

*Siskiyou Singers*

and  
Mark Reppert - Music Director

**PRESENT**



SOMETHING TO  
**THINK  
ABOUT**  
SOMETHING TO  
**LAUGH  
ABOUT**

APRIL 22 Saturday 7:30<sup>PM</sup> 23 Sunday 3:00<sup>PM</sup>

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# Siskiyou Singers

— present —

SOMETHING TO  
**THINK  
ABOUT**  
SOMETHING TO  
**LAUGH  
ABOUT**

*With special guests*

**Geoffrey Riley** - Narrator

**Livia Genise** as "Mrs. Lovett"

**Don Matthews** as "Sweeney Todd"

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**Mark Reppert** - Music Director

**Mikiko S. Petrucelli** - Accompanist

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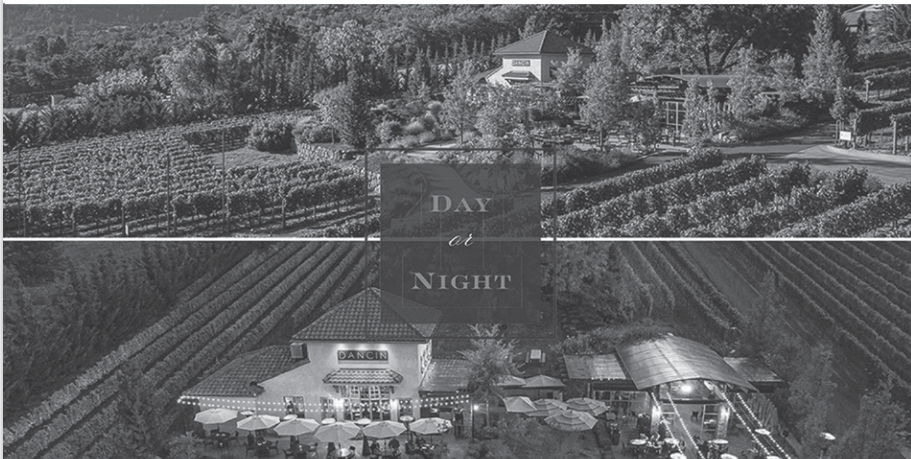
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## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT, SOMETHING TO LAUGH ABOUT

### Wonder

**Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal**..... Traditional, arr. Parker  
*Soloist: Inga Leed*

Hark, I hear the harps eternal ringing on the farther shore  
As I hear those swollen waters with their deep and solemn roar  
Hallelujah, praise the lamb  
Hallelujah, glory to the great I AM.

And my soul though stained with sorrow, fading in the light of day  
Passes swiftly o'er those waters to the city far away  
Hallelujah...

**Dirait-on** ..... Lauridsen

Wildness wrapped in wildness,  
tenderness touching tenderness...  
It is your interior self that ceaselessly  
caresses itself,

so they say;

is caressed within itself  
by its very own clear reflection.  
Thus you invent the theme  
of Narcissus fulfilled.

so they say.

*Translation by Priscilla High*

### Hope

**The Bells of Rhymney**..... Seeger, arr. Joyce  
*Handbell Instrumentalists: Diane Barnes, Caroline Harnly, Mikiko Petrucelli*

"Oh, what will you give me?" say the sad bells of Rhymney.  
"Is there hope for the future?" cry the brown bells of Merthyr.  
"Who made the mine owner?" say the black bells of Rhonda.  
"And who robbed the miner?" cry the grim bells of Blaina.

"They will plunder willy-nilly!" cry the bells of Carphilly.  
"They have fangs, they have teeth!" shout the loud bells of Neath.  
"Even God is uneasy" say the moist bells of Swansea.  
"And what will you give me?" say the sad bells of Rhymney.



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"Put the vandals in court!" say the bells of Newport.  
"All would be well if..." cry the green bells of Cardiff.  
"Why so worried, sisters, why?" sang the silver bells of Wye.  
"And what will you give me?" say the sad bells of Rhymany.

**"Hope" Is the Thing With Feathers** ..... Cotton

- In-Concert World Premiere -

*Soloists: Chandrika Galbacs, Marilyn Reppert,  
Deborah Sanford, Mary Van Wesep*

"Hope" is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all  
And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -  
And sore must be the storm -  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm -  
I've heard it in the chilliest land -  
And on the strangest Sea -  
Yet - never - in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.

**Nänie** ..... Brahms

*Instrumentalists: Sherril Wood, flute; Erin Finney, oboe;  
Clara Haptonstall, clarinet; Warren Vancamp, French horn  
Tiffany Schmidt, bassoon; Mikiko Petrucelli, piano*

Even beauty must perish!

