

 ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Rainbowland RHAPSODY

Songs of Dolly Parton

JULY 11
7:30 PM

HOCHSTEIN
PERFORMANCE HALL



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Letter from the Board Chair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

For 43 remarkable years, the RGMC has been a beacon of authenticity and hope, built on the vision of our founders, who in 1982 believed the harmony of voice could create a harmony of spirit.

We're thrilled to close out our 2025–2026 season with a dazzling tribute to the legendary Dolly Parton! **Rainbowland Rhapsody: Songs of Dolly Parton** will be an evening of rhinestones, vibrant color, and pure sass. In celebration of Rochester's Pride Month, the program features Dolly's greatest hits alongside songs from Tracy Chapman, Miley Cyrus, and Tina Turner, plus an appearance by our friends in the **Flower City Pride Band**. ASL interpretation will be provided, continuing our commitment to making every performance accessible to all.

To our donors, sponsors, and every one of you who fills our audience throughout the year, **thank you**. Your generosity and presence carry forward a dream that began over four decades ago, and we are deeply grateful.

We can't wait to sparkle with you.

With warmth and gratitude,
Michael Rosario-McCabe
Board Chair, RGMC Board of Directors



Michael Rosario-McCabe

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

Letter from the Artistic Director

Good evening one and all, and welcome to Rainbowland Rhapsody: Songs of Dolly Parton! On behalf of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, thank you for joining us and helping us kick off Pride Week 2026 in Rochester. As always, it is so important that we are out in our community, living our best lives and just being us - and I can't think of a better way to do so than through the joy of music!

This pride concert is a very special one in which we celebrate one of the most iconic and legendary artists of our time, who is also an outspoken ally of the LGBTQIA+ community: Dolly Parton. As it happens, Dolly has just turned 80 years old this past January, so what better opportunity to celebrate her birthday milestone in conjunction with Pride 2026. Dolly's music is so vast in terms of influences and emotional characteristics, there is very little that one can write to fully encapsulate everything she has contributed to our world. Her music contains every human emotion and characteristic in the book - love, broken heartedness, empowerment, humility, sadness, joy, jealousy, hope, pride, protest - weaving together so many musical influences like country, gospel, rock, blues, soul and more. Her personality and humanity alone have captivated the world for decades, so much so that she is undoubtedly a national treasure, a treasure in our world, and an angel among us. We also feature in this concert other artists with a Dolly connection such as Miley Cyrus, Dolly's goddaughter; LGBTQIA+ icon Tracy Chapman, for whom Dolly was one major influence; and Tina Turner, whose legendary version of "There'll Always Be Music" we are performing this evening.

Nothing gives me greater pleasure than welcoming back to our stage our special guests who we consider to be our extended family, the Flower City Pride Band as well as members of the Rochester Women's Community Chorus, with whom we had the pleasure to perform in June. We are delighted that they can return and share their fabulous music and all the love and pride they bring to the stage and the community around us! We are also thrilled to welcome back percussion wizard Ryan Russell (and his beloved pup, and our honorary RGMC fur-member, Spirit), as well as RGMC's very own Matt Bereza on bass / slide guitar, and of course our small ensembles including VersiTone, the Teddy Bears, and the Rochettes. Finally, I cannot express enough our gratitude for you, our fabulous audience and supporters, without whom none of this would be possible!

So, kick up your boots and let's celebrate pride with a Rainbowland Rhapsody! See you on the other side of the rainbow.

All my love,
Alex Kuczynski
RGMC Artistic Director



A handwritten signature of Alex Kuczynski in black ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, matching the printed name above it.



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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, Artistic 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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welcome here!”**

The People That Make It All Come Together

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Alan Van Camp, *Member at Large*

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Preston Terry, *Choral Rep*

ARTISTIC STAFF:

Dr. Alex Kuczynski, *The John Williams and
Chuck Lundeen Artistic Directorship*
Bob Dietch, *Principal Pianist*
Ryan Russell, *Percussionist*
Matt Bereza, *Bass & Slide Guitar*
Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director Emeritus*

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Elier Ruiz, *Stage Manager*
Kevin Sene, *Production Manager*
Cat Hardesty, *Artistic 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 siblings in the LGBTQ+ 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 allies 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
Ron Herman
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
Daniel Reeder
Ted Smith
Bob Titus
Del Titus

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ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

First Tenor

Robert Caruso
Cory Cummings
Ryan Keeley
Joshua Knapp
Marc McCabe
Terry Quataert
Dennis Rosenbaum
Tyler Roth
J Stokes
Tim Stuff
Alan Van Camp

