

**R&M**  **ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

# ROC'N *Rainbow*

**SATURDAY  
JULY 9TH  
at 7:30pm**



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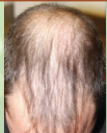
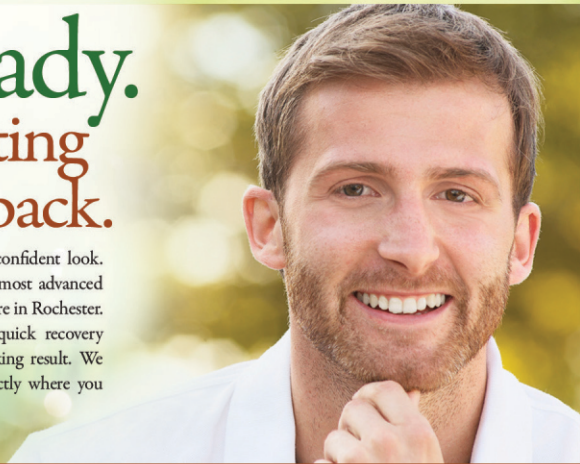


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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you for joining us this evening at the Allen Main Stage Theatre in the School of the Arts as we celebrate **PRIDE** in July in Rochester.

It is with great pleasure today that we get to share the stage with the **Rochester Women's Community Chorus (RWCC)** and the **Flower City Pride Band**. This will be the first performance for the RWCC in over two years. We are so happy and proud to have been instrumental in getting them back on stage.

Forty years ago, this fall, five friends – David Knoll, Bob Olsowski, Kent Peterson, Ken Setera and Nicholas Williams formed the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. The inspiration behind the formation of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus came from friends at the Rochester Womyn's Community Chorus which had been formed in 1978. Our Fabulous 40th Season begins this fall; be on the lookout for all of the celebration fun we have in store for you, our patrons.

We have an exciting program scheduled for you this evening; please sit back, relax and enjoy the fun as we celebrate Pride with our friends.

Happy Pride and Have a Wonderful Summer!



**Robert Neale**  
*Board Chair*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Neale', written in a cursive style.

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

# LETTER FROM THE ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to ROC'N Rainbow!

The RGMC is thrilled to join the Flower City Pride Band, Rochester Women's Community Chorus, the Rochettes, and the Teddy Bears in an evening of PRIDE celebration through song. Tonight, 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.

As recent events have shown, we must always continue to stand for these rights, as any complacency results in their erosion and elimination. We must particularly lift up 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. 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.

**Alex Kuczynski**  
Associate Music Director

## In Memory of Rob Sweeney...



The RGMC would like to thank Jerry Estes for his generous donation of a Yamaha NU1 Upright Piano. The piano belonged to Jerry's partner Rob Sweeney who passed away in May 2018.

The chorus has set up the piano in the office and will be using it for sectionals and small group rehearsals.

Thank you, Jerry, for you continued support!

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# 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.



## **Wilson Southerland, Artistic & Music Director**

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.



## **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!

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Daniel Reeder, *Secretary*

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

## ARTISTIC STAFF:

Alex Kuczynski, *Associate Music Director*  
Wilson Southerland, *The John Williams  
and Chuck Lundeen  
Artistic Directorship*  
Hannah Rosen, *Accompanist*  
Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

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## PRODUCTION STAFF:

Alex Kuczynski, *Associate Music Director/  
Conductor*  
Wilson Southerland, *Artistic Director*  
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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## 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.



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Council on the Arts

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.



# ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

## First Tenor

Robert Caruso  
Cory Cummings  
Terry Quataert  
Daniel Reeder  
Dennis W.  
Rosenbaum\*

## Second Tenor

Sam L. Beach  
Kevin Berry  
Jeffrey Elsenheimer,  
Jr.  
David C. Knoll  
Dick Madden  
David M. Skinner\*

## Baritone

David Clinton  
Evan Dorscheid  
Michael Kiba  
Sean Scott  
Jesus Torres  
Yu Yin Tsang  
John Villani\*

## Bass

Kennan  
Beckstrand\*\*  
Steve Farrington  
Marty Green  
Rob Keefe  
Bill Miller  
James Tavolaro  
Charles Weber  
Jorge Yacila

