



THE ROCHESTER GAY MENS CHORUS

# LIVE IN COLOR

HOCHSTEIN PERFORMANCE HALL

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



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# Letter From The Co-Chairs

Good evening, esteemed guests and supporters of the arts,

On behalf of the **Rochester Gay Men's Chorus** and its dedicated members, it is our distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you to our **"Live in Color"** concert.

As Co-Chairs of the Board, we are privileged to witness the remarkable dedication and talent that our chorus members bring to every rehearsal and performance. Today we come together not just as individuals but as a community of music lovers, bound by the power of harmonies and melodies.

Tonight's concert is a celebration of diversity, a tribute to the rich tapestry of voices and stories that have shaped the world of music. We come together not only to appreciate the extraordinary talent of our performers but also to acknowledge and amplify the voices of artists who have, for far too long, been underrepresented in the spotlight.


Music has a profound ability to break down barriers, bridge divides, and illuminate the shared human experience. By focusing on the works of artists of color, we aim to showcase the depth, brilliance, and diversity of their contributions to the musical landscape.

As we immerse ourselves in the melodies and rhythms that will fill this space tonight, may we open our hearts and minds to the beauty and diversity of the human experience. May we celebrate the voices of artists of color whose contributions have enriched our lives and shaped our cultural landscape in profound ways.

Tonight, let us come together as one community, bound by our shared love of music and our commitment to embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion in all its forms. May the songs you hear tonight ignite your spirits, lift your souls, and remind you of the extraordinary power of music to heal, inspire, and transform.

Once again, welcome, and thank you for being a part of this extraordinary evening. May the music we create together tonight resonate long after the final notes have faded away, filling our hearts with joy, our spirits with inspiration, and our souls with hope.

Musically yours,



**Jeffrey Elsenheimer, Jr and Nicholas Schramm**  
*Co-Chairs, RGMC Board of Directors*

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



# Letter From The Interim Artistic Director

"Let's get loud! Turn the music up to hear that sound. Let's get loud! Ain't nobody gotta tell you what you gotta do. If you want to live your life, live it all the way and don't you waste it. Every feeling, every beat can be so very sweet, you gotta taste it. Life's a party make it hot, dance don't ever stop, whatever rhythm. Every minute, every day, take them all the way, you gotta live them. Let's get loud!"

On behalf of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, welcome everyone to "RGMC: Live In Color!" It's no secret that music with roots in BIPOC communities has overwhelmingly determined the course of collective musical evolution around the world. Today's concert is meant to be a rousing celebration of such music, and particularly the way in which BIPOC artists have shaped our lives and experiences collectively. As with any theme, "Live In Color" can only be a selective representation of music written and/or performed by BIPOC artists and cultures. While we wish we could sing a song from every background and every tradition, such a feat would be impossible in the short time we have together. Fortunately, with such distinguished guests as Ryan Russell on drums, Terry Keach on cello, Bob Parsons on flute, the ECMS Gamelan Ensemble, as well as our own Rochettes, VersiTone, Teddy Bears, and chorus-member instrumentalists, we have quite the variety to put on today! A kaleidoscopic concert both in terms of musical styles and traditions.

The chorus repertoire in particular consists of several American popular songs from recent decades, with an emphasis on songs written and championed by African American and Latinx American artists. These are all songs with which RGMC singers feel a strong connection. Whether it be the respect and love for oneself reflected in Whitney Houston's "The Greatest Love Of All;" or the love we feel for those who have passed away in Janet Jackson's "Together Again;" or the zest for living every moment of life to the fullest, as seen in "Vivir Mi Vida" and "Let's Get Loud;" or the humorous over-the-top attitude and self-confidence enshrined in Lizzo's "Juice;" or the reminder in Shakira's "Try Everything" that nobody is perfect, and to succeed one must fail and try again – these songs all inspire us in our lives in one way or another. But not limited to popular music, we also sing a recent classical choral work by African American composer Reginald Wright entitled "Invictus," which portrays the profound awakening of an individual to the realization that they are the master of their fate. We are also thrilled to perform a traditional Lakota Sioux Spiritual entitled Wankantanhan Hotan'Inpe ("From above, they are making their voices heard") – one of a limited selection of traditional Native American works available in published arrangement in western music notation by two-spirit Lakota composer Linthicum-Blackhorse.

The RGMC is also especially grateful to be joined by the ECMS Gamelan Ensemble in today's concert, in which we will all be whisked away to the island of Bali with the percussive sounds of traditional Indonesian gamelan music. If you have not heard such music before – and certainly even if you have – you are in for a rare and wonderful experience.

Thank you always for your continued support of the RGMC.  
Without further ado – LET'S GET LOUD!

