

William Gunn  
Music Director



The Pemigewasset  
Choral Society  
*Music from the Heart*

Laura Belanger  
Accompanist

# GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

## A BROADWAY REVIEW

GUYS  
AND  
DOLLS

WAITRESS

DEAR  
EVAN  
HANSEN

Man of La Mancha



HAMILTON

THE  
COLOR  
PURPLE

ANYTHING  
GOES

ANNIE GET  
YOUR  
GUN

OH,  
KAY!

PIPPIN

STATE  
FAIR

WICKED SOUTH PACIFIC

RENT

Spring Concerts  
2023

Plymouth State  
UNIVERSITY

**THURSDAY**  
MAY 4 • 7:30 PM

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**FRIDAY**  
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**SUNDAY**  
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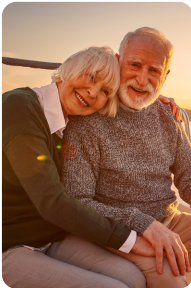
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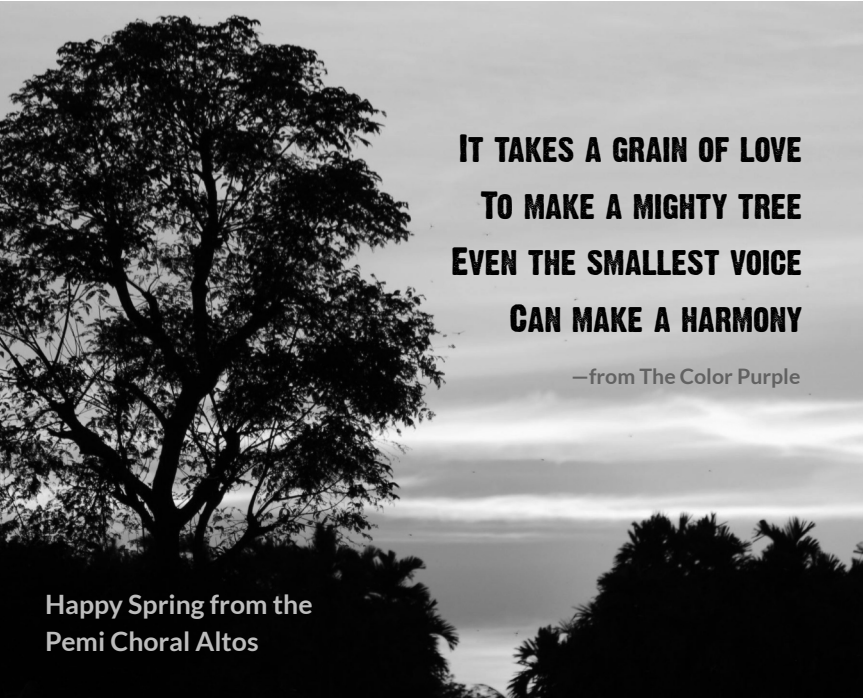
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—from *The Color Purple*

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is our great pleasure to share our love of singing with you, our friends, families and neighbors. Your support of our regional chorus is greatly appreciated.

Welcome to a musical tour of Broadway! We are delighted to celebrate spring with you with a sampling of songs from Broadway reflecting romance, courage and a little melancholy.

Our 90 singers have enjoyed working since January to prepare this program for you under the leadership of our Music Director Will Gunn with support from our Accompanist Laura Belanger. The selections include traditional songs dating as far back as 1926, with George and Ira Gershwin's "Someone to Watch Over Me" from *Oh, Kay!* and as recent as 2016 with "Opening Up" from *Waitress* by Sara Bareilles.

As we rehearsed, it was fun to experience the generational differences among our singers in familiarity with the songs. Some of us were immediately nostalgic as we sang "Some Enchanted Evening" and "It's a Grand Night for Singing" while some of our younger singers looked puzzled. A lyric in "Someone to Watch Over Me" says, "I'd like to add your initials to my monogram," a concept barely recognized in 2023. Our younger singers happily embraced songs -- such as those from *Wicked*, *Hamilton* and *Dear Evan Hansen* -- which challenged others with unfamiliar rhythms and cadences. It was a delightful exploration through time and tradition which we hope you will enjoy as much as we have.