Second Tenor

Matt Bereza
Patrick Casey Jr
Evan Dorscheid
Damien Esposito
Sam Fortunato
David Knoll
Dino Kolios
Dawn Lepard
Randle Mixon
Fr. Michael Nicosia
Paul Scheib
David M. Skinner
Bill Smith
Preston Terry

Baritone

Sam L. Beach
Benjamin Burroughs
David Clinton
Jeffrey Elsenheimer Jr
Michael Hannen
Peter House
Wolcott Humphrey
Mark Kanelba
Jared Lee
Bob Parsons
Jaime Remillard
Sean Scott
Joseph Shimo
Jesse Sutterlin
Stephen Sweigart
Yu Yin Tsang
Nestor Tulagan
John Villani

Bass

Kennan Beckstrand
Paul Berezney
Christopher Craft
Dwayne Falbru
Dan Flaherty
Kevin Frisch
Tony Jagla
Rob Keefe
William Kelly
Matt Knauf
Charles Weber
Jorge Yacila

The Rochettes

Cory Cummings
Evan Dorscheid
Dan Flaherty
Alex Kuczynski
Jared Lee
Bob Parsons
Steven Price
Terry Quataert
Tyler Roth
J Stokes
Tim Stuff
Riley Sullivan
Jorge Yacila

Choreographer:

Jamie Lee Porteus

The Teddy Bears

Sam Beach
Dan Flaherty
Josh Knapp
Dino Kolios
Alex Kuczynski
Dennis Rosenbaum
Jesse Sutterlin
Alan Van Camp

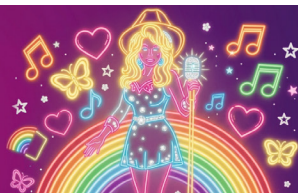
VersiTone

Daniel Birnbaum
Dwayne Falbru
Ben Finch
Tony Jagla
Mark Kanelba
Josh Knapp
Dino Kolios
Alex Kuczynski
Michael Nicosia
Tyler Roth
Sean Scott
Preston Terry
James Weiser



Rainbowland RHAPSODY

Songs of Dolly Parton



ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

"Jolene"..... by Dolly Parton Arr. Chad Weirick

"Here You Come Again".....by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil
Arr. Chad Weirick

"Why'd You Come in Here Lookin' Like That"..... by B. Carlisle
and R. Thomas
Arr. D. Maddux

"Hard Candy Christmas".....by Carol Hall
Arr. Steven Milloy

"Coat of Many Colors"by Dolly Parton
Arr. Chad Weirick

"Light of a Clear Blue Morning".....by Dolly Parton
Arr. Chad Weirick

TEDDY BEARS

"Two Doors Down"..... by Dolly Parton. Arr. Chad Weirick

"Islands In the Stream"by Barry Gibb, Maurice Gibb, and Robin Gibb.
Arr. Chad Weirick

ROCHETTES

*Dolly On Fire Medley: World On Fire, Great Balls of Fire,
Baby I'm Burnin'*

INTERMISSION

We Care About Your Feedback

We're so grateful you joined us for the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus concert, **Rainbowland Rhapsody – Songs of Dolly Parton**. Your presence and support made the evening truly special!

As we plan for future performances, we'd love to hear from you. Please complete our short concert survey by scanning the QR code or typing the link: bit.ly/dolly-rgmc

As a thank-you, you will be entered into a drawing for two tickets to our December concert, **An RGMC Christmas Carol**.



FLOWER CITY PRIDE BAND

"High Hopes" Words and music by Brendon Urie,
Samuel Hollander, William Lobban Bean, Jonas Jeberg, Jacob Sinclair,
Jenny Owen Youngs, Ilsey Juber, Lauren Pritchard, and Taylor Parks
Arr. Matt Conaway and Jack Holt.

*"ABBA On Broadway" Featuring: Overture/Prologue, I Have a Dream,
Mamma Mia, S.O.S., Knowing Me, Knowing You, The Winner Takes It
All, Dancing Queen*

Arr. by Michael Brown

"How Far We've Come" Words and music by Rob Thomas, Paul
Doucette, Kyle Cook, and Brian Yale
Arr. Paul Murtha

*"Wizard of Oz Meets the Wiz" Featuring: Ding! Dong! The Witch is
Dead, We're Off to See the Wizard, The Merry Old Land of Oz, So You
Wanted to See the Wizard, and A Brand New Day (Everybody Rejoice)*
Arr. by Victor Lopez

VERSITONE

"I Will Always Love You" by Dolly Parton
Arr. David Maddux

"Wrecking Ball" by H. Walter, M. McDonald, S. Skarbek,
S. R. Moccio, L. Gottwald
Arr. N. Wright

ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

"9 To 5" by Dolly Parton
Arr. Sam Hubbard

"Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman
Arr. Kit Grahame

"World On Fire" by Dolly Parton
Arr. Ash

"Rainbowland" by Oren Kleinman, Dolly Parton, Miley Cyrus
Arr. Pax Ressler

"There'll Always Be Music" by Dolly Parton
Arr. Chad Weirick
*Featuring VersiTone

"Hope Lingers On" by Lissa Schneckenburger
Arr. Andrea Ramsey.
*Featuring members of the Rochester Women's Community Chorus



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Thank you for helping us make a difference.

