

 ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

RGMC AT THE TONYS

HOCHSTEIN PERFORMANCE HALL

SATURDAY JULY 6TH AT 7:30PM



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Letter From The Co-Chairs

Dear friends and supporters,

It is with immense joy that we extend a heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you to the “RGMC at the Tonys” concert. This evening is not just a musical event but a celebration of love, diversity, and inclusivity within our community. We are honored to have you join us as we come together to showcase the talent and unity that define our chorus.

Tonight’s performance by the RGMC is a celebration of the music of Broadway, featuring timeless classics and contemporary favorites. Whether you are a seasoned aficionado of musical theatre or discovering its magic for the first time, we are certain that the harmonies and emotions conveyed through song will resonate deeply with you.

Tonight, we continue our tradition of celebrating Rochester Pride through musical performance. We are pleased to again be joined by the Rochester Women’s Community Chorus and the Flower City Pride Band. Tonight’s concert is a testament to the power of music to transcend barriers and foster understanding. Through a diverse repertoire that spans genres and emotions, this concert aims to inspire and uplift all who listen. We invite you to immerse yourself in the harmonies and messages that resonate throughout tonight’s performances.

As we gather in solidarity to kick off Rochester Pride, let us reflect on the progress made and the work that still lies ahead in our quest for equality and acceptance. Your presence here tonight reaffirms our shared commitment to creating a more inclusive society where every voice is heard and celebrated. Together, we can continue to build a future where love and acceptance prevail.

It has been a pleasure to serve as co-chairs of the Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus for the past year. The work that we, and the Board of Directors, do behind the scenes throughout the year is highlighted by the wonderful performances from this esteemed group of singers. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support of the RGMC and our mission to “Create social change through excellence in the choral arts.”

Musically yours,



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

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

Letter From The Artistic Director

On behalf of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, happy Pride and welcome everyone to "RGMC at the Tonys"! You are about to take a journey with us through decades of showtunes from Tony Award-winning musicals that all, in one way or another, represent our love, our fears, our hopes and our dreams – our PRIDE. From the fountainhead of music, "Do Re Mi," our voices are empowered by the knowledge of pitch relationships, "when you know the notes to sing, you can sing most anything!" The song "Being Alive" then captures the complex emotions of a single person witnessing the relationships of those around them – the yearning, the frustration, and joy as well as loneliness. "Home" reminds us that dreams can shape who we really are, while "Aquarius" suggests that we as people may evolve to new planes of understanding and harmony – of love and each other – yet unattained by previous generations. The song "Seasons of Love" from *Rent* is an LGBTQIA+ anthem of the 90s with poetic views on our perceptions of time, particularly as seen through love itself. We then sing "For Forever," with its vivid depictions of friendship, followed by "Found / Tonight" – a medley on two songs that lift us up out of despair. Finally, in "You Can't Stop The Beat" we join the elemental rhythm of dance that has existed since the dawn of time, that will continue throughout all of humanity. What better way to celebrate pride than with some of our favorite Broadway tunes of all time?

In addition to our choral repertoire, we could not be more thrilled to welcome our dear friends the Flower City Pride Band and the Rochester Women's Community Chorus, as well as our very own ensembles The Rochettes, VersiTone, and the Teddy Bears. As a community, 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 where any semblance of such rights has deteriorated. As recent events continue to show, 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 non-binary people of every possible kind, transgender people, 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, and to be heard.

Join us now as we embark on the eternal journey of rhythm: "You can't stop the motion of the ocean or the rain from above, you can try to stop the paradise we're dreamin' of, but you cannot stop the rhythm of two hearts in love to stay – Cause you can't stop the beat!"

With gratitude and love,
Alex Kuczynski
RGMC Artistic Director



A handwritten signature of Alex Kuczynski in black ink.

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or call **(585) 423-0650**.

RGMC Artistic Staff



Dr. Alex Kuczynski, 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, artistic 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.



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,
for sharing!**

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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*
Bob Dietch, *Principal Pianist*
Matt Bereza, *Bass Guitar*
Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

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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
Edward "Ted" Lyons
Stanley Malinowski
Chuck Mathewson

Peter Nickles
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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 thank you, you will be entered into a drawing for 2 season tickets for our 2024-2025 concert series!



