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# The Song of America

by

Roy Ringwald & George Jarden

presented by  
4/Arts Productions  
Jarden Home Stage  
3100 Karen Drive

2024

Sunday, June 30 – 3:00 p.m.

Monday, July 1 – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 2 – 6:00 p.m.

## P r o g r a m

“Part One”

“Founding of the New World – up to The Civil War”

**--There is narration explaining people and events regarding each song--**

(**Dates given** are dates of the **writing** of the poem, speech, or song)

“Opening Theme and Fanfare” & excerpt: “The Royal Titulo” 1492  
Ferdinand and Isabella, sovereigns of Spain

“Columbus” written 1892

Joaquin Miller

Jamestown & 1619 slaves; Plymouth & 1620 Mayflower Compact  
“To The Virginian Voyage” 1606 Michael Drayton (English)  
“Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child” *anonymous slave song*  
“The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England” 1825  
Felicia D. Hemens (English)

“Peter Stuyvesant's New Year's Call” 1860 Edmond Clarence Stedman

“The Song of Hiawatha” 1855

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

---- *The British and British Americans fight the French and Indians* --

“Evangeline” 1847

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Yankee Doodle”

*anonymous, British*

...continued over

----(*coninued*, French & Indian War) ---

“Fort Duquesne” 1855                      Florus Beardsley Plimpton  
“Daniel Boone” 1924                      Arthur Guiterman

----*seeds of the American Revolution against England* ----

“The Origin of ‘Yankee Doodle’” 1850                      George Pope Morris  
“A Ballad of the Boston Tea Party” 1874                      Oliver Wendell Holmes  
“The Testament of Freedom”                      *text* 1774 Thomas Jefferson  
   *music* 1943 Randall Thompson

-----*The American Revolution begins*

                    Lexington and Concord, MA – April 17, 18, 1775 ----  
“Paul Revere's Ride” 1860                      Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
“Concord Hymn” 1837                      Ralph Waldo Emerson  
“Paul Revere” 1991                      Glenn Douglas Tubb

----Thomas Paine – “Common Sense” – January, 1776 ----

“Without The Pen” (*re Thomas Paine*)                      John Adams (*attrib.*)  
   *tune* Jarden

“Betsy Ross”                      *traditional – anonymous*

“The Declaration of Independence” July 4, 1776  
                                    The Second Continental Convention

“The American Crisis” “These Are The Times...” Dec. 1776  
   *text* Thomas Paine; *tune* Jarden

“Yankee Doodle” – *redux*                      *anonymous - British*

“We, The People of the United States...” 1787  
                    The U.S. Constitution; The Constitutional Convention

“The President’s March” 1789 – *written for* President Washinton’s  
   Inaguration – Philp Phile

“Hail Columbia” 1789 – words Joseph Hopkinson, 1798, *set to*  
                    “The President’s March, *intended to be the* U.S. National Anthem

“The Federal Constitution”                      William Milns (1761 – 1801)

----- The War of 1812 – America vs. England *again* ----

“Old Ironsides”

“Firstfruits in 1812” 1812

Wallace Rice

“The Star Spangled Banner” 1814

*from* “Defence of Fort M'Henry” Francis Scott Key

*tune* 1773 “*The Anacreontic Song*” John Stafford Smith

“The Battle of New Orleans” 1959

Jimmy Driftwood

---- “Manifest Destiny” ----

“Pioneers! O Pioneers!” 1848

Walt Whitman

----- *end Part One* -----

## “Part Two”

“Incipient Civil War; Civil War; Death of Abraham Lincoln”

*reprise*

“Pioneers! O Pioneers! 1848

Walt Whitman

----- *Abolition !! --- Increasing Antislavery Momentum !!* -----

*Prominent Escaped Slaves, Abolitionists, Signal Happenings*

*Quakers, the Religious Society of Friends*

“Good News, Chariot’s a-Comin’”

*anonymous slave song*

*Nat Turner – Turner’s Rebellion*

“All God’s Chilun’ Got Wings”

*anonymous slave song*

*William Garrison – antislavery newspaper “The Liberator”*

“Deep River”

*anonymous slave song*

*Theodore Dwight Weld – Angelina Grimke – “American Slavery As It Is”*

“Darlin’ Nellie Gray” 1856

Benjamin Russel Handy

....continued over

*Frederick Douglass – escaped slave; newspaper “The North Star”*  
“Run To Jesus” *anonymous slave song*  
“The Drinkin' Gourd” *anonymous slave song*

*William Still – slave family; Underground Railroad conductor*  
“Wade In The Water” *anonymous slave song*

*Harriet Tubman – “Moses”*  
“Go Down Moses” *anonymous slave song*

*Slave Kidnappings – “Runaway Slave” laws*  
“The Kidnapping of Sims” 1851 *John Pierpont*  
“Stanzas on Freedom” 1843 *James Russell Lowell*

*Bleeding Kansas*  
“The Kansas Emigrants” 1854 *John Greenleaf Whittier*

“Dred Scott Ruling” 1857 *U.S. Supreme Court*  
*Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney; tune Jarden*

