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Community of Hope

Deussen—Regalos

Handel/arr. Harty—Water Music (Suite for Orchestra—Selections) Kile Smith—Susquehanna, An Overture for Orchestra

arr. Raff—Crescent City Suite
Duke Ellington—Caravan
Sheldon Bair—This We'll Defend
Gershwin—Embraceable You
Williams—Star Wars Throne Room and Finale
Reed—Greensleeves
Bernstein—WSS Medley

Please stop by one of the information booths to learn more about the opioid addiction crisis that is gripping our community, and the resources that are available for help. Our hope is that by shining a light on addiction we can come together, as a Community of Hope, to fight this crisis.

Can't think of a gift for that person who has everything, that person who lives to the beat of a different drummer? Want to give an unusual gift that "sounds like fun"?

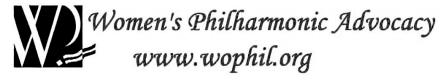
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SSO Cancellation Policy

In the event of a cancellation of a concert due to weather emergencies, patrons may redeem their cancelled ticket for a ticket at the next concert.





The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1978 by Sheldon Bair and is a community orchestra of professional and amateur volunteer musicians. The Orchestra performs a subscription series of concerts every year in addition to outdoor and chamber music concerts. The Orchestra has performed opera and ballet, as well as standard orchestral repertoire, and is known for its premieres of new works and performances of unusual repertoire.

This year marks the 41st Season of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. Such longevity would not be possible without your support. We thank you for attending this evening's concert, and look forward to many more years of making music!

Our Mission

Through the diverse programming of standard orchestral literature as well as newer and lesser-known works, The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra strives to enliven the spirit, inspire the imagination, cultivate musical appreciation, and serve the educational and entertainment needs of Harford County, Maryland and surrounding areas.

Thank You!

The SSO would like to thank Michael Krantz of the Town of Bel Air for his help in coordinating the Bel Air High School accommodations with Dr. James Lamb, Assistant Principal BAHS. We are also indebted to James McFarland, Interim Dean for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts at HCC for providing rehearsal space. We thank our donors who make sharing excellent orchestral music with our community possible and our advertisers who support the printing of this program. Please visit them and tell them the SSO sent you.

Cover Photo of SSO: Stefan Antwarg

Please Note:

- Silence pagers, cell phones, and signal watches during the performance.
- The use of cameras and recording devices is prohibited.
- Latecomers will be seated only between movements/selections.
- All children should be carefully supervised so that they are not disruptive to the musicians or the audience.
- Smoking is prohibited anywhere on school property.

Thank you for your cooperation. Please enjoy this evening's performance.



Lowell Shaw Frippery No. 8 "Barbershop" (SSO Horn Section)

Aaron Copland Hoe-Down from "Rodeo"

Sheldon Bair This We'll Defend

Composed for the 100th anniversary of Aberdeen Proving Ground

Raymond Horton Make Gentle the Life of This World

Intermission

Gwyneth Walker The Promised Land

Every Night When the Sun Goes Down

The Morning Train

All My Trials

Walk On Up to Heaven

Soprano: Carolyn Black-Sotir

Nancy Bloomer Deussen Regalos ("Gifts") from "A Silver Shining Strand"

Benny Russell Steal Away (Premiere)

Saxophone: Benny Russell

Duke Ellington

arr. James Ployhar

Caravan

Thank you to the Women's Philharmonic Advocacy for their grant in support of our performance of Gwyneth Walker's work.

The Russell and Horton works were acquired from the composers. Thank you!

The Deussen work was acquired through Robert Wendel Music.

The Walker work was acquired through ECS Publishing Group.

Thank you to Ernest Wang for his help with the recorded speech.







This performance is supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council through Harford County Cultural Arts Board.

