



www.northvalleychorale.org

**North Valley Chorale
Phoenix, Arizona, USA**
Eleanor Johnson, Director
Francesco Alleruzzo, Accompanist

Europe Tour 2016
June 30 – July 12



Songs in the American Tradition

The music of the United States reflects our country's multi-ethnic population. The earliest music was created by Native Americans. Beginning in the 17th century, immigrants from the England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain, Germany, Italy and France began arriving, bringing with them new musical styles and instruments. African slaves brought musical traditions, and each subsequent wave of immigrants contributed to the melting pot. Many American cities and towns have vibrant music scenes which, in turn, support a number of regional musical styles as well.

American musical genres range from jazz, spirituals, blues, country, folk, ragtime, and barbershop to pop, rock, hip-hop, beat box, techno and American art songs.

Today's performance will include selections from the following repertoire:

Traditional American and Folk Songs

America *Music by Samuel Ward, Lyrics by Katherine Bates, arr. M. McDonald*

Known as the "Dean of American Music" **Aaron Copeland** (1900–1990) was the first widely acclaimed composer to write opera, ballets and film scores with American themes. These are from Copeland's collection of *Old American Songs* that capture core 19th century styles, including *minstrel* tunes from shows with slapstick humor combined with song and dance, lullabies, and the spirited *revivalist* gathering songs sung during Christian conversion services.

Ching-a-Ring-Chaw *Minstrel song adapted by Aaron Copeland arr. I. Fine*

Little Horses *Lullaby adapted by Aaron Copeland arr. R. Wilding White*

Zion's Walls *Revivalist song adapted by Aaron Copeland arr. Glenn Koponen*

In American's early days, rivers were the chief trade and passenger routes. This famous folk song is about a fur trader who fell in love with the daughter of a Native American chief, **Shenandoah**. This arrangement mimics the rolling rhythm of the Shenandoah River flowing through the lush Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

Shenandoah

Boatman shanty arr. James Erb

Spirituals

Negro Spirituals are musical expressions of religious faith created in the African "call-response" style. These powerful songs are a unique combination of sound, movement, emotion, and communal interaction that focuses on faith and its role in overcoming daily hardships and struggles.

Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit

Arr. Moses Hogan

Give Me Jesus

Arr. Larry Fleming

Joshua Fit the Battle

Arr. Kirby Shaw

Praise His Holy Name

Keith Hampton

Sometimes I feel Like a Motherless Child

Arr. J. Althouse

Broadway Musicals

State Fair provides a glimpse into the life of an Iowa farming family with music by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, "the greatest musical theatre writing partnership of the 20th century."

It's Grand Night from "State Fair" Rodgers & Hammerstein, arr. K. Shaw

Set in 1912, a **Music Man** cons the people of a rural town into ordering instruments and uniforms for a marching band by promising it will keep their youth occupied and out of trouble. His plans are foiled when he falls for the town's librarian. In "Pick a Little, Talk a Little" the ladies gossip, sounding like a brood of cackling hens. This collides with a four-part barbershop harmony about the lovely "Lida Rose." Packages with instruments and other surprises are delivered by the horse-drawn "Wells Fargo wagon" and "76 Trombones" lead the marching band they dreamed of.

Music Man Medley

Meredith Wilson, arr. Clay Watnick

"**One**, singular sensation" is a dancer entering the twilight of her career in this examination of the life-shaping events and decisions of performers from diverse backgrounds.

One from "A Chorus Line"

Marvin Hamlisch, arr. Mac Huff

West Side Story is the American version of *Romeo and Juliet*. It examines the intense rivalry between street gangs of different ethnic backgrounds during the 1950s in New York City. The score by internationally-acclaimed US composer, conductor, author and pianist, **Leonard Bernstein** (1918-1990) includes "Tonight", "Maria", "America", "I Feel Pretty", One Hand, One Heart", and "Somewhere."

West Side Story Medley

L. Bernstein & S. Sondheim, arr. Len Thomas

Wicked is the untold story of *The Wizard of Oz*. It follows green-skinned Elphaba from birth through the events that cause her to be misunderstood and labeled as "Wicked." In "No One Mourns the Wicked," "The Wizard and I," "One Short Day" and "Defying Gravity," we are challenged to reconsider how good and evil are defined.

Wicked Medley

Stephen Schwartz arr. Mark Brymer

Contemporary American Music

Randall Thompson (1899-1984) composed *Frostiana* with lyrics from American poet Robert Frost (1874-1963). The "Star" so sternly addressed in this poem is *not* a heavenly body, but contemporary "star" in the world of poetry: T.S. Eliot.

Choose Something like a Star Poetry by R. Frost, Music by R. Thompson

René Clausen (1953-) uses dissonance in "tone clusters" to create enveloping harmonies as in this "catharsis" precipitated by the death of his unborn son.

Set me as a Seal

Renee Clausen

Daniel Gawthrop (1949-) asked his wife to write the text for this commissioned piece "that describes the way that we, as singers, feel about music in our lives."

Sing Me to Heaven

Text by Jane Griner, Music by Daniel Gawthrop

Morten Lauridsen (1943-) is the most-performed living American choral composer.

Sure on This Shining Night

Morten Lauridsen

North Valley Chorale Performers

Soprano

Kelley Jean Bagby
Pam Fischer
Mary Ann Iagulli
Kelly Johnson *
Catherine Le
Margaret McCarthy
Anita Murcko
Carolyn Nyland *
Michelle Rorvig
Sarah Smith *
Annalisa Ugolini
Valarie Vousden

Alto

Shannon Barrett *
Veronica Christensen
Jennifer Gibson
Katherine Gleason
Barbara Hoehne
Margaret Neno
Randy Weiss

Bass

Graham Johnson
Craig Metzger
Jim Nicol
John Prosek
Stephen Schermitzler *
Gary Thomson
Mark Wallace

Tenor

Joe Johnson
Vince Lane *
Gervais Neno
Eric Thomson *

** soloists*

Choreography - Shannon Barrett

Wardrobe - Barbara Hoehne, Maryann Iagulli, Margaret Neno

Fundraising - Graham Johnson, Karen Thomson, Margaret Neno

Program Notes - Anita Murcko

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Encore Tour Manager - Daniel Ross
NVC Tour Coordinator - Graham Johnson

