

was originally commissioned to describe the way that singers feel about music in their lives. However, since its publication, people in general, and singers in particular, seem taken by the way in which its words and the music work together to create effective and moving experiences for all and evoke deeply personal meanings for singers and audiences alike. The unique juxtaposition of the contemporary Christian song I Love You with Louis Armstrong's What a Wonderful World conveys the message that when all seems lost and despair is in our hearts, there is always hope for the future. We are reassured that no matter who we are or whatever our situation in life, things will get better regardless of how bad they seem.

African-American spirituals such as Swing Low, Sweet Chariot and Plenty Good Room were originally part of an oral tradition that imparted Christian values from generation to generation of slaves. However, there is a firmer consensus that the recurring theme of "freedom" in the Biblical references ('carry me home' and 'glory train') were understood as references to the slaves' desire for escape from bondage.

Speak to the Child of Love deals with questions that all children ask at one time or another: 'What is love, hope, trust and peace?' Using the allegory of the sun, moon, stars and rain, the questions are answered, not just for the sake of the children, but, perhaps all of us. A Groovy Kind of Love and Evergreen are just two examples of the interpretation of love in pop culture and music. Love is both 'groovy' (a 1960s term that in today's vernacular would be interpreted as 'awesome' or 'cool'), and love is 'fresh as the morning air, ageless and evergreen'. Whether love is celebrated or lamented, it has been the subject of innumerable songs across centuries of humankind.

The insights of the editor and arranger of Let There Be Peace on Earth are worthy of noting. They write: "Humanity has been grappling with the concept of peace since the dawn of history. When we think of peace today, certain ideas come to mind such as a setting uncluttered by noise, a region free from violence or perhaps a home without bickering. But peace is more than a lack of something; it is also a greeting: *Peace be with you*; a gift of love: *Peace I leave with you*; and a benediction: *Go now in peace.*" The goal of the County Classic Chorale in singing this piece is to visually and aurally spread peace; and to that end, a soloist will begin the anthem and as each successive recipient of that peace shares it with others, singers and audience members are added so that one has the sense of an exponential accumulation of peace that covers and changes the world. The soloist returns to sing the final phrase as a reminder that peace begins with one person.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Assorted Flavours

An Intimate Evening with Kari Lynn and Roger Hewett

April 29 (Doors 7:00 pm - Show 7:30 pm)

The Bank Theatre, 10 Erie Street South,
Leamington

Tickets available at Wharram's Jewellery, Counter Effects
and Brown Paper Tickets <http://bpt.me/2898708>

Mary Newland and The Blue Bayou Band

*The Bank Theatre, 10 Erie Street South
Leamington*

May 19th and 20th at 7:30 pm

Tickets available at Wharram's Jewellery, Counter Effects
and Brown Paper Tickets <http://bpt.me/2926951>

Would you like to sing with the County Classic Chorale? There are opportunities in some of the vocal sections. Informal auditions will be held up to the end of June 2017. More information can be found at www.countyclassicchorale.com or by contacting Paul Wharram at 519-712-8972 or by email at paul.wharram@gmail.com

Windsor Classic Chorale Celebrates 40 Years

Mostly Canadian

Sunday, May 7 at 3:00 pm

Heritage Auditorium on the University of Windsor campus (400 Huron Church Rd). Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance from Chorale members. For more information, visit website www.windsorclassicchorale.org

Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus

Spring Concert

May 12, 2017 at 7:30pm Capitol Theatre Windsor

An evening of music by Bach, Handel, Haydn, Bruckner, Gjeilo, and Canadian Composers

Tickets: \$12.00 in advance through the WSO Box Office (519) 973-1238, on line <http://www.windsorsymphony.com> or \$15.00 at the door

A special choral-orchestral concert is being presented at Assumption Hall (400 Huron Church Rd.) at the University of Windsor on **May 27, 2017 at 7:00 pm**. In this student-initiated event, professional and community musicians will combine to perform a programme of mostly sacred music, presenting new works by local composers along with established works. The program will debut **Assumption Mass**, a work composed by Evan Tanovich, a Grade 11 student at Assumption College High School as well as a composition by Henry Boon, former Assumption College High School music teacher.

A Word from the Director

Music crosses all borders of nationality, race, and culture. It arouses emotions and feelings and is far more powerful than language. In assembling the repertoire for this concert, I was looking particularly for texts and scores that spoke to my heart and soul about passion and love, songs that uplifted me to higher aspirations. In rehearsing this program, my goal was to help the singers identify unique feelings within themselves, to find an emotional link to each song, not only to better interpret the meaning of the text and the beauty of the score, but to help them experience real joy in their singing. It is my hope that you too will be touched in some way by our songs of love and inspiration.

Program Notes

The Chorale commissioned My Song of Joy in 2013 to celebrate its 30th anniversary. It has become the chorale's signature piece and conveys a simple message: "Let my song be a song of joy, a song of love, a song of peace." In the composer's words, "Joy is an emotion that can predominantly rule our daily lives regardless of circumstances. It is the best thing to enhance our mental and physical health." The text is inspired by a poem written by Fab Ricciardi.

Rise Up My Love is a classic among Canadian choral works and is often interpreted to be about secular love. However, this is one of Healey Willan's best-known sacred motets taking the Easter theme of resurrection from the Song of Solomon.

The next three pieces have roots in Elizabethan England. The madrigal, I Love, Alas I Love Thee, was written by Thomas Morley in 1538 and the words of It Was a Lover and His Lass are from Shakespeare's **As You Like It**, Act 5, Scene 3. Similar in style and filled with joviality is Love Is Meant to Make Us Glad from the comic opera **Merrie England** about the loves and rivalries in the court of Queen Elizabeth I.

Although the next four songs are widely different in style, they share the wonderful attribute of being able to lift one's spirits. You Raise Me Up honours those special people in our lives who encourage us and make us stronger. Amazing Grace acknowledges the power of spirituality with its message of hope and redemption. We Rise Again is an anthem of resilience reminding us of the importance of children in our lives, and the strength of home given to us by our families, our friends and our music. The theme of Let the River Run is about making the most of opportunities presented to us in life and it encourages us to embrace change and new beginnings.

The first songs in the second half of the program are all about love but from contrasting perspectives. Some believe You Are the New Day is about one's growing love for another when in fact its composer intended to reinforce the message that when the sun comes up each new day and the birds start to sing as usual, we can believe that life and hope will survive. Sing Me to Heaven