Music Director

Sheldon Bair is the Founder and Music Director of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra (Maryland), a community orchestra of over 80 members. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College (Pennsylvania) where he studied conducting with Otis Kitchen and composition with James McVoy and Darrell Douglas, and a Master's degree from Towson University (Maryland). In addition, his postgraduate studies include classes at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Sheldon Bair has studied conducting with Witold Rowicki in Vienna, and Marc Mostovoy, William Hudson, and Leonid Grin.



Bair is adjunct faculty for Harford Community College, is on the conducting staff for the Elizabethtown College Music Camp, and is often invited to conduct and adjudicate youth orchestras and soloists. In November 2000, Bair was bestowed the Paderewski Award for Contributions to Society and Culture at the Polish Embassy in Washington, D.C. He has conducted orchestras in Texas, Oklahoma, and Toronto, Canada. Bair participated in the Sixth Malcolm Arnold Festival in Northampton, UK, in the fall of 2011 by introducing Arnold's 9th Symphony at the final Gala Concert.

Bair, a member of ASCAP, has written a number of works for student string orchestra and church choir.

In June 2016, Maestro Bair retired from Harford County Public Schools after 40 years of music making with young musicians. Bair continues to compose and arrange music for orchestra and volunteers at the local radio station (WHFC 91.1 FM) where he has the Wednesday morning, 9-noon, classical show.



The Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra would like to thank local advertising agency SR&B Advertising for their outstanding services this season. With their support, the SSO hopes to bring the sound of music to new ears. The Orchestra has a sound population of fans and is greatly pleased to see it grow to include various attendees of all ages.

Keep your eyes open for more online interaction with our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts, and our E-Newsletter (sign up in the lobby to receive the newsletter).

With the assistance of SR&B Advertising, the SSO is making great strides to further its mission to provide opportunities for local musicians to challenge themselves. The SSO thanks them again for their services.

About the Composers



Benny Russell was born on February 21, 1958 in Baltimore, Maryland. He started clarinet lessons at age 7 under the instruction of James H. Holliman. At 12 he began playing tenor. And by the time he was 15, sitting in with the Morgan State bands, Russell was playing tenor, alto, and soprano saxophones as well as clarinet, bass clarinet, and flute. In 1976 he became a full-time undergraduate student at Morgan State and during that time he also started gigging for

the Manhattans, the Four Tops, and Richard "Groove" Holmes, in addition to several other artists who toured the area.

Shortly after his college graduation, Benny moved to New York and quickly formed a jazz orchestra called The New York Association—a 17-piece ensemble that featured such noted jazz artists as trumpeters Cecil Bridgewater and Tom Harrell, saxophonist John Purcell, trombonists Steve Turre and Robin Eubanks, pianist Onaje Allan Gumbs, and drummer Mike Clark. Since then, Russell has been steadily building an impressive list of credits. Besides arranging and performing for off-Broadway shows like Beehive, he has worked with Otis Rush, Harry Belafonte, Mino Cinelu, Craig Harris, Jimmy Owens, Junior Cook, Mor Thium, and a host of others. Russell can also be heard on The Cosby Show and A Different World. In 1995, Russell chaired the jazz division



at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music where he also taught jazz history. While working at the Conservatory, he was able to launch a string of other cultural activities that served Brooklyn, including a program of workshops for high school students in the Brooklyn public school system, the Charlie Parker Birthday Festival, and regular performances with the Next Legacy Orchestra. The Next Legacy Orchestra is a big band for which Russell writes and arranges as co-director with saxophonist Jorge Sylvester. He first worked with this group when it was known as the David Murray Big Band. When Murray decided to move to Paris in 1996, he asked Russell to take on the role of leader. The name was changed and the group got a home on the Conservatory's stage. After a recent performance there, the Next Legacy Orchestra was described by New York Times critic Ben Ratliff as "one of the best overlooked bands in the city."

