
The North Hills Chorale would like to extend a special thanks to Agnes Raible, CDP and the Sisters of Divine Providence for their continued kindness and support.

Please join us in December for our annual holiday concerts!

December 10 & 11



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www.nhchorale.com

The North Hills Chorale, Inc. is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that serves to provide opportunities for community outreach, education, and service. Your charitable donations are greatly appreciated.

The North Hills Chorale

presents



An American Journey

Director - Thomas D. Koharchik

Associate Director - Megan Connelly Wodzinski

Saturday, May 14, 2016 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 15, 2016 3:00 PM

Kearns Spirituality Center

9000 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, Pennsylvania

Program

The Star-Spangled Banner

arr. Reuben A. Burrows

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor

Irving Berlin

This song served as the final number in the 1949 production of “Miss Liberty.” That same year, the choral arrangement, by Roy Ringwald, was published for the Fred Waring choral series and became a staple in the repertoire of high school, college, and other choruses, as well as Waring’s own ensemble, Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians. Since then, it has consistently been programmed as a celebration of American liberty. The words are taken from the sonnet “The New Colossus” written by Emma Lazarus and appear etched on a plaque mounted inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.

Distant Land

John Rutter

Composed by one of the most prolific living composers, this work premiered in Carnegie Hall, New York shortly after the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the release of Nelson Mandela from prison. Though Rutter is an English composer, and the text was inspired by international events, one would be hard pressed to not draw a connection to the “land of freedom” that is exemplified by American tradition.

Hymn Tapestry

arr. John Purifoy

Three American folk hymns are woven together in this portrait of Christian devotion. The first hymn is the famous Shaker tune, “Simple Gifts,” written by Joseph Brackett, a lifelong resident of Maine. Made famous by Aaron Copland, the tune became a signature melody of American music. Another well known hymn, “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy,” was written by Joseph Hart and set to B. F. White’s “Beach Spring.” White was known as a shape note “singing master” and compiled the shape note tunebook *The Sacred Harp* in 1844. “How Firm a Foundation” takes John Rippon’s text from *Selection of Hymns* and sets it to an American hymn melody, most likely composed by R. Keene.

North Hills Chorale Mission Statement

“The North Hills Chorale, Inc. is an adult choral ensemble dedicated to increasing the music literacy and education of its members, and increasing music awareness and appreciation in the local community. Organized on a volunteer, non-audition basis and open to all who love music, the Chorale seeks to perform technically challenging and broadening musical selections under professional direction at both concert performances and for various charitable causes.”

Interested in joining our choir?

We are always looking for new members to join our group. We welcome people with varying levels of experience. Please come meet us and give us a try! Rehearsals for next year will begin early in September.

We rehearse every Monday from 7:30 until 9:30 P.M. at Kearns Spirituality Center. It is never too late to give us a call or send us an e-mail for membership inquiries. We'll always try our best to answer promptly!

For more information, please visit our website at
www.nhchorale.com



Program (cont.)

Our Director... Thomas D. Koharchik

Mr. Koharchik has been affiliated with the North Hills Chorale since January of 2003 and has been the Music Director since 2004. He is a 2003 graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he received his BS in Music Education, and earned his Master's Degree in Music Education from Duquesne University in 2014. He teaches General Music and Middle/Senior High Choir at Freeport Area School District and is the Dramatic Theater Director and Stage Manager for the district. Under his direction, the district was recently awarded NAMM's designation as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education." He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chorus America, NAFME, PMEA, and the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Mr. Koharchik serves as the Treasurer and Secretary of PMEA District 3. He served in the US Army for 14 years, ending his military service, which included a year long combat tour in Iraq, in July, 2012. He is married to Heather Koharchik and is a proud father of his three daughters, Abigail, Emily, and Hayley.