*John Brown – fervent Abolitionist*  
“I submit; let it be done” 1859 *John Brown; tune Jarden*  
“John Brown's Body” *anonymous - traditional*

*reprise - Lexington & Concord – spirit of 1775 invoked in vain*  
“Paul Revere's Ride” 1860 *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

#### *THE CIVIL WAR – APRIL 12, 1861 – APRIL 9, 1865*

“We Are Coming, Father Abra'am” 1862 *James Sloan Gibbons*  
“The Blue and the Gray” 1866 *Francis Miles Finch*  
“The Gettysburg Address” 1863 *Abraham Lincoln*

#### *--- Songs Of The Civil War ---*

*de facto National Anthem of The Union the North)*  
“Columbia, The Gem of the Ocean” 1843 (uncertain) *traditional*

*de facto National Anthem of The Confederacy (the South)*  
“Dixie” 1860 *Daniel Decatur Emmett*

---- Songs of the Union (the North)

“Dixie (parody)” anonymous - traditional  
“Hang Jeff Davis” 1861 anonymous - traditional  
“We Are The Colored Soldiers” 1854 Capt. Lindsey Miller  
“Battle Hymn of The Republic” 1862 poem Julia Ward Howe  
tune, traditional

---- Songs of the Confederates (the South)

“The Bonnie Blue Flag” 1861 Harry McCarthy  
“Goober Peas” anonymous - traditional

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“Battle Cry of Freedom” 1862 George Frederick Root  
“Tramp, Tramp, Tramp” (The Prisoner's Hope)” 1864  
George Frederick Root

“Aura Lee” 1863 words William W. Fosdick  
music George Rodway Poulton

“When Johnny Comes Marching Home” 1863  
Words, 1863 - Patrick Sarsfield Golmore  
Music, various origins

----IT IS DONE !!! ----THE CIVIL WAR IS OVER !!! ----

“Laus Deo” [Praise Be To God] 1865 John Greenleaf Whittier

“When Lilacs Last In The Dooryard Bloomed” 1865  
Walt Whitman; tune Jarden

“O Captain! My Captain!” 1865 Walt Whitman  
Tune Roy Ringwald, 1951; expanded version Jarden

“The Death of Abraham Lincoln” 1865 William Cullen Bryant

“Columbus” – continued - written 1892 Joaquin Miller

“The Building of the Ship” 1850 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

E n d

“The Song of America” was created in 1951 by Roy Ringwald, the famous composer, and arranger for the widely popular TV, Radio, and performing band and chorus Fred Waring and The Pennsylvanians during the 1920s – 1980s. Ringwald set to music 30 of the most famous poems of American history, along with a narrative history. It was recorded and performed with full orchestra. Beginning in 2020, George Jarden added some 40 songs, speeches, and more narration, tripling the size of the work. He performs “The Song of America” without accompaniment, giving his narration and making his music vocally. All the music performed in the show was written by Ringwald unless noted “tune by Jarden” or otherwise credited.

**4/Arts Productions’ “Say-The-Poem \$100 Prize Invitation” for students 12 years and under. Must pre-register at least 24 hours before the performance you choose to say the poem from memory. Contact: [georgejarden@gmail.com](mailto:georgejarden@gmail.com) or call/text (575) 652-7301 see performance dates and venue address, page one.**

About the poem “**O Captain, My Captain**” Just 5 days after Confederate (Southern) General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union (Northern) General Ulysses S. Grant, ending the U.S. Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln was shot, the evening of April 14, 1865; Lincoln died a few hours later, the morning of April 15, 1865. American poet Walt Whitman wrote the poem “O Captain, My Captain” soon after Lincoln’s death, and it became very famous. The poem uses a literary device called a “metaphor” – comparing the U.S. country to a *ship* which has survived a long and terrible time – a “fearful trip” (the Civil War), and characterizes (in metaphor) Lincoln as the *Captain* of the *Ship*, who has led the *ship* home to port with “the prize won” – meaning winning the War and preserving the Union.

O captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;  
But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.  
O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the bugle trills,  
For you bouquets and ribbon'd wreaths—for you the shores a-crowding,  
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;  
Here Captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head!  
It is some dream that on the deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.  
My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still,  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will,  
The ship is anchor'd safe and sound, its voyage closed and done,  
From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;  
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
But I with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

Donors to the \$100 awards.

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4/Arts Productions, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 2005 “to promote and support the Arts in the Southern New Mexico area, and in the public schools in the area by producing public performances, demonstrations, and cultural events within the community. President George Jarden, Vice President Charlotte Tallman, Treasurer Don Beasley; Wanda Bowman, Flo Hosa Dougherty, & Ana Mangino Directors. Correspondence [georgejarden@gmail.com](mailto:georgejarden@gmail.com) / (575) 652-7301 call or text; financial: Beasley, Mitchell & Co., 509 S. Main St. Suite A, Las Cruces NM 88004, mailing address P.O. Drawer 550 Las Cruces NM 88004.

**Rules & Registration – 4/Arts Productions**