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A NOTE FROM WCU PRESIDENT KATIE PHILLIPS

Welcome to the Waukesha Choral Union's (WCU) final concert of the 2016-17 season, *Nights to Remember*. Sit back, relax and enjoy the evening while being serenaded by the high artistic quality of the WCU under the direction of Artistic Director Michael Chapel. The chorus has prepared a delightful program for you of well-known classics and surprises.

As you can see, the Waukesha Choral Union derives its strength and quality from its members' passion for singing, and we are always seeking new voices. If you are interested in becoming a member, please learn more by visiting www.choralunion.org.

The WCU season wouldn't be possible without the support of our audiences, the generous community and our dedicated singing members and board of directors. We would like to extend a special thank you to you for your attendance today and for your continued interest in and support of the Waukesha Choral Union. It is a privilege to be able to serve you and the Waukesha community through music. We hope you have an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you during our 2017-18 season which kicks off in the fall!

Katie Phillips
President, Waukesha Choral Union



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ABOUT WAUKESHA CHORAL UNION


Waukesha Choral Union can trace its roots as Waukesha's premier choral society back to 1949 at Carroll University. Over the years, under various names and outstanding artistic directors, WCU has developed a reputation for excellent choral music performances in SE Wisconsin. Adhering to our educational mission we have collaborated with Carroll University choirs, with music groups from Waukesha South, Waukesha North, Kettle Moraine, Muskego, and Hartford Union High Schools, and with the Waukesha Children's Chorus. We're proud to have shared the stage with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Milwaukee choristers, Bel Canto Chorus and today with the Jubilate Chorale. We've been featured on WISN-TV's *Season to Celebrate* program. And in 2016 we achieved our dream of singing the National Anthem at Miller Park. Our potential is endless!

MISSION

The Waukesha Choral Union will challenge, enrich, and engage its singing members, audiences, and community through the pursuit of excellence and a variety of programming. The WCU mission includes expansion of the effectiveness of its educational efforts throughout Waukesha County through collaboration with schools, area performing artists and community arts organizations.

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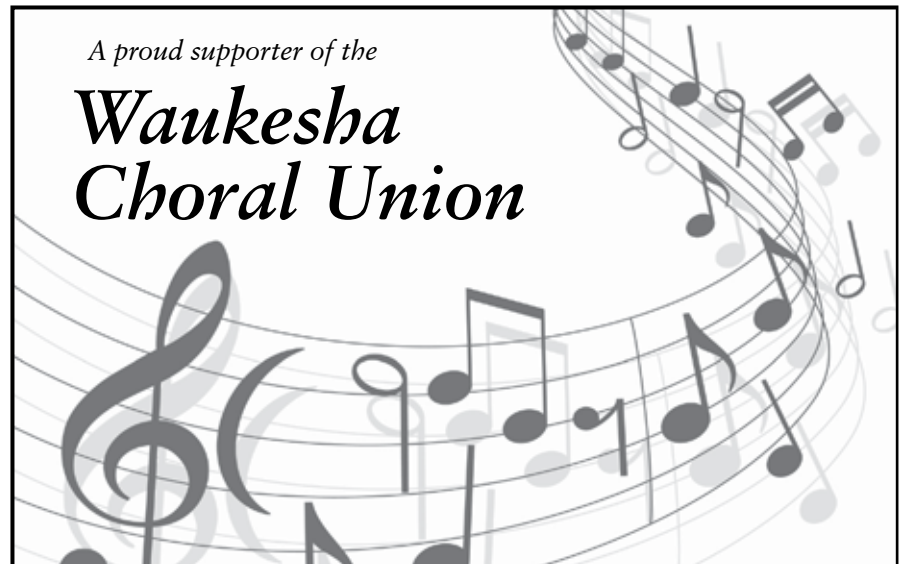
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Waukesha Choral Union offers significant opportunities for leader involvement and development! Board of Director and Committee participation is fun, challenging, and rewarding. Speak with any member about being part of the future of Waukesha Choral Union!



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ABOUT THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Michael Chapel is the director of choral activities and musical theatre at Brown Deer Middle/High School (grades 7-12) and is the fine arts event scheduling and facilities coordinator for the School District of Brown Deer. Additionally, Mr. Chapel is the choir director and lead service accompanist at St. Peter's UCC in Saukville. He is also the Choir Coordinator for the Wisconsin School Music Association (WSMA) Middle Level Honors Project and is active as an adjudicator for solo/ensemble festivals and auditions sponsored by the WSMA.

Mr. Chapel is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Music and a Master's Degree in Music. Education – with an emphasis on choral conducting.

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Good evening and welcome to our annual May concert. The Waukesha Choral Union is excited to return to Carroll University. The Humphrey Chapel / Art Center provides wonderful acoustics and an intimate setting to share our final program of the 2016-17 season: "Nights to Remember."

In choosing the repertoire for this evening's performance, the initial inclusion criteria was having to word "night" in the title of the piece. That search ultimately led us to a program that includes certain elements of night: moon, sunset, stars, and even sleep. And interestingly, one of our featured selections is actually a set of songs about knights, but it is titled *Nights In Armor*. In any case, we of course hope that you enjoy our presentation and our hope is that this is, indeed, a night to remember.

Thank you for your gracious and continuing support of the arts in your community. We look forward to bringing you another season of high-quality choral music starting back-up in the Fall. If you are not a member yet, watch for that opportunity over the summer months.

