

Siskiyou Singers

and
Mark Reppert - Artistic Director
PRESENT

The Definition of Beauty

Heaven • Nature • Spirit • Infinity

May

4th
Saturday
7:30^{PM}

&

5th
Sunday
3:00^{PM}

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Spring 2024

siskiyou Singers.org





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— present —

The Definition of Beauty

Heaven • Nature • Spirit • Infinity

Mark Reppert
Artistic Director

Mikiko S. Petrucelli
Accompanist

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The Definition of Beauty

Heaven

The Definition of Beauty I Emily Dickinson, Alice Parker

"The Definition of Beauty is
That Definition is none —
Of Heaven, easing Analysis,
Since Heaven and He are one —"

At the River Hymn Tune, arr. Aaron Copland

"Shall we gather by the river, where bright angels' feet have trod ...?"

No Time Camp Meeting Song, arr. Susan Brumfield

"Rise, oh fathers, rise; let's go meet 'em in the skies ..."

Tears in Heaven Will Jennings and Eric Clapton

Soloist: Derek Rosenlund, Guitar: Michael Rene Zuzel

"Would you know my name if I saw you in heaven?"

Bright Morning Stars Appalachian Song, arr. Shawn Kirchner

Soloists: Scott L. Nelson, John Lambie, Marilyn Reppert

"Bright morning stars are rising—Day is a-breakin' in my soul!"

Ain'a That Good News Spiritual, arr. William Dawson

"I got a crown up in-a that kingdom, ain'a that good news!"

Nature

The Definition of Beauty II Emily Dickinson, Alice Parker

"Beauty — be not caused — It Is
Chase it, and it ceases —
Chase it not, and it abides —
Overtake the Creases
In the Meadow — when the Wind
Runs his fingers through it —
Deity will see to it
That You never do it —"



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The Pasture Robert Frost, Randall Thompson
 "I'm going out to clean the pasture spring ... I shan't be gone long. You come too."

The Daisies James Stephens, Samuel Barber
 (Soloist: Andrew Klein)
 "... I saw my dear one walking slow in the field where the daisies are."

Choose Something Like a Star Robert Frost, Randall Thompson
 "... So when the mob is swayed...choose something like a star to stay our minds on ..."

maggie and milly and molly and may e. e. cummings, Vincent Persichetti
 "maggie and milly and molly and may went down to the beach to play ..."

Don't Fence Me In Cole Porter, arr. Norman Leyden
 "Oh give me land, lots of land under starry skies above ..."

- INTERMISSION -

Spirit

The Definition of Beauty III Emily Dickinson, Alice Parker
 "So gay a Flower
 Bereaves the Mind
 As if it were a Woe —
 Is Beauty an Affliction — then?
 Tradition ought to know —"

The Cloths of Heaven W. B. Yeats, Z. Randall Stroope
 "Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths, enwrought with gold and silver light ..."

David's Lamentation II Samuel, Joshua Shank
 "When David heard that Absalom was slain he went to his chamber and wept ..."

Nootka Paddle Song Nootka Tribe, Victoria Island, Imant Raminsh
 (Soloist: Howie Seay)
 "O say! I hear drums! Echoing so far away ..."



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I Love a PianoIrving Berlin

Soloist: Ellen Holt-Murray

"I love a piano! I love a piano! I love to hear somebody play!"

The Boy Who Picked Up His Feet To Fly Mark Robinson, Joshua Shank

"Soaring and spinning and touching the sky!"

Infinity

The Definition of Beauty IV Emily Dickinson, Alice Parker

"Estrang'd from Beauty — none can be —
For Beauty is Infinity —
And power to be finite ceased
Before Identity was leas'd."

Sure On This Shining Night James Agee, Samuel Barber

"... Sure on this shining night I weep for wonder!"

Road To Freedom (as performed by the Kingston Trio) John Stewart

Soloists: John Lambie, Cynthia Tank, Michael Rene Zuzel

"... The road to freedom is a long, long way to go ..."

