
Mayo Male Voice Choir – Spring Concert 2016 – Compere's Notes

| # | Title | Performer | Basic Info | Additional Info |
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| 1 | What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor Arr: David Eddleman. | MMVC | A 19th (?) Century sea shanty | The authorship and origin of "Drunken Sailor" are unknown. However, the melody does sound quite similar to the chorus of the traditional Irish ballad "Óró sé do bheatha abhaile," and a possible adaptation may be suspected. |
| 2 | The West's Awake Author: Thomas Davis. (See additional info) | MMVC | Considered the Galway anthem Used as a rallying call! (Both now and in times past) See poster at end. | Thomas Davis, a Protestant Irish revolutionary, was born in Mallow in County Cork, on October 14, 1814. His father was a Welsh-born surgeon, and his mother was descended from the famous Irish chieftain O'Sullivan Beare. He established the Nation newspaper and dedicated his life to Irish nationalism. |

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| 3 | <p>Summer Wind</p> <p>Written by Heinz Meier with English lyrics by Johnny Mercer</p> | <p>The Garvey Brothers</p> <p>The Garvey Brothers, James and Joseph have been involved in live music in Castlebar and the greater Mayo area for a number of years. James is known for his versatile tenor voice and for tackling styles such as Gospel, Sacred, Traditional and Folk while Multi-instrumentalist Joseph can be seen accompanying many of Mayo's most celebrated choirs. The brothers perform locally as well as nationally and occasionally, internationally as a two piece harmony group. Most recent in their adventures was a brief trip to New York with Castlebar Gospel Choir, as well as an appearance on Irish TV's: Songs and Stories of Connaught.</p> | <p>"Summer Wind" is a 1965 song, originally released in Germany with German lyrics the song is best known for a 1966 recording by Frank Sinatra with English lyrics by Johnny Mercer which peaked at number one on the Easy Listening chart.</p> | <p>The Sinatra version originally appeared on his album, Strangers in the Night.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Unchained Melody</p> <p>Music by Alex North and lyrics by Hy Zaret.</p> | <p>The Garvey Brothers</p> | <p>A 1955 song that was originally the theme for the little-known prison film Unchained, hence the name.</p> | <p>In 1936, songwriter Alex North approached Bing Crosby with the still untitled song. Crosby turned the song down and it remained unrecorded for almost twenty years. In 1954, North was contracted to write a song as a theme for the prison film Unchained and he asked lyricist Hy Zaret to write the lyrics but Zaret refused the producer's request to include the word "unchained" in his lyrics. The song eventually became known as the "Unchained Melody" even though the song does not actually include the word "unchained". With Todd Duncan singing the vocals the song was nominated for an Oscar in 1955.</p> |

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| 5 | Worried Man Blues American folk song Arranged by Gwyn Arch. | MMVC | A folk song from about the 1930s. | The song was recorded by Woody Guthrie in 1940, and in the years that followed by his sometime singing partners Cisco Houston, Burl Ives, Ramblin' Jack Elliott and Pete Seeger. It was included by Seeger in his 1955 "Folksinger's Guitar Guide" instruction record and booklet as well as his concerts throughout the 1960s. Many artists have recorded it since. |
| 6 | The Pilgrims' Chorus From Tannhäuser Music and lyrics by Richard Wagner | MMVC | The first performance was given in the Königliche Hoftheater (Royal Theater) in Dresden on 19 October 1845. | Tannhäuser is an 1845 opera in three acts, based on two German legends; Tannhäuser, the legendary medieval German Minnesänger and poet, and the tale of the Wartburg Song Contest. The story centres on the struggle between sacred and profane love, and redemption through love, a theme running through much of Wagner's mature work. |
| 7 | Farewell, My Love, Farewell Music: Franz Lehár Librettists: Alfred Maria Willner and Heinz Reichert | Sean Costello Seán Costello is one of the leading Irish Tenors of his generation. A multi award winner Seán has a repertoire ranging from classical to contemporary music. Seán has had very successful national tours and has starred in the leading roles in many musicals. Five time Best Male Voice award winner with AIMS, he is a regular performer on national Radio and Television with recent broadcasts on the Late, Late Show and the John Murray RTE 1 radio show. | Serenade from Frasquita. 1922 | Frasquita is a comic opera in three acts by Franz Lehár . The libretto written Alfred Maria Willner and Heinz Reichert . The work had its premiere on 12 May 1922 at the Theater an der Wien in Vienna . A revised version in French came on 3 May 1933, Paris (as opéra comique) on stage. |

