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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Welcome to Holly-Lujah!!

It is such a pleasure to see you here at Hochstein for our first in-person concert since the beginning of the pandemic. It has been almost two years since the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus has had the opportunity to perform live. The RGMC and Rochettes are here today performing a mix of seasonal music that expresses how grateful we are to have supporters such as you. Today's performance is brought to you through the generosity of Bruce & Sheron Marche.

The Not-For-Profit Performing Arts community in Rochester has been severely impacted during the past eighteen months. Many of our peers have been and still are on hiatus, not RGMC. We found new and inventive ways to bring our music to the community. During that time our Chorus membership rolls dropped by over fifty percent. Our 39th Anniversary Year brings with it the opportunity for reinvigorating and rebuilding the chorus. We can't do any of this without the support of our patrons, supporters and community. We have many opportunities for support coming up, first and foremost is our 2021-22 concert season; tickets for *Elton!* and *ROC'n Rainbow* can be purchased online at www.thergmc.org. We have our winter fundraising campaign going on now and our major fundraiser the *Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball* on February 26th 2022.

We are back! Our 2021 – 2022 concert season will be fun and exciting for all.

Please sit back and relax as the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus presents to you *Holly-Lujah!*

On behalf of all of us at the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus *Happy Holidays!!*

PS: Our traditional Cookie Social after the performance will not be held this year due to Covid.

Robert Neale The RGMC Board Chair



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.

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

A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



HOLLY-LUJAH, we're back, baby! Our last public performance was at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester on February 22, 2020. That truly feels like a lifetime ago. We are brimming with cheer to be back making music for you this holiday season! The word 'Hallelujah' means 'a shout or song of praise or thanksgiving,' and is used as an expression of gratitude and adoration.

The RGMC started practicing for you on September 9, 2021, an incredulous 546 days after our last in-person rehearsal on March 12, 2020. We are grateful to you, our audience, the RGMC board, and to everyone who has supported us during these difficult months. After a virtual

holiday concert last year, we are filled with HALLELUJAHS to be on stage singing live for you in 2021. More specifically, we're overflowing with them: Randall Thompson's 'Alleluia', Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah', and Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus'. Get ready to dance in your seats to the gyrations of the Rochettes, the RGMC's acclaimed dance troupe. We're also filling you with that old-time Hollywood holiday spirit, featuring the feel-good hits 'We Need a Little Christmas', 'Believe', and 'White Christmas'. We take a walk on the humorous side with 'I Saw Daddy Kissing Santa Claus' and 'Text Me Merry Christmas', and we offer our thanks to you, our patrons, by singing 'Gracias a la vida.'

Sit back and let the warmth and comfort of the holiday season wash over you. We are so happy you're here with us this weekend!

Wilson Southerland Artistic Director

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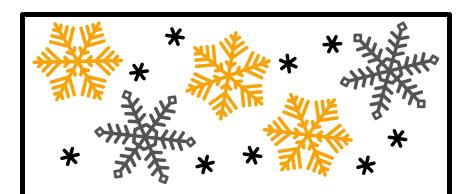
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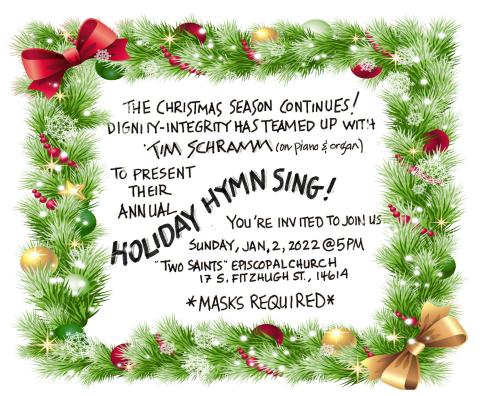


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Wilson Southerland, *Artistic Director*Alex Kuszinski, *Associate Music Director*Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

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Wilson Southerland, Music Director/
Conductor
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