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



ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

First Tenor

Robert Caruso
Cory Cummings
Josh Knapp
Marc McCabe
Terry Quataert
Daniel Reeder
Dennis Rosenbaum
Alan Van Camp*

Second Tenor

Matt Bereza
Patrick Casey
Sam Fortunato
David C. Knoll
Dick Madden
Paul Scheib
David M. Skinner*
David Snyder

Baritone

Sam Beach
David Clinton*
Evan Dorscheid
Jeffrey
Elsenheimer, Jr.
Peter House
Bob Parsons
Yu Yin Tsang
John Villani

Bass

Kennan Beckstrand
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
Alan Van Camp
Director/Accompanist:
Alex Kucyznski

VersiTone

Anthony Jagla
Josh Knapp
Sean Scott
Sean Terry
James Weiser

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RGMC AT THE TONYS

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

"Do Re Mi" from The Sound of Music (1959)..... Music by Richard Rodgers and
Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Arr. Tim Sarsany

Soloists: Jorge Yacila, Paul Scheib, Peter House,
Robert Parsons, and Marc McCabe

"Being Alive" from Company (1970) By Stephen Sondheim

Arr. Mac Huff

Soloist: Sam Fortunato

"Home" from The Wiz (1974)..... By Charlie Smalls

Arr. David Maddux

"Aquarius / Let The Sunshine In" from Hair (1967)..... By James Rado, Gerome
Ragni and Galt MacDermot

Arr. David Maddux

TEDDY BEARS

"Lullaby of Broadway" from 42nd Street (1980)..... Music by Harry Warren and
Lyrics by Al Dubin

Arr. Jay Althouse

"Sit Down You're Rockin' The Boat" from Guys and Dolls (1950)..... By Frank
Loesser

Revoiced for TTBB chorus by Dennis Rosenbaum

Soloist: Alan Van Camp

ROCHESTER WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHORUS

"Stand in the Light" By Stephan Moccio and Lauren Christy

Arr. Roger Emerson

"I Got the Sun in the Morning" from Annie Get Your Gun By Irving Berlin

Arr. Kirby Shaw

"I See Stars" from Mean Girls: The Musical Words by Nell Benjamin

Music by Jeff Richmond

Arr. Mark Brymer

---INTERMISSION---

RGMC AT THE TONYS

FLOWER CITY PRIDE BAND

Selections from Dear Evan Hansen Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek
and Justin Paul
Arranged by Michael Brown

Counting Stars Words and Music by Ryan Tedder
Arranged by Matt Conaway and Jack Holt

Mr. Blue Sky Words and Music by Jeff Lynne
Arranged by Matt Conaway and Jack Holt

Penny Lane Words and Music by John Lennon and Paul McCartney
Arranged by Jay Bocook and Will Rapp

Pokémon Theme Words and Music by T. Loeffler and J. Siegler
Arranged by Johnnie Vinson

You Belong with Me Words and Music by Liz Rose and Taylor Swift
Arranged by Doug Adams

Blinding Lights Words and Music by Abel Tesfaye, Max Martin, Jason
Quenneville, Oscar Holter, and Ahmad Balshe
Arranged by Matt Conaway and Jack Holt

Highlights from the Motion Picture The Lion King ... Arranged by Michael Brown

ROCHETTES

“Anything Goes” from Anything Goes (1934) By Cole Porter

VERSITONE

“Defying Gravity” from Wicked (2003) By Stephen Schwartz
Arr. Kevin Keller

ROCHESTER GAY MEN’S CHORUS

“Seasons of Love” from Rent (1996) By Jonathan Larson
Arr. Steve Milloy
Soloists: Sam Beach, Dennis Rosenbaum, Alan Van Camp

“For Forever” from Dear Evan Hansen (2015) ... By Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
Arr. Jacob Narverud
Soloists: Jeffrey Elsenheimer, Jr. and Daniel Reeder

“Found/Tonight” from Hamilton (2015) and Dear Evan Hansen (2015).... By Lin-
Manuel Miranda, Justin Paul, and Benj Pasek
Arr. Jacob Narverud

“You Can’t Stop The Beat” from Hairspray (2002)... By Marc Shaiman and Scott
Wittman. Arr. Steve Milloy.
Soloist: Josh Knapp
Drums: Sam Fortunato



The Rochester Women's Community Chorus provides a creative and safe environment for singers of various levels of musical expertise to sing together. The chorus embraces members with a wide variety of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, life experiences, sexual orientations, and gender identities.

