

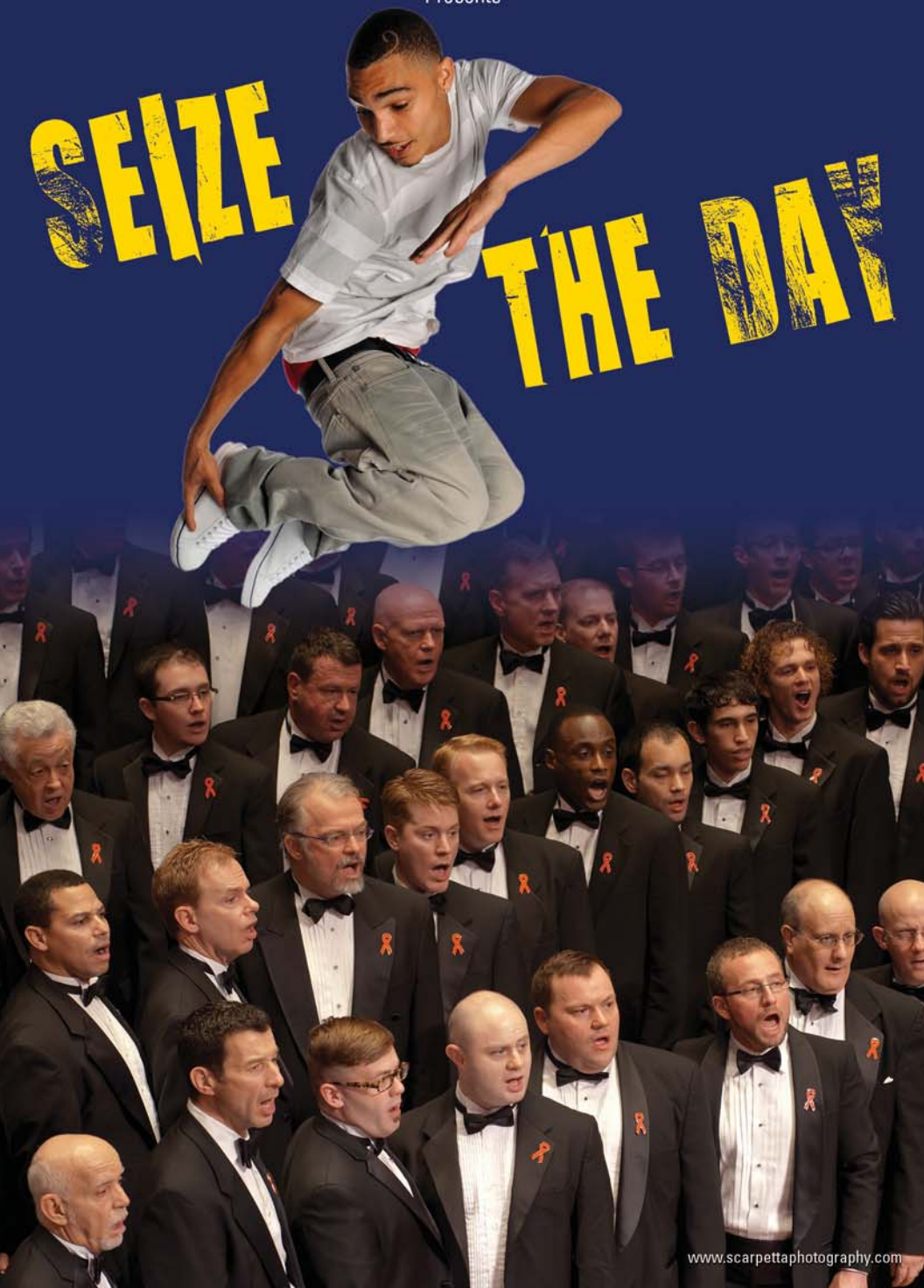
# Boston Gay Men's Chorus

Reuben M. Reynolds III Music Director

Presents

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# Seize the Day!

**March 23 & 24, 2013**

**Jordan Hall at New England Conservatory**

Reuben M. Reynolds III, *Music Director*

Craig Coogan, *Executive Director*

Chad Weirick, *Principal Accompanist and Assistant Music Director*

LeWana Clark, *American Sign Language Interpreter*

Jared West, *General Manager*

Brian C. Griffin, *Operations Manager*

Daniel John Carroll, *Communications Intern*

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This program is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, administered by the Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events.

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# FROM THE MAESTRO



One of the greatest things about singing in BGMC is the adventures we get to have together. One of those started several years ago when I stumbled across a recording of *Only Heaven*, a set of songs for soprano by Ricky Ian Gordon to text of Langston Hughes. Intrigued – we sang Ricky’s *Love, My Sweet Rain* a few years ago. I adore the poetry of Langston Hughes and I fell madly in love with the music. It sang to me of optimism, of people living their lives unfettered by the restrictions of society. And then I started reading the words of Langston Hughes, a gay man writing during the Harlem Renaissance, and felt as if the words were written just for me.

