

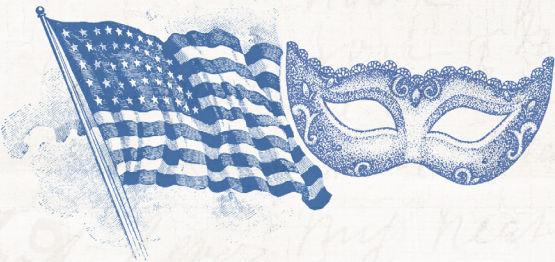


# FROM STAGES TO PAGES:

Songs from Musical Theater and the Great American  
Songbook for Soprano and Orchestra

Featuring local soprano soloist:

**DR. MAHARI FREEMAN**



3:00 PM on June 1, 2025 at the Heritage Center Ballroom

# FROM STAGES TO PAGES:

Songs from Musical Theater and the Great American  
Songbook for Soprano and Orchestra

Selections from *Les Misérables*

Claude-Michel Schönberg  
(b. 1944)  
arr. Bob Lowden

America the Beautiful

Samuel A. Ward  
(1848–1903)  
arr. Joshua Choe

Amazing Grace

John Newton  
(1725–1807)  
arr. Jim Edwards

Summertime from *Porgy and Bess*

George Gershwin  
(1898–1937)  
arr. Patrick Bouchon

Cole Porter Salute

Cole Porter  
(1891–1964)  
arr. John Whitney

Highlights from *WICKED*

Stephen Schwartz  
(b. 1948)  
arr. Ted Ricketts

## INTERMISSION

Gershwin by George!

George Gershwin  
(1898–1937)  
arr. Jerry Brubaker

Beautiful Dreamer

Stephen C. Foster  
(1826–1864)  
arr. Robert A. Hudson

Five Appalachian Folksongs for Soprano

Jack Jarrett  
(1934–2020)

Irving Berlin's America

Irving Berlin  
(1888–1989)  
arr. Paul Murtha



## CONDUCTOR

Dr. David A. Gordon

## FLUTE

Christine Brillion  
Shelly Johnson  
Nena Harris  
Elizabeth Jordan  
\*Elaina Palada

## OBOE

Annesha Dib  
\*Donna Swahlan

## CLARINET

\*Heather Gering  
Amy Ramesh  
Rebekah Watterson

## BASSOON

\*Michele Jean-Jumeau  
\*Anne Manseau

## FRENCH HORN

James Brown  
\*Gail Clarke  
Paula Dilanchian  
Jill Wyse

## TRUMPET

Josh Cherry  
\*Ken Nodes  
Joe Polsgrove  
Traci Quinn

## TROMBONE/BARITONE

\*Larry Farr  
Erick Fischer  
Todd Harland-White  
Glenn Luetkemeier  
Jennifer Samson

## TUBA

\*Nick Berns  
Ellyssa Roger

## PERCUSSION

\*Chris Miller  
Jake Morrison  
Kyle Rodgers

## VIOLIN

Stephanie Bier  
\*\*Amy Cairns  
Luke Castaneros  
Daniel Cherry  
Emily Duke  
\*Jim Edwards  
Tomoko Hannah  
Esther Koops  
Alex Kuamoo  
Corrie Linsz  
Peg Mueller  
Elizabeth Prater  
Shari Schwarzwald  
Christine Wu  
Cheryl Yung  
Emylie Zollo

## VIOLA

Peggy Furman  
\*Hennigan Kearns  
Kyle Marcum  
Gretchen Mortimore-Thill  
Kristin Rogentine-Lee

## CELLO

\*Elizabeth Alexander  
Caryn Crye  
Pronda Few  
Stephanie Hoffman  
John Mooney

## STRING BASS

\*David Manseau  
Jonathan Todd

## HARP

\*Renee Dib

## KEYBOARD/PIANO

Collin Willoughby

\*\*Concertmaster  
\*Section Leader



## DR. DAVID A. GORDON

### CONDUCTOR

A San Francisco-Bay area native, **David A. Gordon**, began his formal conducting education at DePauw University. After graduating in 2015, he was selected to be Opera Parallèle's 2015–2016 conducting intern. In 2016, he joined Mill Valley Philharmonic as their assistant conductor and administrative assistant, positions he held for two years. In 2018, David resumed his formal education at Syracuse University, where he earned his Master's of Music in Instrumental Conducting and served as the University Orchestra Teaching Assistant. Upon graduating from Syracuse in 2020, David entered a DMA conducting program at the University of South Carolina; he graduated in the spring of 2023.

