

**Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus
Pride 2024 Concert**

CHANGE THE WORLD



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A Word from the Chairperson

We decided to call this concert “Change the World,” and as I contemplate what that means to me, I am feeling the weight of that sentiment. It seems like such an enormous job. I tend to shut down when I feel overwhelmed by or underprepared for a task, which is no help if I’m trying to change the world.

Therefore, I have to reframe my thinking about it so that I’m not paralyzed by the scale of the change that needs to occur. I’m not changing the world... I’m just doing a thing. It might be a small thing, like introducing a friend to someone who I think they may be compatible with. (I’m a pretty good matchmaker, it turns out.) It might be voting. It might be driving someone to a doctor’s appointment. It might be coming out at my job. But these are small acts that can ripple forward in time to produce change.

All of us are making these kinds of changes to the world on a daily basis, performing small acts of kindness or courage that may serve as inspiration to someone else. Often we aren’t even aware that we have done it ... maybe you smiled at someone at a moment when they had just about given up on the idea of kindness in the world. Sometimes, change is more obvious... like if you work for a political campaign to help get someone elected whose policies are more humane than the other candidates.

I know that at this moment, I’m exceedingly grateful that a group of queer Syracuse residents decided to start up a chorus in 1991. That act certainly changed my world, and all of us in this room today are here because of them!

As we head into the last few days of Pride Month, take a moment to reflect upon all the individuals whose presence positively altered the world that we live in now: the drag queens at Stonewall; the ACT UP protesters; the first people to come out in the workplace; the first openly gay politicians; the founding members of SGLC; and all the individuals whose legacy is harder to point to -- we are in their debt.



And now it's our job to keep the change flowing. Be kind to each other and to yourselves. Go out there and change the world.

Happy Pride and enjoy the show!

Mark Miller
SGLC Chairperson

Upcoming Events

Friday, August 23, 2024

The Great New York State Fair

Time and Venue TBD, State Fairgrounds

SGLC is proud to announce we have been named Grand Marshall of the Gay Day Parade!

Monday, September 9, 2024

Rehearsals begin for the Holiday Concert season and new members can join.

6:30 pm, Memorial Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church,
232 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Friday, December 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 14, 2024, at 2:00 pm

SGLC presents our Holiday Concert

May Memorial Universalist Unitarian Society

3800 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY. 13214

Recent Appearances by SGLC

June 1, 2024

Pride Month Flag Raising, Syracuse City Hall

June 2, 2024

Pride Service at Plymouth Congregational Church

June 13, 2024

National Anthem at the Syracuse Mets Pride Night



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Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus
Singing Members

Sopranos

Megan Arnold
Jody Brown
Denise Cody
Bridget Conway
Beth Dungey
Deborah Hardy
Kate Kearney
Liliana Kivo
Alicia Loomis
Jolene Roosekrans
Sarah Schroeder
Stormi Yehle

Tenors

Fred Belcher
Rowan Bush
L. Sue Clemons
Dani Cross
Jamie Garrow
Heidi Hart-Gorman
Johna Melius
Lia Parks
Arend Roosekrans
Oliver Roosekrans
Angela Thor
Alex Toole
Benjamin Wrisley

Altos

Regina Cuddeback
Hilary Dornton
Jenny Gluck
Chloe Keating
Lauren Lammers
Alyssa Militello
Birdy Mosier
Teagan Peacock
Mia Rand
Kaaren Remley
Emily Rocheleau
Stacy Sceiford
Nancy Sheehe
Jean Swanger
Elizabeth Walker

Basses

Kyle Arnold
Marvin Calderon
Arthur Lum
Ky Mangulis
Dan McMaster
Mark Miller
Jesse Navagh
Bill Pitcher
Kris Sceiford

Non-Singing Member

Therese Tallman



Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus
Pride 2024 Concert

Change the World

Singing Out!.....John Schrag

Change the World, *As recorded by Eric Clapton*Arr. by Mac Huff
Sarah Schroeder & Denise Cody, Soloist

I am a Voice that Sings.....Michael Bussewitz-Quarm
& Ronald W. Cadmus
Ali Loomis & Kate Kearney, Soloist

For Good, *from Wicked*Stephen Schwartz, Arr. by Mac Huff
Jody Brown & Hilary Dornton, Soloist

You Do Not Walk Alone.....Elaine Hagenberg

Hope Lingers On.....Lissa Scheckburger, Arr. by Andrea Ramsey

I've Got the Music in Me.....Bias Boshell, Arr. by Kirby Shaw

Cabaret Songs

One Voice, *As sung by The Wailin' Jennys* Ruth Moody

All That MattersGary Barlow & Eliot Kennedy
Jolene Roosekrans

Dear Theodosia, *From the musical Hamilton*.....Lin-Manuel Miranda
Arr. by Regina Spektor and Ben Folds
Birdy Mosier & Britt Chirico



Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus
Pride 2024 Concert

Change the World

Corner of the Sky, *From the musical Pippin*.....Stephen Schwartz
Jessie Navagh

Intermission

Born This Way, *As recorded by Lady Gaga*Arr. by Roger Emerson

The Times They Are A-Changin'Bob Dylan, Arr. by Adam Podd
Teagan Peacock, Soloist
Sponsored by Fred Belcher

That Lonesome Road..... James Taylor and Don Grolnick
Transcribed and Arr. by Deen E. Entsminger
Angela Thor, Soloist

Lean On Me.....Bill Withers, Arr. by the 2024 SGLC
Oscar Roosekrans, Fred Belcher & Alex Toole, Soloist

We Shall Be Free, *As recorded by Garth Brooks*.....Stephanie Davis
& Garth Brooks
Arr. by Keith Christopher
Mark Miller, Soloist

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Singing Out!

Our first song, *Singing Out!*, was written for *Singing Out! The Lesbian and Gay Chorus of Toronto* in 1997. The lyrics were derived from chorus members when they put in writing their answers to the question, “Why are you singing in a gay/lesbian chorus?”

Lyrics to *Singing Out!*

Rising up out of the silence, we stand united and proud,
Lifting one voice in defiance, singing out long and loud!
Building a bridge of compassion over the walls raised in fear,
Sharing out hope and our passion, shouting that we are here!
We are here! We are here!

We will not hide to appease them, we will be there hand in hand,
Shatter the lies that deceive them, teach them to understand.
Standing united, we’re stronger, never divided by doubt,
Silent and fearful no longer,
We are the chorus and we’re singing out!

Ten million loves unspoken, find voice within this song.
We sing for hearts left broken, we sing for love held strong,
We sing for those before us, their courage gave us choice.
We sing for the joy of the song, we’ve been silent too long.
Singing out!, for love must have a voice!

For every son raised in sorrow, truth of his being denied,
Hoping to find a tomorrow where he won’t have to hide.
For every daughter believing she is completely alone,
Living a life of deceiving, holding fast to her own.

We sing together, for only together can we build a world
Where our children are free!

Call to the future before us, speak to the world as it stands,
Sing with us! Come join the Chorus!

We’re coming out! We’re calling out! We’re looking out! We’re standing out!
We’re acting out! We’re holding out! We’re being out! We’re going out!
We’re breaking out! We’re helping out! We’re laughing and we are singing
out!

Ten million loves unspoken, find voice within this song.
We sing for hearts left broken, we sing for love held strong,
We sing for those before us, their courage gave us choice.
To stand here now in chorus, singing out!
For love must have a voice!



Brian O. Ackles **SGLC Choral Director**



Mr. Brian O. Ackles is a music educator and conductor with over thirty-five years of experience teaching, performing, and sharing music with others. He is the vocal music teacher for Marcellus High School in Marcellus, New York, where his ensembles consistently receive top rankings at regional competitions and music festivals. Mr. Ackles received his Bachelor's Degree from Westminster Choir College and holds a Master of Music in Music Education from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

As a conductor and educator, Mr. Ackles has taught and conducted a variety of music classes and vocal ensembles at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Ackles is the director of the Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus and the choir director for the First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles. He also guest conducts community choirs and local Junior and Senior High Music Festivals in the Central New York area.

As an active educator, conductor, and vocalist, Mr. Ackles is dedicated to promoting music's intrinsic and transformative power. His goal is to provide a safe and supportive space where all ensemble members are welcomed and are excited to create a shared passion and understanding through musical excellence.



Brian O. Ackles (cont.)

Through these experiences, individual musicians become aware of their musical and personal gifts and share these insights with the ensemble and their audiences.

Mr. Ackles lives in Marcellus with his wife, and is the owner of Finger Lakes Caning - a company specializing in chair weaving and caning. His summers are spent on Skaneateles Lake as a captain for the Mid-Lakes Navigation's mail boat and dinner cruises.

Alicia Loomis SGLC Assistant Choral Director



Alicia Loomis (she/her) is pleased to join SGLC as Assistant Choral Director and still be able to perform as a singing member!

Ali brings to the chorus over twenty years of varied musical experiences singing, conducting, and directing. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Vocal Performance from the Eastman

School of Music and a Master of Music in Music Education from Ithaca College. Ali taught junior and senior high vocal music and directed musicals in Central New York for 10 years before starting the Musical Theater department at Utica Dance, Inc. There, she taught voice and theater classes and continued her love of directing musicals for students in the Utica area. Ali has performed with



Alicia Loomis (cont.)

numerous groups throughout New York State singing jazz standards, opera, musical theater, and more!

