

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL A CAPPELLA CHOIR
PRESENTS

A NEW LEAF: SONGS FOR RENEWAL



CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
WESTERN REGION

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is a singular honor and a privilege to perform for the 2020 Western Division ACDA conference. I am grateful for the sacrifices of many choir members, parents, colleagues, ACDA committee members, and event organizers that have made this experience possible.

I attended my first ACDA conference in 2005. As an unsuspecting undergrad, I wandered into the premiere of Morton Lauridsen's *Sure On This Shining Night* and was struck by a kind of beauty and artistry that I had never before encountered. Since then, I have had countless such experiences at ACDA conferences that have refined my craft, strengthened my connections with colleagues, and renewed my soul.

In that same spirit, this program is about “renewal” and features songs that invite the listener to become new again. Although the expression to “turn over a new leaf” is a literary reference (referring to the leaves of pages in a book), I have chosen to include some songs that reference flora and foliage—which have a lot to say about the subject of renewal.

My hope is that you will leave this performance—and this conference—with a renewed spirit and a clearer vision of the essential work that you are doing as choral directors. Thank you for your support.

—Rob Swenson

PROGRAM

The American Heritage School A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Rob Swenson, Director
Heidi Rodeback, Accompanist

- Trumpet Tune in G* JAMES C. KASEN (b. 1956)
Jackman Music
Heidi Rodeback, organ solo
- O Be Joyful* PHILIP STOPFORD (b. 1977)
Hal Leonard
- Haec Dies* WILLIAM BYRD (1539-1623)
cpdl.org
- Stars Above and Earth Below* ROB SWENSON (b. 1983)
Santa Barbara Music Publishers
- Won't You Be My Neighbor?* FRED M. ROGERS (1927-2016)
arr. Robert Page
Hal Leonard
Levi Ollerton, drum set; Clark Miner, upright bass
- Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!* HOWARD HELVEY (b. 1968)
Beckenhorst Press
Chelsea Waddell, mezzo soprano
- Tree of Life* PEPPER CHOPLIN (b. 1968)
Hinshaw Music
Daron Bradford, oboe



PROGRAM NOTES

Trumpet Tune in G

JAMES C. KASEN

A twentieth-century update to the English Baroque tradition of trumpet voluntaries, James Kasen's stately processional places the colorful trumpet stop in dialogue with the organ's foundations. The melody begins in a simple fashion and grows in its grandeur until it reaches an ending filled with hope and determined renewal.

O Be Joyful

PHILIP STOPFORD

Text from Psalm 100 and "Gloria Patri"

This setting by Philip Stopford skillfully combines two familiar religious texts in the Anglican tradition: The "Jubilate" (Psalm 100) is sung at the office of Morning Prayer in the Church of England and includes the "Gloria Patri." A sparkling organ accompaniment evokes a call to awaken and the text carries a message of joy and reassurance.

From the composer: "O Be Joyful was composed the week before the Consecration of the Bishop of Connor at St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast, where I was Director of Music at the time. It was initially called the 'Episcopal Jubilate.' (The word 'episcopal' means 'of a bishop or bishops.') Hal Leonard suggested that we drop that title on publication because it could be perceived to be associated only with the Episcopal Church, so we changed it to *O Be Joyful*. This is my fourth setting of the 'Jubilate.'" –Philip Stopford

Psalm 100:

- 1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
- 2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.
- 3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.
- 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Gloria Patri:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen! Amen!





Haec Dies

WILLIAM BYRD

Text from Psalm 118

William Byrd's wonderful setting of Psalm 118 was first published in his 1591 collection of "*Cantiones sacrae*." Often recited at Easter time in the Catholic and Anglican traditions, this buoyant motet uses close imitation and hemiola to express a joyful and optimistic text.

Text:

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus:
exultemus et laetemur in ea,
Alleluia.

Translation:

This is the day which the Lord hath made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
Alleluia.

Stars Above and Earth Below

ROB SWENSON

Text by Sara Teasdale

This profound text by Sara Teasdale describes the transformation that each of us experiences as we learn and grow. Although sometimes painful, shedding the "leaves" of constant, comfortable, and seemingly sure knowledge can allow us to see truths that are more vast and more enduring than we could have ever before imagined.