David has appeared as a guest conductor with the Sonoma County Philharmonic, the Onondaga Civic Symphony, and the Aiken Civic Orchestra, and served as the interim conductor for the SCPYO Symphony Orchestra. In addition to conducting the wonderful musicians of the Stateline Community Orchestra, David teaches music at Devonshire Elementary and is a part-time instructor of music at Central Piedmont Community College.

## JIM EDWARDS

### ARRANGER

**Jim Edwards** holds the Bachelor of Music degree from Old Dominion University with additional studies at the University of Southern Maine and Centenary College of Louisiana. He is active as a composer/arranger and orchestrator. He is also active as a freelance violinist and violist, having performed extensively throughout the Southeastern U.S.



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## DR. MAHARI FREEMAN

### SOPRANO

Charlotte native, **Mahari Freeman** earned a Bachelor's of Music from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's of Music from the University of Michigan, both in Vocal Performance. Mahari completed her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of South Carolina, focusing on operatic repertoire composed by African American women. Mahari has performed as a soprano soloist in numerous oratorio works including Handel's *Messiah* and *Dixit Dominus*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*, Bach's *Schweig stille, plaudert nicht (Coffee Cantata)* and *Cantatas 51 and 61*, Mozart's *Exsultate Jubilate*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, and J.C. Bach's *Magnificat*, and more.

Operatic roles include Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, the title role of *Cendrillon* in Pauline Viardot's *Cendrillon*. Mahari has performed in various operas including *La clemenza di Tito*, *La traviata*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *I Dream*.

In 2017, Mahari had the unique opportunity to premiere Hyo-Won Woo's composition, *Requiem aeternam*, as soloist in concert with the Sistine Chapel Choir. Mahari has participated in several young artist programs including the Amherst Early Music Festival, Aspen Music School and Festival, where she was an Aspen Fellow; as well as the Le Chiavi Institute of Bel Canto Studies at the Texas Music Festival. In 2019, Mahari won an encouragement award in the Metropolitan Opera Competition. In 2021, Mahari was a finalist in the Audrey Rooney Vocal Competition.

Mahari was a Resident Artist with Opera Carolina until 2021, performing in various community events. She is an avid soloist, having recently been the featured soloist during the Pride Symphonic Band's December 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 holiday concerts. Other recent performances include concerts with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra as well as the UNC Charlotte Orchestra and the Harvey Gantt Center in Charlotte, NC.

Mahari currently lives in Charlotte with her husband, son, and daughter who was welcomed in March 2025. Mahari currently serves as Music Department Chair at Central Piedmont Community College where she also teaches voice and performs regularly.



## SELECTIONS FROM *LES MISÉRABLES*

Best known as a musical, *Les Misérables* was initially a novel written by Victor Hugo in 1862. The story follows several iconic characters in France beginning in 1815 and culminating in the June Rebellion in 1832. Since the book's publication, "*Les Mis*" has been adapted into many different types of media, including multiple films, television series, and even anime. The musical (scored by Claude-Michel Schönberg) premiered in Paris in 1980, with the English language version premiering on Broadway in 1987.

## AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

This patriotic American song combines Katharine Lee Bates' poem, "Pikes Peak," with the hymn melody, "Oh Mother, Dear Jerusalem," composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward. Though the two artists never met, this pairing of poem to melody was published as *America the Beautiful* in 1910. It evokes much emotion and has become one of the most popular American patriotic songs.



## AMAZING GRACE

The words of this well known hymn were written in 1772 by English clergyman and poet, John Newton. The verses are self-reflective as Newton evangelized his own conversion to a better Christian life. Originally, this work was written and published as a poem entitled "Faith's Review and Expectation" and was likely chanted in church services. Another American composer, William Walker, paired the verses with his "New Britain" melody. The pairing was published in 1835 as "Amazing Grace." This form is what has become one of the most recognized Christian hymns in the world. SCO violinist, Jim Edwards, has written this arrangement for today's performance.

