

## *CAS Greatest Hits – 1986-2021*

After a two year absence from making music with the chorus, it still feels a bit surreal to be together as musicians. Public performances have the same feel for me but in an even more profound way. The ability to share a common experience in real time has been drastically reduced as a result of the pandemic. It has truly impacted our sense of how critical it is for our well-being to be in community. Thank God the pandemic is gradually fading into insignificance as we begin to settle into a more socially interactive way of life.

I hope today's event reminds us all that our social interactions are important to our emotional and spiritual health! I hope that sharing our art together in this beautiful space inspires us to reestablish social bonds through meaningful and personal connections. Today is one such opportunity!

CAS is thrilled to share some of the most meaningful and inspiring choral selections from our 35 year history.

What makes a greatest hit? Its place in the choral lexicon is certainly a consideration. How many times we have programmed it is a consideration. Its general admiration by audiences over the years and even centuries is a consideration. Feedback from the chorus and audiences over our 35 years is a consideration as is how significantly it has been programmed by other organizations world-wide. Our list includes some of the most common names in compositional history and some of the most significant tunes from the Great American Songbook. Our list also includes some of the most programmed choral pieces in the world over the last 30 years like Gate, Gate and Cohen's Hallelujah, the most recorded pop tune of all time, and Rutter's sublime setting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> psalm. Some are hits partly due to the significance of the poetry, whether they be from America's Wendell Barry, Scotland's Robert Burns, eighth century monks from the British Isles, American lyricist Irving Berlin, a Buddhist mantra or even the bible. Some of the pieces, like Suchy's Alleluia for Love, Say It With Music, and the Last Words of David are selections that are meaningful to the singers who have sing them before multiple CAS audiences.

As you read this list you may hear these tunes in your head before we even sing them. I hope you do! One of the joys of music is that the tune can live in your imagination long after the performance creating memories that feeds us again and again.

These selections are not only recognizable, they are some of the most significant tunes in our culture and beyond. Some of these compositions are recognized for their cultural value all over the world.

James Schatzman, Artistic Director

### **Sacred Hits**

Dies Irae – from Requiem – W.A. Mozart  
Psalm 23 – J. Rutter  
Salmo 150 – E. Aguilar  
How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling place– J. Brahms  
Gate, Gate – B. Tate  
The Glory of the Father – Hovland  
Alleluia For Love – K. Suchy  
Last Words of David – Thompson  
Simple Gifts – A. Copeland

### **Secular Hits**

Say it With Music – I. Berlin / N. Layden  
Over the Rainbow – Harlan /Hayes  
A Red, Red Rose – Mulholland  
Great Trees – M. Dalglish  
Hallelujah – L. Cohen/Emerson  
O Fortuna – Carmina Burana – Orff  
Wonderful World – arr. M. Brymer