



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

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus

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Dear Friend of the Arts,

The **Rochester Gay Men's Chorus** came to life in 1982 when five friends decided to pursue a dream, the dream of using music to create an acceptance of social diversity and to use the harmony of voice to create a harmony of the spirit. Thirty-nine years later the RGMC still exists, as one of the oldest LGBTQ+ organizations in New York State.

The past 20 months has been a difficult time for businesses and charitable organizations, but the RGMC has survived! We had to cancel all in-person concerts since December 2019, which resulted in a significant loss of revenue. However, we managed to keep sharing our music through virtual performances. Our annual major fundraiser, Mardi Gras, took on a new look last year. It was a hybrid of in-person and virtual content. And thanks to the support of our sponsors and donors, we were able to raise much needed funds to ensure the continuation of the RGMC.

We were excited to announce at Mardi Gras in May, our plans to return to live, in-person concerts and events for our 2021-22 season. And today we are excited to announce our annual major fundraiser, the **Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball**, on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

This year the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus is looking to celebrate the return of live events with a Masquerade Party. The RGMC is asking those attending our Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball to wear masks and/or come dressed in Mardi Gras themed costumes. Traditional Mardi Gras celebrations nearly always involve the use of masks and costumes by its participants, and the most popular celebratory colors are purple, green, and gold. In fact, in New Orleans, float riders are required by law to wear masks!

We are thrilled to invite you to support this exciting event by **donating to our silent auction**. Please consider helping us with a product or service donation. Your donation can be as simple or creative as you like. Some suggestions for donations include gift certificate to your business, a themed basket, tickets to an event, memorabilia, or a weekend getaway. All donations are greatly appreciated.

We can make arrangements to pick up your donation or you can send it directly to the chorus office at the address listed above. Your gift to our silent auction will help ensure the continued triumph of our mission to, "Create social change through excellence in the choral arts," for many years to come.

On behalf of the members, staff, and board of the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus, we **thank you** for your time, consideration, and support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Elsenheimer Jr.
Event Co-Chair

Robert R. Neale
Event Co-Chair