## SUMMERTIME FROM *PORGY AND BESS*

Summertime is an aria composed by George Gershwin for his opera *Porgy and Bess*. This jazz inspired song is a lullaby for Clara to sing to her child in Act I. It is repeated several more times throughout the opera. Although composed by George Gershwin, the lyrics were written by Ira Gershwin (George's brother) and DuBose Heyward.



## COLE PORTER SALUTE

Cole Porter was an American composer and prolific songwriter who lived between 1891 and 1964. Over the course of his life, Porter wrote hundreds of songs for Broadway shows, movie musicals, and television specials. Notably, Porter was awarded the very first Tony Award for Best Musical in 1949 for *Kiss Me, Kate*. *Cole Porter Salute* features four iconic songs: *Another Op'nin', Another Show*; *In the Still of the Night*; *Anything Goes*; and *Night and Day*.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM WICKED

Wicked, the musical, has been thrillifying audiences with hit songs (and made-up words) since its stage premiere in June 2003. However, Elphaba, Glinda and company began casting their spells over audiences in Gregory Maguire's 1995 book, *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*—which in turn is based on Lyman Baum's 1900 novel, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. The craze appears to have crescendoed recently with the release of *Wicked: Part I* in 2024. SCO is proud to festivate some of the musical's greatest hits with you this afternoon.



### GERSHWIN BY GEORGE!

*Strike Up the Band!* Or in this case orchestra! More than a medley, *Gershwin by George* is an homage to a man who is legendary in the landscape of American music. Known for his ability to masterfully blend classical and jazz styles, George Gershwin's music has remained remarkably fresh throughout the many decades. Today's medley features favorites such as *Strike Up the Band*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Embraceable You*, *An American in Paris*, *Prelude II*, *Summertime*, and *Rhapsody in Blue*.

## BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

Believed to be American songwriter Stephen Foster's last composition, this sentimental ballad was published posthumously in March 1864. The song tells of a lover serenading a "Beautiful Dreamer," a woman who is oblivious to the cares of the world. It is very typical of American folk songs with its repetitive melody and basic harmonic accompaniment.



### FIVE APPALACHIAN FOLK SONGS

Jack M. Jarrett (1934-2020), a native of Asheville, NC was a music professor at UNC-G, North Carolina School of the Arts and the Berklee College of Music in Boston. Four of the five folk songs performed today, arranged by Mr. Jarrett, are love songs. The fifth, *The Honest Miller* is a song about a miller trying to determine which of his sons is most suitable to take over the mill when he is gone. As with many folk songs, each song may go by various titles and may also exist in different melodic versions. The love songs performed today speak of lost love, pining for a far away love, and lament due to separation.

## IRVING BERLIN'S AMERICA

Enjoy this 10-minute tribute to American composer, Irving Berlin. This medley weaves together six of Irving Berlin's greatest hits that he wrote during his 1888-1989 lifetime. You are certain to recognize *Alexander's Ragtime Band*; *There's No Business Like Show Business*; *Puttin' On The Ritz*; *Always*; *Blue Skies*; and *God Bless America*.



Sourced from Cameron MacKintosh<sup>1</sup>; CPR News<sup>2</sup>; Britannica<sup>3</sup>; Original Film Art<sup>4</sup>; Music Theatre International<sup>5</sup>; Blumenthal Arts<sup>6</sup>; Masterworks Broadway<sup>7</sup>; PBS<sup>8</sup>; Barry Vance<sup>9</sup>; TCM<sup>10</sup>



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Thank you to our community partners: SCO violinist, Emily Duke, for designing our program; MPV Properties and SCO flutist, Shelly Johnson, for printing our programs; PUMC for their support and providing rehearsal space; and The Heritage Center, AJ Wood, and Joel for hosting us today.

Thank you to our MC, Peg Furman, our ushers, and all of our wonderful musicians and their families for a great 2024-2025 concert season!



### THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

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