Text:

One by one, like leaves from a tree,
All my faiths have forsaken me;
But the stars above my head
Burn in white and delicate red,
And beneath my feet the earth
Brings the sturdy grass to birth.

I who was content to be
But a silken-singing tree,
But a rustle of delight

In the wistful heart of night,
I have lost the leaves that knew
Touch of rain and weight of dew.

Blinded by a leafy crown
I looked neither up nor down—
But the little leaves that die
Have left me room to see the sky;
Now for the first time I know
Stars above and earth below.

—Sarah Teasdale



Won't You Be My Neighbor?

FRED ROGERS, arr. ROBERT PAGE

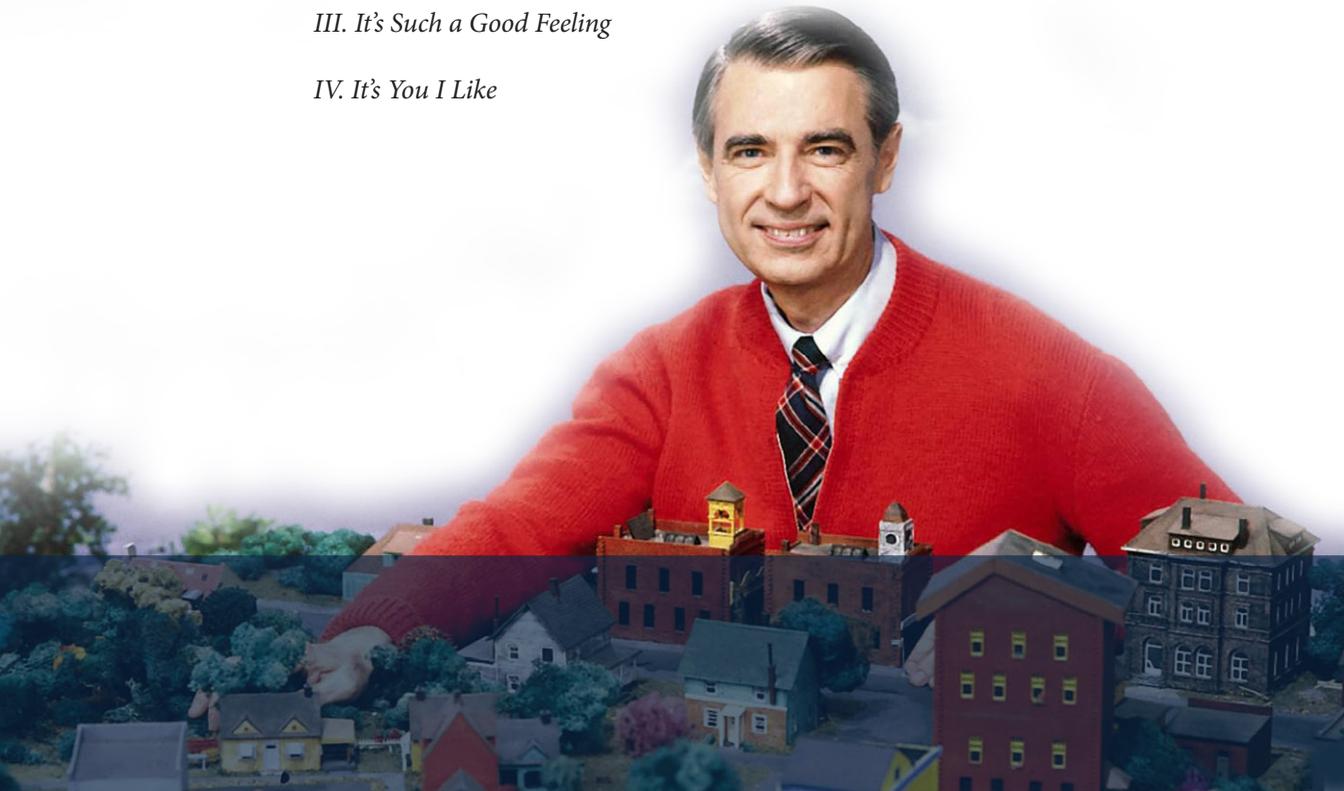
Each weekday for nearly 40 years, “Mister Rogers” invited children across the nation to be his neighbor and to see the world in a new way—through a lens of love and optimism. With a college degree in music, Fred Rogers wrote songs encouraging children to be kind, exercise self-control, and love unconditionally. These deceptively simple children’s songs contain profound messages, inviting us to renew our commitment to the most essential elements of human interaction.