Wegmans



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:

Nax Gillett, Kathi Grace,
Nora LeMay, QJ Wang,
Leah Warth

Clarinet:

Elizabeth Kirchner, Bec
Knipp, Hunter Schultz

Tuba:

Trey Pachucki, Keith
Reitz

Percussion:

Albie Snyder, Festival
Davis, Steve Lau,
Ripley Page, Tom Erb,
Kayla Jaruzel, Kristina
Pendelberry, Stefan
Baer

Alto Sax:

Judy Ames, Karla
Bradley, Terri Cvetan
Cindy Lau, Erin Ormsby,
Karan Thompson

Tenor Sax:

Aidan Alexander-Deis,
Rob Lemley, Nissa
Padden, Drea Williams

Baritone Sax:

Sarah Limberger

Horn:

Duane Jones, Shannon
Rosato, Wynn
Thompson

Trombone:

Meral Kanik, Max
Kurzdorfer, Axel
Laubscher, Nancy
Laurie, Nyree
MacPherson, Sam
Regan, Will Stein,
Faye Vodicka, Laura
Whitbeck

Baritone:

Chris Auer, Alea Gugino,
Liz McKowan, Mik
Spillet

Trumpet:

Laura Bektas, Sara
Catlin, Mike Doolin,
Audrey Hoyt, Lee Klein,
Eric Perry, Allan Shafer,
Danielle Smith

 ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

2026-27 SEASON

**TICKETS & DETAILS:
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— AN —
RGMC
CHRISTMAS
CAROL

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 2026
7:30 PM

SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2026
3:00 PM

HOCHSTEIN
PERFORMANCE
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We welcome both our concert season and the holiday season with a festive reimagining of Charles Dickens's timeless tale. With music drawn from Scrooge, The Muppet Christmas Carol, classical masterworks, and contemporary theatre, we journey with Ebenezer Scrooge from coldhearted isolation to joyful transformation. Heartfelt ballads, mischievous melodies, and soaring choral beauty will warm the spirit and remind us of the power of compassion.



This exhilarating show is a tribute to the iconic artists from across the Atlantic who reshaped music for generations. With songs by the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, David Bowie, Radiohead, Muse, Coldplay, and more, this concert spans six decades of British brilliance. Whether you grew up on '60s mod anthems, '90s pop, or modern alt-rock, you'll find your favorites reinvented with the RGMC's signature harmonies and flair.

With magic, courage, and creativity, Disney songs taught us to dream. Featuring classics from The Little Mermaid, The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast, Toy Story, Moana, and more, this Pride concert honors the joy of becoming who we are. Exploring themes of hope, identity, friendship, and self-discovery, this all-ages musical adventure is a radiant tribute to the LGBTQ+ community and the stories that helped shape our imaginations.



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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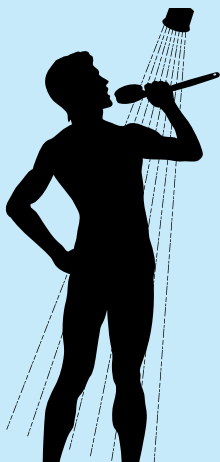
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in choral arts by serving the Greater Rochester Community
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For over 200 years, Asbury First United Methodist Church
has been a dynamic part of the Rochester community,
and supporting the LGBTQ+ community is a continuation of this call.



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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!

Rehearsals for our December concert, “**An RGMC Christmas Carol**,” start on Thursday, September 10, at 7 pm. A new member meet & greet is scheduled for Thursday, September 3, at 7 pm, to meet with our artistic director for voice placement. The meet & greet and weekly rehearsals are held at Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N Fitzhugh Street, in downtown Rochester.

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

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is proud to be a member 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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Thank you for attending tonight's performance. The RGMC relies on the generous support of our patrons, sponsors, advertisers, and people like you.

Your financial support is an investment in the RGMC and our mission of creating social change through excellence in the choral arts. Please consider making a gift to support our mission.

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