



Weekly Newsletter

March 22, 2019

Doc's Corner

- Sunday, March 31 concert at First United Methodist Church (5510 N. Central Ave, Phoenix 85012). B uniform. Riser and sound shell crew at 1:00. Call for singers is 1:45. This is a FREE concert where we will ask for donations for SOUNDS Academy. The concert should be done about 4:10. There is a reception following the performance.
- Sign-ups for our outreach concerts on Monday, April 15 are available using the following link. The number of tenors I get for this will determine how many basses and baritones I'm able to take—i.e., I need a good balance of sections. Look for the tab at the bottom "Outreach - Schools".
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12rri9tgwnf-LtdOsqTlChAe4-ynmoGZIMn2D-Ff8adE/edit?ts=5c9506ee#gid=1372474014>
- Spring Scholarship Raffle > Please consider asking businesses to donate prizes so that we can raise money for our scholarship students.
- There is one more solo that I'm likely to do. It's for Professor Harold Hill who will do an intro before Seventy-Six Trombones. If you're invested in hearing it, please shoot me an email.

Upcoming Events

March

31 (Sunday) 3:00pm, 1:45pm call
Outreach concert > "B" Uniform
First United Methodist Church
5510 N. Central Ave, Phoenix 85012

April

13 (Saturday) > Spring Social 5:00-9:00pm
Home of David Schwarz
5901 E Vernon Ave
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

15 (Monday) > Sing for two inner-city elementary schools
Approximately 9:15 to noon

28 (Sunday) > concert (3:00, 1:30 call)
Church at Litchfield Park
300 N. Old Litchfield Rd. Litchfield Park 85340

30 (Tuesday) > concert (7:30, 6:00 call)
Velda Rose United Methodist Church
5540 East Main Street, Mesa 85205

Pre-Rehearsal Dining

Please join us at 6:00pm Tuesday at Pino's Pizza, Thomas Road just west of 1st Avenue. Have one of their fabulous Italian sandwiches, a salad, or a plate of pasta – or even a pizza! Or just come sit with us for some fellowship.

To Be Memorized

Start working on these NOW! You know how long it takes. If you wait until the last minute, you won't be able to do it.

Seventy-Six Trombones
Promised Land
A Tribute to the Armed Forces
Wade in the Water
Down in the Valley
Harriet Tubman

SECTION LEADERS (* = Administrative)								
LAST	FIRST	SECTION	EMAIL		LAST	FIRST	SECTION	EMAIL
* Bickerstaff	David	1Tenor	davebick@gmail.com		Ferris	Justin	Baritone	justin@justinferris.com
Stevens	Ryan	1Tenor	rdsteve1@asu.edu		Griset	Rick	Baritone	ilytiab@yahoo.com
* Bennett	Peter	2Tenor	peter.bennett@asu.edu		* Loui	Jim	Baritone	jimloui1202@gmail.com
Suelflow	Jim	2Tenor	jim@jsdla.com		* Janac	Dick	Bass	dick@rjanac.com
					Pentzien	Jeff	Bass	jtpentzien@gmail.com
					McComb	Sean	Bass	seandavidmccomb@gmail.com

Doc's Challenge: Lose 10 pounds by tour time

Doc has vowed to lose 10 pounds by tour time and has challenged us to join him.

To keep him and us on track, there will be a scale and whiteboard available at each rehearsal between now and the Annual Meeting. The whiteboard will list our names, starting weight, and weigh-in weight at each rehearsal.

You are all free to participate, or not. If you don't want your name and weight made public, then of course you can elect not to participate.

Members' Corner

[Members' Corner is a place where members may post news or requests of a personal nature. Please e-mail all copy to [Alex Areno](#) by 9:00 Thursday evening.]

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Stevens	Ryan	1Tenor	rdsteve1@asu.edu		Griset	Rick	Baritone	ilytiab@yahoo.com
* Bennett	Peter	2Tenor	peter.bennett@asu.edu		* Loui	Jim	Baritone	jimloui1202@gmail.com
Suelflow	Jim	2Tenor	jim@jsdla.com		* Janac	Dick	Bass	dick@rjanac.com
					Pentzien	Jeff	Bass	jtpentzien@gmail.com
					McComb	Sean	Bass	seandavidmccomb@gmail.com

PROGRAM NOTES

Battle Hymn of the Republic

Julia Ward Howe, a well-known abolitionist and poet, visited President Abraham Lincoln at the White House in 1861. During that visit she attended a review of Union troops and joined them in singing the popular marching tune “John Brown’s Body” in her lovely mezzo-soprano voice, to much acclaim from the soldiers. That night, in her room at Washington’s Willard Hotel, she awoke from a sound sleep to write down new lyrics for the tune that, in her words, “began to twine themselves in my mind.” A few months later, Howe’s “Battle Hymn of the Republic” was published on the front page of the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine. It quickly became a rallying anthem for the North during the Civil War, and later a favorite of civil rights activists. Peter J. Wilhousky wrote the rousing arrangement in 1944 that Orpheus sings here. Wilhousky, born in New Jersey of Ukrainian immigrant parents, also wrote the lyrics to “Carol of the Bells,” which he set to a Ukrainian folk tune in 1936.

God Bless America

Irving Berlin wrote “God Bless America” in 1918 but set the first draft aside, not picking it up again until 1938. Berlin regarded it as the most important piece he ever wrote, and directed that all royalties be paid to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America –



an understanding that exists to this day. The song became wildly popular thanks to a recording made by the legendary singer Kate Smith. In the 1940s a movement arose to make “God Bless America” the National Anthem, but neither Miss Smith nor Irving Berlin supported the effort and so it died. Even so, the song is often played at sporting events and patriotic gatherings, and Miss Smith herself sang it at a Philadelphia Flyers hockey game in 1973 – a surprise appearance that earned her a three minute standing ovation. Ever since, Flyers fans have regarded the playing of “God Bless America” before games as a good-luck charm – and win/lose statistics seem to bear them out! As they say in Philadelphia, “The game ain’t started ‘till the fat lady sings.” Kate Smith was 5’10” tall but weighed 235 pounds at the height of her career. Irving Berlin himself, at age 86, sang “God Bless America” at the White House in 1974 in honor of returning Vietnam War prisoners. It was his last public appearance.

Kate Smith and Irving Berlin signing autographs. I can't find any data on how tall Berlin was or how much he weighed, but Miss Smith upstages him, to say the least!