

I Hear America Singing

Welcome to "I Hear America Singing", a Sugar Hill LDS Choir and Gwinnett Community Band concert. We will begin our concert with an opening prayer given by _____.

Although we are pleased to see children, young and old, enjoying our music, we do ask if your little ones become restless or noisy, please take them outside. We also request for you to turn off your cell phones and other electrical devices so the audience around you, and yourself, can enjoy our concert tonight undisturbed.

I Hear America Singing - with Band

Listen. Can you hear America singing? Certainly through our radios, televisions, in our elevators and grocery store aisles, and thanks to modern inventions today computers, cell phones, iPads, and MP3 players to name just a few. But listen, there is another music you can hear and it doesn't require an ounce of technology. It is America humming quietly to ourselves as we go about our work, singing hymns in our choirs at church, belting that Broadway tune at the top of our lungs when we think no one is listening, or crooning lullabies to our little ones. It is the songs we sing together when we celebrate our country. It is the songs we sing to give ourselves courage. It is trumpets, it is voices, it's violins and drums. It is loud, and it is sometimes quiet, but it is always our song. This is the song of America. It is the sound of millions of dreams coming together in one sustained note.

Take Your Dream and Make It Happen - Choir

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deckhand singing on
the steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,
The wood-cutter's song, the plough boy's on his way in the morning,
or at noon intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work,
or of the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

Seize the Day - Men Only

As Walt Whitman heard the song of the working man when he wrote "I Hear America Singing", Aaron Copland saw his courage during World War II when he composed "Fanfare for the Common Man". And so begins this Copland Tribute by Clare Grundman. As the trumpets ring can't you see our brave heroes putting their tools away, kissing their loved ones goodbye and courageously answering the call to serve? Following afterward are passages from *Appalachian Spring* with a tune many of you will recognize and perhaps have sung a time or two. And finally music that combines the spirit of early western America with...a ballet? Who would have thought of such a thing? The great choreographer Agnes de Mille, and of course Aaron Copland.

A Copland Tribute - Band

A Song That's Sung By Emily Summers

A song that's sung
tells more than a story
a song that's sung
is sung from the heart
a song that's sung
is a story from the soul
a song that's sung
is the greatest love
a song that's sung
is a gift from above
a song that's sung
is an emotion in a melody
a song that's sung
can be whatever you want it to be
a song that's sung
can have a million meanings
a song that's sung
is a diary of emotions...

How Can I Keep From Singing - Choir

Hold Me, Rock Me - Double Quartet

During Hollywood's golden era of movie musicals everyone, no matter where you lived, could experience a little bit of that Broadway magic! The music and dance came together on the screen in a way that was uniquely American. Technicolor brought it to life as we had never seen it, Gene Kelly's athletic dancing dazzled us, and the music just left us "Singin' in the Rain".

Singin' in the Rain - with Band

We all might think of our home state when we hear the song “Georgia on my mind”, but in truth Stuart Garrel, had something very different on his mind when he wrote this hit song about Georgia Carmichael the sister of none other than Hoagy Carmichael the composer.

Written in 1930, eventually everyone who heard the song and loved the STATE of Georgia easily interpreted the words to refer to the place they called home. But, even if you aren’t from Georgia, the South, or even the USA, there is perhaps no other song that stirs up thoughts of longing for our home, where ever it may be.

Played and sung by everyone from jazz bandleader Frankie Trumbauer to Willie Nelson we are fortunate tonight to have Grant Winsauer share his talent with us on the saxophone.

Georgia on My Mind - Band

Revelations 22:1&2

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the tree of life ... and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

Down by the River to Pray - Choir

War and music are not two things we associate together, and yet war has inspired some of the greatest music of our time, just as music has inspired loyalty, courage, and love of country.

God Save the Queen reflected our young colonies’ loyalty to England during the French and Indian War, but in time that tune changed and during the Revolutionary War determined soldiers sang *The Girl I Left Behind Me* as they marched to an uncertain fate.

