

St. Joseph's Introductions – April 27, 2003

NO introduction by me prior to the **Star Spangled Banner**

Introduction for first set:

Good Afternoon. Thank you for joining the Huntington Men's Chorus for this afternoon's concert. We are thrilled that so many of you are here, given the weather. We promise to sing very fast so we can all go outdoors and enjoy the day God has given us. Actually, if it were any nicer, we'd be outside playing golf.

Our next song is **Lest We Forget** by Mike Sammes and Peter Buchanan. The juxtaposition between the patriotic appreciation of those who have sacrificed all for country and the sensitivity toward the tragedy of mankind's propensity toward war is as poignant today as when this song was first sung.

Following that we will sing **Pie Jesu** from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Requiem*, arranged by John Leavitt, and then ...

I'm Gonna Walk Dem Golden Stairs by Cully Holt and arranged by Alwyn Humphreys, Conductor of the Morriston Orpheus Choir in Swansea, Wales.

Introduction for second set:

Our next song is **Hine E Hine** by Te Rangi Pai, arranged by Alwyn Humphreys.

This beautiful Maori (a native New Zealand people) lullaby can be roughly translated as:

*You are weeping little girl, little girl
You are weary little girl, little girl
Be sad no longer there is love for you
In the heart of the father little girl, little girl.*

After this we will sing **Neapolitan Trilogy** arranged by Alwyn Humphreys. The trilogy contains the very popular **O Sole Mio, Santa Lucia** and **Funiculi Funicula**. **O Sole Mio** (My sun) is particularly poignant today, given the weather [*we would like to have.*] Our music committee decided that it was not enough simply to sing in Italian, and so we would like to thank our very own Bruno Apollonio for providing vocal coaching in Neapolitan.

The text from John 9:25 as set to music in **Amazing Grace** by James P. Carrell, Davis S. Clayton and John Newton and arranged by Alwyn Humphreys will finish off this set.

Introduction for the third set, immediately following intermission:

[hold hand up to shade eyes, pretend to count heads] Wow! You all came back! Thanks! We in the Huntington Men's Chorus are very fortunate to have superb musical leadership and support from many outstanding musicians. Judy Leopold is our extraordinary accompanist. *[pause]* And it is impossible to overstate our appreciation of Tom Jones, our conductor, without whom we would simply be individual voices, trying to harmonize in the night. *[pause]* Tom has also displays more of his talents by arranging our next piece, **Ave Maria** by J.S. Bach and Charles Gounod, specifically for the Huntington Men's Chorus.

George M. Cohan is responsible for the following two pieces. We continue to celebrate the name Mary, but in quite a different vocal fashion, in **Mary's a Grand Old Name** from the play *45 Minutes from Broadway*.

Our third song is not on your programs. We will be singing **Patriotic Fantasy**, another Cohen piece arranged by Walter Ehret and Paul Yoder. **Patriotic Fantasy** is a whimsical rendition of **Yankee Doodle** with a thoughtful yet spirited arrangement of **You're a Grand Old Flag**.

Introduction for the Webber / Humphreys set:

Our next set of songs are all by Andrew Lloyd Webber and arranged by Alwyn Humphreys.

In the first number, *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by T.S. Elliot is the book. *Cats*, the Broadway Musical with a record-breaking 18 year run is the show. Grizabella is the cat, ascending to cat heaven. Of course **Memory** is the song.

We follow that with a number from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, **Any Dream Will Do**. Tim Rice also gets credit for this song.

We finish this set with **Medley from Jesus Christ Superstar**. This Broadway and international hit is still controversial today. We hope you enjoy our rendition of the music.

Introduction for last set

Our final pieces this afternoon are both arranged by Alwyn Humphreys. First is **New York, New York** by John Kander and Fred Ebb. Then we will sing our signature song, **What Would I Do Without My Music** by Middlebrooks and Baalad. For more music, and to find out why we are not known as the Huntington Men's Ballet, come to our concert next Saturday evening. That's May 3rd at 8pm at Huntington High School. Enjoy!