

For the past eight years, the Rockridge Chorale, under the direction of Devi de Sam Lazaro Jameson, has brought choral music to the East Bay. Whether in small recitals at assisted living facilities or major fundraising concerts for victims of disasters, the singers focus on the power of music to lift the human spirit and build community.

For today's concert, the Chorale's 28 members present a compilation of familiar tunes, some dating back several decades and others that are more contemporary, as well as works by classical composers.

The concert opens with "**Cantique de Jean Racine**" written by 19-year-old Gabriel Faure who won first prize for the piece when he graduated from Ecole Niedermeyer. The following year (1866), the piece was first performed with accompaniment of strings and organ. The text is a French translation by the 17<sup>th</sup> century French dramatist Jean Racine of a medieval Latin hymn, "Consorts paterni luminis." When Faure set the translation to music, he gave it the new title. British composer and conductor John Rutter arranged the piece being sung by the Rockridge Chorale.

His "**The Music's Always There With You**" was written for Swedish musician Per-Anders Sjöberg and his Ad Libitum choir and sung at their 1998 jubilee concert. In 2002 Rutter was commissioned to set Psalm 150 to music for Queen Elizabeth's golden jubilee service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. He also wrote a new anthem for the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton.

The theme of faith has a very different musical rendition in "**When You Believe**" written by Stephen Schwartz for the 1998 animated film "The Prince of Egypt" Sung by Mariah Carey and Whitney Houston, it earned the Academy Award for Best Original Song in 1999. This ballad includes both English and Hebrew text.

"**I Waited for the Lord,**" is one of nine vocal movements in Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 2 in B flat major called "Lobgesang" (Hymn of Praise). It was written in 1840 to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the printing press and the Gutenberg bible. Mendelssohn described this work as a "cantata on words of the holy bible."

**I Capuleti e i Montecchi** (*The Capulets and the Montagues*) is an Italian opera (Tragedia lirica) in two acts by Vincenzo Bellini. The libretto by Felice Romani was a reworking of the story of Romeo and Juliet for an opera by Nicola Vaccai called *Giulietta e Romeo*. This was based on Italian sources rather than taken directly from Shakespeare. The first performance of *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* was on March 11, 1830

**Marry Me A Little** is a musical with lyrics and music by Stephen Sondheim. The revue, conceived by Craig Lucas and Norman Rene, sets songs cut from Sondheim's better-known musicals to a dialogue-free play about the relationship between two lonely New York single people who are in emotional conflict during an evening in their separate one-room apartments.

Another inspiring song, this time from the Broadway musical "Rent," is "**Seasons of Love,**" written and composed by Jonathan Larson. The song asks, "How do you measure a year?" and offers several points of view - daylights, sunsets, midnights; inches, miles; cups of coffee; laughter or strife - but concludes that only acts of love are the true measure of the five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes that make up a year.

Our closing selection before the intermission, "**Anthem for Spring**" is from the Italian opera "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Pietro Mascagni. A group of Sicilian villagers, gathered in a town square ready to attend church services, sing of the triumphant joy of spring and the Easter season.

## INTERMISSION

The amazing songs of George and Ira Gershwin are highlighted during today's concert in the second half by "**The Gershwin Swing Set**," opening with "They Can't Take That Away From Me" first introduced in 1937 by Fred Astaire in the film "Shall We Dance?" Other melodies in this set are "Nice Work If You Can Get It" (1937), "S Wonderful" (1927), "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off" (1936), and "They All Laughed" (1936).

For a change of pace, we move to the tango rhythms of South America with "**Mi Vida, Mi Cancion**," by Jay Althouse. This song pairs Latin rhythms with close choral chords and a passionate text that alternates between Spanish and English. Althouse, who focuses on writing choral music, heard his composition "I Hear America Singing" performed during the 2009 Presidential Inauguration Ceremonies.

A change in mood comes with "**Con Te Partiro**" (Time to Say Goodbye), popularized by Andrea Bocelli, who first sang this Italian classical crossover song by Francesco Sartori and Lucio Quarantotto at the 1995 San Remo Festival. That same year he recorded it on his album "Bocelli" and released it as a single, which topped the charts in France and Belgium.

In "**What a Wonderful World**" by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele the wonders of nature are lifted up with a subtle reminder to be grateful for all the world's blessings. This song was first recorded by Louis Armstrong and released as a single in 1968. In 1999, his recording was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

Irving Berlin was one of the most important songwriters in the USA. He was self-taught, but almost everything he wrote was a success. His breakthrough during WWI was "Alexander's Ragtime Band". Here is another popular song: "**Long as I Take You Home!**"

The Rockridge Chorale shares with you this inspiring piece, "**You Raise Me Up**" a stirring hit by Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland that has been nominated four times for Gospel Music Awards, including Song of the Year. The 2003 recording by Josh Groban made it to the top of the Billboard adult contemporary chart and was nominated for a 2005 Grammy. In 2004 alone, the song was played on American radio stations more than 500,000 times.