I knew we had to bring this music to life. The wonderful Ricky Ian Gordon was kind enough to create this new version of *Only Heaven* for the BGMC and it is a joy to sing it for you today!

We started along another adventure several years when we began our program of partnering with High Schools to raise money to help fund Gay Straight Alliances. The BGMC joins forces with a school or a church to raise money to fund a local GSA – the school produces the concert, the BGMC comes and joins the school choir to perform a concert and all the proceeds from the concert go to the GSA to fund their programming. One little church in Groton sold so many tickets they had to move the concert from the church to a larger hall – they raised enough money to fund 5 local GSAs! Today we would like to show you something of that journey. Several years ago we went to Wellesley High School and sang with their choir. Today we welcome choirs from Wellesley High School as they join the BGMC onstage!

Here’s to lots more wonderful adventures together!

Reuben Reynolds, Music Director

*Reuben M. Reynolds III has been the Music Director of the BGMC since 1997. After earning undergraduate degrees in both economics and music, Mr. Reynolds received his Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University where he was teaching assistant to Metropolitan Opera soprano Martina Arroyo, and was on the conducting staff of the Baton Rouge Lyric Opera. In Kansas City, Mr. Reynolds served as Music Director of the Heartland Men’s Chorus from 1989 to 1998 and was also Conductor of the Philharmonia of Kansas City and the Kansas City Civic Opera Theatre. In the summer of 1994, Mr. Reynolds made his European debut conducting the Bohuslav Martinu Philharmonic Orchestra and the Beethoven Chamber Orchestra of Ostrava, Czech Republic. He returned to the Czech Republic to conduct the West Bohemia Symphony Orchestra in 1995. Reuben spent the summer of 1998 in St. Petersburg, Russia, conducting the Hermitage Camerata in the Catherine the Great Theatre. Mr. Reynolds has commissioned over 20 major pieces and hundreds of arrangements in his career. The Boston Globe describes his conducting as “expert and idiomatic.”*

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Welcome to Seize the Day! a triumph of the human spirit. I'm honored to serve as Executive Director for the Boston Gay Men's Chorus, an amazing organization that **creates a more tolerant society through the power of music**. Our mission is realized through concerts like today's – as well as in our many outreach events that we do throughout the year.

The BGMC is one of a handful of LGBT choruses in the world that uses the power of music in the schools and in communities that struggle with LGBT issues. When the Chorus takes the stage bridges of understanding are built whether it's in Jordan Hall, a faith community or a school auditorium. In an increasingly accepting society it is more important than ever for us to celebrate who we are and for our voices to be a beacon of hope where ignorance and fear exist.

We are able to **create a more tolerant society through the power of music** thanks to the talents of hundreds of singers and volunteers. Corporate donations are vital to our success, and we thank our 17 year leadership sponsor Bank of America for their ongoing support. Jet Blue, Reproductive Science Center, Manhunt and Ipswitch are generous corporate sponsors.

**Your** support makes our work possible. Talk to your friends about us. Bring them to an event. Follow us on Twitter. Like us on Facebook. Make sure you are on the mailing list and the email list. Volunteer. Audition. And, of course, donations are always welcome. Individual contributions fill the gap between corporate giving and ticket sales, which is less than half of BGMC's income.

Thank you for coming out to Seize the Day! We look forward to seeing you in June.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink.

Craig Coogan, Executive Director

*Craig Coogan joined BGMC as Executive Director in October 2012. He is an expert in developing strategies and programs to help GLBTA and other nonprofit organizations achieve their operational and artistic goals. Craig brings experience in both the for-profit and non-profit arenas. He previously served as Executive Director for One Voice Mixed Chorus in St. Paul, Minnesota and was a founding board member and served for ten years as Treasurer of the acclaimed Women's choral group Vox Femina Los Angeles. He has produced independent movies and several award-winning documentaries and acclaimed original plays. He is a graduate of Syracuse University. He is thrilled to be back home on the East coast.*



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## MEET THE STAFF

---



### **CHAD WEIRICK, Principal Accompanist & Assistant Music Director**

A native of Rockford, Illinois, Chad graduated high school at the age of 15 and moved to New York City. There, he became the organist for Radio City Music Hall and rehearsal pianist for the Rockettes, a position that earned him a listing in ‘Ripley’s “Believe It Or Not!”’ as the youngest musician to ever work full time on Broadway. He also was the pianist for various Broadway shows including “A Chorus Line”, “Shenandoah” and “The Act”. Subsequently he moved to Boston to attend

the New England Conservatory of Music, where he received a Masters Degree in Composition under Malcolm Peyton. He also worked as music director for Marriott’s Great America theme park in Gurnee, Illinois.

