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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE YCCS

On behalf of the Board of Directors and singers of the York County Choral Society, I want to welcome you to our Fall Concert as we begin our 26th season of performing choral masterworks for the York County area.

Our busy and exciting Silver Anniversary season concluded with the honor of being the choir in residence at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., July 13-16. Many thanks to all those who make our programs possible and who will be instrumental in moving the Choral Society into its Second Quarter Century, especially our generous Patrons, our talented accompanists, and those who are so essential for our day-to-day activities: David Lowry, co-founder; Susan Read, rehearsal accompanist and vocal coach; the Arts Council; and Oakland Baptist Church, now in the 26th year of a very special ministry to the community by unselfishly providing us with rehearsal space and concert venue.

Michael Davis
President

NOTES ON THIS PROGRAM

“Potpourri” concerts are always fun, and we design them from time to time to explore a broad variety of styles. Staple arrangements of American spirituals have long belonged to the work of **Alice Parker** in collaboration with **Robert Shaw**, and those arrangements have often inspired others in their settings for choruses large and small. We have enjoyed them as well as the two by **Nicholas White** and **Adolphus Hailstork**.

A rune is a piece of Gaelic poetry, often in the form of a prayer or an appreciation of kind acts. My “Deep peace” setting is being released by Paraclete Press early next year. **Houkom’s** “Hospitality” is an imaginative setting for chorus and guitar. It was the great pleasure of YCCS to sing **Craig Phillip’s** motet as an Introit to the Sunday morning Holy Eucharist at National Cathedral on July 16. It was sung at the West End, which was quickly discovered to be the ‘best’ place in the whole massive building to make music.

We can’t have a fine guitarist on the program without inviting him to play a solo. And Dr. Dickert has selected a work by the Romantic composer who is regarded as the father of the modern classical guitar, **Francisco Tárrega**.

Years ago **Noah Greenberg**, a remarkable musician and entrepreneur, fathered the New York Pro Musica, creating a stimulating interest in Medieval music throughout the music world. This Christmas carol is one fine example of this scholarship. My distinguished friend, **John Bertalot**, created this remarkable setting of the familiar tune some years ago when copyrights for the Sidney Carter text were not available. He recently revised the setting which is now in the repertory of the Men and Boys Choir of St. Thomas Fifth Avenue. **Dan Gawthrop’s** tender setting of “Sing me to heaven” extols the worth of music in this wonderful poem by Jane Griner, his wife. And **Jerome Kern’s** “All the Things” extols the worth of love.

David Lowry

NOTES ON SOME OF THE TEXTS

My Lord, what a Moanin'

African American Hailstork, who is a professor in Norfolk, comments that he believes that among the various versions of the text found in differing traditions, that *moanin'* best fits the judgment day spiritual and the dialect.

A Gaelic Prayer

Deep peace of the rolling wave to you; Deep peace of the flowing air to you;
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you; Deep peace of the shining stars to you;
Deep peace of the gentle night to you; Moon and stars pour their healing light on you;
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you; Deep peace of Christ to you.

Rune of Hospitality

I saw a stranger yestereen; I put food in the eating place, Drink in the drinking place, Music in the listening place; And in the sacred names of the Triune He blessed me and my house, My cattle and my dear ones. And the lark said in her song: Often, often, often, Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.

The Elixir (1633)

Teach me, my God and King,
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in any thing,
To do it as for thee.

All may of thee partake;
Nothing can be so mean,
Which with this tincture, (for thy sake)
Will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
Makes drudgerie divine:
Who sweeps a room, as for thy law,
Makes that and th' action fine.

This is the famous stone
That turneth all to gold:
For that which God doth touch and own
Cannot for lesse be told.

Geroge Herbert (1593-1633)

Ríu, ríu, chíu

These words are nightingale sounds. The Spanish words ask to "guard our homes in safety. God has kept the black wolf from our Lamb, our Lady." The text continues describing why Christ was born to save us.

Sing me to heaven

In my heart's sequestered chambers lie truths stripped of poet's gloss.

Words alone are vain and vacant and my heart is mute.

In response to aching silence memory summons half-heard voices,
and my soul finds primal eloquence and wraps me in song.

If you would comfort me, sing me a lullaby. If you would win my heart, sing me a love song.

If you would mourn me and bring me to God, sing me a requiem, sing me to heaven.

Touch in me all love and passion, pain and pleasure,

Touch in me grief and comfort: love and passion, pain and pleasure.

Sing me a lullaby, a love song, a requiem.

Love me, comfort me, bring me to God.

Sing me a love song, sing me to heaven.

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