Our chorus had its first performance on May 12, 1974. Next year, we will celebrate our 50th Anniversary with a mix of traditional classical works in December and May and a special piece composed for our 50th Anniversary concert in May of 2024.

For now, enjoy our lighthearted journey through some Broadway classics.



Susan C. Scrimshaw, President  
Pemigewasset Choral Society

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*WILLIAM GUNN*  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

William Gunn is the director of music at Plymouth Regional High School where he conducts the Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and teaches a year-long guitar elective. Mr. Gunn received his bachelor of music in music education from Ithaca College and his masters of music in conducting from Colorado State University. Mr. Gunn has studied conducting with Wes Kenney, Dwight Bigler, Steve Peterson, and Eric Hammer. Mr. Gunn is the immediate past president of the New Hampshire chapter of the American Choral Directors' Association (NHACDA) and serves as the High School Repertoire and Resources chair for ACDA Eastern Region. On March 31, 2023, it was announced that the NHACDA had selected Will as the 2023 Choral Director of the Year.

Mr. Gunn's choirs have consistently received high ratings at local and regional festivals. In 2014, the PRHS Chamber Singers were chosen to be the featured choir at the All New England Choral Festival. In 2016, the PRHS Concert Choir premiered a new work in collaboration with the ALS Association of New England and raised over two thousand dollars for ALS research. The new composition included text by a local author and community member who lost the battle to ALS in 2015. Mr. Gunn has also collaborated on new commissions with Dr. Jonathan Santore and Michael John Trotta. Mr. Gunn regularly guest conducts and adjudicates at local and regional festivals. In 2018, he was a Conducting Scholar at the Delaware Choral Academy in Aix-en-Provence, France.

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*LAURA V. BELANGER*  
ACCOMPANIST

Laura V. Belanger received her degree from Manhattan School of Music where she studied under Bronson Ragan and Frederick Swan. She holds Choir Master (ChM) and Associateship (AAGO) certificates from the American Guild of Organists (AGO).

Ms. Belanger is an active composer and has directed and accompanied choruses and church choirs throughout New England, including the University Glee Club of Providence, RI. She is an avid enthusiast of musical theatre and as such has served as music director for many community theatre productions, including *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Godspell*, and *Cinderella*. In 2017, Ms. Belanger was nominated for “Best Musical Direction in a Community Theatre Production” by NH Theatre Awards.

Ms. Belanger is retired from Steinert’s Pianos where she was a Steinway sales consultant. She lives in New Hampshire’s Lakes Region and serves as organist at the Sanbornton Congregational Church in Sanbornton, NH.

You can learn more about Laura at her website: [OrganSymphonyAssistant.com](http://OrganSymphonyAssistant.com)

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The Pemigewasset Choral Society is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts



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State Council on the **Arts**



## *DASH OUGH* DRUMS

Dash has been playing the drum kit for a little over 5 years. He has studied with Jared Steer since 2018, learning all styles of drumming and percussion. Dash has played music ranging from hard rock to big-band swing, but his favorite genres are funk and Latin. After graduating he plans on going to college for something math related while continuing to play music. He would like to thank his parents for supporting

him the past five years and for not tossing his drum kit, no matter how much they may have wanted to.



## *QUINN AMSDEN* BASS

Quinn has been studying guitar for ten years. This year, he learned bass guitar in order to play in his school's Jazz Ensemble. Music is something he's always been passionate about and in the future he plans to pursue a music-related career.