Chad’s numerous choral arrangements have been performed and recorded not only by the BGMC, but many other choruses nationally and internationally. Currently he works in the choral department of Wellesley High School and is the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church in Hanover, MA. In addition to his music credits, he is most proud of being a registered black belt in Tae Kwon Do. Chad thanks his partner David Slaga for his support, friendship and love.

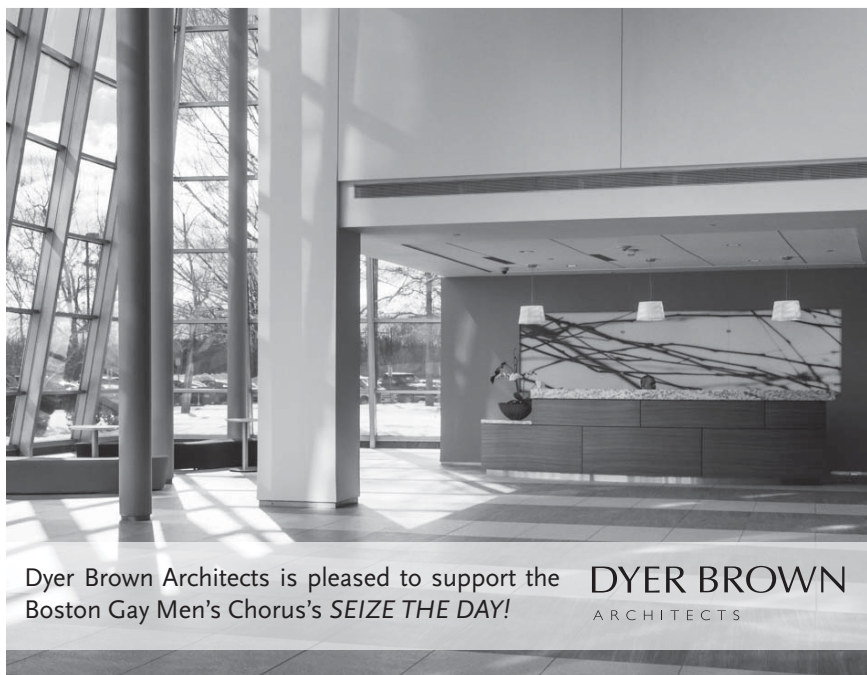
*Chad has been the Principal Accompanist & Assistant Music Director since 1993 and serves Assistant Choral Director and Accompanist at Wellesley High School.*



### **LEWANA CLARK, American Sign Language Interpreter**

LeWana Clark has a unique style of interpreting that incorporates not only the lyrics that are sung but also the tone and musical qualities of the melody. Since becoming nationally certified as an ASL/English Interpreter in 1979, she continues to provide ASL communication services for deaf, hard of hearing, and non-deaf consumers in Boston, across the Commonwealth, nationally and internationally. Although she spends most of her time working in court or in other legal settings, she’s also qualified to interpret in medical, mental health, governmental, educational and theatrical/performing arts settings.

*Lewana has been the American Sign Language Interpreter for the BGMC since 1989.*



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# ARTISTIC PRODUCTION & GUEST SOLOIST



## MICHELLE CHASSÉ, Choreographer

Michelle Chassé trained with the Boston Ballet School and Maestro Vincenzo Celli, and was on scholarship at the School of American Ballet. She graduated *cum laude* with a BFA in Dance Performance from the Boston Conservatory, where she was the first recipient of the prestigious Ruth Sandholm Ambrose Award, and later received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. She has both studied and performed with ballet, concert dance and Broadway legends from around the world and received numerous awards.

In addition to her ongoing work as a highly sought-after master teacher, Chassé is a member of the Musical Theater faculty of the Boston Conservatory, where she also serves as Resident Choreographer, Musical Theater Dance Coordinator, and Director of the Musical Theater Dance Intensive.



Photo: Duncan Hannah

## RICKY IAN GORDON, Composer

Ricky Ian Gordon studied composition at Carnegie Mellon University. His songs have been performed and recorded by such internationally renowned singers as Renee Fleming, Dawn Upshaw, Audra MacDonald, Kristin Chenoweth, Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, and Frederica Von Stade. His Opera, *The Grapes Of Wrath*, written with librettist Michael Korie, made its premiere at Minnesota Opera in 2007, and has been performed many times since. When Mr. Gordon was presented at Lincoln Center as part of the American Songbook Series in a concert devoted to his music entitled *Bright*

*Eyed Joy: The Music of Ricky Ian Gordon*, it was written in the *New York Times*, "If the music of Ricky Ian Gordon had to be defined by a single quality, it would be the bursting effervescence infusing songs that blithely blur the lines between art song and the high-end Broadway music of Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim...It's caviar for a world gorging on pizza." He has taught all over the country at colleges and universities, been the guest of many festivals, and received many awards and honors.



