



Program Notes

The opening scene of **The Sound of Music** takes place at the Nonnberg Abbey in Austria in 1938. The nuns are pursuing their respective tasks, but the postulant Maria is not with them, for she is enjoying the beauty of nature and sings *The Sound of Music*. The nuns, and the Mother Abbess in particular, are convinced she is not ready to enter upon a life dedicated solely to religion. The Mother Abbess decides to send Maria away to serve as a temporary governess for the seven children of a widower and retired Austrian Naval officer, Captain Georg von Trapp.

Maria wins over the children's affection after she entertains them and allays their fears during a thunderstorm by singing *My Favorite Things*. She teaches the children to love music and to sing *Do-Re-Mi*. Maria is also sympathetic to the oldest of the children, Liesl, when she falls in love with the village boy, Rolfe. Liesl and Rolfe sing *Sixteen Going on Seventeen*. The Captain introduces Elsa Schraeder from Vienna as his fiancée. Elsa gives him a lavish party. After the children sing *So Long, Farewell* to bid the guests good night, Maria becomes suddenly aware that she has fallen in love with her employer. Horrified, she flees from the villa back to the Abbey, where the Mother Abbess sings *Climb Every Mountain* to encourage Maria to overcome any obstacle that may lie in the way of her happiness.

Returning to the villa, Maria finds that the Captain and his fiancée have separated. Maria and the Captain fall in love and marry in a festive ceremony at the Abbey. After returning from their honeymoon, the Nazis – who by now have invaded Austria – summon the Captain back to naval duty. An avowed anti-Fascist, the Captain resolutely refuses to do so. He sings *Edelweiss* as a defiant statement of Austrian patriotism in the face of the Third Reich. He arranges to flee from the villa with his wife and children. With the Nazis in pursuit, the von Trapps hide in the garden of the Abbey, and after that make their way to freedom by foot over the mountains.

The FCCC has a special connection to various scenes in *The Sound of Music*. During our summer tour to Austria in 2010 we visited many of the locations in which the movie was filmed such as Mondsee Cathedral (the wedding church), the Mirabell Gardens (the Do Re Mi steps),



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the Felsenreitschule (Rock Riding School, a massive rock arena built by the Romans for tournaments where the music festival at which the von Trapp family perform their disappearing act takes place), as well as the majestic mountains around Salzburg.

The Secret Garden is based on the novel of the same name by author Frances Hodgson Burnett and is a tale of hope despite the challenges and tragedies life presents. Set in the early 1900's, the story begins with a young English girl, Mary Lennox, who loses her parents to a cholera outbreak while in India. She is then sent to Yorkshire, England to live with her last remaining relative, her uncle Archibald. Like Mary, Archibald suffered a great loss to his family when his wife Lily died while giving birth to their sickly and bedridden son Colin. This sets him into a deep depression that he is still experiencing when Mary arrives.

While exploring the Yorkshire estate, Mary establishes friendships with members of the household, workers on the grounds, nearby neighbors, and her cousin Colin, Archibald's son. She quickly learns of a "secret" garden and manages to talk her friend, Dickon, into leading her there. This was the garden that Lily, Archibald's wife, cared for so much while she lived, and is the painful reminder of her absence. But, it is this same garden that will provide healing for Archibald and his family.

Upon the urging of Mary, Dickon brings Colin to the garden and he immediately begins feeling better. Mary and all her friends then begin to bring the neglected garden back to life, helping its healing properties grow stronger until finally Colin, once wheelchair bound, is able to walk. Meanwhile Archibald, who has reconciled the loss of his wife Lily, witnesses the miracle that has happened to his son, accepts Mary as his own, and is prepared to move on with his life, newfound family and friends.

Godspell is a musical by Stephen Schwartz with a book by John-Michael Tebelak. The structure of the musical is that of a series of parables, mostly based on the Gospel of Matthew (three of the featured parables are recorded only in the Gospel of Luke). The show centers on a group of followers who are called together to create a community following a



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very loving and knowledgeable teacher. By sharing stories about living good lives and singing about love, joy, gratitude, judgment and redemption, the group of disparate individuals band together with a common purpose to face challenges and obstacles as they are tested along the way.

Mr. Schwartz' Broadway credits include *Wicked*, *Pippin*, *Rags* and *Children of Eden*. He has also composed for movies including *Prince of Egypt*, *Pocahontas* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The FCCC has a special connection to Mr. Schwartz of which we are very proud. In 1998 we had the privilege of performing with the Connecticut Grand Opera & Orchestra on a program entitled "An Operatic Tribute to Broadway" in which the composers Stephen Schwartz and Charles Strouse (*Bye Bye Birdie*, *Annie*, "Those Were the Days" from TV's *All in the Family*) were in residence. It was on this program that the FCCC performed in the world premiere live performance of "When You Believe" from *Prince of Egypt*!

Special Thanks

We are so grateful to the FCCC Auction Committee, parents, and friends who contributed time, donations, and creativity to help make our biggest fund-raising event of the year a success. Many thanks to everyone who bid generously on our auction items. The help, financial support and dedication from all of you are what keep FCCC's voices in perfect harmony!

