin Charny
David Clinton
Mallory DePew
Carol & Dana Ebersole-
Weiss
Joanne & Robert Everts
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Daniel Flaherty
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Richard Lundeen
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Prima (\$125 - \$249)

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A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU TO OUR DONORS

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"In memory of my
dear favorite Cousin
Chuck! Will always
love you & think of
your beautiful voice &
spirit."
Jerry Estes
Joanne & Robert Everts
Pete Fedele
Patti Follansbee &
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Wayne Wichern "In
loving memory of a
member of the chorus
& a dear friend when I
lived in Rochester"
Jennifer Galvez Caton
"We Love you.
Jennifer & Kevin!"
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Sandra Halleran

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Slater
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Cowell
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Gibson
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"Chuck was a dear
fellow RGMC bass &
friend, & is sorely
missed."
Robert Neale
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memories of a truly
special person."
Daniel Reeder
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Arlene Sherman &
Noreen Mastro
Eric Shoen-Ukre
"Chuck was a
delightful man & I'm
happy to donate in
his memory. I fondly
remember him & John
sitting in the audience
whenever I was on
stage singing."
Mark Smith
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Mike Tiss
Michael Touhey & Ron
Berry
William Valenti & James
Wolk
Wanda Wakefield &
Pamela Sue Bakst
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Hampton
Monica Weis
Sally & Jamie Whitbeck

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Marche` - In Memory of
Michael Aman

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- In Memory of John
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Parris - In Memory of
John Owen

Joanne & David Poland
- In Memory of Chuck
Lundeen

Mike Tiss - In Memory
of Michael Fincham

David Gratzer - In
Memory of Chris
Manos

Do you LIKE TO SING?



The RGMC is looking for new singers and volunteers. If you would like to join us, we would love to talk to you. Our next New Member Meet & Greet will be in mid August for our holiday concert, **Holidays Around the World**.

Rehearsals start on Thursday September 7th at 7:00 PM. Both events will be held at the Christian Coimmunity Church, 2647 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14624.

For more information visit www.thergmc.org join-us or email newmember@thergmc.org

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is proud to be members of the following organizations:

GALA Choruses

The mission of GALA Choruses is inspiring and strengthening member choruses to change their worlds through song. Founded in 1982 by fourteen choruses, GALA Choruses is the world's leading international choral association for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied choruses. For more information about GALA Choruses and its programs, visit www.galachoruses.org.

Chorus America

Chorus America empowers singing ensembles to create vibrant communities and effect meaningful change by offering services that promote artistic achievement, organizational strength, and advocacy. Founded as the Association of Professional Vocal Ensembles in 1977 to gain recognition for professional choruses, today Chorus America represents hundreds of choruses of every kind throughout North America and beyond. For more information visit www.chorusamerica.org.

The Greater Rochester Choral Consortium

The Greater Rochester Choral Consortium was organized in 1996 in order to anticipate and avoid scheduling conflicts among choral groups in the Greater Rochester area. It has since grown to 28 member groups varying in size and makeup, embracing some 800 singers of all ages. Their mission is to enrich the Rochester community's cultural environment by fostering the choral arts. For more information about GRCC visit www.choral-rochester.org.

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