



### Program Notes & Translations

The origin of **All The Pretty Little Horses** is not fully known. Many assume the folk song is Irish or English, while others believe it to be of African-American descent. This beloved lullaby captivates the listener with a haunting minor melody, arch-like phrases which begin with leaps that gently resolve downward by step, and a "rocking chair" piano accompaniment that infuses Ruth Artman's arrangement with restlessness from beginning to end.

**London Bridge** is the first movement of Nick Page's Nursery Rhyme Cantata, a seven-movement composition for treble voices. Published in 1999, this movement is an example of theme and variations, where the variations are written using major, minor and Lydian modalities and a changing meter structure. Mr. Page plays with the contrasts of happiness and sadness... the happy innocence of a delightful and very old children's song and the sadness of what some believe to be its historical roots from the prison built on top of London Bridge. The intricate piano accompaniment fits right into the theme-and-variations structure and plays an equal role along with the voice parts.

Peter Amidon, who along with his wife, Mary Alice, are versatile and widely respected performing and teaching artists who for the past twenty years have dedicated themselves to traditional song, dance and storytelling. Peter first learned **Sylvie** from a Sweet Honey in the Rock album of children's songs, "All for Freedom." Originally thought to be from the oral tradition, Peter found that it was composed by the great folksinger, Huddie Ledbetter. In his words, "Sylvie is a jewel of a song: spare, elegant; not one wasted note or word." His arrangement is "part of a project to create a library of arrangements of traditional American songs composed by folks steeped in the oral tradition who respect the integrity of the music and poetry."

Nick Page chose three very simple variations for the lovely Zulu lullaby, **Thula S'thandwa**. The piece begins with a Mozartian setting followed by a two-against-three pattern in the piano that is based on the mbira (*thumb piano*) music of Zimbabwe. The ending quotes the "Rock-a-bye Baby" theme which the audience is welcome to join in singing.

Gospel music developed after the Civil War, largely paralleling the development of ragtime, jazz and blues. By the turn of the century many Gospel standards were being written. Charles Albert Tindley, who composed **The Storm Is Passing Over** in 1927, was considered by many to be the "grandfather" of Gospel music. He also wrote the text of the original version of *We Shall Overcome*.

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) has long been credited with capturing the "American" sound in many of his works. In ballets like *Rodeo* and *Billie the Kid*, Copland composes musical landscapes capturing in sound the essence of the frontier and early American settlements. In *Appalachian Spring* he helps create the sound of Americana by including the Shaker tune *Simple Gifts*. In Copland's two sets of *Old American Songs*, he sets many American folks songs for solo voice and piano. Published in



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1954, **At the River** was part of the second set of these songs and was later arranged in 1964 by R. Wilding-White for chorus. This arrangement along with *Simple Gifts*, *Ching-a-Ring Chaw* and *I Bought Me a Cat* are just a few examples of the famous choral arrangements to come from these song sets.

**Cantate Domino** is an innovative contemporary setting of Psalm 149. Dissonant harmonies, tone clusters, special vocal effects and synthesizer accompaniment are included to highlight the text "Sing to the Lord a new song," with an emphasis on new! The piece was written for the Vancouver Children's Choir and given its premiere in 1988 at the International Kathaumixw Festival in British Columbia. Cantate Domino became part of our repertoire in 1999 when we participated in the Niagara International Children's Choir Festival under conductor Jean Ashworth Bartle. Composer Rupert Lang (b. 1948) is Organist and Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Vancouver and director of the Vancouver Children's Choir.

<i>Cantate Domino, canticum novum</i>	Sing to the Lord a new song
<i>Laus eius in ecclesia sanctorum</i>	His praise in the assembly of the faithful
<i>Laetetur Israel in eo, qui fecit eum</i>	Let Israel be glad in his maker
<i>Et filiae Sion.</i>	Let the sons of Zion
<i>Excultent in rege suo.</i>	Rejoice in their King.

**Sesere Eeye** is a traditional song and dance from the Torres Strait Islands in Northern Australia. It is popular with choirs around the world and was brought to Fairfield in 2012 by the Young Adelaide Voices. The text describes the wind and the effects of the wind blowing in the mountains. Our Auction winner, Allie Campbell, will conduct!

Prepare to be entertained as Nick Page leads us in a "Power Sing."

**A Civil War Suite** is a medley of three Civil War era songs combined with a narration of Abraham Lincoln's *Gettysburg Address* and the sounding of *Taps*. This arrangement commemorates the Sesquicentennials (*150th Anniversary*) of the Civil War (1861-1865) and the Battle of Gettysburg (July, 1863).

*Thank you for attending our program  
and please join us again!!*

### Our Special Guest Nick Page

Nick Page is a Boston based author, composer, and conductor also known for his inspirational song leading. He has over one hundred published choral works as well as three books including his SING WITH US songbook from Hal Leonard. Nick wrote his three Mark Twain settings and BEEN DOWN INTO THE SEA for the Fairfield Children's Chorus who also joined him at Carnegie Hall for the premiere of his orchestrated NURSERY RHYME CANTATA. His COMIC BOOK OPERA premiered at Lincoln Center. Nick was a conductor with the Chicago Children's Choir in the 1980s and since 1990 has directed Boston's 200-voice Mystic Chorale.

