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**The Song of America**

by  
Roy Ringwald & George Jarden

presented by  
George Jarden  
&  
Alex Sainz (IT)  
Jarden Home Stage  
3100 Karen Drive

**2026**  
Friday, May 15 – 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday, May 16 – 2:30p.m.  
Saturday, May 16 – 7:00p.m.  
Sunday, May 17 – 3:00 p.m.

## **P r o g r a m**

### **“Part One” “Founding of the New World – up to before 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)*

**“How Did We Get Here??”**

***Bering Land Bridge - Connects Eastern Russia to Northwest American Continent.***

*The indigenous people, later called “Indians” by Columbus, crossed it 20,000 years ago*

*Eric the Red & son Lief Erickson – Vikings – from Scandinavia about 2,000 years ago*

**Age of Discovery, Exploration – 1400 – 1600**

*--- “In fourteen hundred ninety two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue” ---*

**“Opening Theme and Fanfare” & Excerpt: “The Royal Titulo” 1492**

*At the Spanish Royal Court, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella grant a solemn commission*

**“Columbus” written 1892**

**Joaquin Miller**

*Miller, so famous he was called “The Byron of the Sierras,” writing at the 400th anniversary of Columbus’ voyage, invoked an allegory/extended metaphor: saying that Columbus gave the world (the eventual United States!) “Its Grandest Lesson: ‘...On! Sail On!’”*

15 years later—1507: *the first map of the newly “discovered” continent named it “America” because of Amerigo Vespucci’s 1501 voyage.*

*Nevertheless, Americans called themselves “**Columbians**” for centuries!*

*--- A World accustomed to Slavery – Most numerous were Indigenous peoples*

*of this “New World” enslaving others of themselves; more of them, and Africans, were enslaved by all who came.*

*--- Jamestown & 1619 slaves; Plymouth & 1620 Mayflower Compact ---*

**“To The Virginian Voyage” 1606 Michael Drayton (English)**

*—Sir Walter Raleigh had named it “Virginia” in 1585, after Queen Elizabeth, the “Virgin Queen”—*

*This poem is a “commercial” to raise funds for the Virginia Company of London voyage of 1606 — the poet is impatient! - get going ! - get on with the voyage! which established “Jamestown,” named after King James I.*

**“Sometimes I Feel Like A Motherless Child”** *enslaved African-American song*

*The song expresses the anguish of being stolen from home.*

**August, 1619**, the English privateer ship *The White Lion* landed at Point Comfort, Hampden, VA and traded, for food and supplies, about 20 African slaves they had *stolen* from a Portuguese slaver ship on the Gulf Coast of New Spain (now Mexico), to the English leaders of Jamestown. The slaves were Angolans, among thousands *enslaved and traded for years already by the Portuguese; and indigenous peoples had for centuries enslaved each other.* However, this 1619 event is thought of as the *“beginning” of slavery in what became North America.*

**“The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in New England” 1825 Felicia D. Hemens (English)**

**December 16, 1620** – *They really were “Separatists” - not “Pilgrims” - “Separating” from the Church of England, which they found too liturgically ritualistic.*

*They weren’t called “Pilgrims” until the 1800s!*

*“The Mayflower Compact” – signed by 41 men: 36 “freemen,” 3 hired men, and 2 indentured servants, anticipated by 300 years the unique U.S. democratic government.*

*They Came!! The Dutch, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedes*

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

**1661** - *the Dutch settlement at the tip of Manhattan Island –*

*“Where Now the Battery Stands” --*

**“The Song of Hiawatha” 1855 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

*Epic poem of Native American (“Indian”) legends. Hiawatha, an Ojibwe warrior; Gitchee Gume, “The Big Sea Water,” is Lake Superior; Nokomis is daughter of the moon.*

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

**1754 - 1763**

**“Evangeline” 1847 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

*Evangeline was one of the 8,000 Acadians deported during the “great upheaval” by the British, 1755-1764, during the French & Indian War. Some became Louisiana’s “Cajuns”!*

**“Yankee Doodle”** *anonymous British*

**The British and the Americans fought the French & Indians - 1754 - 1763**

*The British Redcoats taunted their American allies in the French & Indian war as “*