With love and gratitude,

**Alex Kuczynski**

RGMC Interim Artistic Director



*Alex J. Kuczynski*

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# RGMC Artistic Staff



## **Dr. Alex Kuczynski, Interim Artistic 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, interim artistic director of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, staff accompanist for the Genesee 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 Genesee 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.



## **Bob Dietch, Principal Pianist**

A local career musician, many will remember Bob behind the piano at Tara, where he entertained regularly for the majority of its 30-year run in downtown Rochester.

He is an alumnus of SUNY Fredonia School of Music, where he was degreed cum laude in their highly selective Sound Recording Technology program, and inducted into Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society.

Over the years, Bob has enjoyed music-directing and performing for a variety of private and community events, schools, and theatre groups including Blackfriars, Geva, RAPA, OFC Creations, Greater Rochester Repertory Company, Downstairs Cabaret, Rochester Children's

Theatre, East Rochester and Fairport High Schools. He was honored by the Theatre Association of New York State with an Excellence in Vocal Direction award for his work on ETC's Falsettos.

Bob is the longtime collaborative pianist for West Irondequoit Central School District's Choral Music program, the Traveling Cabaret and Temple Emanu-El.



## **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!

**Music comes in  
so many colors.**



**Thank you, RGMC,  
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# The People That Make It All Come Together

## RGMC BOARD:

Nicholas Schramm, *Co-Chair*  
Jeffrey Elsenheimer, Jr., *Co-Chair*  
Bill Miller, *Treasurer*  
Bob Caruso, *Secretary*

Cory Cummings, *Member at Large*  
Michael Lill, *Member at Large*  
Daniel Reeder, *Member at Large*  
Paul Scheib, *Member at Large*  
Raul Torres, *Member at Large*

Matt Bereza, *Choral Representative*  
Dennis Rosenbaum, *Choral Representative*

## ARTISTIC STAFF:

Alex Kuczynski, *The John Williams and Chuck Lundeen Artistic Directorship (Interim)*  
Bob Dietch, *Principal Pianist*  
Ryan Russell, *Principal Percussionist*  
Matt Bereza, *Bass Guitar*  
Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

## OPERATIONS STAFF:

Jim Janssen, *Operations Director*  
Val Dimino, *Marketing Director*  
Shane Allen, *Graphic Design*

## PRODUCTION STAFF:

Alex Kuczynski, *Music Director/Conductor*  
Elier Ruiz, *Production Stage Manager*  
Cat Hardesty, *CT Sign Language Interpreter*  
Tom Henderson, *Sound Engineer*

## 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  
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## LET'S GET READY TO RAFFLE!

Watch for chorus members coming around the auditorium with what could be your winning ticket for any number of fantastic prizes!

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

### 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 2024-2025 concert series!



VISIT [TINYURL.COM/FEEDBACK-RGMC](https://tinyurl.com/feedback-rgmc) OR SCAN THE QR CODE



# ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

## **First Tenor**

Robert Caruso  
Cory Cummings  
Jacob Goldberg  
Marc McCabe  
Terry Quataert  
Daniel Reeder  
Dennis Rosenbaum  
Alan Van Camp\*

## **Second Tenor**

Matt Bereza  
Patrick Casey  
Jeffrey Elsenheimer, Jr.  
Sam Fortunato  
Ron Herman  
David C. Knoll  
Paul Scheib  
Nicholas Schramm  
David M. Skinner\*  
David Snyder  
Sean Terry  
Raul Torres

## **Baritone**

Sam Beach  
Lon Beery  
Evan Church  
David Clinton\*  
Evan Dorscheid  
Peter House  
Tony Rizzo  
Sean Scott  
Yu Yin Tsang  
John Villani

## **Bass**

Dan Flaherty  
Rob Keefe  
William Kelly  
Bill Miller  
Jim Tavoraro\*\*  
Charles Weber\*  
Jorge Yacila

*\*Section Leader*

*\*\*Membership  
Concerns Chair*

## **The Rochettes**

Cory Cummings  
Evan Dorscheid  
Dan Flaherty  
Alex Kuczynski  
Steven Price  
Terry Quataert  
Jorge Yacila  
*Choreographer*  
Jamie Lee Porteus

## **The Teddy Bears**

Sam Beach  
Bill Miller  
Daniel Reeder  
Dennis Rosenbaum  
Jim Tavoraro  
Alan Van Camp  
*Director/Accompanist*  
Alex Kuczynski

## **VersiTone**

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Josh Knapp  
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# LIVE IN COLOR

## Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

*"Ain't No Mountain High Enough"* ..... By N. Ashford and V. Simpson;  
M. Gaye, T. Terrell. Arr. Tim Sarsany