Our Associate Director ... Megan Connelly Wodzinski

Megan has been with the North Hills Chorale for fourteen years. She looks forward to every performance with her musical "family." Megan is a 2001 and 2003 graduate of Duquesne University with degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy, and the winner of the J. Cornetti Tucci Award for Piano Performance. Through Carnegie Mellon she earned a teacher's diploma, and is currently a music substitute for the northern suburban schools. Last year, Megan established the Megan E. Connelly Studio of Piano in Ross Township where she teaches private lessons. On the weekends, she works for Act One Theater School as a voice teacher and music director. She is a member of the National and State music associations, the American Choral Directors Association, and the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union. Megan resides in Ross Township with her husband Michael and their rescue dog Sid.

Kittery

William Billings

Written by perhaps the figure best known today in early American music, "Kittery" is a fuguing tune set to the Tate and Brady paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer. It was first published in Oliver Brownson's *Select Harmony* and three years later, in Billings's own *Suffolk Harmony*. It is sung in the Sacred Harp style, placing the melodic strand in the tenor part.

The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

The late Stephen Paulus set new text, written by Michael Dennis Browne, to the "Prospect" tune which appeared in *Southern Harmony* in 1835. This wonderful poem speaks of returning and coming home after being lost or wandering. It utilizes pentatonic scales to create the interesting harmonies and flowing melodic patterns.

— — INTERMISSION — —

Alleluia / When Jesus Wept

William Billings

Early composer William Billings first published this hymn tune in the *New England Psalm Singer* in 1770 in Boston. The tune was composed as a round, with each voice entering on the same theme at different times.

Anthem

arr. John Purifoy

From the musical "Chess," this work speaks to the love and pride of one's homeland; the constant in a world of death and despair, where even if nations tear themselves apart, the only borders lie around one's heart.

Program (cont.)

How Can I Keep from Singing? *arr. Gwyneth Walker*

This song is based on a Quaker hymn dating back to the 1800's in the United States. References to the persecution of Friends may be heard in the lyrics. Yet, faith and courage prevail. This new arrangement emphasizes the celebratory and life-affirming aspects of the song.

In This Land *arr. Wayland Rogers*

This spiritual is to be found in "American Negro Songs and Spirituals," a collection of 230 songs published by John W. Work III in 1960. It is a compassionate call for social justice but with a tinge of anger in two of its verses at those who would stand in the way of the common good.

Blowin' in the Wind / America *arr. Len Thomas*

This is a unique and powerful treatment of two great songs, Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" and "America." The latter is a hymn based on "Old English Air," with words written by the American Baptist minister, Samuel Francis Smith, in Boston, in 1832.

Freedom's Plow *Rollo Dilworth*

This piece is a song of freedom, hope, and inspiration that celebrates the contributions of African Americans to the American musical landscape—specifically, the spiritual, ragtime, the blues, jazz, and gospel. The text for "Freedom's Plow" comes from the last 14 lines of a Langston Hughes poem bearing the same title.



North Hills Chorale Membership

Millie Arnett	Jade Hilliard	Kathy McKenna
Wendy Aurednik	Sarah Hoffmann	Rosemary Prager
Donna Babir	John Ignatius	Peggy Sapp
George Bigelow	Ralph Jahn	Josephine Saya
Ruth Christensen	Phyllis Jones	Emily Scott
John Coles	Ruth Ann Keen	Cheryl Smith
Nancy Conley	Susan Knight	Keith Stewart
Stacy Costa	Thomas J. Koharchik	Al Tempert
Ralph DeStefano	Mary Lynn Korenich	Betsy Thayer
Vicky Dopp	Mary Jayne Kress	David Thayer
Louise Ellenberger	Sister Linda Lalic	Armida Tomasiak
Linda Fry	Sharon Lang	Cherryl Trezza
William Ghrist	Richard J. Maier	Robert Watson
Suzanne Gibbon	Hope McGinnis	Marcia Wielgus
Charlotte Graham	Pat McGreal	Judy Young

North Hills Chorale Board of Directors

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