THE BENZIE COUNTY COMMUNITY CHORUS
PRESENTS
SOUND OF SUMMER
CONCERT SERIES 2016
JUNE
18, 19 & 20
-&-
JULY
1, 2 & 3
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The Sound of Summer

OUR OPENER

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP ROSES Stephen Sondheim and Jule Styne
This show-stopper from *Gypsy*, famously sung by Ethel Merman, is a Broadway icon.

"TRADITIONAL" AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC, a la BC3

Our first set showcases traditional folk music from the mid-19th century. A collection of well-known folk songs composed by the "father of American music" Stephen Foster demonstrates the diversity of folk music styles. Composer Aaron Copland is perhaps best known for his stirring orchestrations that have become Americana staples ("Fanfare for the Common Man"; "Rodeo"). In CHING-A-RING CHAW, Copland arranges and reinterprets a minstrel banjo tune for a new era and audience. Anticipating the joys of married life, NELLY BLY was later adapted into a campaign song for Abraham Lincoln's 1860 Presidential Campaign. The song also inspired the pen name for the pioneering woman journalist, Elizabeth Seaman, who wrote as "Nellie Bly" in the late 19th Century. She was noted for circumnavigating the globe in 72 days (besting Jules Verne's fictional 80 days) and exposing the cruelty of insane asylums after committing herself to investigate from the inside.

OH SUSANNA Stephan Foster

CHING-A-RING CHAW arr. Aaron Copland

SHENANDOAH arr. Patrick Liebergen
Soloist: Ed Scarbrough

SOME FOLKS DO Stephen Foster

LONG TIME AGO arr. Aaron Copeland

Soloist: Karen Remington

On the lake where droop'd the willow Long time ago Where the rock threw back the billow Brighter than snow Dwelt a maid beloved and cherish'd
By high and low But the autumn leaf she perish'd Long time ago.
Rock and tree and flowering water Long time ago Bird and bee and blossom taught her Love's spell to know. While to my fond words she listen'd Murmuring low
Tenderly her blue eyes glisten'd Long time ago.

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER Stephen Foster

Soloist: Jay Peregrine

IF YOU'VE ONLY GOT A MOUSTACHE Stephen Foster

Soloist: Neil Nugent

THE GLENDY BURKE Stephen Foster

CAMPTOWN RACES Stephen Foster

THE SWANEE RIVER Stephen Foster

NELLY BLY Stephen Foster

JAZZ FOLK SONGS, a la BC3

CHOPSTICKS Euphemia Allen

Soloist: Nozomi Khudyev, piano

Our talented accompanist kicks off our Jazz set with her rendition of the classic CHOPSTICKS. Composed in 1877, supposedly when she was 16, "THE CELEBRATED CHOP WALTZ," as it was originally known, has become a staple for young pianists to conquer and test their improvisational skills.

WHEN SUNNY GETS BLUE Marvin Fisher and Jack Segal

Lyricist David Boles comments that "SUNNY is one of the greatest blues/jazz songs ever written. You can sing it slow, with loss, or you can snap it up…The lyric is especially keen as a comment on a personality, or a conundrum of living in the sunshine when the world is dark around you." SUNNY was written in 1956. The prolific team of Segal and Fisher penned songs for Harry Belafonte, Peggy Lee, Perry Como and Nat King Cole.

SWINGING ON A STAR Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke

Soloists: Andy and Emily Wagner

Originally sung in 1944 for the film GOING MY WAY by Bing Crosby, SWINGING won the Academy Award for Best Song that year. The song originated when Van Heusen and Crosby were discussing the film during dinner at Crosby's home. Bing told one of his children, "If you don't go to school, you might grow up to be a mule. Do you wanna do that?" Van Heusen thought it would make a great lyric, brought it to Burke, and the rest is history.

AT LAST Mack Gordon and Harry Warren

First recorded by the GLENN MILLER BAND in 1941, AT LAST reached No. 9 on the BILLBOARD pop charts in 1942, staying on the charts for nine weeks. Particularly notable renditions were done by Etta James in 1961 and Beyonce' Knowles at the Presidential Inauguration in 2009.

ON A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA Frank Loesser

Featuring Nozomi Khudyev, piano

The composer's daughter Susan Loesser, in her biography of her father, *A MOST REMARKABLE FELLA*, writes: "'Slow boat to China' was a well-known phrase among poker players, referring to a person who lost steadily and handsomely. My father turned it into a romantic song, placing the title in the mainstream of catch-phrases in 1947." Loesser wrote over 700 songs, including the ultimate piece of American musical theater GUYS AND DOLLS.