*doodles” (fools, simpletons). “Macaroni” was the decoration on fancy British hats*

**“Fort Duquesne” 1855**

**Florus Beardsley Plimpton**

*The Americans, proud of helping the British to victory over the French & Indians, boast of the victories, in this paean - a song of praise.*

**“Daniel Boone” 1924**

**Arthur Guiterman**

*1755: The beginning of an American folk hero’s exploits and adventures.*

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

**“The Origin of ‘Yankee Doodle’” 1850**

**George Pope Morris**

**“No trials in America! I’ll tax your tea!”**

*England - the King - was called “John Bull” - Americans: called “Brother Jonathan”*

*1764 - 1773 - tensions! England passed the Sugar Tax, Stamp Act, the Quartering Act!*

*The Americans decried this “Taxation without representation!” Unpopular Redcoats remaining in America were unwelcome.*

*March 3, 1770, the “Boston Massacre” - An unruly crowd harassed some Redcoats. 5 Americans were shot and killed.*

*Paul Revere and Samuel Adams, of The Sons of Liberty, dubbed it “The Boston Massacre” to inflame Americans’ resentment of England*

**“A Ballad of the Boston Tea Party” 1874**     **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

*and, finally...the Tea Tax - 1773 - (to bail out England’s failing East India Tea Company!)*

*December 16, 1773 - (It was not called “Tea Party” until 1820 !)*

*The Mohawk “disguise” was a statement! Saying “We are Americans! - not Englishmen!”*

*(The Sons of Liberty admired the Mohawks for their free-spirited independence!)*

**“The Testament of Freedom”**

*text* **1774 Thomas Jefferson**

*music* **1943 Randall Thompson**

*1774, the British retaliated! — for the The Boston Tea Party — with the Coercive Acts and the Intolerable Acts: American trials would be held in England! England will now appoint American officials - Americans were not allowed to elect them!*

*The Americans responded:*

*September/October, 1774: The First Continental Congress, Philadelphia, to deal with these new grievances. Jefferson wrote “A Summary View of the Rights of British America” as ammunition for the Virginia delegates to use at the Convention.*

*-----The American Revolution begins*

*Lexington and Concord, MA – April 17, 18, 1775 ----*

**“Paul Revere's Ride” 1860**

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

*7 months later - with tensions between Americans and England rising...  
Massachusetts Minute Men had stockpiled arms at Concord; The British wanted to get the arms,  
and arrest Sam Adams and John Hancock who were in Lexington, MA. April 18, 1775 - 800  
British Redcoats crossed the Charles River to Lexington.  
The “two if by sea” signal alerted Paul Revere and others, and they rode, and alerted !*

**“Concord Hymn” 1837**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

*62 years later a monument was erected commemorating the beginning of the fighting at  
Concord. Emerson wrote of “the shot heard round the world”*

**“Paul Revere” 1991**

**Glenn Douglas Tubb**

— 3 weeks later, May 10, 1775, *in response to war, the Second Continental Congress met  
in Philadelphia, and became the American government for 6 years until March 1,  
1781, when the new Articles of Confederation they worked on for 4 years finally went into  
effect.*

—5 weeks later, June 17, 1775, *Americans and Redcoats fought again at Bunker Hill.*

—2 days later, June 19, 1775, *the Continental Congress commissioned George  
Washington as Commander in Chief of the Continental Army.*

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

—6 months later, January, 1778, **Thomas Paine published “Common Sense,”** *which  
explained in plain language why America should be free of England. It is the highest- selling  
book, per capita, ever in America. It galvanized Americans to fight the war.*

**“Without The Pen” (re Thomas Paine)**

**John Adams (attrib.) tune Jarden**

*? true or not ? - Adams said this about Paine?*

**“Betsy Ross”**

**traditional – anonymous**

*? true or not ? - she made the first flag? May, 1776, Washington visited her in  
Philadelphia and requested that she make the first American flag.*