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| 8 | Macushla Words by Josephine V. Rowe Music by Dermot MacMorrough c. 1910, Boosey & Co., New York | Sean Costello | The words to Macushla were written by Josephine V. Rowe, and the music by Dermot MacMorrough. It was their only musical hit. | It is an Irish song of endearment and love that appeared in the film about Michael Collins in recent times. The Irish language origins, mo chroí (my heart), mo chuisle (my pulse; as in 'a chuisle mo chroí', pulse of my heart - in English we can call someone a "heart throb") |
| 9 | The Nightingale Song Music by Carl Zeller Libretto by Moritz West and Ludwig Held | Sean Costello | It was first performed on 10 January 1891. It also played at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in London in 1895 and at the Casino Theatre in New York in 1891. | Der Vogelhändler is a bucolic comedy, set in the 18th-century Rhineland, featuring two lovers, Adam, a handsome bird seller from the Tyrol and Christel, the village postmistress. |
| 10 | Jug Of Punch Trad. Arr Mark Sirett | MMVC | This traditional song was arranged by Mark Sirett for TTBB for a Canadian choir. [Roud 1808 ; Ballad Index K278 ; trad.] A.L. Lloyd sang A Jug of Punch in 1956 on the Riverside album English Drinking Songs. He wrote in the sleeve notes: This is probably an Irish importation, brought to East Anglia by migrant potato-lifters. | <i>[Not sure how accurate this is]</i> Variant of a stage song with vocal music composed by Edward Francis Fitzwilliam [1824-1857] for the play Green Bushes which opened on January 27, 1845, and would become the most popular play ever performed at London's Adelphi Theatre (1806-1900). Also a variant of a British broadside ballad, Jug Of Punch, archived at the Bodleian Library Broadside Ballads. |

INTERVAL & RAFFLE

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| 11 | A Nation Once Again Music and Lyrics by Thomas Davis. Arranged for TTBB choir by Deirdre Lee. | MMVC | <p>Written in the early to mid-1840s by Thomas Osborne Davis (1814–1845). Davis was a founder of an Irish movement whose aim was the independence of Ireland.</p> <p>First published in The Nation on 13 July 1844 and quickly became a rallying call for the growing Irish nationalist movement at that time. The song is a prime example of the "Irish rebel music" subgenre. The lyrics exhort Irishmen to stand up and fight for their land: "And righteous men must make our land a nation once again". It has been recorded by many Irish singers and groups, notably John McCormack, The Clancy Brothers, The Dubliners, The Wolfe Tones (a group with Republican leanings) in 1972, the Poxty Boggards, and The Irish Tenors (John McDermott, Ronan Tynan, Anthony Kearns) and Sean Conway for a 2007 single.</p> |
| 12 | Grace Music and Lyrics by Frank and Sean O'Meara Arranged for MMVC by David Loring and Joseph Garvey (both of MMVC) | MMVC | <p>The song talks about the hours before the execution of Joseph Plunkett when he married Grace Vandelour Gifford in Kilmainham Gaol on the third of May. He was executed on the 4th May 1916.</p> <p>The reference in the song to the "Blood Upon The Rose" is the title of a poem written by Joseph Plunkett – one of many.</p> <p>Gifford became engaged to Plunkett in 1915. She took instruction and was received into the Roman Catholic Church in April 1916. The wedding was planned for Easter Sunday 1916 - the date of the Rising, which was put down and its leaders sentenced to death.</p> |