What conquers both men and god's hearts  
Could not soften the cruel heart of the Stygian Zeus.  
Only once the heart of the Ruler of Shadows was softened.  
Yet, at the threshold, sternly he called back his gift.

Nor could Aphrodite heal the wounds of Adonis,  
Into whose side cruelly the wild board had ripped.  
Nor could Thetis immortal rescue her son Achilles,  
When at the Scaen Gates, fallen, his fate he fulfilled.

Now she ascends with her sisters, daughters of Nereus,  
Cries are raised full of sorrow for her illustrious son.  
See, the gods are weeping; behold, every goddess is mourning:  
For all beauty must fade; for all perfection must die.

But a song of lament on lips of a loved one is glorious!  
Know, 'tis the fate of most to reach Orcus unsung.

But a song of lament on lips of a loved one is glorious!



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### Laughter

**From A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**..... Sondheim, arr. Gilpin  
*Soloist: Judy Griggs*

Comedy Tonight  
A Dirty Old Man

**The Seasonings** .....PDQ Bach  
*Soloists: Rebecca Campbell, Cynthia Tank, Andrew Klein, Scott L. Nelson*  
*Instrumentalists: Sherril Wood, slide whistle; Sarah Wright, slide whistle; Warren Vancamp, windbreaker; Tiffany Schmidt, trombone; Mikiko Petrucelli, organ, etc.*

**Tarragon of Virtue Is Full**  
Recitative: And There Were In the Same Country

**Bide Thy Thyme**  
Recitative: Then Asked He

**By the Leeks of Babylon**  
Recitative: Then She Gave In

Open Sesame  
To Curry Favor

**The Vegetable Rag**  
*Soloists: Bridget Garvin, Robin Griffiths, Susan Hall, Michele Kyle*

**From Sweeney Todd**.....Sondheim, arr. Reppert  
*Soloists: Livia Genise, Don Matthews, Michael Rene Zuzel*

Priest  
God, That’s Good

**Alto’s Lament** ..... Heisler, Goldridge  
*Soloist: Rebecca Campbell*

**From Alice In Wonderland**.....Fine  
The Lobster Quadrille  
Father William

**If You Can Walk, You Can Dance**.....Alexander  
*Soloists: Rich Gleitsmann, Andrew Klein, Sarah Wright*

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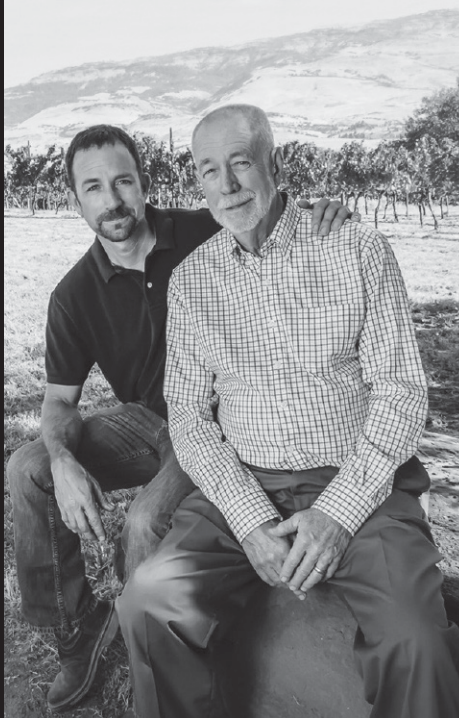


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## Director's Notes

Our concert, *Something to Think About, Something to Laugh About*, is split into two halves, as the name implies.

The first half contains music of exquisite beauty and deep meaning. The stirring *Nänie* by Johannes Brahms goes beyond mere music, providing support to those who have lost loved ones. The poem by Friedrich Schiller, translated into English in our version, begins with the truth that "even beauty must perish." Schiller goes into detail, reminding us of many Greek myths that illustrate this: Eurydice was called back to Hades, Adonis was gored by a wild boar, Achilles was slain during the Trojan War. Schiller goes on to say, however, that there is transcendent consolation and glory when those who love them lament their deaths. Much as in the *German Requiem*, Brahms cherished this consolation for himself and those around him when he lost a loved one. The full message for Brahms is in his ending: "But a song of lament on lips of a loved one is glorious!" We will perform it with the instrumental support of brilliant woodwind quintet joined by Mikiko Petrucelli on piano.

The first half of the program also shares the joy expressed in the promise of heaven after crossing the River Jordan in the traditional shape note tune *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal* in a dynamic arrangement by Alice Parker.