## JORDAN FANTAUZZO, Soloist

Jordan Fantauzzo is from Windsor, Ontario, Canada and is in his second year of the MFA program at the Boston Conservatory. In 2011 he graduated *cum laude* from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance and a minor in English literature. He has been involved with opera and musical theater from a young age performing with the Michigan Opera Theater in their productions of *Werther* (featuring Andrea Bocelli and Denyce Graves) *Carmen*, and *Der Rosenkavalier* as well as with the Windsor Symphony and Detroit Symphony orchestra's

productions of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Most recently he performed the role of Jack in *Into the Woods* with UWOpera, Michael/Gerry in *Dancing at Lughnasa* and Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Boston Conservatory. Jordan is also a composer of art song and instrumental music, his most recent compositions being incidental music for small ensemble for the MFA production of Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* and settings of T.S Eliot's *Preludes* for voice and piano.

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# BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS



The Boston Gay Men's Chorus is one of New England's largest and most successful community-based choruses. Founded in 1982, the 175-voice ensemble is celebrated for its outstanding musicianship, creative programming, and ground-breaking community outreach. Under the dynamic leadership of Music Director Reuben M. Reynolds III, the BGMC sings a wide spectrum of classical and popular music and builds bridges to all people by providing a positive, affirming image of the gay and lesbian community. The Chorus is heard live by more than 10,000 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. [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org)

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Don't miss any of the upcoming BGMC events. Tickets for all events are available at [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org) or by calling 617.542.SING.

## CRESCENDO!

**Crescendo is the annual fundraising auction and gala that raises vital funds for the BGMC.** Hundreds of guests have a great time, celebrate the Chorus's accomplishments and support our future work. Guests participate in what Edge magazine called "the king (or queen!) of fundraisers" whose centerpiece is our signature live and silent auction. Edge continues its rave:

*"If you could only pick one benefit to go to in fund-raising season, this would be it. The evening revolves around a silent auction, which may sound like a big yawn, but is filled with **sumptuous items** you suddenly discover you can't live without, and also provides a perfect opportunity to cruise the attractive crowd for 2 hours."*

This year we'll be joined by music and comedy legends Amy Armstrong and Freddy Allen. They have graced stages coast-to-coast, both large and small, and in over 20 countries with their one-of-a-kind wit and musical prowess. You know them from major gay events, headliners on RSVP and on NBC's "America's Got Talent."

There's no other event that is this much fun and raises money for such a good cause. Laugh, shop and have a gay time at this year's Crescendo!

**Saturday, May 11**

## DIVAS UNLEASHED!

Back by popular demand! We couldn't get all the Divas into our last show. Music from Barbra, Bette, Dionne and Judy is a given – plus Audra, the Supremes and tributes to Whitney and Donna. Of course there will be some BGMC surprises as well. Celebrate Pride with this song and dance salute to our Divas!

**Thursday, June 6, 8pm**

**Friday, June 7, 8pm**

**Sunday, June 9, 7pm**

John Hancock Hall

## FALL AUDITIONS

Ready to move from the shower to the stage? BGMC membership is by audition and prior choral singing experience and elementary music reading skill is helpful but not required. BGMC Auditions take place in a relaxed atmosphere and are a lot of fun. It includes singing a familiar song, sight singing, an assessment of musical skills, and an informational interview. No prepared piece is necessary. **Go to [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org) to sign up for the September auditions.**

# CHORUS MEMBERS

---

## Tenor 1

Jay Baer  
 Bruce G. Barrett \*  
 Harold Bingham  
 Joseph Caputo  
 David Chen  
 Bryan Clark  
 James Croft  
 Peter Crosby  
 Evan Crothers  
 Giuseppe Delisi  
 Adam Kirk Edgerton  
 Nicholas Everage  
 Trevor Findlay  
 Jason E. Frankel \*  
 Courtney Furno  
 Michael D. Gerber  
 David Heckert  
 Jeffrey K. Howard  
 Edward Howland  
 Gerald B. James  
 Peter Kokoszka  
 Paul Laskorski  
 Ryan Li  
 Michael Lombo  
 Andrew Maggiore  
 Andrew Martinez  
 Brian Murphy  
 Christopher Murray  
 Jeffrey Nagengast  
 Michael Nuss  
 Christopher Nuss  
 L. Dean Pender  
 Jeremy Proulx  
 James Quackenbush  
 Kaveh Riahi  
 Kevin D. Rice  
 Corey Spence  
 Greg Still