**“The Declaration of Independence” July 4, 1776**

**The Second Continental Convention**

**Note: 2 important changes from Jefferson’s original draft:**

\*\*\* about slavery \*\*\* about property

*The 56 signers committed treason against England - the penalty: death*

**“We Must Hang Together...” 1776**

**Benjamin Franklin**

**tune Jarden**

**“The American Crisis” “These Are The Times...” Dec. 1776**

**text Thomas Paine; tune Jarden**

*Washington had this read to the troops on Christmas Eve, 1776,  
the night before they crossed the Delaware River near Trenton, NJ*

**“Yankee Doodle” – redux**

**anonymous - British**

*Now, during the war, it is the Americans’ favorite song... taunting the British !*

**October 18, 1781, British General Cornwallis surrendered to Washington at Yorktown, VA,  
—ending the American Revolutionary War!—**

*Now, the Articles of Confederation became clearly inadequate for the new country. So, in 1787 -  
May 14 - September 17 - the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia drafted the U.S.  
Constitution*

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

**“The President’s March” 1789** – *written for* President Washington’s  
Inauguration – **Philip Phile**

**“Hail Columbia” 1789** – *words* **Joseph Hopkinson, 1798**, *set to music later*

*“The President’s March was intended to be the U.S. National Anthem  
April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated first American President at the new  
United States Capital, Federal Hall, New York City.*

**“The Federal Constitution” 1798** **William Milns**

*Just 23 years later, The War of 1812; again between the U.S and England – again.  
The U.S.S. Constitution, “Old Ironsides,” won battles and captured merchant ships.*

**“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*

*September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was watching the bombardment by the British of  
American Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD, from a British ship, and wrote the verses.*

**“The Battle of New Orleans” 1815** **Jimmy Driftwood**  
*January 8, 1815 - the war of 1812 was over, but England’s General Pakenham, and  
Andrew Jackson of the U.S. did not know it was over. Jackson’s forces defeated  
Pakenham’s British.*

---- **“Manifest Destiny”** ----

**“Pioneers! O Pioneers!” 1848** **Walt Whitman**

*Whitman wrote of “Manifest Destiny” - “The Westward Movement.” - God and “all the  
world” know that it is “destiny” that the West be settled by Americans !*

*— But powerful adversarial ideas, doctrines, and forces were at work, festering  
a divide !! - between factions urging expansion of slavery or abolishing slavery! The new states  
of the “Western Movement”: to be slave states?...or free states?? Climactic happenings,  
decisions: a half century earlier, The Fugitive Slave Act of 1793; 1807 Act prohibiting  
international slave trade; 1820 - the Missouri Compromise; 1836 - controversy, slave-holding  
Texas Republic to become a state? — and ongoing actions and confrontations —*

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

**INTERMISSION**

**“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*** – noted as

*the first organization to oppose slavery, actively aiding slaves to escape.*

*1831 – the Quakers, not singers themselves, related to the slaves’ singing & longing for “the chariot” of Elijah (the Bible 2 Kings 2:11)*

***Nat Turner – Turner’s Rebellion – 1831*** *He was an enslaved man, but educated, and a preacher. He led a rebellion of slaves in Virginia, who killed over 50 white people. Its repercussions were world-wide! Aftermath, 200 blacks – slaves or free – lynched, or tried and hung; new laws forbidding slaves to be taught to read, no slave religious services without a white preacher present; and greatly increased fierce tension between antislavery and slavery factions throughout the country.*

**“All God’s Chillun’ Got Wings”**

*anonymous slave song*

*a facetious and thinly-veiled rebellious song! Turner’s audience – “God’s Chillun” – had nothing; certainly not “wings” or even shoes! Echoing the Bible’s dozens of references to God’s gifting of shoes, crowns, and wings to the deserving; and, the song taunts (the white slave-master church-goers): “Everybody talkin’ ‘bout Heaven NOT goin’ t there!*

***William Garrison*** – *A White man. In 1831, founded his antislavery newspaper, The Liberator; a \$4000 bounty was on his head by pro-slavers, after The Liberator was accused of encouraging Nat Turner’s Rebellion.*

*He was a Founder, 1833, of the AASS, The American Anti-Slavery Society, and had to be smuggled aboard ship to England to save his life from pro-slavers. Because of The Liberator, he was called “The Strongest Man in America” in fighting slavery.*

