

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

Issue #17...July 15, 2018

Editor: Ray Scroggins

Our Monthly Themes

Here's a list of the monthly themes of our programs. We follow these themes but pick different songs that fit them each year.

February: Love Songs

March: Irish & Other Cultures

April: Chorus Favorites

May: Spring & Summer Potpourri

September: Broadway Show & Movie Tunes

October: Americana (Country/Folk/etc.)

November: Veteran's Appreciation Month

December: Christmas/Holiday

Like Talking to a Friend

Ian Swenson, a violin teacher at the San Francisco Conservatory, tells his students that playing the violin should be like talking to a friend. We could say the same about singing. Every song tells a story, so sing it like you're telling the story to a friend.

Quoted from Performance Today

Our Senior Olympic Winners



Joanie shows her first-place medal from the Senior Olympics Talent Competition on Sunday, April 22nd.

At the Senior Olympics, Karen Smith got first place for her reading of "Crabby Old Man," which brought tears to the eyes of a lot of people in the audience, and third place for her solo on "The Man That Got Away." Gary Spencer took second with his song "Almost Like Being in Love". Congratulations to all our winners.

Joanie says she dressed up like a Harlem Globetrotter and came out bouncing her basketball as she said to the crowd, "Hi everybody. I just got done practicing with the Harlem Globetrotters, and I am POOPED!!! During our break, one of the guys said, 'Joanie, did you know there was a Senior Olympics going on next door? Why don't you go over there and try your LUCK?' So here I am. I am going to play the piano for you. I didn't know what to play, but then I came up with a great song. I am going to dedicate it to the Globetrotters because they were so good to me. It is their theme song, *Sweet Georgia Brown*." She then played it at the regular speed the first time, faster the second time and really fast the third time. No surprise to us in the chorus! There were a lot of the YAH members and some of Joanie's church people there to cheer everyone on.

Oklahoma! is a song we will sing in September and also the title the first musical written by the team of composer Richard Rodgers and librettist Oscar Hammerstein II. Strangely, the musical is based on Lynn Riggs' 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*, familiar as the title of a song our chorus women sang this past March.

The original Broadway production of Oklahoma! opened on March 31, 1943. It was a box-office smash and ran for an unprecedented 2,212 performances, later enjoying award-winning revivals, national tours, foreign productions and an Academy Award-winning 1955 film adaptation.

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In September, as well as the title song, we will sing the opening song, *Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'* that quickly became one of the most popular American songs to emerge from the wartime era.

What do we learn from cow, buffaloes & elephants?



It's impossible to reduce weight by eating green grass and salads and walking

Look Up with Confidence

More singers are watching the director, which helps us stay together, and we also look and sound better. You probably know more of the songs than you think you do, so don't be afraid to look up. George takes videos of our performances each month, and it's amazing to see how much better the singers look who have their heads up instead of in the book. You'll sound better too, because the sound goes out to the audience instead of down into your book.

We often make changes during practice on how we sing the music, where we repeat and other details, so it's important that you come to at least one each month. Two would be better, of course, but I know everyone is busy and can't always be there. If you do plan on singing with us in a given month, though, please make every effort to get to at least one practice so you will know how we are

doing the songs. It will help us all look and sound our best.

Sunrise, Sunset, another song we will sing in September, is familiar from the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*, written in 1964 by composer Jerry Bock and lyricist Sheldon Harnick. In the show, the song is performed at the wedding of Tevye and Golde's eldest daughter. The two parents sing about how they can't believe their daughter has grown up, while Hodel and Perchik sing about whether there may be a wedding in the nearby future for them. The song has been described as "hypnotic and poignant, with infectious strains that wring the heart" by various critics. It often is played at weddings.



My doctor told me, now that I'm older, I need to install a bar in my shower. What do you think?

I Am Music

I am music, most ancient of the arts. Even before life began upon this earth, I was here. I spoke through the crash of waters on rocky shores, the sigh of the wind in the trees, the song of birds in the air. When the first grasses and flowers appeared, I was among them, whispering.

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When man came, I at once became the most delicate, most powerful medium for the expression of his emotions. I am the voice of the soul and the heart and the spirit.