Christopher Robert  
 Blank  
 José David Bonilla  
 David M. Brillhart  
 Andrew J. Carpentier  
 Bill Casey  
 William Cattey  
 Dean Cerrato  
 Thomas J. Choinski  
 Paul Consoli  
 Guy Croteau  
 Robert Cullinane  
 Marcel D'Anjou  
 Alverson de Souza  
 Christopher Dean  
 Guy DeAngelis  
 Earl Dimaculangan  
 John W. Duncan  
 Mark Forry  
 Stone Glover  
 Chad Gobert  
 Steven Goecke  
 Geoffrey A. Hall  
 Adam Harrington  
 Jazzul Holguin  
 Ernst F. Hunter  
 Michael Joseph  
 Alex Kapitan  
 Michael J. Leclerc  
 Jackson Lee  
 Jeremy Leiferman  
 Edward J. LeMay  
 Todd Lindamood  
 Christopher Ludwig  
 Eric Martellini  
 Dennis McCrum  
 Kilian Melloy  
 John F. Moran  
 James Mulder  
 Luke T. Murphy  
 Joel Nosek \*  
 Nicholas Panagiotou  
 Michael Perrone  
 Victor Ramos

Jeff Record  
 Matthew Rouse  
 Tony Scarpetta  
 Kevin Shancady  
 Jeremy Jacob-Kadom  
 Spears  
 Doug St. Lawrence  
 David Stockton  
 Demetrius Tuck \*  
 Neil Vyas  
 Billy Watkins  
 Michael Xavier  
 Scott Michael Yagel

## Baritone

Dana Albertelli  
 Jim Anderson  
 Jason Asciola  
 Richard Babson  
 John N. Beaudreau  
 Izzy Berdan  
 Jonah Henri Beukman  
 Bryan P. Bishop  
 Brian Blancke  
 Kevin R. Bleyle  
 Tyler Brewer  
 Samuel Brinton \*  
 Gregory Brown  
 Jim Buckley  
 Juan Buruca  
 Brian Calhoon  
 Henry H. Carrey  
 Michael Chen  
 Frank F. Chiera  
 Galvin Chow  
 Emil Cohen  
 Thomas L. Collins, III  
 James Edward  
 Concepcion  
 Jasen Coole  
 Michael Cox  
 Curtis Creekmore  
 Jordan Crouser \*  
 Eric Crumrine

Jim Cullion  
 Tim Dreher  
 Dwight Dunning  
 Jeffrey Fatchaline  
 John K. Ferguson  
 Douglas Fortado  
 Ethan Fowler-Humphrey  
 Johan Franzen  
 Joseph Germanos  
 David Eric Gethmann  
 Max Joshua Greenfield  
 David B. Hanks  
 Mehdi Mathieu  
 Hannouz  
 Jeremy P. Hayes  
 Mike Hillwig  
 Ken Hirschkind  
 Eric Hubert  
 Brad A. Huntress  
 John Iacona  
 Alan H. Ingram  
 Steve Jewett  
 Ricardo Gabriel  
 Junquera  
 James Keating  
 Terrence Kenealy  
 Steven P. Kleinman  
 Al Lovata  
 Rohan Raoul Manohar  
 Jason McClellan  
 James L. "Jim"  
 McDonnell  
 Colby Alexander Miller  
 Carlos O. Moran  
 Joshua Moran  
 Robert Morgan  
 Nicholas Mozzicato  
 William Neely  
 Alfred O'Connell  
 Ryan Poplin  
 Kelvin Powell  
 Charles Daniel  
 Redmond  
 Ron Riso

## Tenor 2

Jonathan Bardwell  
 Tyler Keith Beaupre  
 Keith Bell

# CHORUS MEMBERS

Luis Nefitali Rodriguez  
Matthew James Russo  
Carl Seglem  
Kirk Simpson  
Jim Slayton  
Edward Steigerwald  
Gary Thies  
Luis Valdez \*  
Tom Weisend  
Jason Williams  
Brent D. Zeigler

## Bass

John Abbott  
Iory Allison  
David Baumgold  
David Addison Bell  
Matthew D. Bolt  
Vladimir Boskovic  
Steven Bowe  
Andy Bullocks  
Jeff Candiello  
Craig Capone  
Michael Capparelli  
Pedro O. Carrasquillo  
Paul Carreiro  
Anthony D. Castellanos  
Richard Cavallaro  
Paul Cernota  
Even Huang-Yao  
Cheng  
Simon Choong  
Joseph S. Collins  
Laurence E.D. Collopy  
Chuck Conley  
Stephen M. Conner  
Mark Daggett  
Nicolas Dahlberg  
Joseph Davies-Gavin  
Jerry Day  
Ross W. Dekle  
Dixon Delaware  
Paul J. DeLorey  
Rich Domenico