Susan Broderick and Dorcas Chinyumba
AUCTION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Additional Thanks:
Jennifer Marrelli, Photography
The Bovine & Schreiner Families, Photography & Video



For audition and ticket information, call
Fairfield County Children's Choir
P.O. Box 110588 Trumbull, CT 06611 • (203) 414-4292 • www.SingFCCC.org

Fairfield County Children's Choir
Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder presents...

Spotlight Broadway

Saturday, February 1, 2014 7:00 pm
Klein Memorial Auditorium • Bridgeport, CT
Silent Auction and Refreshments beginning at 5:30 pm



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The Performers

The Choristers of the Fairfield County Children's Choir

Jon Noyes

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER

Lisa Bettke, Kevin Cotellese, Ashley Zdravec

CONDUCTORS

Lisa Bettke & Donna Beatty

PIANO

Donna Beatty & Kevin Cotellese

SYNTHESIZER

Morgan Morse

GUITAR

Rodger Bryan

BASS

Peter Hohmeister

PERCUSSION



Medley from *The Lion King*

Music by Elton John • Lyrics by Tim Rice

Conducted by Lisa Bettke

- Circle of Life Annie Huber, Dasha Bazile, Emily Chizmadia, Allison Nascimento and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- I Just Can't Wait to Be King Edwin Gregory, Julia Johnson, Callie Conroy, Norah Procopio, Hallie Lavin & Combined Choirs
- He Lives In You Bari Lipper, Anika Vanderwal
- Hakuna Matata Stephen Kelly, Mark Lichtman, Domenick Galluzzo and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- Can You Feel the Love Tonight Blaise Carter, Tara Kotulsky & Combined Choirs

Medley from *The Sound of Music*

Music by Rodgers & Hammerstein

Conducted by Ashley Zdravec

- Do-Re-Mi The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- The Sound of Music Melanie Nelson
- Edelweiss The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- Sixteen Going on Seventeen Madeleine Tommins, Kelvin Alvarez
- My Favorite Things Maddie McDermott, Brenna Conroy and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- So Long, Farewell Szilvia Cimino, Stephen Kelley, Madeleine Tommins, Julian Schirnding, Meghan Andrade, Natalie Steele, Sophia Festini
- Climb Ev'ry Mountain Katherine Waugh and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC

INTERMISSION

Visit the Auction!



Medley from *The Secret Garden*

Music by Lucy Simon

Conducted by Kevin Cotellese

- Opening The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- The Girl I Mean To Be Lilly Boyd
- Hold On Amanda Violone
- A Bit of Earth The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- Lily's Eyes Jared Bovine, Kelvin Alvarez
- How Could I Ever Know Laura Carron
- Come To My Garden Reprise The Combined Choirs of the FCCC

Medley from *Godspell*

Music by Stephen Schwartz

Conducted by Jon Noyes

- Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord ... Patrick Agonito, Caroline Lui, Abigail Bruce and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- Day By Day Solo: Sofia Bramante
Ensemble: Erin McCurley, Melissa DeMiao, Eliza Elliot, Charlotte Leibell, Madelyn Mattioli, Amanda Lewin, Emma Palomba, Brooklyn Boehme, Izzy Meltzer and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- Learn Your Lessons Well Bari Lipper
- Light of the World Katherine Vitale, Clarice Pennock, Mia Pernice and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC
- Turn Back, O Man Abi Varsos, Anika Vanderwal
- By My Side Sofie Wall, Aleksandra Suvorova and The FCCC Chamber Singers
- Finale Caroline Lui, Abigail Bruce, Charlotte Leibell, Madelyn Mattioli, Patrick Agonito and The Combined Choirs of the FCCC



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Welcome to the Annual Broadway Concert and Silent Auction of the Fairfield County Children's Choir. We are sure you will enjoy the music presented here tonight and we also hope you will find our auction items to be interesting and exciting. Thank you for attending the concert, bidding on the auction items and supporting the programs of the Fairfield County Children's Choir.

Musical theater, one of the most popular forms of entertainment of stage and screen, evolved from a marriage of operetta and the British, European and American music hall acts of the early days of the 1900's. It came into its golden age on Broadway in the mid-20th century, with composers such as Irving Berlin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, Leonard Bernstein, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe creating many memorable masterpieces. These productions are a treasure trove of irresistible songs loved and embraced by the public. In addition, Broadway show tunes are an important part of the cultural heritage of America and tonight we are thrilled to perform selections from **The Lion King, The Sound of Music, The Secret Garden** and **Godspell**.

One of the most popular Disney animated musicals, **The Lion King**, presents the story of a lion cub's journey to adulthood and acceptance of his royal destiny. Simba begins life as an honored prince, the son of the powerful King Mufasa. The cub's happy childhood turns tragic when his evil uncle Scar murders Mufasa and drives Simba away from the kingdom. In exile the young lion befriends the comically bumbling pair of Pumbaa the warthog and Timon the meerkat and lives a carefree jungle life. As he approaches adulthood, however, he is visited by the spirit of his father, who instructs him to defeat the nefarious Scar and reclaim his rightful throne. Borrowing elements from Hamlet, classical mythology, and African folk tales, *The Lion King* tells its mythic coming-of-age tale featuring the light, rhythmic songs by Elton John and Tim Rice, and a score by Hans Zimmer. Embraced by children and adults alike, the film also spawned hit songs (*Can You Feel the Love Tonight, The Circle of Life*) and a hit Broadway musical.