*"Wankantanhan Hotan'Inpe"* ..... Arr. Linthicum-Blackhorse  
**Bob Parsons – Flute     Sam Fortunato - Djembe**  
**Small Ensemble: Paul Scheib, Daniel Reeder, Evan Church, Dennis Rosenbaum**

*"Invictus"* ..... By Reginal Wright  
**Terry Keach - Cello**

*"The Greatest Love of All"* ..... By Michael Masser and Linda Creed;  
Whitney Houston.  
Arr. Charles Beale

**Soloist: Jacob Goldberg**

*"Try Everything"* ..... By S. Furler, T. E. Hermansen,  
and M. Eriksen; Shakira. Arr. Liz Garnett

*"Vivir Mi Vida"* ..... By S. Debbie, B. Djupstroem, B. Hajji, A. Jannusi,  
N. Khayat and A. Papaconstantinou;  
Marc Anthony.  
Arr. P. Ressler.

## Teddy Bears

*"I Heard It Through The Grapevine"* ..... By Norman J. Whitfield  
and Barrett Strong

*"Stand By Me"* ..... By Ben E. King, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller

## The ECMS Gamalan Ensemble

*Hujan Mas (Golden Rain)* ..... Traditional

*Selisir* ..... Traditional

- - - Intermission - - -



# LIVE IN COLOR

## **Rochettes**

*“Livin’ la Vida Loca”* ..... By Draco Rosa and Desmond Child;  
Ricky Martin.

*“Conga”* ..... By Enrique E. Garcia; Gloria Estefan.

## **VersiTone**

*“Total Praise”* ..... By Richard Smallwood.  
Arr. Tinashe Jera

*“Survivor”* ..... By B. Knowles, A. Dent, and M. Knowles.  
Arr. S. Wyatt

## **Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus**

*“Juice”* ..... By S. Small, E. Frederic, T. Thomas, S. Sumser, Lizzo.  
Arr. S. Milloy

*“Daydreaming”* ..... By Aretha Franklin.  
Arr. Chad Weirick

*“Waterfalls”* ..... By M. Etheridge, L. N. Lopez, R. Wade,  
P. Brown and R. Murray.  
Arr. E. Knechtges

## ***Soloists: Sean Scott and Raul Torres***

*“Together Again”* ..... By J. Jackson, J. Harris III,  
T. Lewis and R. Lizondo Jr.  
Arr. C. Weirick

## **Featuring The Rochettes**

*“Let’s Get Loud”* ..... By Gloria Estefan and Kik Santander;  
Jennifer Lopez.  
Arr. Charles Beale



# Gamelan at the Eastman School of Music

Gamelan at Eastman, as in Bali, is a communal effort. Our members include Eastman students, faculty, and staff, as well as many members of the Rochester community. The music is learned through the oral/aural tradition without the use of notation, and therefore requires the players to work together closely for long periods of time. The result is a sense of group unity and pride as the audience hears the music and witnesses the collective efforts of the ensemble.

Since 1993, Eastman Gamelan has provided students and members of the Rochester community the privilege to learn music from two very different Balinese gamelan ensembles: Gamelan Lila Muni (Heavenly Sound) and Gamelan Sanjiwani (Life Force). Gamelan Lila Muni is an ancient four-tone gamelan angklung which traditionally performs music for rituals and ceremonies. Gamelan Sangi Wani, of the five-tone gamelan gong kebyar, is an ensemble developed in the 20th century associated with youthful exuberance and characterized by explosive changes in tempo and dynamics.

Eastman's gamelan ensembles perform throughout the northeastern United States and in Canada in programs of traditional and contemporary Balinese music, present interactive workshops for audiences of all ages, and engage in creative collaborations with Western musicians and composers. In recent years, we have collaborated with Bobby McFerrin and the Paul Winter Consort, and have premiered new compositions by composers Wayne Vitale, Robert Morris, Jennifer Fontana Graham, Daniel Ianantuono, John Orfe, and Payton McDonald, including a number of Eastman student composers.

New members are welcomed into the Eastman gamelan ensembles each year, regardless of musical experience.

## Performers

Ken Luk, *Director*  
Deb Abell  
Kim Abell  
Jason Carr

Mary Fuoco  
Evan Henry  
Ellen Koskoff  
Sari Manap

Sue Morgan  
Eleanor Price  
Ria Senobroto



# WANKANTANHAN HOTAN'INPE

## LYRICS

Wankantanhan Hotan'inpe ye  
Hotaninpe yelo, hotan'inpe'lo  
Hena kinyan Wakinyan oyate  
ca Hotan'inpe ye  
Hotan'inpe yelo.