Neil E. Dugas  
Robert G. Finkenauf  
Charles Fortunato  
Joel E. Friedman  
Ken Golner  
Jason Gomez-Lopez  
John Gustafson  
David W. Ham  
Jeremy Harper  
David Hinterman  
Dennis J. Hoare \*  
Jermaine Joynes  
Peter C. Lauro  
Jacob Lee Leatherberry  
Bob Linscott  
Edward H. McIvor  
Glenn G. Milliken Sr.  
Dan Mooney  
Jeff Morrissey  
Michael Oster  
Steve Oyangen  
James Parziale  
Rocco Pigneri  
Timothy B. Powell-  
Flatt  
Howard Rawding  
Peter A. Ray  
Johnny Redmond  
Sean P. Riley  
Mark Roderick  
Roland W. Roy  
Brian Shuman  
James Simpson  
Peter Sterpe  
Rob Stone  
John Strumwasser  
Ashaad Suarez  
Oliver Sun  
Andrew Swayze \*  
Jansen Tionsgon  
Steve Tromp  
Stephen Vorenberg  
Donald Woodford

## 5th Section

Donald R. Cloutier  
Matthew Doherty  
Ryan Fleming  
George K. Marshall  
Carlos Parra-Herran  
Jay Philomena  
Dana Rosengard  
Robert L. "Rab"  
Sherman  
Michael W. Tobey  
Eric Weiss

## In Memoriam

*Daniel-John Aylward*  
*Harry Baldwin*  
*Joseph Bevins*  
*Herb Bourne*  
*Everette Brewer*  
*Phil Briggs*  
*Richard Brummet*  
*John Bryant*  
*Richard Coe*  
*Eric Cossart-D'Espies*  
*Ryan F. Curtis*  
*Gerry R. Dagesse*  
*Wayne Drake*  
*Dan Gage*  
*Rick Goodwin*  
*Jim Gordon*  
*John Graves*  
*Neil Gray*  
*Roland Green*  
*Toby Hall*  
*Alan Hartwell*  
*John Patrick Hynes*  
*Mickey Kasper*  
*Ronald D. Lacombe*  
*Fred Lange*  
*John LaPorta*  
*Andrew LoBao*  
*Roy Lundin*  
*Gerry Marquis*  
*Kevin McKenna*  
*David Messier*  
*Rod Meth*  
*Joe Molloy*  
*Richard Moore*  
*Raymond Nadeau*  
*David Panella*  
*Greg Pearce*  
*Joseph Pels*  
*Daniel Eaton Pentlarge*  
*Bud Perry*  
*Larry Poitras*  
*Sandy Reder*  
*Dominick Roca*  
*Kevin Rogers*  
*Corey Smith*  
*Randy Smith*  
*Robert Sweeney*  
*Michael Thornton*  
*John Van Etten*  
*David Varner*  
*Mark Wayne*  
*Bill Williamson*

\* denotes section leader

# WELLESLEY HIGH SCHOOL



The **Wellesley High School Keynote Singers** and **Rice Street Singers** are two select choirs from a thriving choral department that consists of 5 choral ensembles and over 230 singers. In addition to the academic choral ensembles, WHS has an extra curricular a cappella program consisting of 5 contemporary a cappella ensembles as well as a madrigal group. The primary goal of the WHS Choral Department is to inspire a passion for singing and for sharing their music with others.

The **Keynote Singers** are a select ensemble with a focus on the performance of classical and traditional choral repertoire. Founded in 2008, the Keynote Singers have developed into a motivated and passionate group of singers that embrace the challenge of singing advanced choral repertoire. This ensemble has received superior ratings at state festivals and consistently takes part in special choral performances outside of Wellesley High School. Most recently, they performed the Berlioz *Te Deum* with the University of New Hampshire Concert Choir and Orchestra.

The **Rice Street Singers** are a select ensemble with a focus on jazz and contemporary music. This ensemble has developed a reputation as a fine jazz choir in the state of Massachusetts. This ensemble consistently receives top honors at state festival and performs in the Gold Medal Showcase at the Hatch Shell. Chosen as a model jazz choir, the Rice Street Singers are fresh off a performance at the MMEA All State Festival where they presented new repertoire ideas to music educators. The Rice Street Singers have received clinics from such artists as the New York Voices, Amanda Carr, and Grammy-nominated jazz singer Roberta Gambarini.

**Wellesley High School** is a comprehensive four-year public high school with a student enrollment of 1392 and a professional staff of 148. Located 13 miles west of Boston, the town of 28,000 is mostly comprised of academic, business, and professional families. Wellesley is a community where academic excellence and cultural traditions are highly valued. Wellesley's reputation for having a superior educational system attracts many families to the town and its schools. Wellesley High School is a community founded on four core values; Academic Excellence, Respect for Human Differences, Caring and Cooperative Relationships, and Commitment to Community.

