When Chopin, Mozart and Tschaikovsky make the Hit Parade ...





SATURDAY, MAY 5 ● 7:30 PM Living Word Fellowship Church 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue FAIRFIELD

FRIDAY, MAY 11 ● 8:00 PM
Community Presbyterian Church
425 Hemlock Street
VACAVILLE

SUNDAY, MAY 6 ● 7:00 PM First Church of Christ, Scientist 4829 Folsom Boulevard SACRAMENTO

SATURDAY, MAY 12 ● 7:30 PM St. Clement's Episcopal Church 2837 Claremont Boulevard BERKELEY



Samantics is a non-profit singing group that exists to build public appreciation for the widest possible range of vocal music through performance and education. Founded in 2009, the 30-person chorus hails from Sacramento, Natomas, Davis, Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Benicia, Vallejo, and Glen Ellen, and performs throughout the greater Sacramento Valley and the Bay Area. For each concert, Samantics strives to provide an entertaining mixture of music ranging from classical to Vaudeville, ensuring that a Samantics concert is like no other.



Sam Schieber directed the 70-voice North Bay Opera Theatre Ensemble from 2003-2008 and began Samantics in 2009. He has been Musical Director for theaters in the Sacramento area (most recently STC's *A Christmas Carol*) and Solano County, as well as 42nd St. Moon's "Lost Musicals" series in San Francisco. Sam appeared at San Francisco's famed Plush Room with cabaret partner Lesley Hamilton. He taught musical theatre for the Actor Training Program at Solano College, where he also directed student cabarets and concert versions of seldom-performed musicals. Sam is a vocal coach/accompanist in Sacramento and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing, The Dramatists Guild and The Recording Academy. His original theatrical scores include *Adventures in Shakespeareland* and *Those Darn Donners*.

Adaptations of classical music have made the pop charts from the early 1940s on. Here are a few of the pieces we offer in this concert, with their respective ranks on the charts. Chopin must be proud indeed.







# Who's who in SAMANTICS



#### first soprano

Kerry Brown (Vacaville)
Lisa Singh (Vacaville)
Jan Staples (Vacaville)
Jill Wagoner (Glen Ellen)

#### second soprano

Susan Cox (Fairfield)
Trella Malato (Vallejo)
Orlana Van Zandt (Sacramento)
Debbie Walker (Natomas)



### DON'T YOU KNOW?



#### mezzo soprano

Vanessa Archuleta (Davis)
Dorothy Bench (Vacaville)
Marissa Dunlap (Vacaville)
Emma Krause (Sacramento)
Madeleine Wieland (Sacramento)
Lisa Wright (Vacaville)

#### director

Sam Schieber (Sacramento)



#### contralto

Onalee Castelan (Fairfield) Anne Henly (Benicia) Christine Nicholson (Sacramento) JoAn Wade (Vacaville) Jackie Zipp (Vacaville)

first tenor Eddie Voyce (West Sacramento) McLeod Larsen (Suisun City)





# second tenor

Robert Rennicks (Sacramento) Ryan Ritter (Sacramento)

#### baritone

Gary Levy (Fairfield) Matt Van Zandt (Sacramento) Quinten Voyce (West Sacramento)

#### bass

John Reilly Saunders (Sacramento) Brandon Walker (Natomas)



# SAMANTICS' CLASSY PROGRAM OF CLASSICAL HITS

#### **ALEXANDER PORFIRYEVICH BORODIN (1833-1887)**

String Quartet No. 2 in D Major (1881)

#### **JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)**

"O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden" (1727)
"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (1716)

Quinten Voyce Eddie, Ryan, Quinten John Reilly, Brandon

#### **LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)**

Piano Sonata No. 14 in C-sharp minor (1801) Minuet in G major, WoO 10, No. 2 (1796)

Orlana Van Zandt Rvan Ritter

#### **JOHANNES BRAHMS (1833-1897)**

Waltz No. 15 in A Flat, Op. 39 (1865) Symphony No. 3 in F major, Op. 90(1883) Christine Nicholson McLeod Larsen

#### **CHRISTIAN PETZOLD (1677-1733)**

Minuet in G Major, BWV Anh. 114 (1725)

Kerry Brown

#### **MUZIO CLEMENTI (1752-1832)**

Sonatina in G major, Rondo, Op. 36 No. 5 (1797)

#### **WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)**

Piano Concerto No. 21, K 467 (1785)

Brandon Walker

#### FRÉDÉRIC FRANÇOIS CHOPIN (1810-1849)

Prelude in A Major, Op. 28 No. 7 (1839)

