

## 2018 Pops Concerts Program Notes

### **Hooray for Hollywood**

"Hooray for Hollywood," written by Richard A. Whiting with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, appeared in the 1937 film *Hollywood Hotel*. It was performed by Johnnie Davis and Frances Langford, accompanied by Benny Goodman and his orchestra. The song's popularity has far surpassed that of the movie, as "Hooray for Hollywood" has become an anthem of sorts for the movie industry.

### **Thanks for the Memory**

"Thanks for the Memory" is inextricably associated with Bob Hope as his theme song. The song was introduced by Hope and Shirley Ross in the 1938 film *The Big Broadcast of 1938* and it won the Academy Award for Best Original Song. It has been recorded by Bing Crosby, Rosemary Clooney, Ella Fitzgerald, Rod Stewart, and many others. The American Film Institute ranked "Thanks for the Memory" No. 63 in *100 Years...100 Songs*, a list of the top 100 songs in 20<sup>th</sup> century in American cinema.

### **I'll Be Seeing You**

Published in 1938, "I'll Be Seeing You" first appeared in the short-lived Broadway musical *Right This Way*. It made its movie debut in 1944, featured throughout the aptly-named film *I'll Be Seeing You*. The song has appeared in episodes of many television shows, including *The Honeymooners*, *Get Smart*, *Designing Women*, and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. Doc Severinson and the NBC Orchestra closed the final episode of *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* with "I'll Be Seeing You," as it was one of Carson's favorite songs.

### **The Exodus Song**

"The Exodus Song" was the theme song for the 1960 film *Exodus*. Originally an instrumental composition, it won the 1961 Grammy Award for Song of the Year, the only instrumental recording to ever win that award. Lyrics were added by Pat Boone and "The Exodus Song" was recorded by a number of artists including Connie Francis and The Duprees.

### **Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep**

Irving Berlin wrote "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" after his doctor suggested to him that he count his blessings during bouts of insomnia. The song appeared in the 1954 film *White Christmas* where it was sung by Bing Crosby and Rosemary Clooney. "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep" was nominated for an Academy Award, but lost to "Three Coins in the Fountain."

### **Moon River**

Written by West Aliquippa's own Henry Mancini with lyrics by Johnny Mercer, "Moon River" was first sung by Audrey Hepburn in the 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. The song won the

Academy Award for Best Original Song and Grammy Awards for Record of the Year and Song of the Year. Andy Williams recorded "Moon River" in 1962 and it became his theme song.

### **Let the River Run**

The 1988 movie *Working Girl* featured "Let the River Run," composed and performed by Carly Simon. The song was extremely successful, as it won both the Academy Award and the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song and a Grammy Award for Best Song Written Specifically for a Motion Picture or Television. It peaked at No. 49 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 and is ranked No. 91 in the American Film Institute's *100 Years...100 Songs*.

### **What a Wonderful World**

"What a Wonderful World" was released as a single in 1967. It was initially offered to Tony Bennett, who turned it down. The song was recorded by Louis Armstrong and, although well-known now, it was not initially successful in the United States. It wasn't until it was re-released in 1988 after being featured in the film *Good Morning, Vietnam* that "What a Wonderful World" climbed to No. 32 on *Billboard's* Hot 100. It has since been recorded by artists as diverse as Roy Clark, Celine Dion, Rod Stewart, and Sarah Brightman. The Pittsburgh Penguins play the recording by The Clarks at the end of every winning home game.

### **Over the Rainbow**

Written in 1939 for the film *The Wizard of Oz*, "Over the Rainbow" was awarded the Academy Award for Best Original Song. Judy Garland, who sang the song in the film, later wrote to composer Harold Arlen, "'Over the Rainbow' has become part of my life. It's so symbolic of everybody's dreams and wishes that I'm sure that's why some people get tears in their eyes when they hear it. I've sung it thousands of times and it's still the song that's closest to my heart." The American Film Institute declared it the greatest movie song of all time in *100 Years...100 Songs*. This arrangement by Kansas City composer Mark Hayes features the women of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale.

### **When You Wish Upon a Star**

The only song in this concert first performed by an insect, "When You Wish Upon a Star" was sung by Jiminy Cricket in Walt Disney's 1940 animated film *Pinocchio*. Cliff Edwards was the voice of Jiminy Cricket and the song appeared during the opening credits of the film and in the final scene. "When You Wish Upon a Star" won the 1940 Academy Award for Best Original Song and has become a theme song of sorts for the Walt Disney Company.