*\*Section Leader*

*\*\*Membership  
Concerns Chair*

## The Rochettes

Scott Bailey  
Robert Parsons  
Cory Cummings  
Marty Green  
Anthony Jagla  
Steven Price  
Terry Quataert  
Sean Scott  
Jorge Yacila

*Choreographer  
Jamie Lee Porteus*

## The Teddy Bears

Sam L. Beach  
Marty Green  
Peter House  
Bill Miller  
Daniel Reeder  
Dennis W.  
Rosenbaum  
Sean Scott

*Director/Accompanist  
Alex Kucyznski*

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**Rochester Gay Men's Chorus**

*Any Way You Want It* ..... Words & Music Neal Schon & Steve Perry  
Arr. Dennis W Rosenbaum

*Dancing Queen* ..... Words & Music Benny Andersson,  
Bjorn Ulvaeus & Stig Andersson  
Arr. Stephen DeCesare

*The Rainbow Connection* ..... Words & Music Kenneth L. Ascher  
& Paul Williams  
Arr. Stephen DeCesare

**Rochester Women's Community Chorus**

*Fight Song*..... Words & Music Rachel Platten & Dave Bassett  
Arr. Roger Emerson

*Truly Brave*..... Words & Music Jack Antonoff, Billy Steinberg,  
Tom Kelly & Sara Bareilles  
Arr. Mac Huff

*Winnebago* ..... Words & Music David Maddox

*We Are Family*..... Words & Music Nile Rodgers & Bernard Edwards  
Arr. Kirby Shaw

**The Teddy Bears**

*Everyone is Gay*..... Words & Music by Ian Axel & Chad Vaccarino  
Arr. Jerome Kurtenbach

**Flower City Pride Band**

*Confident*..... Words & Music Demi Lovato, Savan Kotecha,  
Max Martin, and Ilyaz  
Arr. Tom Wallace  
Percussion Arr. Tony McCutchen

*Born This Way* ..... Words & Music Stefani Gemanotta,  
Jeppe Laursen, Fernando Garibay and Paul Blair  
Arr. Jay Dawson  
Percussion Arr. Jim Reed

*Poker Face* ..... Words & Music Stefani Germanotta and RedOne  
Arr. Tom Wallace  
Percussion Arr. Tony McCutchen

*This Is Me* ..... Words & Music Benj Pasek and Justin Paul  
Arr. Jay Bocook

**Intermission**



**Flower City Pride Band**

*Old Town Road* ..... **Words & Music Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross, Kiowa Roukema, and Montero Lamar Hill**  
**Arr. Paul Murtha**

*Build Me Up Buttercup*..... **Words & Music Tony McCauley and Michael D’Abo**  
**Arr. Paul Murtha**

*Kings And Queens* .... **Words & Music Amanda Koci, Desmond Child, Brett McGlaughlin, Henry Walter, Hillary Bernstein, Jakob Erixson, Madison Love, Mimoza Blison and Nadir Khayat**  
**Arr. Mike Story**

*Over The Rainbow*..... **Composer Harold Arlen, Lyrics Yip Harburg**  
**Arr. J. Bowens**

**Rochettes**

*Can’t Stop the Feeling*..... **Justin Timberlake**

**Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus**

*I Am What I Am* ..... **Words & Music Jerry Herman**  
**Arr. Steve Milloy**

*A Little Respect* ..... **Words & Music by Vince Clarke & Andy Bell**  
**Arr. by Dennis W Rosenbaum**

*Born This Way* ..... **Words & Music Stefani Germanotta, Jeppe Laursen, Paul Blair & Fernando Garibay**  
**Arr. Tim Sarsany**

**Rochester Gay Men’s Chorus and Rochester Women’s Community Chorus**

*“Thank You For The Music”* ..... **Words & Music by Bjorn Ulvaeus & Benny Andersson**  
**Arr. Jerry Estes**

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## The Rochester Women's Community Chorus (RWCC)

The Rochester Women's Community Chorus (RWCC), a not-for-profit, non-auditioned choir, has been creating harmony by singing music of all genres since 1978.

Our chorus family consists of a diverse group of women who share their love of music. We welcome everyone to join our extended family as part of our chorus, as a volunteer, or by attending our concerts. The RWCC is dedicated to using music as the vehicle for messages of peace, hope, understanding, and cooperation within the global community.