Closing the program today we bring you **Cole Porter**. In the history of American music, Cole Porter stands out for songs described as witty, sophisticated, sassy and poignant. Though classically trained as a musician, Porter preferred musical theatre and became one of the major songwriters on Broadway. Unlike many other successful Broadway composers, he wrote both the music and lyrics of his songs. In today's concert medley, we hear four songs from his vast repertoire - "It's De-Lovely" (1936), "Always True to You in My Fashion" (1948), "In the Still of the Night" (1937) and "From This Moment On" (1950).

## ROCKRIDGE CHORALE MEMBERS

Vilma Balbuena (S) Gabriele Briggs (A) Monica Clark; (S) Teresa Countryman\*(S) Kathy Dittmer (S) Richard Dodson (B) Anastasia Griffin (S) Claire Grimason (A) Felicidad Guirao (A) Ann Hurley (S) Carole Jones\*(S) Claudine Jones (A) Sara Katz\*(T) Barbara Myers (S) Linda Maloney (A) Dee McDonough (A) Jim Martin (B) Helen Nygaard (A) Daniel Olson\*(T) Mary Lou Osur (S) Jan Patton (S) Sherris Prall (A) Nora Simmons (S) Alan Smith\*(B) Rick Staniland (B) Ramon Rodriguez (B) Renee Torres (A) John Whatley (T) David Wright (T)

\*Soloists

### INSTRUMENTALISTS

Karen Lum-Nackley, 1st violin; Nicholas Kish, 2nd violin; Leonore Kish, viola  
Katherine Fung, cello; Dan Scharlin Flute 1 Raymond Picardo Flute 2  
Dustin Smurthwaite Bass; Graham Patzner Guitar; Alex Feldman Drums;

#### **Soloist: Nik Nackley**

Acclaimed by the Boston Globe for his ability to "continually impress with his beautiful voice and acting," baritone **Nikolas Nackley** is equally regarded for his work on concert and operatic stages throughout the West Coast, New England, and abroad. He has performed numerous roles with companies including Opera Boston, Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Boston Lyric Opera, Emmanuel Music, Providence Opera, Festival Opera, Berkley Opera and Granite State Opera. Most recently he was heard as Harry Easter in Oakland East Bay Symphony's "Street Scene", Baron Douphol in Festival Opera's "La Traviata" and Gregorio in Livermore Valley Opera's "Romeo et Juliette." Oratorio credits include solo performances with the Handel and Haydn Society, the Orchestra of Emmanuel Music, the Oakland East Bay Symphony, the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, Boulder Bach Festival and Carmel Bach Festival performing, among others, Brahms, Mozart, and Fauré's Requiems, Bach's B Minor Mass, St. Matthew and St. John Passions, Beethoven's 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony and Mass in C Major, and Handel's Messiah. A native of the Bay Area, Mr. Nackley recently moved back to California after having lived in Boston for thirteen years.

**Pianist: Anny Cheng** an active pianist, has collaborated numerous concerts with singers, instrumentalists and choirs in the major cities in the US and in Taiwan. She was invited as a guest artist with Arizona MusicFest and joined the faculty of the Tanglewood Institute's Young Artist Vocal Program as a principal Vocal Coach and Musical Director working with artists Sharon Daniels, Phyllis Hoffman, Penelope Bitzas, Simon Estes and the legendary soprano Phyllis Curtin. She also joined as the staff pianist at Viola Workout in Crested Butte, Colorado. She collaborated with Robert Horton, the president of Texas Choral Director Association and served as a coach and staff pianist at Cy-Fair College in Houston. In the past two years, she has collaborated with Rockridge Chorale, Masterworks Chorale, Crystal Children Choir, West Bay Opera, South Valley Voice Studio with Allen Cathcart, founder of Peninsula Teen Opera and Stanford University. Anny completed her Doctoral degree in Collaborative Piano at Arizona State University, Graduate Performance Diploma in Collaborative Piano at Longy School of Music and Master of Music in Piano Accompanying and Coaching at Westminster Choir College.

**Flute 1: Dan Scharlin** is in his 29th season as principal flute in the Prometheus Symphony. Dan was fortunate to have played under Dimitri Metropolis and Eugene Ormandy. An alumnus of UCLA, he served as Principal Flute in the UCLA Symphony Orchestra, and later, Principal Flute in the Brentwood Symphony and the Los Angeles Conservatory Opera Orchestra.

THE ROCKRIDGE CHORALE  
CHORUS WITHOUT BORDERS

ANNUAL CONCERT

CONDUCTED BY DEVI JAMESON  
ACCOMPANIED BY ANNY CHENG

SATURDAY OCTOBER 1  
2:00 P.M.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH  
2808 LAKESHORE AVENUE  
OAKLAND CALIFORNIA