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### Sopranos

Virginia Barunas, *Laconia*  
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Joanne Bickford, *Center Sandwich*  
Kim Bossey, *Meredith*  
Alice Bowen, *Rumney*  
Elizabeth Burow, *Rumney*  
Frances Chevalier, *Thornton*  
Deborah Corr, *New Hampton*  
Kim Cranshaw, *Campton*  
Gisela Behrendt Estes, *Plymouth*  
Olivia Etchings, *Plymouth*  
Nancy Frost, *Gilford*  
Roberta Gatehouse, *New Hampton*  
Gina Healy, *Laconia*  
Cindy Hess, *Waterville Valley*  
Rachael Kidney, *Campton*  
Francine King, *Meredith*  
Barbara McCahan, *Plymouth*  
Christine McMillian, *Meredith*  
Nancy Nesheim, *Meredith*  
Colleen O'Loughlin, *Campton*  
Christine Ronan, *Gilford*  
Valerie Sargent, *Northfield*  
Susan Scrimshaw, *Thornton*  
Carol Stewart, *Thornton*  
Jessie Thompson, *Plymouth*  
Lois Wagner, *Campton*  
Kathy West, *Hebron*

### Altos

Rhea Abbott, *Dorchester*  
Robbin Adams, *Campton*  
Lourdes Avilés, *Campton*  
Heather Baldwin, *Thornton*  
Janis Bass, *Holderness*  
Michelle Bui, *Ashland*  
Judy Buswell, *Laconia*  
Barbara Carpenter, *Bridgewater*  
Priscilla Carr Whitney, *Campton*  
Susan Chadwick, *Bristol*  
Phyllis Corrigan, *Gilford*  
Judi D'Aleo, *Plymouth*  
Heather Doherty, *Campton*  
Sally Filteau, *Hebron*  
Lulu Fite, *Gilford*  
Karen Gaulty, *Thornton*  
Mary Hazelton, *Hebron*  
Katherine Hillier, *Plymouth*  
Denise Hutchins, *Campton*  
Elsie Ivester, *Gilford*  
Sally Linfield, *Bridgewater*  
Mary Lloyd-Evans, *New London*  
Carol Lowden, *Woodstock*  
Tamara McGonagle, *Gilford*  
Victoria Merriman, *Ellsworth*  
Molly Milner, *Rumney*  
Ann Nichols, *Gilford*  
Anita Ross, *Thornton*

# THE PEMIGEWASSET CHORAL SOCIETY

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Briana Stewart, *Loudon*  
Lea A. Stewart, *Campton*  
Jennifer Whalen, *Melvin Village*  
Sara Willingham, *Concord*  
Emily Vale, *Groton*

### **Tenors**

Michael Avilés Bramer, *Campton*  
Katie Badylak, *Plymouth*  
Lorraine Barrows, *Laconia*  
Sarah Bunkley, *Plymouth*  
Jane Clay, *Plymouth*  
Pam Coburn, *Meredith*  
AJ Coppola, *Thornton*  
Gabrielle Crandall, *Center Harbor*  
Jay Frost, *Meredith*  
Jim Goodwin, *Belmont*  
Mary Edith Kovach-Heise, *Campton*

### **Tenors (cont.)**

Woodie Laverack, *Holderness*  
Ginny Lovett, *Meredith*  
Gary McCool, *Rumney*  
Marilyn Pomerantz, *Thornton*  
Allan Stern, *Thornton*  
Patricia Timbury, *Woodstock*  
John Whitney, *Campton*

### **Basses**

Granville Barrows, *Laconia*  
Frederick Bickford, *Center Sandwich*  
Dan Hale, *Plymouth*  
Robert Harrington, *Laconia*  
John Kreidler, *Laconia*  
Craig McMillian, *Meredith*  
Thomas Perkins, *Holderness*  
Logan Ross, *Thornton*  
Ken Wells, *Andover*

We shared friendship and a joy of singing with these long-time Pemi Choral singers who are recently deceased. They will be greatly missed.