### S1

Nicky Denny  
Bonnie McLeod  
Holly Kelsey  
Susan Papa

### S2

Karen Abbas  
Susan Baruch  
Marianne Gocker  
Genevieve Johnson-  
Stuber  
Honora Kelly  
Mel Kunz  
Laura Waterstripe  
Deb Wolfson  
Kitty Wolfson  
Beth Wood

### A1

Melissa Chinnock  
Susan Craine  
Lydia Kunz  
Cesre Lawrence-Towner  
Anita Piccareta  
Katie Valentin  
Theresa Zhang

### A2

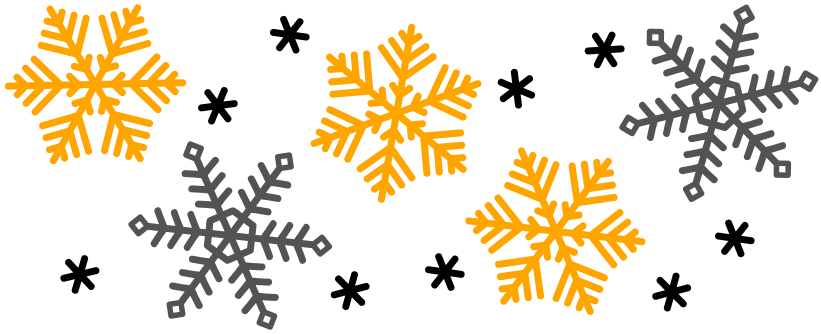
Jennifer Feldman  
Kelly Kamish  
Shauna O'Toole  
Karen Treadwell-Collins  
Karen Wedge-Landry

**Music Director** - Kristy  
Houston

**Accompanist** - Spencer  
Haynes



**Kristy Houston — RWCC 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.



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## Flower City Pride Band

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.

Contact [info@flowercityprideband.com](mailto:info@flowercityprideband.com) for more information.

### FLUTES

Jill Alcorn  
Cindy Ames  
Denise Lowery  
Sarah Marasco  
Paula Sousa

### BARI SAXOPHONE

Cindy Lau

### HORN

Mark Mullock

### CLARINETS

Beth Cunico

### ALTO SAXOPHONE

Judy Ames  
Terri Cvetan  
Emily Robinson

### TRUMPET

Mary Belcher  
Alex Gahan  
Amy Prenatt-Michaux  
Amy Raven  
Allan Shafer

### TENOR SAXOPHONE

Rob Lemley  
Sarah Limberger

### TROMBONE

Axel Laubscher  
Faye Vodicka  
Laura Whitbeck

### PERCUSSION

Aidan Fischer  
Chrissi Heil  
Steve Lau



**Ben Storer — Co-Director.** Ben Storer leads the Flower City Pride Band this evening, serving as a Co-Director throughout the year. In addition to being a part-time conductor for the Flower City Pride Band, 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.



# 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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& Mark Joseph  
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DeMay  
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Joanne & Robert  
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Pete Fedele

## **Friends (Continued)**

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Coy Ludwig  
Dennis Mazur

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Birthday

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Whitbeck – In  
Memory of John  
Owen

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Memory of Edward  
"Ted" Lyon

Carleen Alhart – In  
Memory of Clarence  
A Alhart

Michael Longo &  
Roger Parris – In  
Memory of John  
Owen

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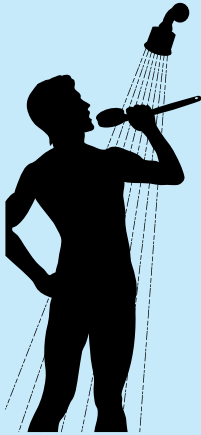
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## DO YOU LIKE TO SING?



The chorus welcomes new singers and previous members for the first rehearsal of Our Fabulous 40th: Fa La La La La.

Voice placements will be held on Thursday September 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM at Community Christian Church 2647 Chili Avenue, Rochester.

For more information, visit our website at: [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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 ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

# SEASON PREVIEW

*Fa La La La La*

 **Hochstein Performance Hall**  
 **December 3th & 4th 2022**



*Hochstein Performance Hall*  
March 18th & 19th, 2023

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