

## Creating a more tolerant society through the power of music

The BGMC is helping to create a more tolerant society through the power of music! We reach a broad spectrum of gay and straight people through our creative programs and exceptional performance standards. As New England's largest gay cultural organization and one of the largest gay choruses in the world, we serve as role models, showcasing the talent and diversity of the GLBT community. By telling our stories through music, the Chorus shares the reality of the gay experience and connects our audience to our common humanity.

- given over 200 subscription concerts in Boston over the past 29 years
- sung for an estimated 220,000 audience members
- produced ten award winning CDs, selling over 15,000 copies nationwide
- commissioned over 35 works of original music and given local premieres of dozens more

We reach out to suburban and rural religious and civic communities, taking our messages beyond Boston, so that we can support isolated GLBT individuals and the community institutions that support them. The BGMC's innovative High School Outreach Program brings the Chorus into area schools and supports Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) programs and students. Our outreach events replace the fear and anger of homophobia with pride, respect, and tolerance.

- performed outreach concerts in more than 60 towns across New England for 55,000 additional citizens
- inspired over 10 Massachusetts schools through our groundbreaking High School Outreach Project
- won the Massachusetts Teachers Association 2008 *Creative Leadership in Human Rights Award*
- helped raise over \$290,000 to support AIDS, civil rights, and GLBT youth causes
- donated over 120 community appearances for local non profits and community organizations

The Chorus leverages its reputation to impact civic life in Boston and beyond, allowing GLBT people to be seen and understood by society at large. Our presence at major events provides positive visibility for the GLBT community and creates opportunities for people to listen, learn, and change. Our creatively themed performances use song, theater, dance and multimedia to tackle current issues while resonating with the audience on emotional, intellectual, and spiritual levels.

- represented the community at prestigious civic events from Symphony Hall to Boston Garden to the State House
- featured on national television broadcasts by The Boston Pops and the PBS documentary series *The Visionaries*
- raised international gay visibility during controversial concert in Poland on 2005 Eastern European Tour
- generated 400,000 volunteer hours for the community by our singers and members
- advocated across New England for same-sex marriage equality and performed for dozens of marriage ceremonies

### How can you help us create a more tolerant society?

As with most performance organizations, ticket sales, program ads, concert fees and CD sales together cover only 45% of the annual revenue we need to maintain our mission. The remaining 55% of our revenue must come from the generous financial support of corporate, government and - most especially - individual donors like you. Add your voice to help us change hearts and minds.



"BGMC illustrated why it is one of the region's premier arts organizations, straight or gay...The incredible elegance and power with which it wields its mission was on vibrant display at its latest production...The BGMC is not merely a vital cultural institution; it is just as important as any GLBT political, religious, media, or other organization. That the chorus uses its power in such uplifting and significant ways is a gift for all of us." *- In Newsweekly*

"Joy, sung 150 voices strong"

*- Bay Area Reporter, San Francisco*

"The opening-night performance on this, the eve of Boston's annual Pride Weekend, brimmed with spirit and enthusiasm... If singing is one of life's most liberating experiences, then the BGMC more than earned its freedom" *- Boston Herald*



BOSTON  
GAY MEN'S CHORUS

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## Boston Gay Men's Chorus – Biography

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus is one of New England's largest and most successful community-based choruses. The mission of the BGMC is to create a more tolerant society through the power of music. Now in its 29th season, the 175-voice ensemble is celebrated for its outstanding musicianship, creative programming, and groundbreaking community outreach. Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Reuben M. Reynolds III, the BGMC sings a wide spectrum of classical and popular music with excellence and builds bridges to all people by providing a positive, affirming image of the gay and lesbian community. Each year the Chorus offers a subscription concert series of three programs, performed in the city's most prestigious venues including Jordan Hall, the Cutler Majestic Theatre, and Symphony Hall. The Chorus is heard live by more than 12,000 people each season and thousands more through recordings and television broadcasts. The *Boston Business Journal* consistently ranks the BGMC in its list of the top 25 performing arts organizations in greater Boston.

In June 2005, the Boston Gay Men's Chorus toured central Europe, performing in Germany, Poland, and the Czech Republic. In Berlin, the chorus appeared before a crowd of 700,000 for the city's Christopher Street Day celebration. In Prague, the BGMC performed a concert supporting domestic partnership legislation in world-renowned Dvorak Hall at the Rudolfinum. The Chorus's journey to Wroclaw, Poland marked the first-ever performance by a gay chorus in that country. The appearance sparked protest and the BGMC performed to a sold out crowd under police guard.

The BGMC enjoys a high profile in the greater Boston community. Special appearances have included the re-opening of the Boston Opera House, the gala opening of Hockney exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, the 1999 Boston Pops July 4<sup>th</sup> Esplanade concert and telecast, the grand opening concert of the FleetCenter with James Taylor and Patti LaBelle, and Mayor Menino's inaugural breakfast. The Chorus has also performed for the Boston Children's Museum, multiple Human Rights Campaign Dinners, Boston Lyric Opera's *The Flying Dutchman*, and the American Guild of Organists National Convention.

In 2001, the BGMC became the first not-for-profit organization to produce a concert at the FleetBoston Pavilion with a program that featured Tony Award winner Nell Carter. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus was the first openly gay organization to perform at Boston's historic Symphony Hall and has sung in prestigious venues from coast to coast, including New York's Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall; Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco; and in Montreal, Minneapolis, Denver, Tampa, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. The BGMC has appeared in every New England state and often performs outreach concerts in the region. A half-hour documentary about the BGMC was seen nationwide on public television stations during 2003. The show, part of the series *The Visionaries* hosted by Sam Waterston, documented the work of organizations working to create positive social change. The BGMC episode won a 2003 Telly Award for Outstanding Short Documentary, given to non-network TV programming.

The BGMC has recorded ten compact discs, earning 4 Outmusic Award nominations. The newest are **In Need of Music** and **Live in Poland**. Other titles include **Here to Stay: The Music of George Gershwin**, which features more than a dozen timeless Gershwin songs recorded with full orchestra; **Best of the BGMC – Live:** and **Razzle Dazzle: The Broadway Hits of Kander & Ebb. Gloria**, a holiday CD with brass and organ, won the coveted Outmusic Award in 2002 for Outstanding New Recording. Other recordings include **Eos, Oz and Beyond: The Music of Harold Arlen, Freedom, Merriment & Joy**, and **Visions: Words for the Future**. The BGMC is also heard on the Boston Pops recording **A Splash of Pops** (RCA Victor) under the baton of Keith Lockhart.

The BGMC sings a diverse repertoire encompassing virtually all periods and styles of music, from classical masterpieces to popular entertainment. The Chorus also has a distinguished history of creating new music for itself, commissioning more than a dozen works from nationally prominent composers including Daniel Pinkham, David Conte, Conrad Susa, Lowell Liebermann, and Libby Larsen. In addition, the BGMC has given numerous local premieres. From 1985 to 1997, the BGMC was under the direction of Robert Barney, who now holds the title of Conductor Laureate. The Chorus is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), an international organization of more than 180 men's, women's, and mixed-voice choruses.