*In Memoriam*



Carolyn H. Desmarais

Mary Divers

# GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING

## PROGRAM

### **It's a Grand Night for Singing**

*State Fair (1945)*

Richard Rodgers and  
Oscar Hammerstein II  
arr. William Stickles

### **Blow, Gabriel, Blow**

*Anything Goes (1934)*

Cole Porter  
arr. Philip Kern

### **Someone to Watch Over Me**

*Oh, Kay! (1926)*

George Gershwin  
and Ira Gershwin  
arr. Jay Althouse

### **Some Enchanted Evening**

*South Pacific (1949)*

Richard Rodgers and  
Oscar Hammerstein II  
arr. William Stickles

### **They Say It's Wonderful**

*Annie Get Your Gun (1946)*

Soloist: Allan Stern, Alto Saxophone

Irving Berlin  
arr. Mark Brymer

### **Luck Be a Lady**

*Guys and Dolls (1950)*

Frank Loesser  
arr. Ed Lojeski

### **Seasons of Love**

*Rent (1996)*

Jonathan Larson  
arr. Roger Emerson

## INTERMISSION

## PROGRAM (CONT.)

### Opening Up

*Waitress (2016)*

Soloists: Emily Vale, Tamara McGonagle, Denise Hutchins

Sara Bareilles

arr. Mac Huff

### Color Purple

*The Color Purple (2005)*

Soloist: Emily Vale

Brenda Russell, Allee

Willis, Stephen Bray

arr. Rollo Dilworth

### Corner of the Sky

*Pippin (1972)*

Soloist: Sarah Bunkley

Stephen Schwartz

arr. John Leavitt

### For Good

*Wicked (2003)*

Soloists: Valerie Sargent, Tamara McGonagle

Stephen Schwartz

arr. Mac Huff

### Found/Tonight

(2018) A mash-up of two songs  
from *Dear Evan Hansen* (2016)  
and *Hamilton* (2015)

Lin-Manuel Miranda,

Justin Paul, Benj Pasek

arr. Jacob Narverud

### Johanna

*Sweeney Todd (1979)*

Soloist: Michael Avilés Bramer

Stephen Sondheim

### The Impossible Dream

*Man of La Mancha (1965)*

Soloist: Michael Avilés Bramer

Mitch Leigh and Joe

Darion

arr. Mac Huff

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Narrator: Richard Smith  
Rhythm Section: Dash Ough, Drums/Quinn Amsden, Bass

## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

I will never forget my first time visiting a Broadway theater. My dad and I had just completed a road trip across the country from Los Angeles, and we had tickets to see *Wicked*. At that point, my experience had only been with high school and community theater productions. I was completely blown away by the sheer magnitude of talent, dedication, and artistry that was given to each element of the production.

We are thrilled to celebrate that timeless American icon this weekend. It is impossible to represent all of the brilliant shows of the last century, but we did our best! From the simple ballads from Rodgers and Hammerstein to the upbeat pop songs of Sara Bareilles, we tried to give everyone something they could sing along with.

I want to thank two of my Plymouth Regional High School students, Dash Ough and Quinn Amsden, for providing a crucial rhythm section to several of our selections tonight. It is so fulfilling as a teacher to see real-world applications for skills that we've developed in class.

Lastly, I want to thank our brilliant narrator, Rich Smith, for helping us to weave the ideas of these shows together. We hope that you are transported back to one of those memorable times in the theater!

*Will Gunn*

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# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THESE BROADWAY MUSICALS

## ***Annie Get Your Gun (They Say It's Wonderful)***

Dorothy Fields conceived of the story of Annie Oakley, the real-life sharpshooter who starred in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, as a vehicle for her friend Ethel Merman, who debuted the part of Annie on Broadway. But Merman declined to go on tour with the post-Broadway show, and the part of Annie was given to Mary Martin, who toured with the show for two years. The Broadway production, produced by Rodgers and Hammerstein, was originally supposed to have music by Jerome Kern with lyrics by co-librettist Dorothy Fields. Kern died suddenly before he could begin work on the show, and Rodgers and Hammerstein convinced Irving Berlin to take over.

## ***Dear Evan Hansen and Hamilton (Found/Tonight)***

"Found/Tonight" is a mash-up charity single of two popular musical theater tracks from *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Hamilton*, with the proceeds partially donated to the March for Our Lives anti-gun violence movement founded in the wake of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. The song's lyrics and melodies are borrowed from "The Story of Tonight" from *Hamilton*, and "You Will Be Found" from *Dear Evan Hansen*. *Hamilton* composer Lin-Manuel Miranda praised the student-led aspect of the movement, stating, "In the midst of their grief, March for Our Lives mobilized the youth of our nation and created a movement. This song is my way of helping to raise funds and awareness for their efforts, and to say thank you, and that we are with you, so let's keep fighting, together."