Of Crows and Clusters Vachel Lindsay, Norman Dello Joio

"... Why does a bee have a sword to his fiddle?"

Gate Gate Heart Sutra, Brian Tate

"... Gone now ... crossing the river. Hallelujah!"



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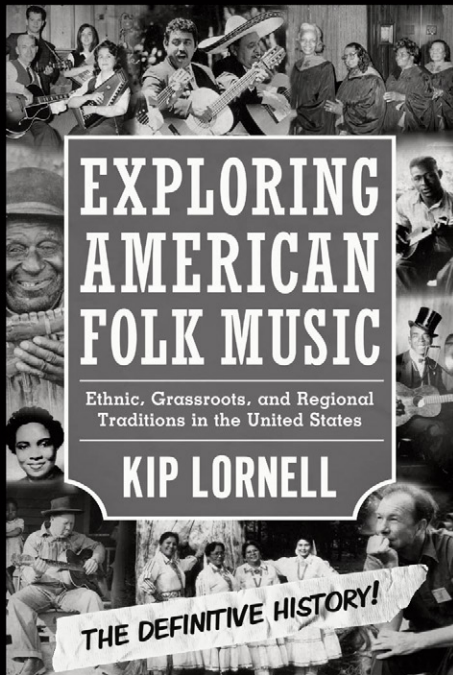
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Director's Notes

The theme of our concert, "The Definition of Beauty," comes from four Emily Dickinson poems on that theme. Each poem addresses a different aspect of beauty, as Dickinson sees it. The songs in each section of the program reflect that aspect. Dickinson's poetry can be read in the program list. All of the music and almost all of the poetry in this concert are by North American composers and poets. Siskiyou Singers will be touring Italy this June and participating in the Alta Pusteria International Choral Festival. American music is what the rest of the world wants to hear from us!

The Dickinson poems are set to music by the brilliant American composer Alice Parker. She Parker sadly passed away on Christmas Eve this past year at the age of 98. We will miss her dearly. In addition to her great contribution to American music, I personally can attest to her warmth and caring for everyone around her.

The first poem by Emily Dickinson speaks about Heaven and its connection to Beauty. The pieces in this section are filled with rich visions of Heaven from the early American experience. *At The River* is a classic setting by Aaron Copland of an early hymn tune. *Bright Morning Stars*, arranged in an emotional setting by Shawn Kirchner, recalls our loved ones who have passed. And *No Time* is a camp meeting song exhorting us to continue our journey to heaven.

We conclude the section with the classic spiritual arranged by William Dawson, *Ain'a That Good News*.

The next poem evokes the beauty of Nature and the impossible task of

understanding that beauty. Each of the pieces looks at nature from a different view. *The Pasture* and *Choose Something Like a Star* are both from the suite of pieces titled "Frostiana," settings of the poetry of Robert Frost by Randall Thompson. *maggie and milly and molly and may* is a whimsical piece with a deep underlying message. We round out the first half with *Don't Fence Me In* by the always clever Cole Porter.

After intermission, Dickinson's third poem posits a puzzling idea—one, though, that we all may have experienced: that — NOTES CONTINUED —>



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something beautiful can actually make us sad. Why? The Spirit section of the program explores many disparate emotions. *The Cloths of Heaven* is a setting of a poem by a lovesick W.B. Yeats. He asks his love not to tread on his dreams. *David's Lamentation* and *The Boy Who Picked Up His Feet to Fly* are settings by the original young composer Joshua Shank. The emotions of the two pieces range from the depths of despair to the heights of exhilaration. The joy of community is found in the arrangement of *Nootka Paddle Song*, a tribal song from the Pacific Northwest arranged by Canadian composer Imant Raminsh.

Sure On This Shining Night, the classic setting by Samuel Barber of James Agee's poem, helps us contact the wondrous beauty of Infinity, the fourth section of our concert. Emily Dickinson says that Beauty is Infinity. Brian Tate's *Gate Gate* gets to the heart of the matter of Infinity with the celebration of the realization that the entire universe is intimately connected. And *Of Crows and Clusters* is a humorous setting of Vachel Lindsay's poetry that features two old crows trying to get to the bottom of the question of cause ("caws") and effect.