Other pieces celebrate life. *The Bells of Rhymney* by Pete Seeger with lyrics by Idris Davies protests the injustices of life in the coal mines in Wales at the beginning of the 20th century. The bells of Welsh towns toll their outrage at the English overlords.

— NOTES CONTINUED —>



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There is then the celebration of transcendent moments. *Dirait-on*, with poetry by Rilke and music by Morten Lauridsen, is a celebration of a transcendence of self brought on by the contemplation of the beauty of a single rose.

We also are proud to present a long overdue live world premiere of local composer I'ana Cotton's setting of Emily Dickinson's "*Hope is the thing with feathers*." This luminous piece is one of many by Cotton that our choir has premiered. Siskiyou Singers is honored to call her a friend.

The second half of our concert is dedicated to hilarity! The grand oratorio *The Seasonings* is by PDQ Bach, the infamous 21st son of Johann Sebastian. His biographer, Dr. Peter Schickele, has grouped Bach's compositions into three distinct historical (hysterical?) periods: "The Initial Plunge," "Soused," and "Conitration." *The Seasonings* was written at the beginning of his Conitration period. The libretto was produced by Prince Fred's cook, Julien Enfant. Enfant said that he had written a "*cantate culinaire*," the genesis of *The Seasonings*. According to Schickele's 1996 book, *The Definitive Biography of PDQ Bach*, "The presence of a foghorn among the concertino instruments ... may indicate that the oratorio, like Handel's famous *Water Music*, was intended to be performed upon barges on the river; this speculation is supported by the fact that the application form to be filled out by those desiring to sing in the chorus included the question 'Are you able to swim?'"

Our excerpts from *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* pick up the story at the point where the severely wronged barber is taking out his anger on unsuspecting customers by slitting their throats. Unfortunately the bodies begin to pile up, and it is not an easy matter to get rid of them. At the same time, his downstairs neighbor, Mrs. Lovett, is having difficulty finding fillings for her meat pies, and her business is suffering as a result. The two friends come upon a brilliant solution to both of their problems!

Among other funny pieces are the two choral settings from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. *The Lobster Quadrille* is the silly scene in which the Mock Turtle tells the story of the Lobster Quadrille. All the sea animals dance a beautiful dance, after which they throw the lobsters into the English Channel. The poor snail does not like this idea, since the people of France are known to enjoy escargot.

*The Old Man's Comforts and How He Gained Them*, originally published in 1799 by Robert Southey, was required memorization for school children in 18th century Britain. Lewis Carroll's bratty parody, *Father William*, delighted his young friends and will, I hope, delight you as well. Don't miss the wild, concerto-like piano part written by Irving Fine and played by our wonderful accompanist, Mikiko Petrucelli.

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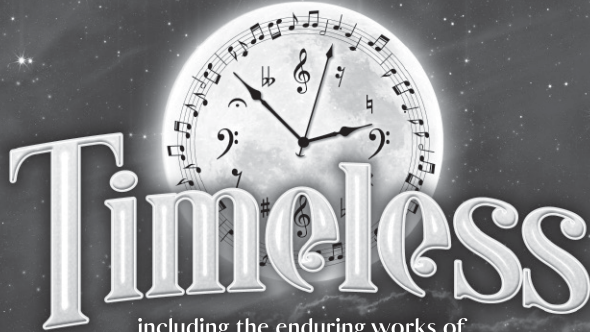
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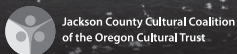


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## Biographies

### Mark Reppert - music director



**M**ark 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.

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, middle school and high school choir. Moving to Oregon in 1998, Mr. Reppert was 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 theater 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 Camelot Theater (Sweeney Todd, Cabaret, Gypsy, Les Misérables) and as an accompanist throughout the valley. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by many groups throughout Oregon and California. He is also a choral adjudicator for both middle school and high school choir competitions.

Mr. Reppert is in his 13th year as director of Siskiyou Singers. During his tenure, the choir has performed many major works such as the Chichester Psalms of Leonard Bernstein, 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. The choir is particularly proud to have continued rehearsing and performing throughout the pandemic through the use of technology.

### Mikiko S. Petrucelli - accompanist



**M**ikiko S. Petrucelli, in her 12th season as accompanist for the Siskiyou Singers, was born in Tokyo, Japan, where she started playing piano at age 4. She attended the Mushashi-no 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.

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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, the national public radio service in Japan, and won a special award at the Josef Dichter Competition in Vienna, Austria in 2001. In 2008 she won first prize at the Chiara Competition.

