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and
Mark Reppert - Music Director
PRESENT

From
the
Americas
to
the
Baltics



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Siskiyou Singers

From the
Americas
to the
Baltics



featuring the world premiere of
"BUTTERFLY"
composed by
I'ana S. Cotton

Mark Reppert - Music Director
Mikiko S. Petrucelli - Accompanist

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*From the
Americas
to the
Baltics*

Hope in HeartsMorse
- Soloist -
Jay Morse

The Water is WideFolk song, arr. Zaninelli

ShenandoahFolk song, arr. Erb

Elijah RockSpiritual, arr. Hairston

Soon Ah Will Be DoneSpiritual, arr. Dawson

Fuyugesniki Japanese folk song, arr. Reppert

At the harbor where the mist has disappeared,
Fishing boats look white with frost in the morning.
Only the songs of waterfowls are heard around there,
Houses on the shore have yet to wake up.

Crows are cawing high in the trees,
While people are treading barleys on the field.
How peaceful. It really is a balmy autumn day!
Flowers might be seen to bloom out of season.

A storm has blown the clouds away,
And a drizzling rain has carried the evening.
But for a light coming out from the dusk,
The local village couldn't have shown itself.

Erev Ba Hebrew folk song, arr. Reppert

Again the flocks wander along the village street
And the dust rises from sandy paths
And far away the bells merge with the gathering shadows.
Evening comes, evening comes.

Again the wind whispers amongst the garden fences
And from the tops of the trees the doves coo

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Mark Reppert
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And in the distance the last rays of the sun kiss the hilltops.
Evening comes, evening comes.

Again the rose dreams languorous dreams
And gradually on high the stars begin to twinkle
And far away in the dark valley the jackal accompanies
the approach of the night.
Night has come, night has come.

The Boatmen's Dance..... American folk song, arr. Copland, Fine
— Soloists —
Jim Gleaves, Michael Rene Zuzel

Oh! Susanna Foster, arr. Parker, Shaw
— Soloists —
Kate Anderson, Laura Barlow, Elizabeth Bingham,
Jim Gleaves, Scott Nelson

16 Tons Travis
— Soloist —
Thomas Garson

At the River Spiritual, arr. Copland, Wilding-White

The Promise of Living (from *The Tender Land*) Copland
— Piano —
Karl Iverson, Mikiko Petrucelli

— *Intermission* —

Stars Ešenvalds

Butterfly Cotton
— Soloists —
Anne Huebert, Marilyn Reppert, Derek Rosenlund

A world premiere by I'ana S. Cotton, "Butterfly" is the story of a courageous diplomat who saved thousands of Jews during World War II.

— The detailed story & translations can be found on pages 9 & 11 —

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Scott Nelson

An olive-skinned Cuban woman I saw...
The Mambi

Way back in the year '95
And by the jungle of Mayari
One morning he left his hut
And to the jungle went the Mambi

A Cuban girl who was my delight
And whom the night witnessed cry
The next day with her horse
Looked for my footprints and followed me

That girl of dark complexion
And eyes darker than evil
United her strength with my fierceness
And gave her life to liberty

One tragic day she fell by my side
I saw her beautiful chest bleeding
And from that moment it became more ardent,
Beloved Cuba, my love for you

Yo Le Canto Brunner

So I am moving with my heart
So I am leaving with a drum
I sing to you all day long with affection and joy
So I am leaving with a drum with affection and emotion

MTA Steiner, Hawes

– Soloists –
Rich Gleitsmann, Jay Morse, Michael Rene Zuzel

Kas Tie Tadi Latvian Folk Song, arr. Sametz

– Baltic Tour Ensemble –

Emerald Stream Houston

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No Time American Camp Song, arr. Brumfield

How Can I Keep From Singing? ...Quaker song, arr. Walker



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The Story of
Butterfly

I'lana Cotton's "Butterfly" is a new work commissioned by Siskiyou Singers to mark our concert tour of the Baltic States, including Lithuania, this coming June. It is the story of Chiune Sugihara.

Sugihara (1900-1986) was a vice consul for the Japanese Empire in Lithuania in 1940, a time when thousands of Polish Jews arrived in that country, fleeing the German army. They sought transit visas that would allow them passage across Russia and into Japan, en route to final safe destinations.