Hail, Columbia, Columbia being the poetic name of America, celebrated our hard won independence and was our first national anthem, played at George Washington’s inauguration.

Although America faced her greatest trial yet during the Civil War, it still inspired great music. With one side singing “The Union, the Union forever” in *Columbia, Gem of the Ocean* and the other singing “Oh Shenandoah, I long to see you.”

America the Beautiful, was not inspired by a war, rather Katharine Lee Bates was inspired as she took a cross country journey. But certainly it evokes images of patriots whose dreams could see beyond the years to a country that was noble and forever blessed.

An American Spectacular - Band

When "A CHORUS LINE" was the hottest ticket in town an older woman was sitting alone at a matinee of A CHORUS LINE.

The man next to her asked, "Is that seat empty?"

"Oh yes", she answered, "my husband and I got these tickets months ago and he passed away."

"Oh", said the man, "Couldn't you find a friend or relative to come with you?"

"Oh no", said the woman, "they are all at the funeral".

Americans love their Broadway Musicals and when they say "We wouldn't miss it for the world", they really mean it. Well, hopefully you're not missing anyone's funeral to enjoy these Broadway Blockbusters tonight. We will hear the choir and band perform some of the most popular hits, including "One" from A Chorus Line.

Broadway Blockbusters - with Choir

Winds in the east, mist coming in,
Like somethin' is brewin' and 'bout to begin.
Can't put me finger on what lies in store,
but I fear what's to happen all happened before.

This begins the beloved musical all centered around the practically perfect Mary Poppins. The 1964 movie enchanted us and 40 years later the staged musical did no less. It's themes of family love are timeless, and Mary's sage counsel of "A spoonful of sugar" is just as relevant today. What can we say about it, other than it's supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Mary Poppins - Band

"Music is the one art we all have inside. We may not be able to play an instrument, but we can sing along or clap or tap our feet. Have you ever seen a baby bouncing up and down in the crib in time to some music? When you think of it, some of that baby's first messages from his or her parents may have been lullabies, or at least the music of their speaking voices. All of us have had the experience of hearing a tune from childhood and having that melody evoke a memory or a feeling. The music we hear early on tends to stay with us all our lives". Fred Rogers.

To be read on Mother's Day performance only:

And to Mother's everywhere who have sung their lullabies of love with their voices and work and with ever attentive care - we thank you and honor you tonight.

Hushabye Mountain - Choir

Distant Land - with Band

Major Dick Winters, commander of Company “E” led his paratrooping “Band of Brothers” from the D-Day landings to the German surrender bravely and selflessly. He was often out-manned in the battle field, but still prevailed with his deft strategies and coolness under fire.

He never wanted any credit for what he did — the credit, he insisted, went to his men. When his grandson once asked him, “Grandpa, were you a hero in the war?” He answered “No, I’m not a hero, but I have served in a company full of them.”

We would like to acknowledge our heroes here who have served or are currently serving in the United States Military. As the band plays the Armed Forces Salute if you, or a family member has served or is serving in that particular branch we invite you to stand up as your anthem is played.

Armed Forces Salute - Band

Ella Fitzgerald once said, “The only thing better than singing is more singing!” We’ve certainly had more singing, more singing, and wonderful music, tonight.

We thank you all for attendance here. Immediately following the last piece of music we will finish with a closing prayer by _____. We also invite all of you to stay for our cookie reception after the performance tonight.

American songs have been in many ways the mirror of our nation. They have reflected our joy and sorrow, our greatest hope and deepest fear. To tell our story demanded large and creative voices, and they have answered. We have become, as Walt Whitman said, “A race of singers.” Song makers that have fashioned our lives, our deeds, our love of freedom into text and music that is unique from all others. We have created music that plays not just on the radio, but in our hearts and on our own lips. Listen carefully and you will always hear America singing.

An American Celebration - with Band