## ***Guys and Dolls (Luck Be a Lady)***

"Luck Be a Lady" is a song written and composed by Frank Loesser in 1950 and first performed by Robert Alda in the Broadway musical *Guys and Dolls*. (Robert Alda was the father of MASH star Alan Alda.) The lyrics relate the point of view of a gambler, Sky Masterson, who hopes that he will win a bet, the outcome of which will decide whether or not he is able to save his relationship with the girl of his dreams.

## ***Oh, Kay! (Someone to Watch Over Me)***

The 1926 Gershwin show *Oh, Kay!* starred Gertrude Lawrence, who later played the governess Anna in the Rodgers & Hammerstein musical *The King and I*. During rehearsals in Philadelphia, George Gershwin visited a local toy store and purchased a rag doll. The ballad "Someone to Watch Over Me" was staged with Gertrude Lawrence alone on stage, clutching the doll and singing to it. It was the hit song of the show and became a Gershwin standard.

### ***Pippin* (Corner of the Sky)**

*Pippin*'s soundtrack is a unique mix of classic Broadway showtunes and modern, pop, and folk style songs. *Pippin* truly paved the way for the modern Broadway musical. Seeking a funky edge, the original soundtrack was produced by Motown Records. There was even a wild rendition of "Corner of the Sky" by the Jackson 5! Most of the promotion of *Pippin*'s original production was done via radio commercials, and through the release of "Corner of the Sky" as a chart-topping single. And *Pippin* was also the first Broadway show to release a television advertisement containing scenes from onstage.

### ***RENT* (Seasons of Love)**

Creator Jonathan Larson loosely based the plot and characters on Puccini's opera "*La Bohème*," with its timeless story of misfits finding a family within themselves. Its diverse cast contained characters who were black, white, brown, straight, gay, bisexual, and transgender. Unfortunately, Larson died from an aortic aneurysm only one night before the show was scheduled to premiere off-Broadway in January 1996. The show went on to be an international success.

### ***South Pacific* (Some Enchanted Evening)**

In the original Broadway production, "Some Enchanted Evening" was sung by former Metropolitan Opera star Ezio Pinza. Pinza won the Tony Award for Best Actor in 1950 for this role, and the song made him a favorite with audiences and listeners who normally did not attend or listen to opera.

### ***Waitress* (Opening Up)**

Before every show, fresh pies were baked with lots of cinnamon in them. As they walked in, audience members were treated to an authentic diner aroma wafting through the theater. Katharine McPhee originated the role of Jenna Hunterson in the West End in London in 2019. Appearing on *American Idol* in 2006, she gained notoriety on the NBC hit musical series *Smash* as Karen Cartwright, a small-town actor who dreams of performing on a Broadway stage. *Waitress* had the first ever all-female production team on Broadway.

### ***Wicked* (For Good)**

The Wicked Witch wasn't always named Elphaba. In fact, the Wicked Witch didn't have a name in the original Oz book series by L. Frank Baum and wasn't given a name until 1996 when Gregory Maguire wrote the novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, which is a reworked exploration of the Wizard of Oz characters. Maguire was inspired by the Oz series' author's initials L.F.B. from which he coined Elphaba. Idina Menzel originated the role of Elphaba on Broadway and in London's West End.

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the power of the chorus  
to bring peasants  
to the barricades,  
they know the strength of all those voices helping you  
forget about the boy, and all that jazz –

They know

only to surrender  
to a solo voice aching for  
forgiveness for going far  
from the home she loves.

We  
have witnessed Shug's shimmy,  
and Hamilton's duel;  
we have joined the magic.

We know

the colors of our lives  
will lead home our loves;  
that it is possible to reach  
the impossible.

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of the musicverse;

We know worlds.

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