

WEST CENTRAL
SINGERS
PRESENTS

AMERICA

SONGS OF

RESOLVE-SACRIFICE-VICTORY!

DIRECTED BY NAOMI POWERS-BAKER

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2019

**7:00 PM | THE BARN THEATRE
321 4TH ST SW | WILLMAR, MN**

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2019

3:00 PM | VINJE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Director's notes: Patriotic music is tremendously moving. Music, by itself, stirs emotion. Music and patriotism combined reaches into our past, bringing to the surface memories, feelings, visions, thoughts of loved ones, and special moments of joy, as well as heartache and tears.

In our country and in the world today, it sometimes takes effort to stay positive. We read of hostility, mistrust and blame nearly every day. When I chose our fall theme, I felt some skepticism but then came to the conclusion, what greater time to promote patriotism than now! May our voices lift these songs from our hearts to yours in an effort to unite us, whatever our political and personal beliefs. May God bless this land in which we live!

PROGRAM - PART 1

Battle Hymn of the Republic.....Peter J. Wilhousky

Feel free to join us on the final chorus.

Julia Ward Howe created the version of the Battle Hymn which is most widely known today. She used lyrics Union Soldiers made up during the Civil War and the stirring melody of the original hymn.

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor.....Emma Lazarus/Irving Berlin, arranged by David Chase

From the arranger: Hope is always front and center of Berlin lyrics. This arrangement weaves in "God Bless America" just as we wonder if we have lost our way. The lamenting sounds of the cello keep us grounded in our commitment to welcoming the stranger as we sing over and over again "I lift my lamp." This arrangement was commissioned to honor the dreams of every immigrant who has made the U.S.A. their home.

E Pluribus Unum.....Joseph M. Martin

Latin for "Out of many, one", E Pluribus Unum is a traditional motto of the United States, appearing on the Great Seal which was adopted in 1782.

Voices That Care.....arranged by Mark Brymer

Written in 1991, this song was a tribute to Desert Storm, intended to boost morale of US Troops.

From a Distance.....arranged by Teena Chinn

This song was written in 1985 by Julie Gold who, "Only set out to write a decent song about the difference between the way things seem and the way things are."

Bette Midler performed this song in 1990 at the beginning of the Persian Gulf War. From a Distance won several awards including the Minute Man Award from the US Army for inspiring troops during the first Gulf War.

Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye.....arranged by Alice Parker

An anti-war song published in 1867, there are additional verses but the sentiment is the same: the soldier returned from war a different man physically and emotionally.

Tell My Father.....arranged by Andrea Ramsey

A song from "The Civil War: An American Musical" (1999), a son sings a final message to be given to his father.

Taps.....arranged by Meegan Samantha Coleman

In 1862, General Butterfield ordered the brigade bugler to play what we now know as "Taps" to signal the soldiers to extinguish fires at the end of the day. Army infantry regulations by 1891 required "Taps" to be played at military funeral ceremonies.

INTERMISSION

PROGRAM - PART 2

Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy.....arranged by Teena Chinn

Made popular by The Andrews Sisters, BWBB wasn't the serious WWII song the government sought, but it did lift morale with all the jitterbugging it inspired.

Armed Forces Salute.....arranged by Joyce Eilers

The Caisson Song (Army), Semper Paratus (Coast Guard), The Marine's Hymn (Marines),
The U.S. Air Force (Air Force), Anchors Aweigh (Navy)

**We invite those who have served in these branches of the military to stand and be recognized as we sing their song. Thank You for all you have given.*

Song for the Unsung Hero.....Pamela Martin/Joseph M. Martin

You may join us in singing, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" toward the end of this song.
An overpowering statement of patriotism and national pride, we say thank you to all who serve and protect.

Tear Them Down..... Kirby Shaw

A driving reminder our work isn't done until all the walls that divide us are torn down.

We Shall Overcome.....arranged by J. David Moore

You are welcome to join us on the fifth verse (the lyrics are the same as the first verse).
Spiritual, Gospel, Protest, Anthem; call it what you will, this is a song of courage, persistence and history.

This Land Is Your Land.....arranged by Robert DeCormier

Please join us on the first and last chorus.

The composer, Woody Guthrie was a famous American singer/songwriter who wrote about people and places he encountered across the United States. He wanted to remind us this land is made for all, not just the rich and powerful.

This Is My Song.....arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

This Is My Song is an arrangement using the well-known tune, "Finlandia",
written by Jean Sibelius.

Let us celebrate patriotism and the promise of peace!

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY

West Central Singers was founded in January 2001 by retired Willmar Senior High School Choir Director, Rolf Anderson. The mission of the West Central Singers is to provide an opportunity to explore and experience the depth and power of choral music, both for those with a passion to sing and for those who are enriched simply by listening.

We are dedicated to performing a wide variety of music as a means of fostering a true appreciation for the long-standing tradition of choral music.

WEST CENTRAL SINGERS

DIRECTOR

Naomi Powers-Baker

SOPRANO

Jill Benson, Willmar
Kimberly Bulau, Litchfield
Cheri Buzzeo, Spicer
Kristine Carlson, Willmar
Jacquelyn Cunningham, Willmar
Denise Fossen, Kerkhoven
Nanette Serbus, Renville
Diane Thompson, Pennock
Jean Urban, New London
Kellie Wright, Willmar

ALTO

Gabrielle Baut, Spicer
Lois Fostervold, Willmar
Diana Gertken, Belgrade
Char Kingstrom, Willmar
Cindy Koll-Tengwall, Spicer
Mona Lackore, Willmar
Kari Stadem, Willmar
Carol Wegner, Willmar
Hailey Wolf, Clara City

TENOR

Pete Baalson, New London
Duane Carrow, Marshall
Roger Kingstrom, Willmar
Randy Wright, Willmar

BASS

John Benson, Willmar
Dale Lauer, Spicer
Lyle Mangen, Willmar
Rick Smith, Willmar
Peter Stadem, Willmar
Bill Wright, Willmar

CONTRALTO

Donna Brau, Spicer

ACCOMPANIST

Carol Parker

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Terry Brau
Marie Nelson
Brian Pearson

Interested in joining West Central Singers?
Rehearsals resume in January - Thursdays from 7-9:00pm
Vinje Lutheran Church, 1101 Willmar Ave SW, Willmar.
"LIKE" us on Facebook or visit us online at
www.WestCentralSingers.com

The West Central Singers would like to thank and acknowledge the following people, businesses, and organizations that directly support us through significant donations. These generous contributors make our concerts possible and are a positive voice in support of the arts in our community and the surrounding area.



If you would like to support these efforts, please mail your tax deductible contribution to
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5183 - 109th Ave NE
Spicer, MN 56288

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