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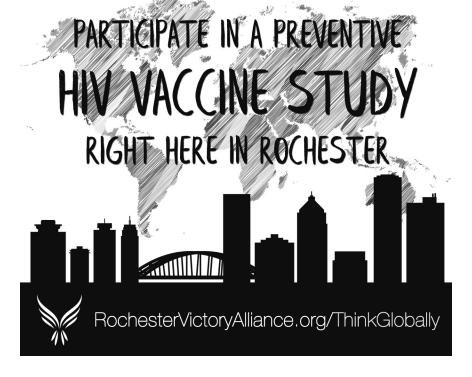
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THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

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

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

Baritone
Peter House
Michael Kiba
Yu Yin Tsang
John Villani*
Steve Witzberger

Bass
Kennan
Beckstrand**
David Curran*
Rob Keefe
James Tavolaro
Charles Weber
Jorge Yacila

*Section Leader

**Membership Concerns Chair The Rochettes
Cory Cummings
David Curran
Terry Quataert
Steve Witzberger
Jorge Yacila

Jamie Lee Porteus Choreographer

The Teddy Bears
Sam Beach
Kennan
Beckstrand
David Curran
Peter House
Dennis W.
Rosenbaum
Nicholas Schramm
Jorge Yacila

Alex Kuczynski Director

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Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
We Need a Little Christmas
One Light (A Hanukkah Song)
Music based on Tua Bethlem Dref, a Traditional Welsh Carol Words and arrangement by Evan Ramos
What a Wonderful World/I Love You
Arranged by Craig Hella Johnson Accompanied by The Teddy Bears
Gracias A La Vida
Words and music by Violeta Parra, arr. Willi Zwozdesky
The Rochettes
Tin Soldier Puppet Dance/Hallelujah
By Holly Johnson, arr. Steve Witzberger
Special Music Announced from Stage
Rochester Gay Men's Chorus
By Tommie Connor
Parody lyrics and arrangement by Steve Milloy
Hallelujah Chorus
By Georg Friedrich Händel
INTERMISSION
The Decketter
The Rochettes Get HappyBy Judy Garland
Special Music Announced from Stage
The Teddy Bears
The Holly and the lvy (English Carol)
Arr. Walter Ehret, Piano Accompaniment arr. By Alex Kuczynski



> *AUDIENCE SING-A-LONG* Angel We Have Heard on High It Came Upon a Midnight Clear Joy to the World

Hallelujah...... Words and music by Leonard Cohen, arr. Ethan Sperry

Believe Words and music by Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard, arr. Mark Haves

Sing-A-Long Lyrics

"It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled. and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains. they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

"Angel We Have Heard on High"
Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Come to Bethlehem and see
Him Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

"Joy To The World"

Its Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing.
Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy,

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Do YOU LIKE TO SING?



Have you ever wanted to sing with the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, or do you want to again? Have you ever wanted to feel like a star?

The chorus welcomes new singers and previous members for the first rehearsal of *Elton!* Voice placements will be held Thursday January 6th, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Location to be announced on our website soon!

For more information, visit our website at: www.THERGMC.org/join-us or email wsoutherland2thergmc.org

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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, Guest 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!



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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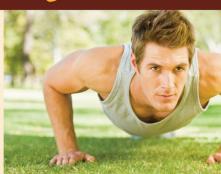
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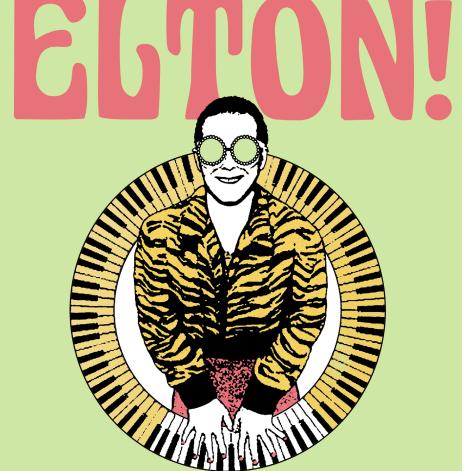
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