I. Won't You Be My Neighbor?

II. What Do You Do?

III. It's Such a Good Feeling

IV. It's You I Like





Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!

arr. HOWARD HELVEY

Traditional African-American Spiritual

From the composer: “In the aftermath following the incomprehensible devastation of Hurricane Katrina along the U. S. Gulf Coast, it was uplifting to witness the generosity of countless people who are helping to ease the burdens of those who have lost so much. As part of that relief effort, the *Southern Chorale* of University of Southern Mississippi (in Hattiesburg, an area particularly impacted by Katrina) accepted an invitation to perform on a special fundraising concert in New York’s Carnegie Hall on Friday evening, November 25, 2005. Although the timeframe by circumstance was rather short to write or arrange something new for the chorale’s performance, I was deeply grateful to be asked to do so by their conductor and long-time friend, Dr. Gregory Fuller. Greg provided me with three words that were to define the spirit of the relief concert: *courage*, *hope*, and *thanksgiving*. From those idea seeds, I elected to adapt and arrange the bright, optimistic spiritual *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*. Although liberty was taken with the text in order to accommodate those three thematic words, I retained the repeated phrase ‘...since I laid my burdens down’ throughout, as it seemed apt to the post-Katrina time.” –Howard Helvey

Tree of Life

PEPPER CHOPLIN

From the composer: “In searching for a fresh way to relate the Gospel, I noticed that trees were focal images in the story of Christ. I wrote the text and tune with the feel of a folk ballad. In the Genesis story, Adam and Eve enjoyed the fruit of life in paradise, but then partook of the Tree of Knowledge. On Calvary’s hill was the tree of the cross where Christ died. Then, there is the Kingdom Tree. Christ used the parable of the seed that became a mighty tree to tell of the Church’s birth and growth. Finally, there is an invitation for all to partake of the fruit of life from this tree and live forever.” –Pepper Choplin



ARTISTS

SOPRANO I:

Shera Crossley*
Kaylee Handy
Emma Schmidt
Chelsea Waddell

SOPRANO II:

Cosette Bradford
Trustine Chun*
Ashleigh Johnson
Kymberly Larson
Micaela Martin
Alexa Montes
Chloe Morrill

ALTO I:

Bethany Bushman
Emilynne Carr
Trinity Gibbs
Peyton Harris
Lenicka Lee*
Gentry McClain
Katie Todd
Sarah Ware

ALTO II:

Mishayla Anderson
Courtney Buck
Anna Burton
Bekah Knudsen
Karina Miner*
Naomi Noot
Cara Uhl

TENOR I:

Michael Holmes
Kaden Hunsaker*
Jacob McKay
Harrison Smith

TENOR II:

Jerel Acuña
John Burr*
Tony Johnson
Ethan Morrill
Stirling Todd

BARITONE:

Jackson Barattiero
Nathaniel Bischoff*
Joseph Dunn
Robert Hayward
Aaron Johnson

BASS:

Burton Buer
Jacob Burr*
Hunter Christiansen
Isaiah Pettingill
TJ Stanford

*Section leader

Acknowledgements

Choral Assistant Linnea Mott
Choreographer Heidi Webb
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Program Designer Tammy Morse
Performance Site Coordinator Camille Kingman
Fine Arts Administrator Blaine Hunsaker

ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP

ROB SWENSON, DIRECTOR



Rob Swenson holds a master's degree in music education from Brigham Young University and Level III OAKE-endorsed Kodály certification. In 2008, he joined the faculty at American Heritage School where he currently directs the choirs in grades 8-12 and serves as the Fine Arts Department Chair. In 2007, he founded the Heritage Youth Choirs, a faith-centered community choral program for children and youth. Under his direction, the choir has grown to over 200 members and has performed inspirational, faith-centered programs for audiences throughout the United States. Rob's original compositions have received awards in past ACDA Utah contests and his original carol, *Christmas Hosanna*, received the 2016 Indianapolis Symphonic Choir Christmas Carol Commission. He directed the 2019 Utah High School Women's Honor Choir and was commissioned by the Utah Music Educators Association to write a piece for them. He is an alumnus of the John Ness Beck Choral Composers Workshop where he studied composition with Craig Courtney, Dan Forrest, and Howard Helvey. Rob's music is distributed by Santa Barbara Music Publishing and at www.robswensonmusic.com.