### **The Sound of Music (medley)**

It's difficult to believe that the film version of *The Sound of Music* was released 53 years ago, in 1965. Packed with hit after hit from the pen of the legendary duo of composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II, the movie musical earned five Academy Awards. The American Film Institute named three songs from the film to its *100 Years...100 Songs* list of the best songs in 20<sup>th</sup> century American cinema: "The Sound of Music" (No. 10), "My Favorite Things" (No. 64), and "Do-Re-Mi" (No. 88). The medley of songs we will perform includes these three songs, as well as "Climb Every Mountain."

### **The Music of M-G-M**

In its heyday, Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer was the largest and most glamorous film studio in Hollywood. This choral medley is a collection of favorites from classic M-G-M films, including “That’s Entertainment” (*The Band Wagon*), “San Francisco” (*San Francisco*), “The Trolley Song” (*Meet Me in St. Louis*), “Good Morning” (*Babes in Arms*), “Make ‘Em Laugh” and “Singin’ in the Rain” (*Singin’ in the Rain*).

### **And All That Jazz**

The great Broadway songwriting duo Kander and Ebb penned “And All That Jazz,” for the 1975 musical *Chicago*. The musical was made into a movie in 2002 starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger, and Richard Gere. Zeta-Jones sings “And All That Jazz,” the movie’s opening number, and this version has been ranked No. 98 in the American Film Institute’s *100 Years...100 Songs*.

### **Somewhere**

Leonard Bernstein wrote the music and Stephen Sondheim wrote the lyrics to “Somewhere” for the 1957 Broadway musical *West Side Story*, which was made into a film in 1961. Tony, played by Richard Beymer, sings the song to Maria (Natalie Wood) as they dream of a place where their romance would not be forbidden. In the American Film Institute’s *100 Years...100 Songs*, “Somewhere” is ranked No. 20.

### **The Wind Beneath My Wings**

Written in 1982, “The Wind Beneath My Wings” was first recorded by Roger Whittaker. Recordings soon followed by Lee Greenwood, Sheena Easton, Lou Rawls, Gladys Knight and the Pips, and others, but the 1989 recording by Bette Midler for the movie *Beaches* shot to No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 singles chart and earned the song Grammy awards for both Record of the Year and Song of the Year. The American Film Institute ranked the song No. 44 in its *100 Years...100 Songs*.

### **Pure Imagination**

“Pure Imagination” was written for the 1971 movie *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. It was sung by Gene Wilder in the film, but it has been recorded by countless others including Lou Rawls, Kenny Loggins, Maroon 5, Michael Feinstein, Mariah Carey, and Jackie Evancho. In our concert “Pure Imagination” will be performed by the men of the Pittsburgh Concert Chorale.

### **Let It Go**

“Let It Go” was written by the husband and wife songwriting team of Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez for the 2013 animated film *Frozen*. It is sung by Idina Menzel in the vocal role of Queen Elsa. The song reached the top five on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart, making Menzel the first winner of a Tony Award for acting to reach the *Billboard* top 10. “Let It Go” won the

Academy Award for Best Original Song in 2014 and the Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media in 2015. The song has become one of the most globally recorded Disney songs, with covers recorded in numerous languages.

### **A Thousand Years**

*The Twilight Saga* is a series of five romantic fantasy films based on four novels by Stephenie Meyer that draw the reader into the relationship between a human and a vampire.. “A Thousand Years” is the love theme from the final film *Breaking Dawn*. It was written and performed by American singer-songwriter and native Pennsylvanian Christina Perri, who hails from Bucks County. “A Thousand Years” peaked at No. 31 on *Billboard* Hot 100.

### **(I’ve Had) The Time of My Life**

This theme from the 1987 movie *Dirty Dancing* won both the Academy Award and Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song and a Grammy Award for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals. The song was recorded by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warren and spent one week at No. 1 on *Billboard’s* Hot 100.

### **My Heart Will Go On**

“My Heart Will Go On” is the theme song from the 1997 blockbuster film *Titanic*. Performed by Celine Dion, it became her biggest hit and was the best-selling single of 1998. It won the Academy Award for Best Song, the Golden Globe for Best Song – Motion Picture, and Grammy Awards for Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Pop Vocal Performance, and Best Song Written Specifically for Motion Picture or Television. The American Film Institute ranked the song No. 14 in *100 Years...100 Songs*.

### **Dancing Queen**

Who doesn’t love ABBA? Their music is infused with their signature harmonies and driving rhythm that makes you want to sing along. The success of the 1999 Broadway musical and 2008 movie *Mamma Mia* has introduced a new generation to this Swedish group from the 70s and 80s. “Dancing Queen,” released in 1976, was ABBA’s biggest hit. A worldwide sensation, it reached number 1 in the United States, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, West Germany and Zimbabwe.