In 2008, Mr. Russell was commissioned by the Multicultural Music Incorporation to write a three-movement suite entitled, The Darfur Chronicles which was performed by the Bronx Arts Ensemble and featured the highly acclaimed actress Nora Cole as the narrator. That same year, Mr. Russell initiated a march in Northwest Baltimore that commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. with the Wayland Baptist Church. Dick Gregory was the guest speaker. In 2011, Mr. Russell conceived a program that featured an overture entitled, Just Before the Autumn performed by the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra. On February 24, 2013, Mr. Russell presented at Harford Community College Spirituals and Other Musings: A Tribute to 50 Years of a Dream. It featured a nine-piece chamber orchestra in which he arranged all of the music and conceived the entire multimedia production.

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Raymond Horton (b. 1952, Jeffersontown, KY) retired in 2016 after 45 years as Bass Trombonist of The Louisville Orchestra, having been a member since joining in 1971 at the age of 18.

Besides playing on some 175 recorded orchestral works on the Louisville Orchestra First Edition Recordings Series, Ray made five solo appearances with The Louisville Orchestra, ranging from performances of virtuoso Sousa-era euphonium solos to a performance on the LO's "New Dimension" series

of Jacob Druckman's "Animus I" for trombone and electronic tape.

Ray is also a composer and arranger and has had several compositions and arrangements premiered by The Louisville Orchestra. One of these, *Make Gentle the Life of This World*, using the historic 1968 speech by Senator Robert Kennedy in Indianapolis on the night of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was premiered by the LO on educational concerts in 2007, and went on to be awarded a "Special Judge's Citation" by The 2012 American Prize in Composition: Orchestra Division (Professional).

Ray serves as Minister of Music at Edwardsville United Methodist Church in Georgetown, Indiana. Ray plans to devote his time following life in the LO full-time to composition and arranging. He lives in southern Indiana with his wife Terry. They have three grown children and a seven-year-old grandson.



Make Gentle the Life of This World
was awarded a Special Judge's Citation,
Recognizing Unique Artistic Achievement by
The 2012 American Prize in Composition:
Orchestra Division (Professional)



This composition is presented in part by the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



National Endowment for the Arts arts.gov



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Gwyneth Walker is an American composer whose music is widely performed throughout the country. Her music is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years she lived

on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont. She now divides her time between her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut and the musical communities of Sarasota, Florida and Randolph, Vermont.

Gwyneth has been a proud resident of Vermont for many years. She is the recipient of the Year 2000 "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Vermont Arts Council as well as the 2008 "Athenaeum Award for Achievement in the Arts and Humanities" from the St. Johnsbury (VT) Athenaeum. In 2012, she was elected as a Fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Walker's catalog includes over 300 commissioned works for orchestra, chamber ensembles, chorus, and solo voice. A special interest has been dramatic works that combine music with readings, acting, and movement. The music of Gwyneth Walker is published by E.C. Schirmer (choral/vocal music) and Lauren Keiser Music (orchestral/instrumental music).



harfordyouthorchestra.org

Harford Youth Orchestra (grades 9-12) and Harford String Orchestra (grades 6-8) are offered as noncredit classes through Harford Community College.



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Nancy Bloomer Deussen, a California composer, is well known both as a composer and performer. She is a leader in the growing movement for more melodic, tonally oriented contemporary music and is founder and President Emeritus of the SF Bay Chapter of the National Association of Composers, USA. Her original works have been performed in the USA, UK, Canada, Indonesia, Iran, Europe, Australia, and China and she has received numerous commissions both locally and nationally.

Her education includes degrees in music from The Manhattan School of Music and the USC School of Music and composition study with Vittorio Giannini, Lukas Foss, Ingolf Dahl, and Wilson Coker.

She was Second Place Winner in 2013 in The American Prize in Chamber Music Composition for her "Woodwind Quintet" and in 2014 she was selected as one of five nationally honored artists by The American Prize.

Her most recent honors are being chosen as First Place Music Winner of The Biennial Music Competition (NLAPW-2018), performances of her "American Hymn" in 2017 by The Florida Symphony Youth Symphony on tour in Europe, a



The Deer Creek Chorale is an inter-generational chorus comprised of over 80 singers of all abilities and experience levels.