SPIRITUAL/GOSPEL FOLK SONGS, a la BC3

WITNESS Traditional Spiritual, Arr. Jack Halloran

Our Spiritual/Gospel set opens asking "Who'll be a witness for my Lord?" A traditional spiritual, WITNESS evokes lessons from the Bible to demonstrate the power of faith. Often originating from African-American slaves, spirituals offered the promise of a better life through faith in God. The tight harmonies and distinctive rhythms are both playful and serious, sassy and commanding.

UNCLOUDED DAY Rev. J.K. Alwood, Arr. Shawn Kirchner

Merging bluegrass and gospel, Shawn Kirchner's contemporary arrangement of J. K. Alwood's treasured gospel tune demonstrates the timelessness of American Spirituals.

WADE IN THE WATER Traditional, Arr. Eva Cassidy

Soloist: Andrea Gendjar

With a soulful melody, this spiritual taught lessons from the Bible, and imparted instructions for escaped slaves on how to lose the scent of tracking hounds. Harriet Tubman was said to have used the song when helping slaves escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

HUSH! SOMEBODY'S CALLIN' MY NAME

Traditional spiritual, arr. Brazeal W. Dennard

Soloist: Lauren Michalak

HUSH! Can be understood as a forthright expression of faith, or a "code song", which could have signaled to slaves that bounty hunters were near, or that possibly a "driver" of the Underground Railway was at hand. In a spiritual sense, the song suggests that there would be liberty for the body and spirit in this world or the next. No matter the interpretation, freedom is calling their names.

LET THE RIVER RUN from *Working Girl* Carly Simon

Guest Drummer: Cody Bowers

Singer/Songwriter Carly Simon penned this beautiful gospel tune for the film *Working Girl*. A gospel set in modern times, RIVER speaks to the complexities of finding solace in the increasingly fast-paced world.

Intermission

THE 50'S AND 60'S FOLK SONGS, a la BC3

THE LION SLEEPS TONIGHT South African Zulu Song
Adapted by George David Weiss, Luigi Creatore and Hugo Peretti
Soloist: Toby Gould, Guest Drummer: Cody Bowers
First recorded in the 1930s, the tune was given a reworked melody and new lyrics, becoming a million-selling hit for THE TOKENS in 1961. Weiss, a member of the Songwriters' Hall of Fame since 1984, attended the Juilliard School and composed A WONDERFUL WORLD with composer Bob Thiele.

AT THE HOP Artie Singer, John Medora and David White
Dancers: Jay Peregrine and Maureen Merry, Guest Drummer: Cody Bowers
First recorded by DANNY AND THE JUNIORS, AT THE HOP reached No. 1 on the Billboard Top 100 on January 6, 1958 and remained there for seven consecutive weeks, finishing as the No. 1 song of the year. Its popularity was revived at the 1969 Woodstock Festival when it was performed by the group SHA NA NA.

DUKE OF EARL Gene Dixon Chandler, Earl Edwards and Bernice Williams
Soloists: Steve Chapman, Toby Gould, Ed Scarbrough, Andrew Wolowiec
Doo-wop group THE DUKEYS would regularly warm up for rehearsal by singing "Do, do, do" in different keys. One one occasion, Chandler changed the syllables sung to include Earl's name, and the chant gradually became the famous "Du, du, du, Duke of Earl." A No. 1 song in 1962, DUKE was Chandler's best known recording and was selected by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as one of the "500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll."

PLEASE, MR. POSTMAN Georgia Dobbins, William Garrett, Freddie Gorman, Brian Holland, and Bob Bateman

Soloists: Jeanne Cole, Rachel Higgins, Michelle Thompson, Maria Wolowiec

The Motown girl group THE MARVELETTS was formed by friends singing together at Inkster (Michigan) High School. Their recording of POSTMAN reached the Billboard Hot 100 list in late 1961 and was No. 1 on the R&B chart as well.

JERSEY BOYS Bob Gaudio and Bob Crewe, arr. Ed Lojeski

Guest Drummer: Cody Bowers

This smash musical about the legendary THE FOUR SEASONS opened on Broadway in 2005 and has since had two national tours as well as having been produced all over the world. Winner of four 2006 Tony Awards including Best Musical, it has also won the 2009 Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Gaudio wrote the FOUR SEASONS' first hit SHERRY 15 minutes before a group rehearsal in 1962.

CONTEMPORARY FOLK SONGS, a la BC3

FIRE AND RAIN James Taylor

Soloist: Andy Mollema

FIRE AND RAIN explores the pain and trials of life. It is often mistaken for being about a plane crash: the line "flying machines on the ground" actually refers to the break-up of Taylor's previous band, THE FLYING MACHINES. Taylor's lyrics speak to his struggle with heroin addiction, lost dreams and the struggle to continue on in a haunting and captivating melody.