In 2003 Dr. Petrucelli moved to the United States and received a Master's of Music from Baylor University and Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

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 2010, she completed three years of service at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, as an adjunct faculty member. She is an accompanist not only for Siskiyou Singers but also for the Rogue Valley Chorale and the Rogue Valley Peace Choir. She is a staff pianist and informal coach at Southern Oregon University Music Department.

Dr. Petrucelli also serves as musician at Ascension Lutheran Church in Medford.



## Geoffrey Riley - narrator

Geoffrey Riley is host of *The Jefferson Exchange* on Jefferson Public Radio and an on-again-off-again stage performer. His theater credits include *A Tale of Two Cities*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *A Doll's House*, *Zorba!*, and more recently *Spamalot!* and *Tiny Beautiful Things*, all in the Rogue Valley. Mr. Riley has worked with choirs in the past, playing Mozart for several years alongside Southern Oregon Repertory Singers. He has been a PDQ Bach fan since high school and says he nearly threw up from laughing so hard at an "Intimate PDQ Bach" live show in New England in 1978.



## Livia Genise - "Mrs. Lovett"

Livia Genise has been a professional actress and director since 1969 and has performed throughout the country, from Broadway to Hollywood to the Rogue Valley. Ms. Genise was a founding member of the Camelot Theatre Company and served as its artistic director for more than 14 years. She — BIOGRAPHIES CONTINUED —>

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## Don Matthews - "Sweeney Todd"

Mr. Matthews began his career in the wings as a member of a family of stagehands in Detroit. He earned a Master's in Vocal Performance from the University of Southern California and has performed with Michigan Opera Theatre and West Bay Opera, and was a member of San Francisco Opera chorus. Mr. Matthews became the morning classical music host for Jefferson Public Radio in 1998 and taught voice at Southern Oregon University from 2002 to 2020. He has appeared in numerous stage productions including *South Pacific* as Emile Debeque with Rogue Music Theatre, *The Fantasticks* as El Gallo in with Oregon Stage Works, and as Sweeney Todd with Camelot Theatre. Mr. Matthews has been a member of Southern Oregon Repertory Singers since 1998 and has performed as a soloist in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the Rogue Valley Chorale, in the title role of *Elijah* with Siskiyou Singers, and as Bartolo in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Rogue Opera.

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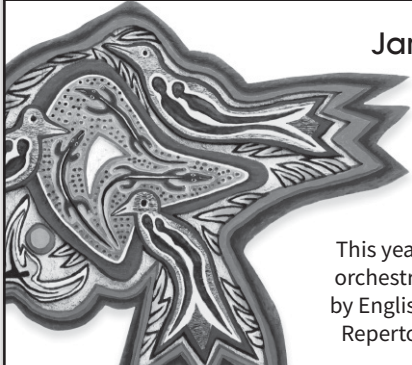
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Each year, prominent local artists graciously allow us to use their works to promote our concerts. We are honored that the 2022-2023 season's art is by Ashland's Betty LaDuke.

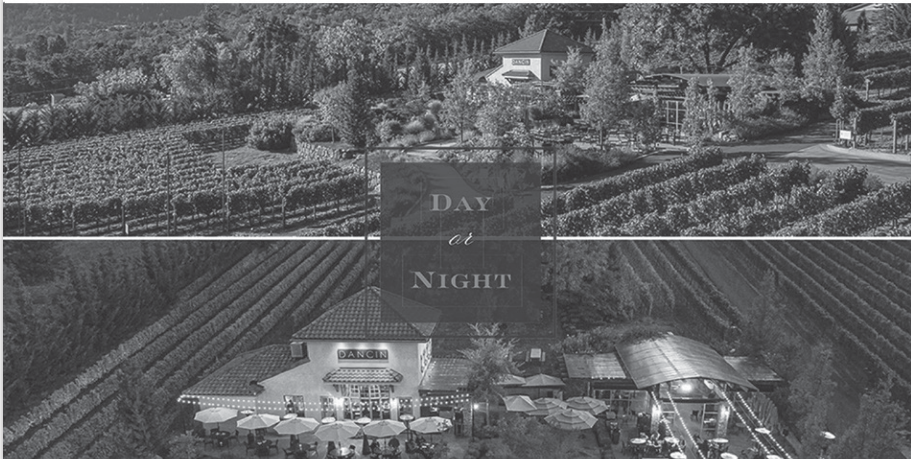
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P.O. Box 4291, Medford, OR 97501

541-858-8859 · [info@yso.org](mailto:info@yso.org) · [yso.org](http://yso.org)

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