Sugihara was faced with a very difficult choice: obey his superiors in Japan—who repeatedly ordered him not to write the visas—or risk his career by helping the Jewish refugees.

The refugees lined up outside his consulate for days, begging for his help. Finally, after an agonizing night of soul-searching, Sugihara decided he must do the right thing and help them. He and a few aides spent the remaining three weeks of his stay in Lithuania writing and stamping visas. The Simon Wiesenthal Center has estimated that Sugihara issued transit visas for about 6,000 Jews and that around 40,000 descendants of those refugees are alive today because of his actions.

Throughout his life, he spoke almost nothing about his act of courage and defiance. And it was only near the end of his life that it became more widely known. In 1985, the State of Israel honored Sugihara as one of the Righteous Among the Nations (Hebrew: פְּלוֹטָה תּוֹמָא יִיְדִישׁ) for his actions. Sugihara died in Japan at the age of 86.

Composer I'lana Cotton's text collage for "Butterfly" includes excerpts in Hebrew from Psalms 130 and 107, a haiku in Japanese by Matsuo Bashō, various quotes by Chiune Sugihara, as well as additional text by the composer herself.

Text for **BUTTERFLY** with text collage by I'lana S. Cotton

CHORUS:

Shimah vekoli (Hear my voice!)

Rachem alai, Adonai. (Have mercy on me, O Lord!)

Hoshana! (Save us!)

SOLOISTS: from PSALM 130

Mima' amakim k'raticha Adonai. (From the depths I have called you, O Lord!)

Adonai shimah vekoli. (O Lord, hear my voice!)

CHORUS:

Save us! Can you help, will you help, will you save us?

Have mercy! Help us! Will you save us? Will you have mercy?

Will you help save? Save us! Please save us!

— CONTINUED —>

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Sujari Britt, cello



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American Extravaganza
Barber and Rogerson:
Violin Concertos

Elena Urioste, violin



Masterworks 3
NOV 15–17, 2019

Addictive Romance
Strauss: Horn Concerto No. 2

Jennifer Montone, horn



NEW YEAR'S EVE:

A Toast to Majkut

Joel Fan & Christine Eggert, pianos

DECEMBER 31, 2019



Masterworks 4
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Playful Beauty
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5,
"Emperor"

Angela Cheng, piano



Masterworks 5
FEB 21–23, 2020

Chinese New Year Celebration
He/Chen: The Butterfly Lovers
Violin Concerto

Nancy Zhou, violin



Masterworks 6
APRIL 17–19, 2020

Nature's Passion
Holst: The Planets



CHORUS:
Which way? Which is the right way?
Obey? Disobey? Will I disobey?
Is this the right way? I must help them, I must save them!
It cannot be wrong to save lives!

CHORUS: SUGIHARA quotes
There is no other way! This is right! No other way!

SOLOISTS & CHORUS: SUGIHARA quotes
Do what is right...because it is right! Do what is right and leave it alone!

CHORUS: haiku by MATSUO BASHŌ
Chō no tobu (A butterfly flies)
bakari nonaka no (only in the field)
hikage kana. (of sunlight)
Butterfly flying in sunlight!

CHORUS:
We will always, always remember you!
Amen

SOLOISTS: from PSALM 107
Hodu la'Adonai ki tov. (Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.)
ki le'olam chasdo (for His mercy endureth forever.)

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Siskiyou Singers

2019

EURO TOUR

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In June we leave for a concert tour of Finland and the Baltic States.

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Director's Notes

This summer, a substantial part of our choir will be enjoying a concert tour of Finland and the Baltic states: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. We are very excited about the prospect of seeing what is, for many of us, an unfamiliar part of the world. This region happens to be the very center of choral music. It is famous for a myriad of highly trained, brilliant choirs, both professional and amateur. It is also the home of the "Singing Revolution," the ultimate in passive resistance. People of the three Baltic States united in 1989, formed a human chain the length of the three countries, and sang patriotic songs. This was the demonstration, seen throughout the world, that helped win them their freedom from the USSR. Of course, audiences with such a rich choral heritage are not interested in hearing an American choir sing Baltic literature. They want to hear American songs. Those audiences are the inspiration for our program.

