

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

Issue #29...January 20, 2020

Editor: Ray Scroggins

Red Sails in the Sunset, which we will be singing in February, was published in 1935, with music written by Hugh Williams (a pseudonym for Wilhelm Grosz) and lyrics by Jimmy Kennedy, a prolific songwriter. The song was inspired by the "red sails" of the yacht *Kitty of Coleraine*, which Kennedy often saw off the northern coast of Ireland and also from his adopted town of Portstewart, a seaside resort in County Londonderry. Popular versions were recorded in 1935 by Bing Crosby, Guy Lombardo and Mantovani. Louis Armstrong had a hit with the song in 1936, and it was revived by Nat King Cole in 1951.

Winter Care for Your Voice

If you catch a cold or other upper respiratory infection, turn on a humidifier or vaporizer. A stuffy nose will cause you to mouth-breathe, which dries the throat and larynx ("voice box"). Either the steam-type or cool mist-type will work. Don't put Vicks or anything else in the water. Plain water is most effective.

Drink lots of fluids. Avoid aspirin. As a singer, it makes bleeding injuries to your vocal cords more likely. Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen) are better choices for singers fighting fever or pain. Also, avoid antihistamines and decongestants if possible. Most nonprescription remedies contain them, but they are too drying for singers. Agents that break up the mucus such as Robitussin help liquify secretions without drying your mucous membranes if you have a cold. Finally, to protect your voice, avoid irritants such as alcohol and cigarettes, and avoid speaking or singing over noise.

The Harmonizer

Time Does Fly when you're listening to music. Scientists have shown repeatedly that people judge a waiting period as shorter when music is playing. Retailers use that to their advantage, playing music so you stay longer and spend more. When music (especially slow music) is playing in bars and restaurants, more food is sold. And grocery sales increase by 38 percent when slow background music is played. It's probably why our one-hour performances seem to go so quickly too.

Readers Digest



Rogers and Hammerstein wrote many of the songs we sing, from musicals that include *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific* and many others. The duo of composer Richard Rogers (1902-1979) and lyricist-dramatist Oscar Hammerstein (1895-1960) created a string of popular Broadway musicals in the 1940s and 1950s. Their musical partnership has been called the greatest of the 20th century.

Among their songs in our repertoire are "Oklahoma!" "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'" and "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top," all from *Oklahoma*, "You'll Never Walk Alone," from *Carousel*, and "Edelweiss," from *The Sound of Music*. Their shows and film versions garnered 34 Tony Awards, 15 Academy Awards, the Pulitzer Prize and two Grammy Awards.

If you carry your childhood with you, you never become older.

Fortune Cookie

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members



Fran Boldt was born in Albuquerque but moved to Clovis at age four and grew up there. When she was nine, she started piano lessons and continued through high school and college. In her junior and senior years of high school she was a church organist, earning the grand sum of \$5 a Sunday.

Fran graduated from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff with a degree in education and minors in music and psychology. She taught school for more than 30 years, mostly in Oregon. Her experiences included teaching at an elementary school, a boys' reform school for 20 years, teaching music at a blind school, and home-schooling a handicapped child for two working parents. In Las Cruces, Fran taught piano classes at a middle school and then private piano lessons for six years after retiring from LCPS.

Singing has been a part of her life, including several church choirs and three Sweet Adelines choruses, as well as the New Desert Harmony Singers, Good Time Singers and NMSU Masterworks here in Las Cruces. In 2000, Fran joined about 150 other musicians at a Classical Music Festival of Beethoven and Hayden music in Austria. She also traveled with a group of Sweet Adelines from the US for a singing tour of Ireland.

Fran's been single for about 20 years and, in 2002, she moved to Las Cruces to be close to her only son, a practicing psychologist and mental health counselor for Ben Archer, and her grandson, a senior at Arrowhead Early College High School. Here in Las Cruces, Fran lives with her dog,

Maggie, and cat, Lucky. She enjoys attending plays, musicals and concerts, cooking, art and travel. Fran says she loves Las Cruces and hopes to be here the rest of her life. She's enjoying being a part of the Young at Heart chorus and hopes to get to know everyone better.



Joanie and her neighbor, Susan McDaniel, entertained with Christmas songs before our December program at The Aristocrat.



We heard *Silent Night* in four languages on our December program: French (Phyllis), German (Chuck), Polish (Joan) and Spanish (Jim).

Thanks to Marilyn Gioannini for a generous donation to our chorus treasury. Although she no longer is able to be an active part of our performing group, she supports us in many other ways, including transposing music when a different key is needed and hosting the periodic meetings of our music committee.

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members



Mike & Joy sang *O Christmas Tree* and *I'll be Home for Christmas* in December.



Fran sang the spiritual *Sweet Little Jesus Boy* in December.



Jo & Joan sang *My Favorite Things* for December.

What the World Needs Now is Love, a 1965 popular song that we'll be singing in February, was written by Burt Bacharach with lyrics by Hal David. In his 2014 biography, Bacharach said that the lyrics of this song were among the most difficult that Hal David ever wrote. Although they had the main melody and chorus written in 1962, it took another two years for David to come up with "Lord, we don't need another mountain." Once David worked out the verses, Bacharach said the song essentially "wrote itself," and they finished it in a day or two.

The song's success caught the two songwriters completely by surprise, since they were very aware of the controversy and disagreements among Americans about the Vietnam War, which was the subtext for David's lyrics.



Maria Contreras, of Good Samaritan Health Care, joined Phyllis, Joan and Chuck to add the Spanish version of *Silent Night* in Jim's absence.



I picture each day as if it were a happy dog looking at me. I may not be in the mood, but the dog always wants to play.

John Patrick Shanley, American playwright