**“Deep River”** – *the song says, as per “The Liberator,” escape to freedom across “Jordan,” meaning: the Ohio River; to the “Gospel Feast” – freedom!*

**Theodore Dwight Weld – and his wife, Angelina Grimke** – in 1839 they published “American Slavery As It Is – Testimony of a Thousand Witnesses” – *a compendium of slavery practices and abuses which galvanized worldwide opinion against slavery – and was so graphic as to be used 12 years later by Harriet Beecher Stowe as a format for her 1852 novel, “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”*

**“Darlin’ Nellie Gray” 1856** Benjamin Russell Handy  
echoing **“American Slavery As It is”** – *cruelty of tragic slave separation.*

**Frederick Douglass** – *escaped slavery from MD in 1838 – by train! Dressed in a sailor’s clothes – to New York City. Became a famous orator, preacher, and writer against slavery. Attacked by a mob while giving a lecture for the AASS. In Ireland, abolitionists bought his freedom.*

*He helped, via the Underground Railroad, to hide and lodge over 400 escaping slaves.*

**“Run To Jesus”** *anonymous slave song*

*Douglas said this song inspired his escape from slavery. (...to Jesus, “i.e., to Freedom!) – (“Lions in the way...” – from “Proverbs” – the slothful man protests there might be “lions in the way” – i.e., of him performing his duty.*

**“The Drinkin’ Gourd”** *anonymous slave song*

*The two stars forming the front of the bucket of the “big dipper” (called “The Drinking Gourd”) form a line that points to the North Star – which was said to point the slaves toward freedom. Thus, Frederick Douglass in 1847 published his newspaper, “The North Star.” In the song, the slave is telling others, on the sly, when and how to escape: “When the sun comes back...” means, “in the Spring.”*

**William Still** – *18th child of an ex-slave father and run-away slave mother; with siblings still enslaved in the South, and rescue trips still being made to attempt to free them. He became a member of “The Vigilante Committee” of The Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society, helping escaping slaves; and, a Conductor of the Underground Railroad, helping hundreds. Still’s childhood was filled with accounts of his mother’s escape attempts, and attempts to free her children.*

**“Wade In The Water”** *anonymous slave song*

*From the Bible’s book of John: God will “trouble the waters” – meaning - to escaping slaves - cover up the wake - the trail - of the slaves fleeing across the river.*

**Harriet Tubman** – *“Moses”*

*- Escaped from slavery in Maryland in 1849. She made 13 trips back to save slaves via the Underground Railroad. She became a spy for the Union Army. Her code name was “Moses” because of her leading so many enslaved people to freedom.*

**“Go Down Moses”** *anonymous slave song*

*Slave Kidnappings – “Runaway Slave” laws*  
*Because of the Fugitive Slave Acts, anti-slave Northerners were required to hold escaped slaves for return to the South; a situation which caused much controversy. In Boston, a notorious trial was held about the “kidnapped” enslaved black man – Thomas Sim*

**“The Kidnapping of Sims” 1851** **John Pierpont**

**“Stanzas on Freedom” 1843** **James Russell Lowell**

The poet invokes the souls of Concord’s heroes – who “bled” for Freedom – in a rebuke of slavery

**“Uncle Tom’s Cabin” 1852** **Harriet Beecher Stowe**

**“Scenes of blood and cruelty...”** **tune Jarden**

*Bleeding Kansas*

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

“Bleeding Kansas” – 1854 - 1859. Terrible fighting occurred between those wanting Kansas to be a new slave state, or a free state. To try to swell the numbers to vote for free state, anti-slavery people left their homes in the Northeast U.S. and emigrated to Kansas – to vote “free”!

**“Dred Scott Ruling” 1857** **U.S. Supreme Court**

**Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney; tune Jarden**

Dred Scott, an enslaved man, claimed he should be free, because he had been taken to a free state.

The Supreme Court ruled that he had not even a right for a trial, because he was not a citizen.