More info at [www.nickmusic.com](http://www.nickmusic.com).

### Burr Kolo Dancers

- Kayla Cerminaro
- Ethan Fass
- Annabelle Filler
- Eloise Gacetta
- Halley Goodrich
- Emily Griffith
- Ella Holland
- Brendan McMahon
- Sophie Nightingale
- Kate Risley

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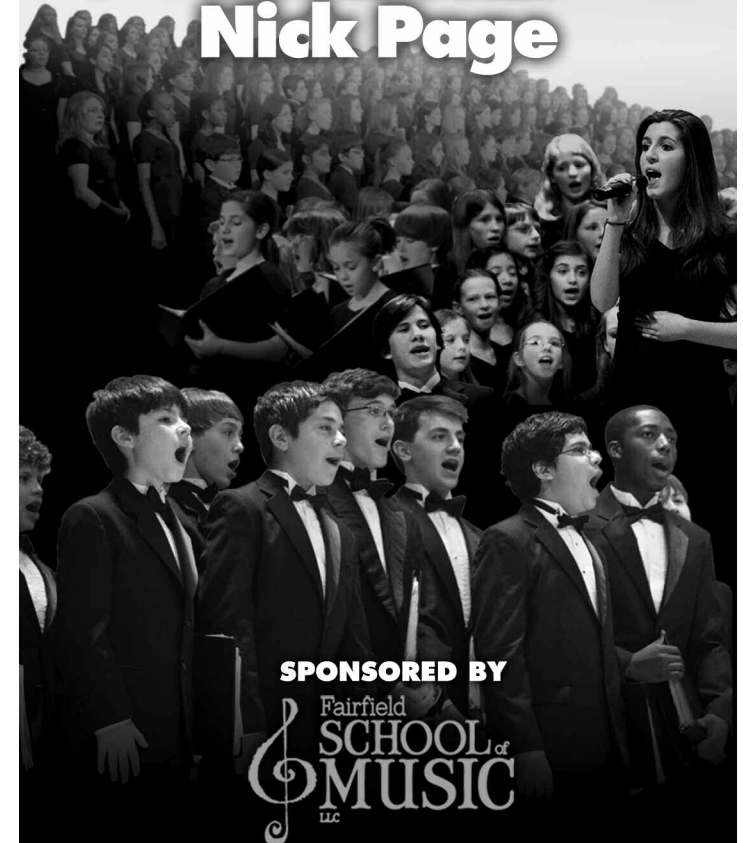


Fairfield County Children's Choir  
P.O. Box 110588 Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203 414-4292 • [www.SingFCCC.org](http://www.SingFCCC.org)

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

# THE MIRACLE OF Singing

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**Nick Page**



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**Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts  
Fairfield University • Fairfield, CT  
Saturday • May 11, 2013 • 7pm**



# Fairfield County Children's Choir

Jon Noyes, Music Director & Founder presents

18th Annual Spring Concert

## THE MIRACLE OF

# Singing

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

## Nick Page

Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 7:00pm

Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts

Fairfield University

### Special Guests

Nick Page – Guest Composer

Lauren Harmata – Guest Conductor

The Burr Kolo Dancers - Carole Maravich, Director

### FCCC Music Staff

Jon Noyes – Music Director & Founder, Chamber Singers Conductor

Lisa Bettke – Chorale Conductor & Accompanist

Kevin Cotellese – Concert Choir Conductor

Cynthia Holberg – Chorus Conductor

Dr. Heather Hamilton – Accompanist

### FCCC Administrative Staff

Jon Noyes – Music Director & Founder

Barbara Brauner – General Manager

Alicen Gachi – Assistant Choir Manager

For audition and ticket information, please contact us at:



# Fairfield County Children's Choir

P.O. Box 110588 Trumbull, CT 06611 • 203 414-4292 • www.SingFCCC.org



## PROGRAM

### Combined Choirs

Niska Banja .....Serbian Folk Song, arr. Nick Page

Fortune Cookies .....Nick Page

*World Premiere Commission in Nine Movements*

### Chorus

Shady Grove .....Appalachian Folk Song, arr. Shirley McRae

All the Pretty Little Horses .....Appalachian Folk Song, arr. Ruth Artman

### Chorale

London Bridge .....Folk Song, arr. Nick Page

Silvie .....Huddie Ledbetter, arr. Peter Amidon

### Concert Choir

Thula S'Thandwa .....Zulu Lullaby, arr. Nick Page

The Storm is Passing Over .....Charles Albert Tindley, arr. B. Baker

### Chamber Singers

At The River .....adapted Aaron Copland, arr. Wilding-White

*Guest Conductor – Lauren Harmata*

Cantate Domino .....Rupert Lang

### Combined Choirs

Sesere eeye .....Torres Strait Islands Folk Song & Dance

*Guest Conductor - Allie Campbell*

Selections to be determined .....with Special Guest, Nick Page

A Civil War Suite .....arr. Noyes/Simmons

*The Battle Cry of Freedom, Tenting on the Old Campground,*

*The Battle Hymn of the Republic, The Gettysburg Address*



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Welcome to the 18th Annual Spring Concert of the Fairfield County Children's Choir! Tonight's concert represents the fourth time Nick Page has joined the FCCC as our special guest. Our program includes pieces composed and arranged by Nick, including a brand new composition expressly written for this concert. In addition, we have many beautiful and unique selections for your enjoyment.

**Niska Banja** is Nick Page's most well known publication. It is a Serbian folk song popular throughout the Balkan region. The characteristic 9/8 time signature is performed quick-quick-quick-slow (2 + 2 + 2 + 3 = 9) and is counted here in four dancer's beats with the fourth being the longest. We welcome The Burr Kolo Dancers and their director, Carole Maravich, as our special guests! Nick gives us this translation

*We shall go to the baths of Nis, where we shall kiss, kiss, kiss.*

The process of commissioning new works for our choir has many exciting and wonderful aspects. Involving the choristers allows them to consider the creative process in a way that has led some to try their own hand at composition. Also, we have supported the writing of new music, contributing to the ability of talented people such as Nick Page to make a living composing for children's choirs, as well as providing an opportunity for new music to be performed in public.

Commissioning new music adds to an ever-growing body of repertoire for children's choirs. Certainly we have benefited from the music commissioned by many other groups around the country and all over the world. Previous commissions by the FCCC from Nick Page, including the *Three Mark Twain Settings* and *Been Down Into the Sea*, have now been published and are being performed by choirs around the world.

Finally, there is something special for both the performer and the audience in knowing that the music is being performed and heard for the very first time. We are very pleased to present the world premiere of **Fortune Cookies**, completed on February 22, 2013.

The following notes are from Nick Page:

*I was with friends at a Chinese restaurant, sharing fortune cookies. Mine said, "The universe without music would be madness." This was the start. I added some well-known short phrases as well as several of my own to form a series of FORTUNE COOKIES.*

*I have fond memories of writing my three Mark Twain settings as well as "Been Down Into The Sea" for Jon Noyes and the Fairfield County Children's Choir. For FORTUNE COOKIES, I wanted to try something new, an a cappella piece that would allow for a kind of organic simplicity and at the same time be richly complex. A leaf is a perfect example of something both simple and complex. Its design is pure simplicity, a musical repetition of the theme expressed in the design of the tree, the root system and its relation to the world around it. On the other hand, the way a leaf turns sunlight into air and energy is an exquisite example of complexity. As with everything I write, I wanted a full range of emotions from joy to sadness and from silliness to solemnity.*

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### 1) Keep It Simple (*Combined Choruses*)

To find the truth, the simple truth, keep it simple.

Keep it simple as a mountain stream, simple as a moonbeam, simple as a star, keep it simple.

### 2) What's Heavier, A Thought Or A Promise? (*Chorus*)

What's heavier, a worry or a smile?

What's heavier, a ton of wonder or a ton of fear?

What's heavier, a million zillion pounds of really amazing, absolutely fabulous creativity or a million zillion pounds of Joy?

### 3) What Is The Sound Of One Hand Clapping? (*Combined Choruses*)

### 4) When Does I Become We And We Become I? (*Chamber Singers*)

### 5) We Can Choose Love or We Can Choose Hate (*Chorale*)

I will choose love.

### 6) I Love Everywhere I Go Because God Is There. (*Concert Choir*)

I love everywhere I go because Nature is there.

I love everywhere I go because humanity's there.

I love everywhere I go because I am there.

### 7) Anything Can Become Anything. (*Chamber Singers*)

Anything I think can become anything. Anything I think therefore

become anything. Anything I think therefore I am anything.

Anything I think therefore I am. I think therefore I am. I think

therefore I am anything. Anything I think anything I am. Anything I

think anything can become. Anything I think can become anything.

Anything can become anything. Anything can become.

### 8) Wherever You Go, There You Are. (*Concert Choir*)

Wherever you went, you are not there now unless you never left.

Wherever you will go you will be. Wherever you wish you had gone,

maybe you can still go there. But for now, this is where you have

gone so this is where you are.

### 9) The Universe Without Music Would Be Madness. (*Combined Choruses*)

If a child sings in the forest, will anybody hear?

**Shady Grove** is a popular song and fiddle tune which may derive its name from the towns of Shady Grove, Kentucky or Virginia. Shady Grove typifies the humor and good nature of folk songs from the southern Appalachians. There are many variations and other verses in the same general vein involving love and courtship. Our performance will include stomping, clapping and a live banjo solo to add to the mountain flavor!