Dr. David Lussier, *Superintendent of Schools*  
Salvatore Petralia, *Assistant Superintendent of Schools*  
Dr. Judy Malone Neville, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*  
Dr. Andrew Keough, *WHS Principal*  
Jamie Chisum, *WHS Assistant Principal*  
Lynne Novogroski, *WHS Assistant Principal*  
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# Seize the Day!

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Chad Weirick, *Principal Accompanist & Assistant Music Director*

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Dr. Kevin J. McDonald, *WHS Director of Choral Activities*

Chad Weirick, *WHS Assistant Choral Director & Principal Accompanist*

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## Seize the Day

from *Newsies*

Alan Menken, *music*

Jack Feldman, *lyrics*

Arr. Roger Emerson

## Only Heaven

*A musical work by Ricky Ian Gordon. Based on the poetry of Langston Hughes.*

**Harlem Night Song**

**Heaven**

**My People**

**Daybreak in Alabama**

**I Dream A World**

**Port Town**

**Luck**

**Stars**

**New Moon**

**Angel's Wings**

**Litany**

**Joy**

### Soloists

Jordan Fantauzzo

Nicholas Everage

Andrew Martinez

Samuel Brinton

John Strumwasser

### Dancers

Christian Bufford

Bradley Gibson

### Instrumentalists

Greg Vitale, *Violin*

Mark Pucci, *Bass*

Rebecca Strauss, *Viola*

John Bumstead, *Cello*

Diane Heffner, *Reeds*

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## Intermission



Share your experience of today's performance on Twitter and Facebook!

*Wellesley High School Keynote Singers*

**Let Music Fill the Air**

Gwyneth Walker

**Prayer of the Children**

Kurt Bestor and Andrea Klouse

**Baba Yetu**

Christopher Tin

*Wellesley High School Select Ensembles*

**Hear My Voice**

Kathryn Chomick

*Wellesley High School Rice Street Singers*

**Route 66**

Bobby Troupe and Dick Averre

**Full Moon**

Sharon Broadley Martini

**Close Harmony**

Gary Fry

*Boston Gay Men's Chorus*

**Pippin**

Stephen Schwartz, arr. Terry Dobson

Glory

Corner of the Sky

Magic to Do

Morning Glow

Thomas L. Collins, III, *soloist*

**Testimony**

Stephen Schwartz

Lyrics taken from the It Gets Better Project

**WHS Soloists**

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Michael Joseph

Brian Calhoon

Christopher Murray

William Neely

Jeffrey Nagengast

David Baumgold

*Boston Gay Men's Chorus and choirs of Wellesley High School*

**It Takes A Village**

Joan Szymko

Rescored by Chad Weirick

Nicholas Everage, *soloist*

**Seize the Day**

from *Newsies*

Alan Menken, *music*

Jack Feldman, *lyrics*

Arr. Roger Emerson

Langston Hughes is a real poet for the people. He writes so well about those in the margins, the disenfranchised, the ones who don't get the brass ring. While he expresses these experiences in an immediate, emotional and personal way, he always has optimism: there is hope for the future.

I had for years been setting the poems of Langston Hughes to music. I could open his collected poems to any page and almost serendipitously find exactly what I needed to say that day through him. His poems were lyrical and inherently melodic, and so they lent themselves to a quick and spontaneous kind of composition, something free and instinctual.

What is *Only Heaven*? It is a collection of songs which seem to have an implied narrative: the need to transcend the earthly experience and move into the spirit, the heavenly, through the heart. What I am most proud of is that, when this work is done, it means people gather, they sing, they dance, they muse and meditate on the great poems of Langston Hughes. The songs are about life, death, violence, love, night, stars, hope, nihilism and grace. They take place in the city, the country, the shallows and the depths. They are rich in their poetry, and I have tried, in setting them, to allow them to live and breathe and glitter like jewels. The piece is mutable, and through collaboration it can become whatever it needs to be as long as the notes are sung, the poems are understood, and the players play.

Ricky Ian Gordon, *February 2002*

## Harlem Night Song

Come,  
Let us roam the night together  
Singing.

I love you.

Across  
The Harlem roof-tops  
Moon is shining.  
Night sky is blue.  
Stars are great drops  
Of golden dew.

Down the street  
A band is playing.

I love you.

Come,  
Let us roam the night together  
Singing.

## Heaven

Heaven is  
The place where  
Happiness is  
Everywhere.

Animals  
And birds sing--  
As does  
Everything.

To each stone,  
"How-do-you-do?"  
Stone answers back,  
"Well! And you?"

## My People

The night is beautiful,  
So the faces of my people.

The stars are beautiful,  
So the eyes of my people.