For our 10th anniversary season, the DCC has made a commitment to the youth of Harford and Baltimore Counties, and southern Pennsylvania, by initiating a Youth Choir for students in grades 4–6.



http://deercreekchorale.org

commission to compose a work for chorus and orchestra to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Mission College and 10th anniversary of The Mission College Orchestra (Santa Clara, CA), and a commission from Duo Terlano (PA) for a suite for violin and cello. Both premieres took place in April 2017.

In addition to tonight's performance, many other orchestral performances of her works are scheduled this Spring and Summer 2018 by The South Bay Philharmonic (San Jose, CA); The Peninsula Symphony (San Mateo, CA); The Nova Vista Symphony (Los Altos, CA); The National String Symphonia (Baltimore, MD); and the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra (FL) (performance to be in Carnegie Hall, New York City, NY).

Audio links of some of her works and more information can be found at: <nancybloomerdeussen.com> and <wendelmusic.com>



Our Guest Performer



Carolyn Black-Sotir is a gifted and versatile artist who enjoys one of the most fascinating and diverse careers imaginable. Few possess her breadth of experience, talent, and training. Whether it be as a singer, actress, writer, news journalist, stage director, teacher, or impresario, Carolyn is first and foremost a communicator. She connects to her audiences—through her music, her written words, her interviewing skills, and her inventive and expressive stagings. She is a special person who embraces life and art with incredible passion and with a voice and musicality that touch the souls of others.

Carolyn's ability to coexist beautifully in both serious and popular music worlds is yet another example of her diverse talents. A classically-trained musician, she is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Eastman School of Music with Bachelor and Master Music degrees in Vocal Performance. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance with a special concentration in Directing from University of Maryland.

Dr. Black-Sotir's commitment to the arts extends beyond that of her own performances. Currently, she serves as Chair of the Baltimore County Commission on Arts and Sciences which provides more than three million dollars to arts organizations throughout the Greater Baltimore region. As an educator, she has taught and directed at Towson University and University of Maryland. She maintains a private voice studio and is in demand as a clinician, having conducted numerous master classes and workshops for young singers.

Timothy P. Byrnes 1949–2018

Tim Byrnes was a charter member of the SSO and principal horn for 25 years. He was a devoted member of the orchestra who was always willing to lend a helping hand, arriving early to set up chairs and stands for rehearsals and concerts. Tim was probably best known for his Sleigh Ride headwear surprises each vear at our December concert. Some of his most memorable include: Yoda, Angry Bird, A Christmas Viking, and a Plastic Frosty the Snowman. Tim was also known for saving the orchestra with his strong entrance when we performed at Carnegie Hall and the pianist got lost. We will miss his devotion to horn, his jokes, his support, and most of all, his smile. Tonight, the horn section will perform with an empty chair for Tim to represent his forever presence in our section and in our hearts.







Musicians of the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra

First Violins ‡

Wendy Bohdel, Concertmaster
Elizabeth Caughey
Rachael Kanagie
Tabitha Kanagie
Rebecca Leadmon
Andrew Nowakowski
Terry O'Neill
Allison Redman
Christine Robbins
William Spencer
Amy Wilkinson

Second Violins ‡

Manfred Reek, Principal
Joan Beckett-Armstrong
Breanna Byrd
Verangela Christy
George Cowman
Madisen DeSha
Ali lannucci
Marian Lubbert
Sarah Michlin
Alison O'Brien
Katie Stout
Jennifer Yeager

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Amy Wilkinson Anne Pape

Stage Managers

Welles Still Alyson McMenamin

Concert Manager

Paul Koermer

Violas ‡

Viktor Khodyko, *Principal*Jessica Conklin
Karyn Hetmanski
Kamini Mallick
Whitney McConkey

Violoncellos ‡

Laura Ruth Donall, *Principal* Elaine Bundy
Madeleine Clifton
Kim Damian
Walter Garner
Fred Gehris
Barbara Hill
Michele Martin
Danielle Noe