Michael Chapel
Artistic Director, Waukesha Choral Union

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PROGRAM

WAUKESHA CHORAL UNION
presents:

“NIGHTS” TO REMEMBER

Saturday, May 6, 2017 – 7:30 PM
Humphrey Chapel / Art Center
Carroll University, Waukesha, WI

It's a Grand Night for SingingRichard Rodgers / Oscar Hammerstein II
(from "State Fair") arr. Kirby Shaw

Rodgers and Hammerstein's *State Fair* was the only musical that they wrote directly for feature film. In it, we travel with the Frake family as they leave behind the routine of the farm for three days of adventure at the annual Iowa State Fair. Fifty years later and in 1995, this romantic story set in America's heartland was adapted for the stage, featuring additional songs from the Rodgers and Hammerstein songbook.

Sure on this shining night Samuel Barber
(from *Four Songs*, op.13)

Barber's "Sure on this Shining Night" is widely considered as one of the composer's most famous contributions to the art song (and choral) genres. The text was based on an untitled lyric in the first published collection of poems from James Agee (who later earned a Pulitzer prize). The piece was originally written as a piece for solo voice, and was arranged for chorus some thirty years later by the composer.

Nights in Armor Lee R. Kesselman
Merlin's Riddle text: Alfred, Lord Tennyson

1. Knight and His Queen
2. Tristram's Madrigal
3. Arthur's Final Words

Nights in Armor is a suite for a cappella mixed chorus that reflects on the Arthurian legend written by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Each of the four songs takes the voice of a major character from the legend "Idylls of the King." (Note: Composer Lee R. Kesselman is a native of Milwaukee, WI.)

Noche Serena (Night Serene) Z. Randall Stroope
text: Fray Luis de León

Fray Luis de León was a scholar and theologian, but was also known as a fiery and sometimes challenging linguist. This musical setting of his poem contains only a fragment of the full original text, but still conveys two distinctly different and controversial perspectives of the world for this time in history: the Spanish Inquisition. At one point, he describes the view of earth to heaven with a sense of expansiveness and beauty. Later, he looks to heaven from earth and sees a world in desolation and a planet without religious conviction or belief.

PROGRAM CONT.

Blue MoonRichard Rodgers / Lorenz Hart
arr. Anne Raugh and Deke Sharon
The music of for "Blue Moon," but with a different title and lyrics, was written/
published for the movie *Hollywood Revue of 1933*, during the time Rodgers and Hart
were contracted to MGM studios (the song and lyrics as we know them today were
written and released in 1934). The performance style and version that became so
popular in the 1950s and 60s – Doo-Wop style – is demonstrated in the version that
we present this evening.

Goodnight, Sweetheart, GoodnightCalvin Carter / James Hudson
arr. Anne Raugh and Deke Sharon
Another "fun" piece that fits into our concert theme is this 1954 R & B tune from the
Spaniels; it was also "covered" by the McGuire sisters a few years later, but without
the well-known bass line that we associate with this doo-wop classic.

INTERMISSION *

Sun, Moon, Stars, RainDavid Brunner
text: E.E. Cummings
The poem "anyone lived in a pretty how town" tells the story of "anyone" (you or I)
and the people of a superficial, humdrum town who lack a willingness for change.
Some interpretations even suggest that the poem is a criticism of blindly following
social conventions as well as society's intolerance of nonconformists. In any case, the
words and music are quite charming and highlight the thought-provoking words of
one of America's great poets.

SunsetIain Grandage
(#3 from "Three Australian Bush Songs")
Originally written as "Three Bush Carols," Iain Grandage revised and lengthened the
pieces, removed all references to Christmas, and premiered the "new" works in 1994.
The harmonies are very chordal, but there are elements within the pieces (bird calls
and extra-musical noises) that give it a certain uniqueness. "Sunset" features slow,
evocative harmonies describing sunset, quite possibly from the perspective of a
snake. 3 Bush songs started life with the title 3 Bush Carols. They were written for
inclusion Bush songs started life with the title 3 Bus

La luna asoma (The moon rises)Einojuhani Rautavaara
(#3 from "Suite de Lorca")
Rautavaara wrote this piece as a companion to his *Children's Mass* and entered both
in a composition competition organized by his home city of Espoo. While the Mass
won first prize, it is rarely performed nowadays; the Suite won third prize yet is today
one of the most popular Finnish choral works of all time. Consisting of four brief but
intense pieces, it is essentially a study in the use of symmetrical scales (alternating
tones and semitones). *La luna asoma* ('The moon rises') features 'moon music' that
foreshadows similar passages on similar texts in two of his later compositions.

PROGRAM CONT.

SleepEric Whitacre
In 1999, Whitacre was commissioned to set the text of Robert Frost's "Stopping By
Woods on a Snowy Evening" to music. Unfortunately, shortly after it premiered,
the estate of Frost forbade the use of this text (until 2038). Whitacre then asked
his friend, poet Charles Anthony Silvestri to write words to this already completed
composition., and he accomplishes this task quite exquisitely.

The AwakeningJoseph Martin
"The Awakening" appears on several State music lists as recommended literature,
and is considered standard choral repertoire by many across the country. In this
composition, Martin uses much musical-textual imagery and the result is this deeply
moving selection.

Good Night, Dear HeartDan Forrest
Susy Clemens, the daughter of American author Mark Twain, died unexpectedly at
the age of 24. The headstone at her grave bears these words of Twain, to which this
composition is set:

*Warm summer sun, Shine kindly here. Warm southern wind, blow softly here.
Green sod above, lie light, lie light, Good night, dear heart,
good night, good night.*



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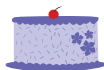


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