

Park Concert Introductions – June 25, 2003

NO introduction by me prior to the **Star Spangled Banner** or **Our Motto**

Introduction for first set:

Good Afternoon. Thank you for joining the Huntington Men's Chorus for this evening's concert. We are thrilled that so many of you are here. I know it's hot, and we will sing very slowly so you don't have to exert yourself much. Fortunately, (for those who remember) THIS year we have NOT arranged to be accompanied by thunder and lightning.

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.

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 fact that we probably won't be hearing about a drought for the rest of the summer! 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.

Introduction for second set:

Our next song will be from quite a different vocal tradition: **I'm Gonna Walk Dem Golden Stairs** by Cully Holt and arranged by Alwyn Humphreys, Conductor of the Morriston Orpheus Choir in Swansea, Wales.

Next will be one of my personal favorites, **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*

Introduction for Potpourri

We call this section Potpourri. A little of everything for your enjoyment. Each of the next songs will be performed by at least one member of the chorus, perhaps with a friend.

Our first number is **Man of La Mancha** from *Man of La Mancha* by Mitch Leigh, sung by Gary Lorentzon and accompanied by James Bobo.

Our next number is **The Begat** from *Finian's Rainbow* by Burton Lane and E.Y. Harburg, sung by Jack Holly and accompanied by James Bobo.

Our next number is a duet, **All I Ask of You** from *Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Webber, sung by Ken Kress and Margaret Lassen and accompanied by James Bobo.

Ted Donovan will entertain us with something a little different, in **Someone's Been Sending Me Flowers**, by Sheldon Harnick. Ted will be accompanied by Charles Schipe.

The final number in our Potpourri section will be **Una Furtiva Lagrima** from *L'eslisir d'amore*, by Gaetano Donizetti, sung by Marty Petrella and accompanied by Charles Schipe.

After the Potpourri

There will be a brief pause while the Chorus again takes the stage. Where are they taking it, and why? We'll find out.

Introduction of three accompanists, by Gordon Harris.

Introduction for the third set, immediately following potpourri:

[hold hand up to shade eyes, pretend to count heads] Wow! You all still here! Actually, there are more of you! Thanks! We in the Huntington Men's Chorus are very fortunate to have superb musical leadership and support from many outstanding musicians. Filling in for Judy Leopold, our extraordinary accompanist and only the third in the 55 year history of the HMC, is another extraordinary accompanist, James Bobo, the second accompanist of the HMC. *[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]*

Our next piece is **America the Beautiful**, by Ward and Bates.

We will follow that by **Patriotic Fantasy**, a George M. 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**.

After this we will sing a number from *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, **Any Dream Will Do** by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice and arranged by Alwyn Humphreys.

Introduction for the final set:

Our final set of songs are all 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. Andrew Lloyd Weber made the music and Grizabella is the cat, ascending to cat heaven. Of course **Memory** is the song.

We will follow this with **Medley from Jesus Christ Superstar**, again by Andrew Lloyd Weber. This Broadway and international hit is still controversial today. We hope you enjoy our rendition of the music.

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