In all ages, I have inspired men with hope, kindled their love, given voice to their joy, cheered them to valorous deeds and soothed them in times of despair. I am beside the cradle, present at the marriage altar and stand at the graveside. I call the wanderer home, I rescue the soul from the depths, I open the lips of lovers.

In the drama of life, I play a great role. Through my influence, human nature has been uplifted, sweetened and refined. I am the incense upon which prayers float to heaven. Many voices and instruments have I. I am in the hearts of all men, in all tongues, in all lands, among all peoples.

All men are my brothers. I speak in a language in the voices of their souls. I teach gentleness and peace. I comfort the lonely. I harmonize the discord of crowds.

Servant and Master am I. Through me, immortal spirits speak the message that makes the world weep, laugh, wonder and worship. I am the voice of love. I am the instrument of God. I am music.

Submitted by Marcie Palmer

Behind the Scenes

We all put in a lot of effort to make our performances enjoyable and entertaining, but there are things some members do that support our success without fanfare. One example is the work Marilyn Gioannini does in transposing and re-formatting some of our music. Sometimes the music we choose is in the wrong key and would be too high or too low for easy singing. The music sheets for a song might be 4 or 5 pages long and need to be reduced to a page or two. That's

where Marilyn steps in. She's able to fix these problems and give us music sheets that work.

For many years, Marilyn was our accompanist and a very active member of Young at Heart. Even though she can't perform with us now, we appreciate her continued support in this important role.

Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow.

Albert Einstein



George & Marye team up to sing "He's Got to Go" on our April program.

Volunteer of the Year

Last year, Marcie Palmer was chosen as the 2017 Volunteer Champion of the Las Cruces Good Samaritan Village. A few months later, she was named Regional Volunteer. Now she has been selected from more than 200 nominees from 24 states as the National Volunteer Champion and will be honored in June at a banquet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The GSS Way Champion Awards is a program started in 2016 to recognize those individuals who exhibit the eight characteristics that are synonymous with the Good Samaritan Society's Vision and Mission Statement. Here are some excerpts from an article in the *Las Cruces Sun-*

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News last December, which highlighted her volunteer activities:

Marcie has worked as a volunteer at the Las Cruces Village library and gift store, as well as many community outreach projects. Not only does Marcie have a heart of gold, she also has a green thumb. During most of the year, the back terrace of her apartment is quite the conversation piece. Many residents and guests often stop to take in the spectacular show of beauty displayed by her many plants, which happily bloom from their colorful pots and shelves. In the few colder months that Las Cruces enjoys, her plants take up residence in the indoor pool area and offer their breathtaking beauty to those enjoying the pool or the hot tubs.

Marcie is also a good friend and neighbor. She goes out of her way to make new residents feel welcome, introducing them to their neighbors and was instrumental in starting a monthly Mad Hatters Tea gathering to help merge the social life and togetherness of the people in the campus's two independent living buildings. She loves to bake little treats, which she shares lovingly. Marcie is quick to check on any neighbor who is under the weather by sharing her warm smile, sunny disposition, and good conversation.



September Music Program

YOUNG AT HEART CHORUS – SEPTEMBER, 2018

DIRECTOR – DENNIS

YOUNG AT HEART	As is - Once
NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS	
Intro – Duet	All – Verses 1 & 3
WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR	Twice
DO RE MI	Both Verses
SUNRISE, SUNSET	Once, as is
DIAMONDS ARE A GIRLS BEST FRIEND (W)	
	Intro / 2 Verses
NOTHING LIKE A DAME (M)	As is with solo parts
PUT ON A HAPPY FACE	Twice with Interlude
<u>INTERMISSION: Birthdays, Solos to be determined</u>	
OKLAHOMA	Once
OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING	
	Verses 1 & 3 I
WHISTLE A HAPPY TUNE	As is
LULLABY OF BROADWAY	Both Verses
HIGH HOPES	3 Verses
MAKING WHOOPIE	Once
I COULD HAVE DANCED ALL NIGHT	
	As is – Repeat from “I never...”
MICHAEL ROW THE BOAT ASHORE (R)	
	Chorus – 3 Verses-Repeat Chorus
NEW MEXICO WE LOVE YOU (P)	
	Both Verses

Did you know that statistically, six out of seven dwarfs are not Happy?