Basses ‡

Alyson McMenamin, *Principal* Carol Benck Scott Nowaskey, *Electric Bass* Richard Schlecker Beth Weed

Flutes

Doris Reinhardt Carol Thompson Marjorie Roberts, *Piccolo*

Ohoes

Barbara Bair Cathy Zink Wendy Nesbitt, *English Horn*

Clarinets

Fiona Sparks Kelly Rhodes Jamie Kim, *Bass*

Bassoons

Benjamin Schuhart Alicia Bourassa

Horns

Dawn Zipay Kelley Moorman Bruce Kovacs Mike DeZearn

Trumpets

Bob Hudson David Stauffer Robert Storey Kelly Hall

Trombones

Liz Antwarg Matthew Ghent Donald Raff, *Bass*

Tuba

Donald McClure

Keyboard

George Spicka

Timpani

Allan Andreycak

Percussion

Mary Eilerman Meredith Katsu Welles Still Bryce Campbell, Set Mark Leppo, Set Kim Damian



‡ In Alphabetical Order

Side-By-Side Students from the Harford County All-County Orchestra

First Violins
Rachel Friedman
Meghan Deyesu
Annalise Lorentzen

Second Violins Gabrielle Chan Amy Pham **Violas** Keiko Myers Chelsea Raff

Violoncellos Caitlin Haren Corey Shirk Basses

Chad Rogers Silje Lorentzen

Flute Emily Secrest

Clarinet
Tanisha Grimsley

Horn

Russell Perdue

Tuba

Joshua Sheppard

Music Summer Camp Opportunities

Baltimore String Orchestra Camp (Ages 4–18) June 19–28, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Garrison Forest School, Owings Mills, MD

Day camp with Suzuki violin workshop, viola/cello, bass ensemble. Four levels of orchestras: Beginning, Younger, Chamber and Young People's. Visit

baltostringorchcamp.org> for more information and an application.

Summer Strings (Grades 6–12)
July 23–27, Harford Community College, Bel Air, MD

Day camp with string orchestra rehearsals, small group sessions with guest clinicians, and music theory. Camp serves as audition for Harford Youth Orchestras. Concert on Friday evening. Instructor: Brian Folus.

Elizabethtown College Music Camp (Grades 7–12) July 15–21, Elizabethtown, PA

Overnight camp with Chamber, Orchestra, Band, Chorus, Piano, Voice, Jazz Band, Jazz Orchestra, and Show Choir tracks. Students reside on campus studying with practicing musicians from the College. Camp concert on Saturday afternoon. Contact Grant Moore, Director at 717-361-1114 or <mooreg@etown.edu>.

Chesapeake SCOR! Camp (Adult) July 26–28, Bel Air, MD

Full of chamber music, informative classes, and more. Come for the whole camp or attend flexible one- or two-day options. Refresh your playing, share music with new found friends, and be inspired. Visit <www.stringcamp.com>.

Program Notes

Frippery No. 8 "Barbershop" Lowell Shaw

In the late 1950s when Shaw was teaching horn and directing the band at The University of Buffalo, the students requested forming a dance band. Since not many arrangements were available at the time, he began writing arrangements, including a part for himself so he could play along. The horn students wanted to participate, so he added a section of four horns. He wrote, "Rather than have them embarrass themselves,...it seemed best to give them some small exposure to patterns that are so different from what had been experienced in [horn method books]. The name "frippery" came about because I was looking for something to suggest the frivolous, fun light-hearted nature of the music."

The SSO horn section dedicates their performance in memory of their former *principal* Tim Byrnes, whose sense of humor matched the style of the *"Fripperies."*

Hoe-Down from "Rodeo" Aaron Copland

Choreographer Agnes De Mille chose Aaron Copland as the composer for *Rodeo* after being impressed by his previous ballet *Billy the Kid*. Copland was initially reluctant to compose "another Cowboy ballet," but de Mille successfully persuaded him that the show would mark a significant departure from the previous work. Though many of Copland's works incorporate traditional American folk tunes, *Rodeo* is unique in that it leaves them quite intact in the score, with very little alteration on the part of the composer.