## TRANSLATION

From above, they are making their  
voices heard.  
They are making their voices heard.  
The Thunder Nation is flying  
so they are making their voices heard.  
They are making their voices heard.

# VIVIR MI VIDA

## LYRICS

Voy a reir, voy a bailar  
Vivir mi vida la la la la  
Voy a reir, voy a gozar  
Vivir mi vida la la la la

A veces llega la Lluvia  
Para limpiar las heridas  
A veces solo una gota  
Puede vencer la sequia

Y para qué llorar, pa' qué  
Si duele una pena, se olvida  
Y para qué sufrir, pa' qué  
Si así es la vida, hay que vivir  
La la la le

Voy a vivir el momento  
Para entender el destino  
Voy a escuchar el silencio  
Para encontrar el camino

La la la la; Vivir mi vida la la la la!

## TRANSLATION

I'm going to laugh, I'm going to dance.  
Live my life, la la la la.

I'm going to laugh, I'm going to enjoy [myself]  
Live my life, la la la la.

Sometimes the rain comes  
To clean the wounds.  
Sometimes just one drop  
Can overcome the drought.

So why cry? For what?  
If something is troubling you, forget it.  
And why suffer, for what?  
If that's the way life is, you [just  
have to live [your life] la la la le.

I'm going to live in the moment  
To understand my destiny.  
I'm going to listen in silence  
To find the path.

La la la la; Live my life, la la la la!

## Asbury First is proud to support the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus!



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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).

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favorite Cousin Chuck!  
Will always love  
you and think of your  
beautiful voice and  
spirit."  
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Patti Follansbee and  
Roberta Majka  
J. Randall Fulton and  
Wayne Wichern "In  
loving memory of a  
member of the chorus  
and a dear friend  
when I lived in  
Rochester"  
Jennifer Galvez Caton  
"We Love you.  
Jennifer & Kevin!"

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Sandra Halleran  
Cat Hardesty and Rusty  
Slater  
Patricia Hart  
Michael Holden and  
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Norcross  
Steven Jarose and  
Marvin Ritzenthaler  
John Kemter  
David Knoll and David  
Skinner  
Kathleen Lee  
Don Liming  
Richard Lundeen  
Marta Maletzke and Sue  
Cowell  
Chris McCormack  
Peggy Meeker and  
Marie Gibson  
Steve Metildi  
Pat Moran "Chuck was  
a dear fellow RGMC  
bass and friend, and is  
sorely missed."  
Robert Neale  
Jane O'Mara  
Thomas Ophardt  
Juan Perez and John  
Gaspar

Tom & Donna Proietti  
"Much love and fond  
memories of a truly  
special person."  
Daniel Reeder  
Judy & Allan Schwartz  
Arlene Sherman and  
Noreen Mastro  
Eric Shoen-Ukre "Chuck  
was a delightful man  
and I'm happy to  
donate in his memory.  
I fondly remember him  
and John sitting in the  
audience whenever I  
was on stage singing."  
Mark Smith  
Patricia Smith  
Howard Spindler  
Anne Sprout and James  
Joss  
Mike Tiss  
Michael Touhey and  
Ron Berry  
William Valenti and  
James Wolk  
Wanda Wakefield and  
Pamela Sue Bakst  
Cyril Waugh and Dale  
Hampton  
Monica Weis  
Sally & Jamie Whitbeck

## Honors & Memoriams:

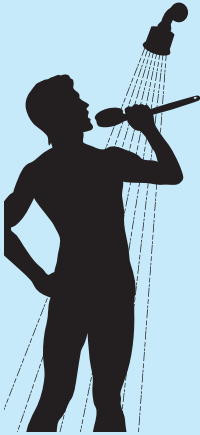
Bruce & Sheron  
Marche` – In Memory of  
Michael Aman  
  
Sally & Jamie Whitbeck  
– In Memory of John  
Owen

Michael Longo & Roger  
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 on Thursday, April 18th, 2024 for our next concert, **RGMC at the Tony's**.

Rehearsals start on April 25th, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Both events will be held at the Community Christian Church, 2647 Chili Ave, Rochester, NY 14624.

For more information, visit  
[www.thergmc.org/join-us](http://www.thergmc.org/join-us)  
or email [newmember@thergmc.org](mailto:newmember@thergmc.org)

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

## **GALA Choruses**

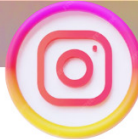
The mission of GALA Choruses is inspiring and strengthening member choruses to change their worlds through song. Founded in 1982 by fourteen choruses, GALA Choruses is the world's leading international choral association for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied choruses. For more information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



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*Wegmans*

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