

# Chorale News

Spring, 2017



## *BRC's 2017 Spring Events and Performances*

April 9, 2017 — 3 PM

Fauquier Community Theater

April 22, 2017 — 3 PM

Oak Shade United Methodist  
Church

May 7, 2017 - 3 PM

Verdun Adventure Bound

## *Broadway Bytes – Fifteen years of Great Shows*

Here's "the scoop" on some of the Broadway shows  
we're singing from in *Curtain Up!*

***Carousel*** (Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein, 1945) was adapted from Ferenc Molnár's 1909 play *Liliom*, transplanting the story from Budapest to the coast of Maine. *Liliom* is a tragedy about a man who cannot learn to live among other people.

*Carousel* revolves around Billy Bigelow, a carousel barker whose romance with millworker Julie Jordan costs them both their jobs. He attempts a robbery to provide for Julie and their unborn child, but it goes fatally wrong. After, he is given a chance to make things right. *Carousel* is noted for one of the most intense first scenes of any musical.

It was an immediate hit, and in 1999 *Time* magazine

*Blue Ridge Chorale*  
  
of Culpeper, Inc.



named *Carousel* the best musical of the 20th century. Much earlier, Richard Rodgers wrote that it was his favorite of all his musicals. Hammerstein had to do a lot of research for this play, such as how to make chowder, what a clambake is, and how lobsters are split. One error he did not catch was the mating season of sheep. In the song "June Is Bustin' Out All Over," sheep are depicted as mating in late spring, but they actually mate in the winter. Hammerstein didn't want change the song, so he decided 1873 was a special year for sheep.

***Brigadoon*** (Alan Jay Lerner, and Frederick Loewe, 1947) The story of *Brigadoon* involves two American tourists who stumble upon the mysterious Scottish village that appears only once every 100 years. One of them falls in love with a young woman there.

It was thought that Lerner's book was based on a German story about the mythical village of Germelshausen, but Lerner denied that. Lerner's name for the village was probably based on a well-known Scottish landmark, the Brig o' Doon (Bridge of Doon).

***Guys and Dolls*** (Frank Loesser, Jo Swerling, Abe

Burrows, 1950) is based on short stories by Damon Runyon about characters of the New York City underworld. Runyon is known for his colorful characters – especially their engaging mix of formal dialect and slang.

*Guys and Dolls* was selected as the winner of the 1951 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, but writer Abe Burrows was having troubles with the House Un-American Activities Committee. Rather than assign it to another drama, no Pulitzer for Drama was awarded that year.

Actress Vivian Blaine was favored to play the lead, but Loesser felt she wasn't well suited for the role of the conservative Sarah, so the vivid character of Miss Adelaide was written to fit her into the musical.

***The King and I*** (Rodgers and Hammerstein, 1952) is based on Margaret Landon's novel, *Anna and the King of Siam*, derived from 1860s memoirs of the governess of the children of King Mongkut of Siam. The musical relates the experiences of a schoolteacher hired as part of the King's drive to modernize his country. The relationship between the King and An-

na is marked by conflict as well as by love that neither can admit. Rodgers and Hammerstein wanted Rex Harrison to play the role of the King, but he was unavailable. Instead, young actor and television director Yul Brynner assumed the role, and made it famous.

***My Fair Lady*** (Lerner and Loewe, 1956), is based on George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*. The story concerns Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from professor Henry Higgins, a fussy phoneticist, so that she may pass as a lady. The musical was a notable success. *My Fair Lady* has frequently been called "the perfect musical"

if they could beat out the competition. For five months, unfunded, they wrote, hired technical designers, and made casting decisions. In the end, they got the musical rights.

Rex Harrison played Henry Higgins, and young actress Julie Andrews was "discovered" and cast as Eliza. The original playbill artwork, by Hirschfeld, shows Shaw as a heavenly puppet master pulling the strings of Henry Higgins, while Higgins attempts to similarly control Eliza Doolittle.

***Camelot*** (Lerner and Loewe, 1960), is based on

The show was a considerable gamble. The play violated several "rules" for a musical: the main story was not a love story, there was no subplot, and no place for an ensemble. Rodgers and Hammerstein had tried to adapt *Pygmalion* and given up, telling Lerner that converting the play to a musical was impossible. Lerner and Loewe abandoned the project, but two years later they reunited with a fresh perspective, realizing the play needed only a few changes. Everything worked, and they began writing the show. The gamble remained, though. By then, there were competitors for the musical rights to *Pygmalion*. Lerner and Loewe decided to see

the King Arthur legend, adapted from the T. H. White novel *The Once and Future King*.

After the tremendous success of *My Fair Lady*, expectations were very high for a new Lerner and Loewe musical. But production was complicated by personal and health problems, and when rehearsals began, it still needed considerable work. The cast was very strong (Julie Andrews, Richard Burton, and Roddy McDowall, and Robert Goulet in his first Broadway role) and that helped the show develop.