The well-known theme of *Hoe-Down* is based on a unique version of the folk song *Bonaparte's Retreat*, which opens the movement and becomes the major theme of the section. After a reprisal of the *Rodeo* theme from earlier in the ballet, evoking the trotting of horses, the theme proper begins in the strings as the horns play a simple counterpoint. Instead of building to a climax, the section segues into *McLeod's Reel* performed by various solo instruments. Copland briefly introduces the Irish theme *Gilderoy* in the clarinet and oboe. Building toward the end, Copland reintroduces *Bonaparte's Retreat* in canon, before returning to the *Rodeo* theme, which slows into the awkward, as played by solo trombone, scene leading to the climactic kiss between the Cowgirl and her sought after Roper. *Bonaparte's Retreat* is resumed by full Orchestra which ends the piece and the ballet with a great fanfare.



This We'll Defend

Sheldon Bair

Maestro Bair writes, "This We'll Defend was composed for Aberdeen Proving Ground's 100th anniversary and was premiered at last June's outdoor concert. It incorporates two melodies associated with the Army: The Army Hymn, God of Our Fathers, and the Caisson Song, also known as the Army Song. After an introduction which incorporates Taps, the orchestra plays both of these melodies. This is followed by an Elegy written for those who died defending our country. After a short interlude, the two Army tunes return overlapping one another. This work was also composed in memory of my uncle, Sergeant Eugene A. Bair, who was in the Army Air Corps in WWII and was lost on July 11, 1944. He was a ball turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator and his plane was lost in the English Channel."

Make Gentle the Life of This World Raymond Horton

In a review in *The Courier Journal* of the January 20, 2008 "Blues for MLK" concert of the Louisville Orchestra, Andrew Adler wrote, "Just two months after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot, Robert Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles, hours after winning California's presidential primary. But on the day King was murdered, Kennedy was in Indianapolis to deliver a campaign address. Instead, Kennedy gave a remarkably eloquent plea for unity and love. Using a recording of Kennedy's Indianapolis speech as a narrative anchor, Louisville Orchestra bass trombonist Raymond Horton has written a modest, skillfully crafted score...which had its premiere yesterday. Persuading as much through understatement as through grand gestures, the piece honored its subject in a tellingly fresh perspective." Horton's homage even goes as far as imitating the missed note of the trumpeter who played *Taps* at Kennedy's burial.

The SSO previously performed this work in May 2011.



The Promised Land Gwyneth Walker

Dr. Walker provided the following notes for her work:

"The Promised Land is a set of arrangements and adaptations of traditional American folk songs and spirituals. The common element is the yearning for, or celebration of, the life beyond death—the "next life." The songs express a variety of emotions, ranging from the sorrow of leaving this world, to release from a life of suffering, and finally to the joy of walking up to heaven.

"Every Night When the Sun Goes Down is a sorrowful yet hopeful song, expressing in the lyrics *True love don't weep or mourn for me. The Lord has come to set me free.* The sustained chordal accompaniment emphasizes the heaviness of the mourning. Ascending arpeggio patterns express the rising to heaven. near the end of the song, the tonality shifts upward from E flat to E Major to reflect the lyrics, *And when I rise up to the sky...on wings of silver I will fly.* The voice and accompaniment ascend and fade away.

"The Morning Train starts where the previous song ended—in the high range, softly—and then grows in dynamics and speed, like a train gathering energy. Special joy was taken in creating this accompaniment, with glissandi and active rhythmic underpinning in the style of a train speeding past! Train whistles may be heard in the minor thirds floating above the ensemble (either played by the trumpets or sung as vocal "ooh" sounds). The music takes a dramatic turn near the end when the vocal line rises to a high C, with glissando, on the words Lord God Almighty, please hold my hand! This use of virtuosic singing within a folk song is characteristic of the approach taken in creating The Promised Land.