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER Paul Simon

Simon and Garfunkel's BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER is unlike any other song the duo produced. Taking their distinctive harmonies a step further, BRIDGE blends gospel and folk styles to reach a troubled nation grappling with itself at the beginning of the 1970s. The themes of friendship, of love and compassion, and of sacrifice offer hope that transcends time and space.

BLACKBIRD John Lennon & Paul McCartney

Soloist: Andrew Wolowiec

From their celebrated 1968 album commonly known as "The White Album", THE BEATLES' somber and romantic BLACKBIRD offers quiet reflection through its soaring melody. The true meaning of the song is disputed, as McCartney has attributed it to the song of a blackbird at one point and the growing civil rights movement in the 1960s at other times. Still, the beautiful message continues to resonate through its simple beauty and tranquil tone.

YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND Carole King

Soloist: Jeanne Hafer

Continuing the theme of friendship, YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND similarly explores the role of friendship in overcoming life's difficulties.

FEELIN' GROOVY (The 59th St. Bridge Song) Paul Simon

Soloist: Billie Thompson

In a celebration of life and frivolity, GROOVY brings together all that is good: a pleasant walk down the street, taking joy in the simplest of things, and embracing life. "Life, I love you" is the best sound with which we can leave you.

Our Closer

WE'LL MEET AGAIN Ross Parker and Hughie Charles

In 1938, this British song was made famous by singer Vera Lynn and is one of the most famous songs of the Second World War era. It deeply resonated with soldiers going off to fight, and with their families and sweethearts. It was recorded by Benny Goodman, Peggy Lee, The Ink Spots, Johnny Cash, and many more. Its message of friendship and affection, optimism and hope, seems a fitting way to close this year's concert.

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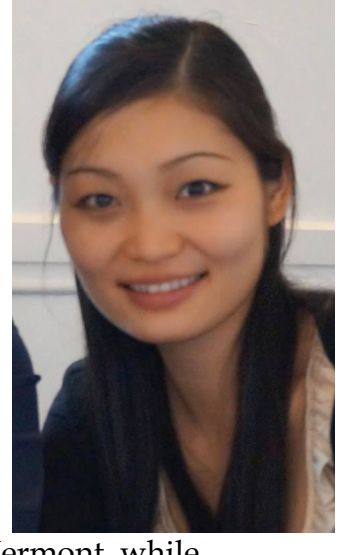
Thank you for joining us this evening.
It is always a pleasure to share our music with our audiences.

OUR DIRECTOR

In addition to her position with the BCCC, a group with which she has sung for many years, DINAH HAAG is the Senior Minister of Frankfort's First Congregational Church. The love of music in her life was solidified by the age of three when she and her family would sing songs and rounds after visiting family and friends. Her high school choir director had to teach her basic conducting patterns while still a sophomore so she could take on her first church choir. When she received her double Bachelor degree in Music Education, Dinah knew at one point how to play most band instruments. But as she says, "That was long ago." Her first real career was that of a public school music and choral teacher for seven years in St. Croix Falls, WI. The best part of that position is that one of her students now has her old job! Above all, she counts it an honor to be a part of continuing the wonderful musical tradition established by the chorus over its forty-year history.

OUR ACCOMPANIST



A native of Japan, NOZOMI KHUDYEV has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral keyboardist at prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. An active collaborative pianist, she has played recitals with both instrumentalists and vocalists in Tokyo, New York, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New Haven, and Ann Arbor. She completed a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance at the University of Michigan, where she was a recipient of the full-tuition merit scholarship; and a Master of Music degree in collaborative piano at the Julliard School as the recipient of the Bernard and Leigh Seder, William Petschek Piano, and Henrietta Quade Scholarships. Post-graduation, she has worked as a staff pianist at the Colburn School in Los Angeles, California and the Killington Music Festival in Vermont, while maintaining her collaborative performances with musicians around the country. Nozomi currently she works as an Instructor of Piano and an Accompanist at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

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In thinking about this evening's concert,
ask Google what "Folk Music" is, and you'll get a variety of answers. But perhaps folklorist and musician Mike Seeger's famous definition of folk music as being "all the music that fits between the cracks" provides the best description. Director Dinah Haag thinks about folk songs as those "tunes you have in your back pocket that you carry around with you." Spanning sea shanties, work songs, spirituals/gospel music, love odes, and frivolous ditties, the genre is expansive and diverse. Folk music unites people through communities that extend beyond geography, and appeal to shared experiences of work, love, hope, and joy.

Folk music helped lay the ground work for the evolution of other popular forms of American music, from jazz to rock'n'roll. From traditional folk music from the mid-19th century to contemporary folk to the late-20th century, folk music evolves with time to reflect the mood and focus of the culture. The music selected for this year's concert spans two centuries of American folk and folk-derived music. These songs offer a window to the past cultures that produced them, and connect to the common human experiences that unite us all.

2016 Sound of Summer Singers

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