Beautiful, also, is the sun.  
Beautiful, also, are the souls of my  
people.

## Daybreak in Alabama

When I get to be a composer  
I'm gonna write me some music  
about

Daybreak in Alabama  
And I'm gonna put the purtiest  
songs in it

Rising out of the ground like a  
swamp mist  
And falling out of heaven like soft  
dew.

I'm gonna put some tall tall trees  
in it

And the scent of pine needles  
And the smell of red clay after rain  
And long red necks

And poppy colored faces  
And big brown arms  
And the field daisy eyes  
Of black and white black white  
black people

And I'm gonna put white hands  
And black hands and brown and  
yellow hands  
And red clay earth hands in it  
Touching everybody with kind  
fingers

And touching each other natural  
as dew

In that dawn of music when I  
Get to be a composer  
And write about daybreak  
In Alabama.

## I Dream A World

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or  
white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its  
head

And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!

## Port Town

Hello, sailor boy,  
In from the sea!  
Hello, sailor,  
Come with me!

Come on drink cognac.  
Rather have wine?  
Come here, I love you.  
Come and be mine.

Lights, sailor boy,



Warm, white lights.  
Solid land, kid.  
Wild, white nights.

Come on, sailor,  
Out o' the sea.  
Let's go, sweetie!  
Come with me.

### Luck

Sometimes a crumb falls  
From the tables of joy,  
Sometimes a bone  
Is flung.

To some people  
Love is given,  
To others  
Only heaven.

### Stars

*for Jeffrey*

O, sweep of stars over Harlem  
streets,  
O, little breath of oblivion that is  
night.  
A city building  
To a mother's song.  
A city dreaming  
To a lullaby.  
Reach up your hand, dark boy, and  
take a star.

Out of the little breath of oblivion  
That is night,  
Take just  
One star.

### New Moon

There's a new young moon  
Riding the hills tonight.

There's a sprightly young moon  
Exploring the clouds.

There's a half-shy young moon  
Veiling her face like a virgin  
Waiting for a lover.

### Angel's Wings

The angels wings is white as snow,  
O, white as snow,  
White  
as  
snow.

The angels wings is white as snow,  
But I drug ma wings  
In the dirty mire.  
O, I drug ma wings  
All through the fire.

But the angels wings is white as  
snow,  
White  
as  
snow.

### Litany

*(Prayer)*

Gather up  
In the arms of your pity  
The sick, the depraved,  
The desperate, the tired,  
All the scum  
Of our weary city.

Gather up  
In the arms of your pity.  
Gather up  
In the arms of your love--  
Those who expect  
No love from above.


### Joy

I went to look for joy,  
Slim, dancing joy,  
Gay, laughing joy,  
Bright-eyed joy--  
And I found her  
Driving the butcher's cart  
In the arms of the butcher boy!  
Such company, such company,  
As keeps this young nymph, Joy!

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# coro allegro


David Hodgkins, Artistic Director



3:00pm, November 18, 2012  
**20th-Century Voices**  
Church of the Covenant  
Boston

3:00pm, April 07, 2013  
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Sanders Theatre  
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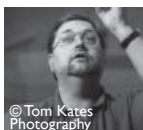


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**Crescendo** is the BGMC's annual gala fundraiser. It was held at the House of Blues on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please thank the following businesses and individuals for supporting the BGMC. When you patronize them, be sure to mention how much you appreciate their support of the BGMC.

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Izzy Berdan  
John Bickford  
Greg Brown

Pedro Carrasquillo  
Mark Greenburg

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The BGMC is a member of the Greater Boston Choral Consortium, a cooperative association of diverse choral groups in Boston and the surrounding areas. [www.bostonsings.org](http://www.bostonsings.org)



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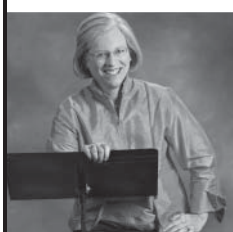
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In the fall of 2012, the Board of Directors unanimously appointed John Strumwasser President Emeritus of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. John is a founding member of the Chorus and a long-time Board Member, who has served every governance position, and has most recently served as the Interim Executive Director. This is a title that John will hold in perpetuity. Congratulations John!

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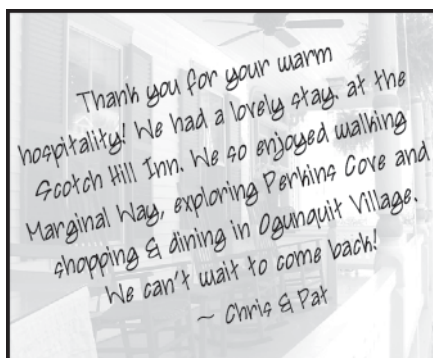




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