The RWCC is dedicated to using music as the vehicle for messages of peace, hope, understanding, and cooperation within the global community. We welcome anyone who sings in the treble range

(soprano/alto) to sing with the RWCC. We also welcome those who would like to join the RWCC family in volunteer, non-singing roles.

Alto 1

Megg Camp
Kat Alberti
Melissa Chinnock
Michelle Wilson
Katy McNeill
Lynne Sharp
Julie Cagwin
Theresa Zanghi
Ginny Munson
Lidia Kubicar-Kunz

Alto 2

Karen Wedge Landry
Jennifer Feldman
Shauna O'Toole

Soprano 1

Roni Yahav
Bonnie MacLeod
Laura Moats
Amy Ewell

Soprano 2

Sara Moore
Ashley Walker
Diane Cianca-
Tomasetti
Melanie Johnston
Judy Scott
Beth Wood
Honora Kelly
Jacqueline Alasimi
Mel Kubicar-Kunz
Susan Baruch

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.





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.

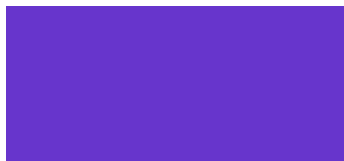
We perform popular music from the 1950's to today's hits to bring fun and enjoyment to all ages at community events throughout the greater Rochester area.



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:

Kathy Grace, QJ Wang,
Leah Warth, Siyu Xue

Clarinet:

Emma Hossenlopp,
Elizabeth Kirchner, Lisa
Micciche, Marcia Najjar,
Marnie Valdivia

Bass Clarinet:

Aidan Alexander-Deis

Bassoon:

Sarah Limberger

Alto Sax:

Judy Ames, Karla
Bradley, Terri Cvetan,
Cindy Lau, Taylor Pittard

Tenor Sax:

Nissa Padden, JJ Payne

Horn:

Shannon Rosato

Trumpet:

Mary Belcher, Sara
Catlin, Mike Doolin,
Audrey Hoyt, Eric Perry,
Allan Shafer

Trombone:

Axel Laubscher,
Nyree MacPherson,
Rebecca Silliman, Laura
Whitbeck, Faye Vodicka

Baritone:

Mik Spillett

Tuba:

Richard Hellinger, Trey
Pachucki, Keith Reitz

Percussion:

Michelle D'Amico, Tom
Erb, Steve Lau, Kristina
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Asbury First is proud to support the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus!



For 40 years the RGMC has exemplified excellence
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and supporting the LGBTQ+ community is a continuation of this call.



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ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS



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)

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& Noreen Mastro
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Monica Weis

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Bob Caruso and Dennis
Rosenbaum
Chuck Collins
Barbara Else
"In memory of my dear
favorite Cousin Chuck!
Will always love
you and think of your
beautiful voice and
spirit."
Jerry Estes
Joanne & Robert Everts
Pete Fedele
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!"

Peggy and David Hale
Sandra Halleran
Cat Hardesty and Rusty
Slater
Patricia Hart
Michael Holden and
David Merritt
Norman Horton
Jim Janssen and Carl
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. For information on our next new member Meet & Greet, email newmember@thergmc.org.

Rehearsals for our holiday concert, "**HoliGAY Spectacular**," start on Thursday, September 5, at 7 pm. The location of our rehearsals will be announced over the summer, so stay tuned to our website and social media!

For more information, visit 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

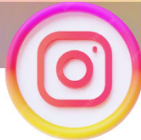
The mission of GALA Choruses is inspiring and strengthening member choruses to change their worlds through song. Founded in 1982 by fourteen choruses, GALA Choruses is the world's leading international choral association for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied choruses. For more information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