

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus Presents:

Treasured TRADITIONS

Hochstein Performance Hall

Saturday, December 7TH at 7:30PM

Sunday, December 8TH at 3PM

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

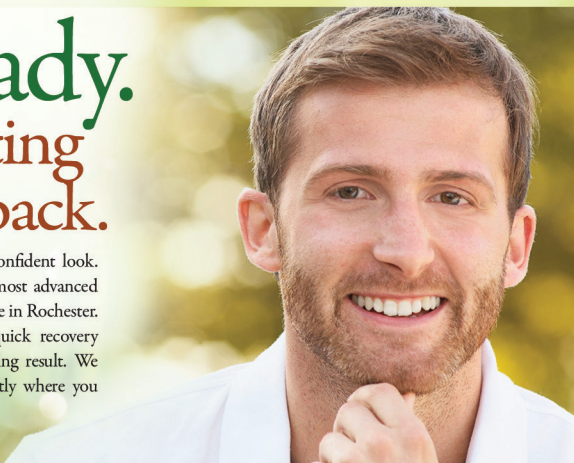


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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear friend,

It is wonderful to have you in our audience for the opening of the RGMC 2019-2020 season. We truly appreciate your support of the chorus and our mission as we take the stage tonight and share some "Treasured Traditions" of the holiday season.

Tonight the chorus will share traditional songs including *O Holy Night* and *I Saw Three Ships*, original musical pieces, and some "new" traditions around the 12 nights and *Jingle Bells*. In addition, we shall offer up a special version of *Silent Night* which will truly live up to its title. We cannot think of a better way to celebrate the holidays with you, here on stage at the beautiful Hochstein Hall. We also continue our relationship with the Flower City Pride Band who are joining us again tonight as one of our holiday traditions and who always offer up wonderful music to enjoy.

At this concert we present Artistic Director Wilson Southerland in his first RGMC concert in his new role. Wilson is a familiar face with us, having guest and interim directed last year's season. Wilson has brought a wealth of experience and knowledge of the music world to the podium and, with accompanist Ben Meixell, worked long and hard to bring our concert program together along with our singers and members. The Board of Directors is looking to the next 37 years and is beginning planning work on RGMC 2025, a five-year strategic plan to promote the growth and stability of the chorus. We are committed to making sure the RGMC continues to provide not only great concerts but a welcoming, safe place for all in our community.

Our 2019-2020 season kicks off our 37th year of singing, creating social change through excellence in the choral arts. From a living room on South Plymouth Ave, through a variety of venues, the RGMC has continued to grow and sing for our community, including each one of you here tonight. On behalf of the entire chorus, we thank you for your support over the years and in the future. We invite you to join us at our Spagaytti Dinner January 26th, Mardi Gras Dinner February 22 at the Memorial Art Gallery, as well our upcoming Elton Concert in March, Miscast in April, and GALA Pride in July, in collaboration with the Out Alliance.

Your support of the RGMC and our LGBTQ brothers and sisters keeps the voices singing. Thank you for coming and we hope you enjoy the show and our Treasured Traditions.

Enjoy the show.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Smith".

Ted Smith
Chair, Board of Directors

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A LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus Treasured Traditions concert! We are excited to share the warmth and happiness of the holiday season through the power of music. This year you'll visualize with us that *Silent Night*, catch a glimpse of Rudolph, learn about the *12 Days After Christmas*, and experience a not-quite-right version of *Jingle Bells*. We'll pay homage to the Beach Boys and Burl Ives, and learn that it's ok to be Jewish and love Christmas songs, thanks to a song and lyrics by the RGMC's own Dennis Rosenbaum.

We're honored to present the world premiere of his *I'm Jewish and I Love Christmas Songs* this very weekend! You'll

tap your toes to familiar tunes played by Rochester's own Flower City Pride Band, and dance in your seats alongside the Rochettes' stirring routines. I'm just thrilled to have interpreter Cat Hardesty with us, as well as the talented Ben Meixell at the piano.

All of this wonderful music would not be possible without such talented and enthusiastic choral singers as those you will see onstage this weekend. Months before even the earliest holiday decoration would dare make a public appearance, your dedicated RGMC has been practicing weekly to bring cozy holiday favorites to life. Thanks to the tireless support of the RGMC board and staff, and you, our community, we are proud to present Treasured Traditions - not just because we love singing, but above all because we love being a part of something bigger than ourselves.

We are most grateful you are here to join us on our holiday adventure!

Wilson Southerland
Artistic Director

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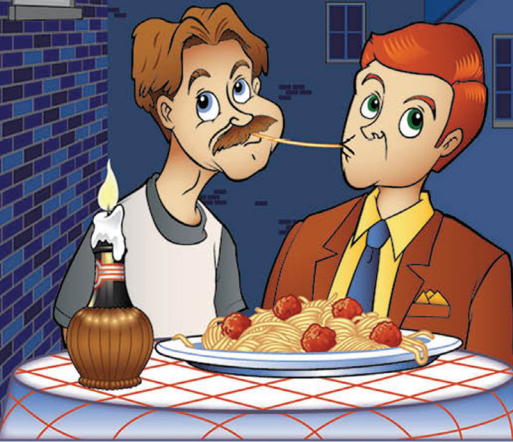
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Robert Renjilian, *Member at Large*
Larry Quinsland, *Member at Large*
Andrew Stephens, *Member at Large*

ARTISTIC STAFF:

Wilson Southerland, *Artistic Director*
Ben Meixell, *Principal Pianist*
Nicholas Williams, *Artistic Director*
Emeritus

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Jim Janssen, *Operations Director*
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PRODUCTION STAFF:

Wilson Southerland, *Music Director/*
Conductor
Elier Ruiz, *Production Stage Manager*
Cat Hardesty, *CT Sign Language*
Interpreter
Lynn Zicari, *Production Assistant*

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
Gary Bauer
Stephen Berds
Tom Carr
Steven Chabot
Bill Coleman
Bob DeGrandchamp

John DiPrima
Jeffrey Freeland
Tom Glasow
Bob Griffith
Paul Kelly
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THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS

First Tenor

Robert Caruso
Terry Keach
Marc McCabe
Timothy S. McGuckin
Daniel Reeder
Dennis W. Rosenbaum*
Terry Quataert
James Rood

Second Tenor

Sam L. Beach
Jeffrey Elsenheimer, Jr.
David C. Knoll
Larry Mancine
Dick Madden*
John Owen
David M. Skinner

Baritone

Al Carvill
David Clinton
Matt Fleig *
John Hogan
Peter House
Yu Yin Tsang
John Villani
Steve Witzberger

Bass

Kennan Beckstrand**
Lawrence Brewley
Timothy Carl
David Curran*
Rob Keefe
Gary C. Keleher
William R. Miller
Robert F. Renjilian
James Tavolaro
Jorge Yacila

***Section Leader**

****Membership
Concerns Chair**

The Rochettes

David Curran
Anthony Jagla
Steven Price
Terry Quataert
David Skinner
Riley Sullivan
Steve Witzberger
Jorge Yacila

Donna Brett,
Choreographer

FLOWER CITY PRIDE BAND

Andrew Virgin Artistic Director

Ezekial McGee Flute
Kathi Grace Flute
Paula Sousa Flute
Denise Lowery Flute
Raelynn Lasonde Flute

Deb Frank *Clarinet*
Dorothy Drake *Clarinet*
Smalls *Clarinet*
Judy Ames *Alto Sax*
Terri Cvetan *Alto Sax*
Cindy Lau *Alto Sax*
Chris Wooldridge *French Horn*

Duane Jones *Trumpet*
Anthony Letchworth *Trumpet*
Amy Rafoth *Trumpet*

Luara Whitbeck *Trombone*
Faye Vodika *Trombone*
Bella Lau *Trombone*
Axel Laubscher *Trombone*
Ben Storer *Trombone*

Richard Hellinger *Tuba*
Jason Andrews *Tuba*

Tim Adams *Snare/Set*
Steve Lau *Auxiliary*
Alex Slabyk *Bass/Bells*

THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS
Treasured Traditions

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

- I Saw Three Ships..... Music by Mark Riese
- Danny Boy's Holiday Music - Irish Melody
Arranged by Dennis W. Rosenbaum
- A Holly Jolly Christmas Music and lyrics by Johnny Marks
Arranged by Kirby Shaw
- Little Saint Nick..... Words & music by Brian Wilson & Mike Love
Arranged by Christopher Peterson
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Words & music by Johnny Marks
Arranged by Ed Lojeski
- Nutcracker..... Concept & lyric by Walter Chase & Seggie Isho
Arranged by Walter Chase

Flower City Pride Band

- Christmas Is Coming! Arranged by Rob Romeyn
- Santa Baby Arranged by Mike Story
- I'll Be Home for Christmas Arranged by Dallas Burke
- Jazzy Holidays Arranged by Johnnie Vinson
- We Three Kings Arranged by John M. Pasternak

Special Music Announced from Stage

Rochettes

- We Need a Little Christmas Glee

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

- I'm Jewish and I Love Christmas Songs Music & lyrics by Dennis W. Rosenbaum
- Hallelujah! G.F Handel

*****INTERMISSION*****

THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S CHORUS PRESENTS

Treasured Traditions

Rochettes

Carol of the Bells.....*Straight No Chaser*

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

The 12 Days After Christmas.....*Words & music by Frederick Silver*

O Holy Night..... *Music by Adolphe Adam*
Arranged by John Hyatt Brewer

Special Music Announced from Stage

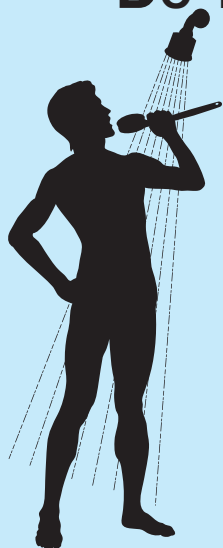
Audience Sing-a-Long

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

Jingle Bells (Sort Of)..... *Words & music by James Pierpont*
Arranged, with new words, by Jay Althouse

Silent Night..... *Music by Franz Gruber*
Arranged by Dennis W. Rosenbaum

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. Voice placements will be held Thursday January 9, 2020 at 7 PM. Location to be announced on our website soon!

For more information, visit our website at:

www.THERGMC.org/join-us



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ARTISTIC STAFF



Wilson Southerland

Artistic & 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.



Ben Meixell, Guest Director

Collaborative Pianist Benjamin Meixell is often praised for his supportive skills at the keyboard. Since moving to Rochester, NY, in 2010, he has become increasingly in demand as both pianist and conductor.

Receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Music from Nazareth College, he has worked both onstage and behind the scenes with ensembles including the Syracuse Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Onondaga Civic Symphony, Syracuse Opera, Rochester Lyric Opera, Geva Theatre, Auditorium Theatre, Rochester Oratorio Society, Resonanz, and the Greece Choral Society as well as many individuals including Daniel Hege, Ward Stare, Lara Downes, Dan Saunders, Cass Morgan, and Theodore Bikel. He is a member of the American Musicological Society.



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 baby daughter Elana Paige!



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 thank all of our donors listed below for their generous support during the past twelve months. A special thank you to Jim Moran on establishing the James R Moran Endowment for the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus. For more information or to contribute to the fund visit RACF.org.

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