Waltz in D Flat Major, Op. 64 No. 1 (1847)

Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op. 9 No. 2 (1832)

Étude in E major, Op. 10 No. 3 (1832)

Fantaisie-Impromptu in C-sharp minor, Op. posth. 66 (1834)

Polonaise in A-flat major, Op. 53 (1842)

Prelude in C minor, Op. 28 No. 20 (1839) Eddie Voyce

#### **CLAUDE-ACHILLE DEBUSSY (1862-1918)**

"Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune" (1894)

Robert Rennicks

#### PIETRO ANTONIO STEFANO MASCAGNI (1863-1945)

Intermezzo (CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA, 1890)

Gary Levy

#### **CHARLES-CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS (1835-1921)**

"Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix" (SAMSON AND DELILAH, 1877)

Madeleine Wieland

#### FRIEDRICH VON FLOTOW (1812-1883)

"M'appari tutt'amor" (MARTHA, 1847)

Eddie Voyce

#### **ALEXANDRE CÉSAR LÉOPOLD (GEORGES) BIZET (1838-1875)**

"Habanera" (CARMEN, 1875) Jill Wagoner, Trella Malato, Onalee Castalan

#### GIACOMO ANTONIO DOMENICO MICHELE SECONDO MARIA PUCCINI (1858-1924)

"Quando me'n vo" (LA BOHÈME, 1896) Vanessa Archuleta

#### **GIOACHINO ANTONIO ROSSINI (1792-1868)**

"Largo al factotum" (IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA, 1816) Ryan Ritter

#### **JACQUES OFFENBACH (1819-1880)**

"Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour" LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN (1881) Madeleine Wieland

#### **AMILCARE PONCHIELLI (1834-1886)**

"Dance of the Hours" (LA GIOCONDA, 1876)

Gary Levy

#### **GIACOMO PUCCINI (1858-1924)** MADAME BUTTERFLY (1904)

"Ancora un passo" (Butterfly's Entrance) Lisa Singh, Bob Rennicks Coro a bocca chiusa ("Humming Chorus") Eddie Vovce "Un bel di"

#### **SERGEI VASILIEVICH RACHMANINOFF (1873-1943)**

Piano Concerto No. 2, Op. 18 (1900)

Prelude in C-sharp minor, Op.3, No.2 (1892)

Prelude in G minor, Op. 23, No. 5 (1901)

Susan Cox

#### **NIKOLAI ANDREYEVICH RIMSKY-KORSAKOV (1844-1908)**

Scheherazade (1888)

#### **PYOTR ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY (1840-1893)**

Symphony No. 6 in B minor, Op. 74, Pathétique (1893)

Symphony No. 5 in E minor, Op. 64 (1888)

Romeo and Juliet Overture-Fantasy (1870)

Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23 (1875)

#### **JOHANN PACHELBEL (1653-1706)**

Canon in D major (c.1694)

Madeleine Wieland, Eddie Voyce



#### TIME MAGAZINE

Monday, June 23, 1947

Music: Full Moon & Empty Arms

Hearing his favorite classics mangled by a dance band, many a music lover has longed to take out after the guilty man, but most lovers of the classics do not know where to look. A 32-year-old Tin Pan Alleyite named Ted Mossman is their man.

By setting classics to 4/4 jazz time and adding banal lyrics, Mossman has made more money rewriting masterpieces than the original composers did in writing them. His most successful swipe was Chopin's Polonaise in A Flat, which he turned into Till the End of Time. It was the best-selling jazz record of 1945. (Helped by the notoriety, an undespoiled version of Polonaise became the best-selling classical record of 1946.) Taking Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 apart, he extracted Ever and Forever from the first movement, and Full Moon and Empty Arms from the third. He rewrote Liebestod from Wagner's Tristan und Isolde and called it Time Stands Still. He converted Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf into Dingbat the Singing Cat and is now waiting for When I Write My Song (from Saint-Saens' aria My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice) to make the Hit Parade. Rimsky-Korsakov's Hymn to the Sun became Mossman's To Love a Dream.

Among the few composers spared Mossman's working-over were Bach, Beethoven and Schumann. Last week Schumann took the count. Mossman published three Tin Pan Alley adaptations of Schumann, timed to soften up the U.S. for a movie on Schumann's life, Song of Love, in which pianist Arthur Rubinstein plays Schumann's music straight (TIME, May 26). Schumann's Träumerei will be crooned and swung as Fantasy, the song Widmung will be known as Dedication. From the great A Minor Piano Concerto, Mossman has wrung a vapid tune called A Love Story.