"All My Trials is the most poignant of the songs in this set. Phrases such as Hush little baby, don't you cry, you know your mama was born to die or Oh my brothers, I must leave you here behind, view the approach of death in terms of those left behind. And indeed, the final notes in this song are held in the accompaniment rather than by the singer (who has departed).

"Walk On Up to Heaven is a thoroughly joyous song. Therefore, it is presented in a "strutting" style, walking/bouncing steadily on up to heaven. The singer presents an ever-growing list of the things she is planning on doing when she arrives: put on my shoes, shout the glory, follow my dreams, spread my wings and fly. She is filled with dreams, hope, joy and life—all of these to enjoy when she arrives in The Promised Land.

"The Promised Land premiered on January 30, 2011 by soprano Michelle Areyzaga with the Evanston (IL) Symphony Orchestra—Lawrence Eckerling, Music Director."

Regalos ("Gifts") from "A Silver Shining Strand" Nancy Bloomer Deussen

Ms. Deussen tells us: "Regalos was originally composed in 2000 as the middle movement of an orchestral suite entitled A Silver Shining Strand. The suite was a commission from the Watt family of San Jose, CA to compose a suite to honor the death of their daughter, Cate, who died at the untimely age of 30. Her poems were used in the commission as an inspiration for the music. In Regalos (which means Gifts in English) she speaks of her love for Mexico and the family she knew there.

"I was inspired not only by her poem, but also by my own love of the Mexican culture and especially their music. Before I was born, my family on my mother's side spent 20 years in Mexico, so I grew up learning Mexican songs and tales of their culture.

"The entire suite was premiered in 2000 by the Diablo Symphony orchestra of Walnut Creek, CA, with Joyce Johnson-Hamilton conducting. Since its premiere this middle movement has taken on a life of its own and has now become a favorite work having been performed many times on its own as an independent work."

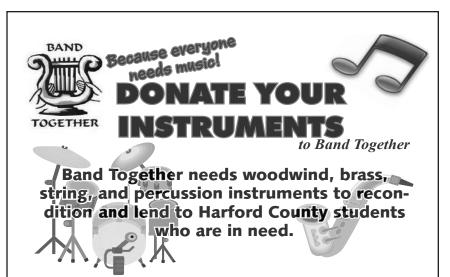


Steal Away Benny Russell

Benny Russell writes, "Steal Away was arranged in 1999 for jazz orchestra and chorus for an opera I was writing, entitled *Liberation Suite: The Life and Times of Nat Turner*. October 2, 2000 marked the 200th anniversary of his birth. The opera wound up being a jazz cantata. Recently it was orchestrated for chamber and full orchestras.

"Composers of spirituals, "Uncle Wallace" and "Aunt Minerva" Willis were slaves in the old Choctaw Nation area of Oklahoma during the 19th century. A Choctaw named Britt Willis owned them. They were great favorites of the students at Spencer Academy, a Choctaw boys school where they had periodically been sent to help with the work there, because they would sing while they worked. The songs composed by Uncle Wallace became well-known spirituals: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot; Roll, Jordon, Roll; Steal Away to Jesus; I'm A-Rollin; Angels Are A-Commin' are among the most popular and best loved."





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Caravan
Duke Ellington and Juan Tizol
arr. James Ployhar

Although Duke Ellington was a competent composer, he often relied on contributions from musicians who worked with him. Puerto Rican-born valve trombonist Juan Tizol collaborated with Duke to compose *Caravan*, although in recent years Tizol's name is often not credited. He also contributed to other popular "hit" tunes, including Perdido (1941). *Caravan*, first recorded in 1936, with lyrics by Irving Mills, has become a big band classic. The piece has a rich oriental sounding melody with a rhythm suggesting Tizol's Latin heritage.

Program Notes compiled by Don Raff

Contributors 2017–2018

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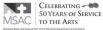
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