

The Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus Presents



June 13 7pm

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*"Cookin' so good...  
you'll think we kidnapped  
your mother!"*



## Words From the Chair

When I decided to take a chance at being chairperson (read “finally agreed to Mark Miller’s pleas”), I conveniently neglected to realize I would be charged to lead at a critical moment in our collective history. I knew it would be hard, but I couldn’t imagine the full extent of challenges we now face.

It feels like with every week that passes, I gain a new anxiety. How do I provide a space away from the chaos for a few hours? Am I really the right person for this?

I’m still finding the answers, but luckily, I haven’t had to find them alone. I have the privilege of:

- Following 30+ years of leadership and wisdom;
- Serving beside an exceptional Board;
- Learning from Brian, Barb’s, and Ali’s professionalism, and
- Being surrounded by our honest, kind, and dedicated members.

Our group and this community inspire me daily to persevere. And this season’s show is aptly named “The Show Must Go On.”

So until there is no more music to share, until there is no one left to hear our voices, we keep going. Because there is no other choice.

Thank you for sharing this moment with us, and thank you for supporting each other through these challenging times.

In love and community,  
Teagan Peacock  
SGLC Chair

## Our Mission

The Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Chorus is a community choral ensemble of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies, dedicated to providing and performing an eclectic and entertaining offering of quality choral music that reflects the diverse nature of our community and serves to unite us with the wider community around us.



## **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, 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.

### **Upcoming Events**

Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm

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

Memorial Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church,  
232 East Onondaga Street, Syracuse, NY 13202

Friday, December 5, 2025, at 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 6, 2024, at 2:00 pm

SGLC presents our Holiday Concert.

May Memorial Universalist Unitarian Society

3800 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY. 13214



Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus  
Pride Concert 2025

The Show Must Go On

There's No Business Like Show Business.....Irving Berlin  
From *Annie Get Your Gun* Arr. by Mark Brymer

One Tin Soldier .....Dennis Lambert & Brian Potter  
Arr. by Kirby Shaw

Do You Hear The People Sing? .....Claude-Michael Schonberg  
From *Les Miserables* & Herbert Kretzmer  
Arr. by Ed Lojeski

Inscription of Hope .....Z. Randall Stroope  
Text from an inscription on cellar walls in Cologne, Germany

Because All Men Are Brothers (And Women Are Sisters)...Hassler-Bach  
Based on the adaptation as recorded by Peter, Paul and Mary  
Arr. by Joe Fortune

Soon In The Morning.....David Maddux

Defying Gravity, From *WICKED*.....Steven Schwartz  
Megan Arnold, Soloist Arr. by Roger Emerson

**Cabaret**

Don't Rain on My Parade.....Bob Merrill and Julie Styne  
Alex Toole, Tenor

Is This The World We Created? .....Freddy Mercury and Brian May  
Jesse Navagh, Baritone From *Queen - the Works*

Thank You For the Music.....Benny Anderson and Bjorn Ulvaeus  
Christina Perez, Soprano



Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus  
Pride Concert 2025

The Show Must Go On

- Tshotsholoz, *Go Forward*..... Traditioinal South African  
Arr. by Jeffrey L. Ames
- Hallelujah .....Leonard Cohen  
From the Motion Picture, SCHREK. Arr. by Will Schmid  
Jay Nguyen & Scott Spink, Soloists
- Crowded Table.....Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna & Brandi Carlile  
As Recorded by *The Highwomen* Arr. by Andrea Ramsey  
Lauren Lammers, Violinist
- Draw the Circle Wide..... Mark A. Miller & Gordon Light  
Bella Picciano, Soloist
- Does the World Say?..... Kyle Pederson  
Lauren Lammers, Violinist
- Be The Light.....Lea Morris  
Inspired by Amanda Gorman’s poem *The Hill We Climb*  
Teagan Peacock, Soloist
- Fame.....Michael Gore & Dean Pitchford  
From the Motion Picture *FAME*. Arr. by Jeff Funk

*SGLC is pleased to announce and thank our corporate sponsors  
for the Pride 2025 season:*

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## Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus

### SGLC Board of Directors

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Dani Cross - Treasurer  
Jean Swanger - Secretary

Kyle Arnold  
Marvin Calderon  
Alyssa Militello

### SGLC Committees

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Alex Toole

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Alyssa Militello  
Bella Picciano



## **Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus** **Singing Members**

### **Sopranos**

Laurel Arnold  
Megan Arnold  
Kat Barney  
Emily Bridgeford  
Denise Cody  
Hillary Dornton  
Ginny Gondeck  
Alicia Loomis  
Christina Perez  
Bella Picciano  
Jolene Roosekrans  
Stacy Sceiford  
Therese Tallman

### **Tenors**

Fred Belcher  
Karen Bowman  
Dani Cross  
Jamie Garrow  
Heidi Hart-Gorman  
Lauren Lammers  
Cathleen Nelson  
Jay Nguyen  
Lia Parks  
Scott Spink  
Angela Thor  
Alex Toole  
Benjamin Wrisley

### **Altos**

A. Abbott  
Elanor Chick  
Regina Cuddeback  
Jenny Gluck  
Adrian Guerlin  
Chloe Keating  
Alyssa Militello  
Jacquelyn Nee  
Teagan Peacock  
Mia Rand  
Kaaren Remley  
Nancy Sheehe  
Jean Swanger  
Katrina Vanburen

### **Basses**

Kyle Arnold  
Keith Bertrand  
Marvin Calderon  
Arthur Lum  
Ky Mangulis  
Mark Miller  
Jesse Navagh  
Kris Sceiford

### **Non-Singing Members**

Jody Brown  
Bill Pitcher  
Emily Rocheleau



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## **Brian O. Ackles** **SGLC Choral Director**



Brian Ackles (he/him) is a music educator and conductor with over thirty-five years of experience teaching, performing, and sharing music across age groups and venues. In addition to directing the Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus, he is the vocal music teacher for Marcellus High School 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. Brian 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 an active educator, conductor, and vocalist, Brian is dedicated to promoting music's intrinsic and transformative power. At the core of his work, Brian seeks to create a safe and supportive space where all are welcomed and supported in their musical journey.

Brian lives in Marcellus with his wife and runs a small business, Finger Lakes Caning, that specializes in chair caning and weaving. He enjoys playing with his two grandchildren and spending summers on Skaneateles Lake.

## **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



**Alicia Loomis (cont.)**  
**SGLC Assistant Choral Director**

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 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 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 LGBTQIA+ Community, for their continued support of our efforts to promote harmony through song;
- Our advertisers and donors, for their patronage;
- Our non-singing members and volunteers, for helping whenever an extra hand is needed;
- Our spouses, partners, family, and friends, for supporting our busy schedules;
- Brian Ackles, for his patience, expertise, and enthusiasm to bring us to new heights;
- Ali Loomis, for her understanding, professionalism, and leadership at community appearances;
- Barb Mushock, for accompanying us both as a chorus and as individual cabaret performers;
- Levi Peacock for lending their talents as sound engineer;
- Jean Swanger for assembling our concert program;
- Lia Parks for beautifully designing our concert art;
- CNY Pride for their lasting partnership and dedication to our local community;
- CNY Better Breathing Bloc for their partnership, providing masks and tests to help us prevent the spread of COVID;
- T. L. Wall Accounting and Tax Corp., 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 a dependable ally.

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