Mossman, a balding, limpid-eyed arranger who can bat out an "adaptation" in a day, has done 400 of them. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, he has turned out some Gershwinesque compositions of his own. His New York Concerto is to be played by the Boston "Pops" Orchestra this summer. He has also won a fellowship to study composition and conducting at Serge Koussevitzky's Berkshire Music Center.

Mossman draws the line at rewriting Beethoven and Bach. Says he: "Beethoven can be adapted, but I don't like to-it's so perfect." With the air of a man piously renouncing a chance for a fast buck he adds: "I'd never touch Bach. There a couple of themes in the St. Matthew Passion and the Magnificat-but I wouldn't touch them."

#### TCHAIKOVSKY ON BROADWAY!

Most notable classical composers have had a song or two adapted into more popular forms, but a few lucky ones have had their work reimagined into complete Broadway scores. The following is by no means exhaustive.

FREDERIC CHOPIN - WHITE LILACS (1928), and POLONAISE (1945) with lyrics by John LaTouche

**GEORGES BIZET** - CARMEN JONES (1943), lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein

**ANTON DVORAK** - SUMMER SONG (1955)

**GAETANO DONIZETTI** - NON PASQUALE (1955)

FRANZ SCHUBERT - BLOSSOM TIME (1921)

Three for **PETER TCHAIKOVSKY** - NATJA (1925), NUTCRACKER JIVE (1943) with lyrics by LaTouche, and MUSIC IN MY HEART (1947)



and at least six for **JACQUES OFFENBACH** - A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING (1904), THE LOVE SONG (1925), HELEN GOES TO TROY (1944), THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN THE WORLD (1961) and LA BELLE (1962), THE GAME OF LOVE (1985)



Another three provided scores for television musicals:

NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV - MARCO POLO (1956) ROBERT SCHUMANN - HEIDI (1955) JOHANN STRAUSS, JR. - HOLIDAY (1956)

Songwriting team **Robert Wright & George Forrest** made a career out of adapting classical melodies into Broadway scores:

ALEXANDER BORODIN - KISMET (1953),
reworked as TIMBUKTU! (1978)

EDVARD GRIEG - SONG OF NORWAY (1944)

SERGEI RACHMANINOFF - ANYA (1965)

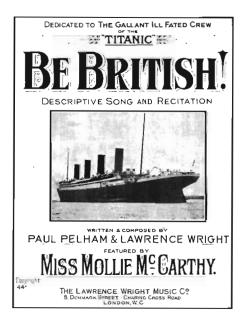
CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS - DUMAS & SON (1967)

THE JOHANN STRAUSSES SR. AND JR. THE GREAT WALTZ (1949)

HEITOR VILLA-LOBOS - MAGDALENA (1948)

#### EXTRA! EXTRA! TITANIC SAILS AGAIN!

By popular demand, the Titanic–well, the Samantics tribute to the Titanic--will make another voyage!



Excerpts from Dick Frantzreb's review on SacChoralCalendar.com:

"A remarkable musical event ... More than a musical performance, this was living history. Without being maudlin, it conveyed a respect for those affected by this tragedy and gave a unique perspective of the event that goes beyond those offered by movies, books or TV specials. The song selection was inspired. And between most songs were the personal perspectives of passengers – brief excerpts from their reminiscences that were not just read, but acted by the individual performers. For anyone with a heart and with the ability to empathize, this program was an emotional experience. It is simultaneously a memorial to a great tragedy and a celebration of the human spirit that deserves to be told and retold."

If you missed the first excursion ...

be sure to catch the next one!

Dates will be announced shortly, so be sure to sign up for our mailing list. You'll receive announcements of future Samantics concerts, shows and special events ... and nothing else!



## Fall 2009 ENNIO, HENRY & JOHN

The Music of Motion Picture Composers Ennio Morricone, Henry Mancini and John Barry

## The Musical Event of January 2010 AN EVENING WITH MIRANDA

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Fall 2010
THE MUSIC OF ALFRED HITCHCOCK

June 2011
THE SINGING, SWINGING '60S!

December 2011

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April 2012

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ANNIVERSARY OF THE TITANIC

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SAMANTICS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the regulations of the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions to SAMANTICS are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

P.O. Box 5418, Vacaville, CA 95698

samanticschoir.com

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For information about choral groups in the greater Sacramento area, visit



sacchoralcalendar.com