Article and quiz by Carolyn Osborne



## Springtime Music Quiz

1 – Name the Aaron Copland ballet (1944) that contains the Shaker song “Simple Gifts.”

\_\_\_\_\_.

2 – The song title completes this verse

“I haven't seen a crocus or a rosebud

Or a robin on the wing

But I feel so gay in a melancholy way

That \_\_\_\_\_.”

Extra credit: In which film did Rodgers and Hammerstein debut this song?

*New Moon, The King and I, State Fair or Show Boat*

3 – The song title begins this 1966 Simon & Garfunkel song.

“\_\_\_\_\_, when streams are ripe and swelled with rain.

May she will stay, resting in my arms again.”

4 – The song title begins this song

“\_\_\_\_\_, are you

Softer than starlight, are you,

Warmer than winds of June,

Are the gentle lips you gave me.”

Extra credit: In which film did this Rodgers and Hammerstein song debut?

*South Pacific, The King and I, The Sound of Music, or Carousel*

5 – This Stravinsky concert/ballet about springtime nearly caused a riot when Sergei Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes* debuted it in Paris in 1913. It was not performed again for 7 years. It is now very well-known.

\_\_\_\_\_.

6 – What is the title of this 1933 song by Vernon Duke and Yip Harburg

“I never knew my heart could sing; I never missed a warm embrace.

‘til \_\_\_\_\_, chestnuts in blossom, holiday tables under the trees...”

7 – The song title completes this verse

“And that’s what we mean when we say that a thing

Is welcome as \_\_\_\_\_.

Tra la, la, la, la, la. Tra la, la, la, la, la. The \_\_\_\_\_.”

Extra credit: Name the show in which it appears *and* its composers.



8 – One of Antonio Vivaldi’s famous group four violin concerti (1725) is “La Primavera,” “Spring.” What is the entire group of concerti called in English? \_\_\_\_\_.

9 – This song by Sammy Fain and Paul Francis Webster (1955) has a two-word title. It was famously crooned by Pat Boone in a movie of the same name. It was a number-one hit for Boone on the pop charts, and in 1958 was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Music, Original Song. \_\_\_\_\_.

10 – This popular song about love and fruit trees was written in 1951 by Mack David and Louiegay. It was adapted as a mambo by Perez Prado and became the biggest instrumental on the pop charts for a fifty-year period.

“And that is why the poets often write  
When there’s a new moon up above  
It’s \_\_\_\_\_,  
When you’re in love.”

11 – This Beatles song is a perennial favorite  
“Little darling, it’s been a long cold lonely winter  
Little darling, it feels like years since it’s been here

\_\_\_\_\_  
(same line twice) \_\_\_\_\_  
And I say, it’s all right.”

12 – “Tiptoe Through the Tulips,” by Al Dubin and Joe Burke, debuted in 1929 in the movie *Gold Diggers of Broadway*. It was revived in the 1960’s by Pepe le Pew in the Looney Tunes short film, “A Scent of the Matterhorn,” was spoofed in the Beatles movie *The Yellow Submarine*, and in 1969 became the signature song of American singer and ukulele player \_\_\_\_\_.



***Please join us at our upcoming concerts***

## Answers to Springtime Music Quiz

1 – “Appalachian Spring.”

2 – “It Might as Well Be Spring”

Extra Credit question – *State Fair*

3 – “April Come She Will” from the album *A Bridge Over Troubled Waters*, 1966, Simon and Garfunkel.

4 – “Younger Than Springtime”

Extra Credit question – *South Pacific*

5 – *The Rite of Spring*. The audience was so shocked when Igor Stravinsky’s primitive concert/ballet debuted that a fight broke out between the wealthy, conventional patrons in the boxes and the intellectuals and students in the lower cost seats. Forty audience members were ejected by the police.

6 – “April in Paris” from the Musical *Walk a Little Faster* in 1932. It has been performed many times, including in *Grand Theft Auto* and the Mel Brooks movie, *Blazing Saddles*.

7 – “The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring, tra la”

Extra Credit question – *The Mikado*, by Gilbert and Sullivan (1885).

8 – *The Four Seasons* (in Italian, *Le quattro stagioni*)

9 – “April Love”

10 – “Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White.”

11 – “Here Comes the Sun,” by The Beatles from the album *Abbey Road*, 1969.

12 – Tiny Tim (Herbert Khaury, 1932-1996) became famous for his recording of “Tiptoe Through the Tulips” in 1968. Khaury was an avid archivist of American tunes from 1900 to 1930, played violin, mandolin, guitar and ukulele. He was a tenor who preferred to sing falsetto, which he once described as “a religious experience.” He was married three times, and named his daughter Tulip Victoria.

A stylized logo for a 50th anniversary. The number '50' is written in a large, bold, golden-yellow serif font. The 'th' is smaller and positioned to the right of the '0'. Below '50th', the word 'Anniversary' is written in a flowing, cursive script font, also in a golden-yellow color.

Please come join us for our 50th Anniversary concert on  
December 9th at 7 PM at the Culpeper Baptist Church