

Joy!

Every once in a while the stars line up perfectly! That's the only way I know to explain the magic that happened when we combined the voices of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus with the Majestic Brass Quintet, harp and two percussionists in a program of music commissioned especially for us. It all started when I called Gwyneth Walker to ask if she would consider making a men's chorus version of *Rejoice!* for the BGMC — her ethereal setting of *Love Came Down at Christmas* never ceases to move me.

Minnesota-based composer Craig Carnahan did a joyous new version of *Welcome Yule* to open our program. Jackson Berkey, a co-founder of Mannheim Steamroller, created new men's chorus versions of Christmas carols he had arranged as anniversary presents for his wife. *L'Dor Vador* features a melody written by a local high school student! And while it wasn't written for us, we recently had the honor of rehearsing and performing *Grateful* with composer John Bucchino, so I felt a very personal connection to this song.

The BGMC's brilliant principal accompanist Chad Weirick, who knows our voices better than anyone, created *Pictures of a Season* just for us. Inspired by Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, this kaleidoscopic suite of familiar carols captures the many moods of the holidays.

Making this live recording for you was a joy! Thank you to everyone — composers, musicians, singers and producers — who made it possible. And thank you for listening!



Reuben M. Reynolds III, Music Director

Instrumentalists

Chad Weirick, *piano*

Michael Ambroszewski, *percussion*

Robert Schulz, *percussion*

Matthew Doherty, *harp*

Majestic Brass Quintet

Eric Berlin, *trumpet*

Richard Watson, *trumpet*

Whitacre Hill, *French horn*

Thomas Otto, *trombone*

John Bottomly, *tuba*

Recording Credits

Edited, mixed and mastered at Soundmirror, Boston, MA

Dirk Sobotka, *Producer*; Mark Donahue, *Engineer*

Recorded live December 17, 18 & 20, 2010.

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory, Boston, MA

BGMC Staff

LeWana Clark, *ASL Interpreter*

Brian Griffin, *Operations Manager*

Reuben M. Reynolds III, *Music Director*

John Strumwasser, *Executive Director*

Chad Weirick, *Principal Accompanist &*

Assistant Music Director

Jared West, *General Manager*

www.bgmc.org

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part by kind support
from the following:*

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Todd Brown

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Corey Spence

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Gay Men's Chorus

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Special Thanks

Steve Smith
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Matthew Doherty
Courtney Furno
Chris Roberts

Reuben M. Reynolds III, Music Director

Reuben M. Reynolds III has been Music Director of the nationally acclaimed Boston Gay Men's Chorus since 1998. After earning undergraduate degrees in both Economics and Music, Reuben received his Master of Music degree from Louisiana State University where he was teaching assistant to New York Metropolitan Opera soprano Martina Arroyo, and was on the conducting staff of the Baton Rouge Lyric Opera. He has continued doctoral studies at UMKC Conservatory of Music. Reuben has served as Music Director of the Kansas City Civic Opera Theatre and he was Music Director and Conductor of the Heartland Men's Chorus from 1989-1998. He was also Conductor of the Philharmonia of Kansas City.

Chad Weirick, Assistant Music Director & Principal Accompanist

Chad Weirick, a native of Rockford, Illinois, graduated high school at age 15 and moved to New York City where he became the organist for Radio City Music Hall and rehearsal pianist for the Rockettes. He also was the pianist for various Broadway shows including A Chorus Line, Shenandoah and The Act. Chad earned a master's degree in composition from the New England Conservatory of Music and his choral arrangements have been performed 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, Massachusetts.

Boston Gay Men's Chorus

Creating a more tolerant society through the power of music

The nationally acclaimed Boston Gay Men's Chorus was founded in 1982. As New England's largest GLBT cultural organization, 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. At home in some of Boston's most prestigious venues including Symphony Hall and Jordan Hall, the BGMC has also performed coast to coast, from New York City's Carnegie Hall to San Francisco's Davies Symphony Hall. In June 2005 the BGMC toured Germany and the Czech Republic and was the first gay chorus to ever perform in Poland.

www.bgmc.org



Joy!



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 www.bgmc.org



BOSTON GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Reuben M. Reynolds III, Music Director

- 1 **Welcome Yule** (2:11) *Craig Carnahan*
Anniversary Carols, Jackson Berkey
- 2 **O Come, All Ye Faithful** (2:30)
- 3 **Still, Still Night** (5:26) *J. Jacob Krause, baritone*
- 4 **Joy to the World** (1:44)
- 5 **Rejoice!** (12:01) *Gwyneth Walker*
- 6 **L'Dor Vador** (2:55) *Chris Hardin, Chad Weirick*
- 7 **Grateful** (4:26) *John Bucchino*
- Pictures of a Season, Chad Weirick**
Inspired by Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition
- 8 **Deck the Hall** (2:57)
- 9 **Children Go Where I Send Thee!** (3:38)
- 10 **Of The Fathers Love Begotten /**
Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
 (7:01) *Michael Lombo, tenor;*
Joseph Germanos, baritone
- 11 **Carol of the Bells** (5:26)
- 12 **Do You Hear What I Hear?** (3:57)