

BARBARA WAGNER – MINISTER OF MUSIC

The renowned choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo has been under the direction of Barbara Wagner since 1962. Under Ms. Wagner's baton, in addition to singing for regular Sunday morning services, the choir has performed internationally, including two highly acclaimed European tours to Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. The choir has performed locally with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Amherst Saxophone Quartet, and the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra.

Ms. Wagner was a founding member and has served as an officer for the Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network. She was a member of the prestigious seven-member Hymnbook Resources Commission responsible for the publication of the UUA's hymnbook, *Singing the Living Tradition*, in 1993 and was chair of the New Hymns Task Force that produced *Singing the Journey*, another denominational songbook, published in 2005.

In addition to leading the UUCB choir, Ms. Wagner also served the congregation of Temple Beth Am as its Music Director for 12 years. She was Director of Choral Activities at the Nichols School for 24 years, was in charge of vocal music activities at the Buffalo Seminary for several years, and a guest conductor for the City of Good Neighbors Chorale. She was Conductor for the Peace Odyssey Tour of Hungary and the former Soviet Union. Ms. Wagner was also the charter Artistic Director of the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus for ten years, retiring from that position in 2011.

Ms. Wagner earned a BFA degree from SUNY Buffalo, where she studied Organ with Squire Haskin, and has done graduate work at Westminster Choir College. She did advance Organ study with Karl Richter at Munich Conservatory, and advanced Conducting study with Raymond Harvey, former Assistant Conductor of the BPO and presently music director of the Kalamazoo Symphony. Ms. Wagner regularly attends choral workshops; she has worked with such luminaries as Rodney Eichenberger, the late Robert Shaw, Paul Salomonovich, Robert Page, Vance George, and Dale Warland. Professional memberships include the American Choral Directors Association, Erie County Music Educators Association, MENC, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network, NYSSMA, American Guild of Organists, and Chromatic Club.

Ms. Wagner was presented with the Erie County Music Educator/Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra award for excellence in choral education in May 2002. She is included in the 2004 and 2005 editions of *Who's Who in American Women*, and the 2006 edition of *Who's Who in America*.