



*The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus creates social change through
excellence in the choral arts.*

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

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www.thergmc.org

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Operations Director

Wilson Southerland
Artistic Director

Dear friends of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus,

We have all been watching and monitoring the community situation with the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. The RGMC values not only its dedicated patrons and donors but our singing, dancing, and volunteer membership as well. ***To that end, based on recommendations from health officials and ongoing responses, we are announcing the postponement of the Elton concert, scheduled for March 28 and 29, 2020.***

We know this is a disappointing decision but it is one that is borne out of necessity. Our chorus members are extremely disappointed, having rehearsed the last two months to give you Elton, but is more determined and passionate about sharing the gift of song with you. During this time of national emergency, we are keeping a song in our hearts and our sights on the future when we can take the stage and celebrate with you. After all, it is for you, our audience, that we sing.

We are working with our partners at the Hochstein Performance Hall to secure a new date and we'll let you all know as soon as we are able to. If you have already purchased tickets for Elton, you have several options: your Elton tickets will be valid for our rescheduled date, TBA; you may request a voucher for another concert through Spring 2021; or you can consider your ticket purchase a donation to the RGMC. Please contact our Operations Director Jim Janssen if you require a voucher or need a tax letter for your donation at 585-423-0650 or by email at jjanssen@thergmc.org.

This is a difficult time for our communities as new information about limiting crowd sizes is affecting performing arts organizations across the world. Arts organizations are especially hit hard with cancellations and shutdowns leading to loss of revenue and the RGMC is no exception. The loss of revenue from ticket sales, sponsors, and raffle sales, among other factors, is a major challenge to our organization as we assess our plans for moving forward. We appeal to you as a friend of the chorus to join us in preserving our future.

Please consider donating to our **Spring Campaign** in raising money to support the RGMC as we face the challenges of providing for operational expenses. We are happy to share we have \$1500 in matching donations so far and hope you will donate to help us be successful in this campaign. Your support is, now more than ever, so vital and appreciated as we navigate these turbulent and unpredictable waters. You can donate by visiting www.thergmc.org or by clicking the donation links attached. We also ask that you share this on your social media as we try to avoid the \$400-500 cost of a printed mailing campaign.

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus has been a bastion of the Rochester-area LGBTQ community for over 37 years. We have weathered difficult times before and will continue to do so, supported in part by you, our dedicated fans and supporters. Your campaign contribution, be it a single donation or a monthly donation, will allow us to return to the stage stronger and prouder than ever before. Throughout our history, in difficult times, the arts have provided a beacon of hope, a place of escape, and a home to those seeking respite, solace, comfort, and family. While we cannot sing for you now, please know that our mission to create social change through the choral arts is merely on pause. Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheRGMC/> for updates, donation information, and video teasers, coming soon!

On behalf of the entire Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, we thank you for your support past, present, and future.

Sincerely, in song,

Ted Smith
Chair, RGMC Board of Directors

The Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Federal Tax Id# 22-2572760.