The culture of the United States is very rich and diverse, which means creating a program of "American" music becomes very complex. In order to represent the rich cultural heritage of the United States, old favorites like "Shenandoah" and "The Water is Wide" will be joined by a Cuban criolla, a Japanese folk song, and a Hebrew dance. You will also hear more contemporary arrangements of an older part of our distinctly American religious heritage: "No Time," a camp song arranged by Susan Brumfield, and "How Can I Keep From Singing?" a Quaker tune arranged by Gwyneth Walker. A program of American music would not be complete without the music of Aaron Copland, arguably our greatest American composer. We will be singing two of his folk song arrangements and "The Promise of Living," from his opera *The Tender Land*.

Even more exciting is the world premiere of "Butterfly." We commissioned our favorite composer and friend, I'lana Cotton, to create

— *CONTINUED* —>

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a piece honoring Chiune Sugihara. As a Japanese diplomat in Lithuania in 1940, Sugihara was faced with a moral dilemma: whether to obey his protocol as a diplomat, or to defy his own government and write travel visas to help thousands of Jews fleeing the Nazis' march across Europe. He chose the latter and saved 6,000 lives. I'ana's piece uses three different languages, English, Hebrew, and Japanese, to recreate the gripping drama of Sugihara's fateful decision. You can find more information about this dramatic piece on pages 9 and 11 in this program.

Our program begins, appropriately, with a new piece, based on "America the Beautiful," by our own choir member Jay Morse. It extols the rich diversity of our nation's music and its people. We hope you enjoy the beauty and excitement of this collection of American music. You will, no doubt, go home humming a happy tune!



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Biographies

Mark Reppert – Music Director



Mr. Mark Reppert studied conducting, composition, piano, and music history at the University of Southern California, graduating with a degree in Music History. He received a master's degree in Piano Performance from California State University, Chico, graduating with distinction. He soloed with the Shasta Symphony as the winner of the Shasta Symphony Solo Competition and also with the Paradise Symphony as well as performed numerous solo recitals.

Mr. Reppert began his teaching career in California in 1975. He taught all manner of music from kindergarten to adult, including band, orchestra, elementary music, college music appreciation, community choir, and high school and middle school choir. Moving to Oregon in 1998, Mr. Reppert became the director of choral music at North Medford High School. The award-winning choirs were an important part of the musical community, performing in many venues including the annual Renaissance Dinner. Mr. Reppert also served as music director for numerous musical theatre productions at North including *Into the Woods*, *The King and I*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Mr. Reppert retired from teaching in 2008 and is now an active musician in the Rogue Valley. He has served as music director at the Camelot Theater (*Sweeney Todd*, *Cabaret*, *Gypsy*, *Les Misérables*) and accompanist throughout the valley. He is also a choral adjudicator for both middle school and high school choir competitions.

Mr. Reppert is in his tenth year as the director of Siskiyou Singers. During his tenure, the choir has performed many major works such as the *Chichester Psalms* of Leonard Bernstein, and the *Maria Theresa Mass* of Haydn, and the *Mass in D* of Dvořák. Siskiyou Singers has also presented many world premieres of works by local composers. Mark is thrilled to be a part of this fine organization.

Mikiko S. Petrucelli – Accompanist



Mikiko S. Petrucelli was born in Tokyo, Japan, where she first started playing piano at the age of 4. She attended the Mushashino Academia Musicae and received her undergraduate degree in Piano Performance. She then moved to Germany and earned a Performance Degree from Hochschule für Musik, Detmold in Detmold, Germany. After she returned to Japan, Dr. Petrucelli played with the string chamber group Uovo as their guest pianist, touring Japan and giving chamber and solo concerts in Germany. She has played on NHK radio, the national public radio station in Japan, and won a special award at the Josef Dichter Competition in Vienna, Austria in 2001. — BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED —>