**John Brown – fervent Abolitionist**

*Abolitionist John Brown, with 22 men, raided a U.S. arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia, October 16, 1859, to try to start a slave rebellion in the South. It failed, and 2 of his sons were killed. He was a hero to the North, but was hung for treason.*

**“I submit; let it be done” 1859** **John Brown; tune Jarden**

*reprise - Lexington & Concord – spirit of 1775 invoked in vain*

*“Paul Revere’s Ride” 1860* *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

*Longfellow wrote it as an 11th-hour attempt to rally the sides to unity: Longfellow hoped the poem’s spirit of the Revolution would temper the war-spirit of the nation.*

**—November 8, 1860, Abraham Lincoln elected President—**

**—6 weeks later, December 20, 1861, South Carolina seceded from the Union—**

**—2/18/1861, Jefferson Davis elected President, Confederacy – the South calls for volunteers to fight, captures Fort Sumpter 4/12/1861—**

**and —The Civil War Begins—**

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

*July 1, 1862, Lincoln called for 300,000 Union volunteers.*  
**“We Are Coming, Father Abra’am” 1862 James Sloan Gibbons**

**“The Blue and the Gray” 1866 Francis Miles Finch**  
*The Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, SW Tennessee.*  
*Nearby Columbus, Mississippi, received thousands of dead and wounded. After the war, it became one of the original Decoration Day towns, for decorating both Blue (North) and Grey (South) graves.*

**“The Gettysburg Address” 1863 Abraham Lincoln**  
July 1-3, 1863, The Battle of Gettysburg, won by the North. 200,000 men fought; 3,000 killed each, of the North and the South.  
4 1/2 months later, November 19, 1863, Lincoln’s dedication address.

--- *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**  
---4 songs, all **one tune!**! -- origin unknown ---  
**“John Brown's Body” post-1859 author unknown, trad.**  
**“Hang Jeff Davis” 1861 author unknown, trad. l**  
**“We Are The Colored Soldiers” 1854 Capt. Lindsey Miller**  
*song of the Arkansas Colored Regiment which was authorized, 186*  
*by the Bureau of Colored Troops.*  
**“Battle Hymn of The Republic” 1862 poem Julia Ward Howe**  
now, a NEW de facto National Anthem

---- *Songs of the Confederates (the South)*  
**“The Bonnie Blue Flag” 1861 Harry McCarthy**  
**“Goober Peas” anonymous - traditional**

---- *Songs of both the North and the South* ----  
**“Battle Cry of Freedom”**  
**“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 !!!* ----

— Lee Surrenders to Grant, April 9, 1865 —

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

— *5 days later - April 14, 1865 - Abraham Lincoln was assassinated* —

“When Lilacs Last In The Dooryard Bloomed” 1865

Walt Whitman; *tune Jarden*

“O Captain! My Captain!” 1865

Walt Whitman

Tune Ringwald/*Jarden*

“The Death of Abraham Lincoln” 1865 William Cullen Bryant

“Columbus” – *continued - written 1892*

Joaquin Miller

“Brave Captain, say but one good word...”

“The Building of the Ship” 1850 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“In spite of rock and tempest’s roar...”

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 singing the 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 \$50 Prize Invitation” for students 12 years and under. Contact: 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**  
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“The Song of America” by George Jarden  
**“Say-The-Poem \$50 Prize Invitation”**

Recite the Poem “O Captain, My Captain” from memory  
---(see **the poem** below)

1. Must be age 12 or under.
2. Memorize the poem “O Captain, My Captain,” and be able to recite it from memory.
3. The first two students to register for one of the 3 “The Song of America” shows must come to the show to recite the poem. (Therefore, a total of 6 Registrants will recite at a show.)
4. Subsequent Registrants (after the first 6 who register) will be given a suitable date/time to recite the poem before the 4/Arts Productions Honorarium Committee.
5. All properly registered students who successfully recite the poem, either at a show or before the Committee, will receive a \$50 honorarium check. (Small errors in reciting may be excused and may not automatically disqualify a reciter.)
5. Deadline for Registration is 12:00 Noon, June 25, 2023

6. REGISTRATION:

1. Questions – call/text George Jarden (575) 652-7301
2. *Text or Email* completed REGISTRATION FORM to George Jarden (575) 652-7301

[georgejarden@gmail.com](mailto:georgejarden@gmail.com)

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”**

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.