HEIDI RODEBACK, ACCOMPANIST



Heidi Rodeback—pianist, organist, and collaborative artist—teaches and accompanies in north Utah County. Recent performance credits include the Utah Wind Symphony, the Utah Children's Choir and the A Cappella Choir at American Heritage School. Certified as a Colleague in the American Guild of Organists, she earned a B.A. in Russian literature from Brigham Young University and completed post-graduate work at the Colby College Piano Institute. Active in civic life, Heidi serves on the board of the Timpanogos Symphony Orchestra and currently chairs the American Fork Library Board of Trustees.

A decorative background at the top of the page featuring a dark red color with a faint, repeating pattern of musical notation, including staves and notes.

ABOUT US

The American Heritage A Cappella Choir is an auditioned, mixed choral ensemble at American Heritage School (est. 1970), a Latter-day Saint-oriented private school in American Fork, Utah. Remarkably, the choir represents nearly 40 percent of all enrolled juniors and seniors at the school. Whole musicianship, including an emphasis on music literacy, is stressed in all ensembles. The Choir was established in 2009 when the school expanded from grades K-8 to grades K-12. Since its inception, the A Cappella Choir has been noted for its technical excellence and expressive capabilities, receiving consistently high ratings at both region and state festivals. They have been invited by both the Utah Music Educators Association and Utah ACDA to perform at annual conferences. The mission of the AHS A Cappella Choir is to provide spirit-awakening musical experiences for both choir members and listeners through a daily focus on technical excellence, self-improvement, teamwork, and faith.

Since 1970, with an enrollment of 85 students, American Heritage School has grown to become a flourishing K-12 private school serving over 900 students on campus and approximately 5,000 students participating in homeschools in all 50 states and over 60 countries. In addition to curricular choir offerings, the school is also home to two award-winning community youth music programs: Lyceum Youth Orchestras and Heritage Youth Choirs. The school's vision for the future depends more than ever upon touching individual hearts with the light of Christ and His teachings. It offers a truly unique and powerful educational experience—one that leverages rigorous academics in the context of faith and Christian character to inspire the hearts and minds of each child, one by one.

FROM PRINCIPAL BECKWITH

GRANT BECKWITH, AMERICAN HERITAGE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



On behalf of the American Heritage School Board of Trustees, it is an honor to present the American Heritage School A Cappella Choir and its director, Rob Swenson, to the American Choral Directors Association. Thank you for your invitation to perform at the Western Division Conference this year, and thank you for the way that you celebrate and promote the gift of choral music in the rising generation.

When faced with national disunity, Abraham Lincoln famously invited America to consider the “better angels of our nature.” Few things remind us of those “better angels” like choral music, and there may be no discipline on earth more capable of unifying our polarized world.

American Heritage School is a private, K–12, Latter-day Saint-oriented school celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. In my 15 years as principal, I have worked with many outstanding educators and seen some of the finest educational programs at mission-oriented schools throughout the country. I have experienced few as inspiring and disciplined as the choir program we are presenting to you today. It transports audiences and transforms the lives of the students who participate.

A program like this simply does not come into existence or flourish without the extraordinary gifts and leadership of a director like Rob Swenson. Mr. Swenson is a rare kind of polymath whose spectrum of talents include composing, writing, conducting, teaching, and administration. Like Michelangelo, he “sees an angel in the stone” of every person, and he “carves to set it free.” We pay tribute to Mr. Swenson and to all music educators who give their hearts and souls to the divinely transformational teaching and learning that is choral music!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Grant Beckwith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grant Beckwith
Principal



CHARACTER

Developing hearts centered in Christ, influenced by example and refined through experience.



SCHOLARSHIP

Inspiring minds through transformational teaching and learning in the light of the restored gospel.



LIBERTY

Choosing moral self-government as the foundation of thriving individuals, families and communities.