Ali is so happy to be able to keep music an important part of her life after a turn on her career path. She is now a personal injury attorney at MCV Law in Syracuse. Ali lives in Manlius with her spouse, Jerra, and their five children (Liliana, Elara, Lena, Owen and Arlo) and four dogs!

Barb Mushock Accompanist

Barb Mushock taught music education in the Auburn City School District for over thirty years before retiring in 2015. She is currently the accompanist for the Marcellus School District, the Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Chorus, the Masterworks Chorale of Skaneateles, and organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Barb has also accompanied many high school and middle school musical productions, Auburn Player, Merry Go Round and Auburn Public Theater productions as well as Onondaga and Cayuga County All County concerts.

Betsy Easson, Percussion

Dan O'Herien, Bass



Acknowledgements

The membership and Board of Directors of the Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus extend our sincere appreciation to:

- The LGBTQ+ Community, for their continual support of our efforts to promote harmony through song;
- Our advertisers and donors, for their patronage of the chorus;
- Our non-singing members and volunteers, for jumping in and helping whenever an extra hand is needed;
- Our spouses, partners, family, and friends, for putting up with our long hours of rehearsal;
- Brian Ackles, for his patience, expertise, and enthusiasm in directing us and for enhancing our musicality;
- Ali Loomis, for her work directing us in rehearsals and in the wilds of Syracuse and beyond;
- Barb Mushock, for accompanying us both as a chorus and for individual cabaret performers, and for accompanying and sometimes running our sectional rehearsals at the same time;
- Jean Swanger for assembling our concert program;
- Lia Parks for designing the cover art for our concert program;
- City of Syracuse Common Councilor Jimmy Monto for his patience and support;
- Charles Pike and Associates, for being our trusted accounting firm;
- Plymouth Congregational Church, for providing us a home for so many years; and
- May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society for providing us this beautiful space in which to perform and for being such an amazing ally.



Donors

SGLC thanks the following organizations and individuals for 2024 donations to the Chorus.

- American Online Giving Foundation, Inc.
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Our History

In the spring of 1991, following a performance by the Rochester Gay Men's Chorus in Syracuse, a sign-up sheet was put out for people interested in forming a similar chorus in Syracuse. Originally the idea was that this was to be a men's chorus, but thankfully, several courageous women added their names to the list. Planning meetings were held, and finally, a mixed chorus was formed.

In the late summer of 1991, the chorus met for their first rehearsal, led by director Carl Johengin. Over thirty like-minded people attended the first rehearsal. Preparation for our first concert took several months, culminating with two sold-out performances of our Holiday Concert in December 1991. The chorus has been performing regularly ever since, except for a break during covid. We remain one of the oldest active mixed choruses in the country, if not the world. We also have performed and continue to perform in a number of road appearances throughout New York State.

Interested in Joining Us?

Singing Members

We are a non-auditioned chorus and heartily welcome new singing members to join us. Anyone is welcome to join during the first three weeks of our concert rehearsal season. At that time, our Choral Director will guide you to one of the SATB sections that is most comfortable for your vocal range.

To purchase music and cover expenses, chorus members pay dues for the concert season. Scholarships are available for those with limited resources.

See the Upcoming Events for information on the first rehearsal of the Holiday Concert season.

Non-Singing Members

We welcome new non-singing members to join the chorus. Non-singing members are integral members of the organization. They enjoy all organizational privileges with singing members, including the right to vote and membership on the Board of Directors. Non-singing members can join any time during the concert season and are encouraged to attend rehearsals.

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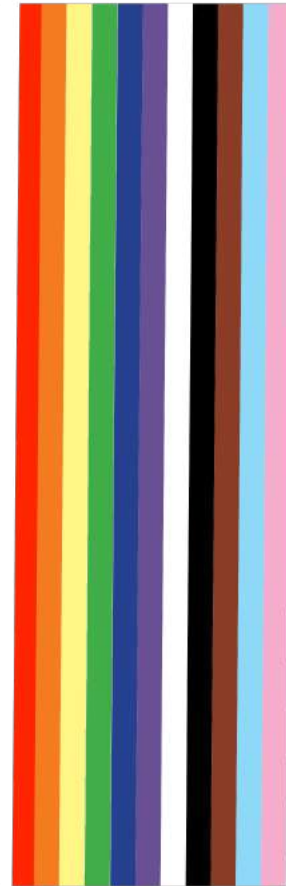
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