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Sunday, May 12, 3:00 pm

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Biographies

Mark Reppert - music director



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.

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 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 Theatre (*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 15th 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 Mass in D of Dvořák, and the Coronation Mass of Mozart. Siskiyou Singers has also presented many world premieres of works by local composers. — BIOGRAPHY CONTINUED —>

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Mikiko S. Petrucelli accompanist

Mikiko S. Petrucelli, was born in Tokyo. She received her undergraduate degree in Piano Performance at the Mushashino Academia Musicae. 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. In 2008, she won the first prize at the Chiara Competition.

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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.

As of May 2010, Dr. Petrucelli completed three years of service at Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, as an adjunct faculty member. She is a collaborative pianist at Southern Oregon University Music Department and also an accompanist for the Siskiyou Singers, the Rogue Valley Chorale, and the Rogue Valley Peace Choir. She serves as a musician at Ascension Lutheran Church in Medford.



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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. These sponsorships have enabled us to sing at schools in Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Sam's Valley, and Gold Hill. Thank you so very much.

This spring, our outreach program will be a collaborative experience with elementary choirs in Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, and Medford.

For further information contact

Sally Peterson at sgpeterson1@msn.com or **510-364-0410**.

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Siskiyou Singers

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siskiyousingers.org/car
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The 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. These sponsorships have enabled us to sing at schools in Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, Medford, Central Point, Sam's Valley, and Gold Hill. Thank you so very much.

This spring, our outreach program will be a collaborative experience with elementary choirs in Ashland, Talent, Phoenix, and Medford.

For further information contact

Sally Peterson at sgpeteron1@msn.com or **510-364-0410**.

ANIMA MUNDI PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

The
Heart of Humanity
Concert Series

5th ANNIVERSARY
SEASON

Dreams Have No Borders

*Los sueños no
tienen fronteras*

A World-Premiere Film
Four Years in the Making

In Loving Memory of
James M. Collier

Featuring 3 Grammy-winning
singers, the Teokalli Aztec Dancers,
and the Delgani String Quartet.

Sunday, June 23 at 3pm

Note: This is a film screening with general seating. Tickets are on sale now and likely to sell out!

SPECIAL VENUE: The world premiere screening of *Dreams Have No Borders* will take place at the Varsity Movie Theatre, 166 E Main St, downtown Ashland, and will be followed by a reception and art exhibition across the street at Art & Soul Ashland.

ART & SOUL
Ashland

PLEASE CONTACT ANIMA MUNDI PRODUCTIONS FOR TICKETS, NOT THE VARSITY THEATRE



General admission seating \$20

SOU staff, faculty, and students \$10

Oregon Trail Card \$5

www.HumanityTickets.com

☎ 541-833-3066

Rogue Valley Symphonic Band *presents*

SUMMER

a symphonic concert

Navarro's
**Clarinet Concerto
No. 1**

with featured young artist
Clara Haptonstall

James Barnes'
**Fantasy Variations on
a Theme by Paganini**

Maslanka's
Symphony No. 4

Saturday **May 18th** 3pm

SOU Music Recital Hall

\$20 Adult • \$15 Senior • \$5 Child/Student

Tickets are available online & at the door.

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oregon



Jackson County Cultural Coalition
of the Oregon Cultural Trust



Funded in part by the Jackson County Cultural Coalition
and the Oregon Cultural Trust, together investing in
Oregon's arts, heritage, and humanities.

RogueValleySymphonicBand.org

*Siskiyou
Singers*
present

Mark Reppert
Artistic Director

presented at
SOU
Music Recital Hall
Ashland

For more info visit
siskiyousingers.org

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Musical Joys of the Season
Await!

DECEMBER 14, 2024

Sweet Songs of the Season
A Delightful Family Holiday Celebration

JANUARY 18 & 19, 2025

Chichester Psalms
by Leonard Bernstein