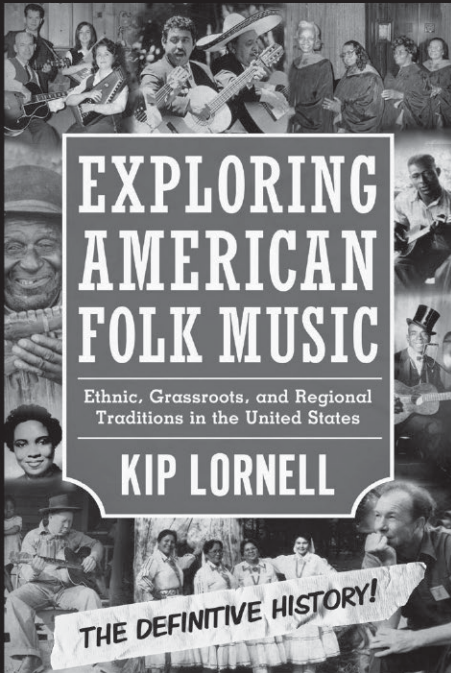
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In 2004 Dr. Petrucelli moved to the United States and received a Masters of Music from Baylor University and Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

In 2008, as a result of winning the Chiara Competition, Dr. Petrucelli performed Dvořák's "Piano Quintet" with the Chiara Quartet. She has also studied Historical Performance Practice in fortepiano. In 2008, she was invited to an international conference as a result of a complete Hixson-Lied Presentation of Scholarly and Creative Activity Grant. She attended an international conference, "The Art of the Fortepiano," and performed in several concerts in Middleburg, the Netherlands.

Dr. Petrucelli has extensive experience as a chamber and solo pianist as well as an accompanist. As of May of 2010, she completed three years of service at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, as an adjunct faculty member. She is in her eighth season as accompanist for the Siskiyou Singers.



Ilana J. Cotton – Composer

Ilana Cotton is a composer, improviser, and pianist who has created works for a broad range of genres, from solo piano and small chamber groups to large choral and instrumental ensembles, as well as numerous collaborations with choreographers and poets. "Butterfly" is her third commission for Siskiyou Singers.

She holds a Master of Arts degree in composition from UCLA, with undergraduate music study at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and she also has studied both Indonesian and north Indian classical music. As a San Francisco Bay area resident for many years, she was active throughout the area as a modern dance accompanist, composer, and music educator.

Since moving to southern Oregon in 2003, she has written more than 30 works for Rogue Valley musicians and ensembles, including two other commissions for Siskiyou Singers: "Sing Who Are Worthy in Spirit" for chorus and chamber orchestra (2012) and "Singing Light" for double choirs and piano (2016). The Rogue Valley Symphony, under conductor Martin Majkut, commissioned a work for orchestra honoring their 50th anniversary season; "Cantus" premiered in October 2017.

Her work appears on recordings by the Menlo Brass Quintet (2002), by pianist Max Lifchitz (2006), and by the Gramercy Trio (for 2019 release). A retrospective collection of her piano improvisations, "Songs for the Journey," was released in 2003. You can visit her website at www.notimemusic.com.

Since moving to the Rogue Valley, she has helped develop the Threshold Singers of Southern Oregon and the local chapter of the National Association of Composers (NACUSA).

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 Mary Van Wesep
 Susan Whitmore

Tenors
section leader
 Priscilla High
 Laura Barlow
 Keith Breswick
 Cynthia H. Garson
 Susan Lee Hall
 Annie Kalish
 Annette Lewis
 Richard Mankinen
 Jay Morse
 Derek Rosenlund
 Leslie Stoddard
 Steve Thomas

Basses
section leader
 Ian Wessler
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 Jim Gleaves
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 Scott L. Nelson
 Howie Seay
 Michael Rene Zuzel

Siskiyou Singers School Outreach Program

Siskiyou Singers brings choral music to students in local schools through our School Outreach Program. We actively engage students in the enjoyment that is music and learning.

We presented our first school program in May 2007 after receiving a Rotary Club of Ashland Lithia Springs grant. Since then, we have offered free assemblies for schools in the area. We have multiple assemblies each year, performed more than 80 concerts over the 12-year period, and reached over 12,000 students in the Rogue Valley. These programs have been funded by generous support from **Jackson County Cultural Coalition, Rotary Club of Ashland Lithia Springs, and City of Ashland Economic and Cultural Development** grants. We sincerely thank **Rotary Club of Ashland Lithia Springs** for their generous 2018/2019 season grant. Their sponsorship enabled us to sing at schools in Medford, Central Point, Sam's Valley, and Gold Hill. Thank you so very much.

For further information contact
Sally Peterson at sgpeterson1@msn.com or 541-552-0965.



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December 8 & 9, 2018

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