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| 13 | Arrivederci Roma Music: Renato Rascel, Lyrics: Pietro Garinei and Sandro Giovannini. | Sean Costello | "Arrivederci Roma" (English: "Goodbye, Rome") is a popular Italian song, published in 1955 as part of the soundtrack of the Italo-American musical film with the same title, released as Seven Hills of Rome in English. | <p>In the movie, the song is interpreted by the leading character, played by the American actor and singer Mario Lanza. Carl Sigman wrote the lyrics for the English language version of the movie.</p> <p>Arrivederci (or a rivederci), which literally means "until we see each other again", is a common Italian equivalent of "goodbye". The original lyrics express the nostalgia of a Roman man for the dinners and short-lived love affairs he had with foreign tourists who came to Rome. It recalls the popular legend associated with the Trevi Fountain.</p> |
| 14 | You Raise Me Up Music by Secret Garden's Rolf Løvland and words by Brendan Graham | Sean Costello | The song has been recorded by more than a hundred other artists including Josh Groban in 2003. The Irish band Westlife then popularized the song in the United Kingdom two years later. "You Raise Me Up" is sung as a contemporary hymn in church services. | Written late in 2001 and performed by the Secret Garden and invited lead singer, Brian Kennedy, the song only became a minor UK hit. Westlife took it to No 1 in the UK Singles Chart. Josh Groban performed the song at Super Bowl XXXVIII, in a special NASA commemoration for the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster. A special surprise performance by Groban, for Oprah Winfrey's 50th birthday, also gave "You Raise Me Up" massive international prominence.. |
| 15 | Let The Rest Of The World Go By Music by Ernest Ball Lyrics by J Keirn Brennan | Sean Costello & MMVC | <p>Written in 1919 by Composer Ernest R.Ball, (1878-1927) with words by lyricist J. Keirn Brennan, (1873-1948)</p> <p>Recorded by a huge number or artists including Ringo Starr.</p> | |

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| 16 | Gospel Glory Music and Lyrics: Various Composers, Trad., Ackers, Howe etc. Arr: Gwyn Arch | MMVC | A medley of "Just a Closer Walk with Thee", a traditional gospel song, "Lead Me, Guide Me" an African American gospel hymn by Doris M. Akers in 1953 and "Do Lord Remember Me" is an up tempo work day song of slaves probably written by Julia Ward Howe (1819 – 1910) | <p>"Just a Closer Walk with Thee", perhaps the most frequently played number at traditional New Orleans jazz funerals. Alludes to the Biblical passage from 2 Corinthians 5:7 which states, "We walk by faith, not by sight" and James 4:8, "Come near to God and he will come near to you."</p> <p>"Lead Me, Guide Me" by Doris M. Akers. An African American gospel hymn in 1953 in Oakland, California. Akers had an active career as singer, choir director, and songwriter. She wrote her first song at age ten and since that time has composed more than three hundred gospel songs and hymns.</p> <p>"Do Lord Remember Me" probably written by Julia Ward Howe (1819 – 1910). The Battle Hymn of the Republic and Do Lord are both credited to her. There's a lot of history regarding origin of the Battle Hymn, but not much over Do Lord.</p> |
| 17 | Concrete and Clay Music and lyrics by Tommy Moeller and Brian Parker of Unit 4+2 | The Garvey Brothers | "Concrete and Clay" is a 1965 hit single recorded by the UK pop group Unit 4 + 2. It reached No. 1 in the UK Singles Chart in April 1965. | |

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| 18 | <p>I'm gonna be (500 miles)</p> <p>Written by Scottish duo The Proclaimers , and first released as the lead single from their 1988 album Sunshine on Leith.</p> | <p>The Garvey Brothers and Steven Brady (MMVC)</p> | <p>This arrangement by Ronan Scolard of Irish vocal trio Trillogy offers a unique take on this well-known song in an arrangement for three voices in close harmony and piano.</p> | <p>The song was mainly written by Craig Reid in mid-1987 while waiting to travel to a Proclaimers concert in Aberdeen. Reid recalled, "I can remember sitting at the piano and the chords just came to me. I reckon I wrote the whole thing in 45 minutes. I knew that it was a good song, maybe even a single, but I had no idea how popular it would become." Reid has said that the band's earnings from the song are about five times the rest of their catalogue combined.[</p> |
| 19 | <p>Just Jolson (Medley)</p> <p>Music and Lyrics: Various compersers inc Silver, Sylva, Kahn, Donaldson etc. Arr: Gwyn Arch</p> | <p>MMVC</p> | <p>A medley of Al Jolson songs including "April Showers", "Carolina in the Morning", "You Made Me Love You (I Didn't Want to Do It)", "Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" and "California, Here I Come"</p> | <p>"April Showers" was first published in 1921. The song was introduced in the 1921 Broadway musical Bombo, where it was performed by Al Jolson. It became a well-known Jolson trademark.</p> <p>"Carolina in the Morning" first published in 1922. Al Jolson's 1947 re-recording of the song outsold the original.</p> <p>"You Made Me Love You was published in 1913. One of the earliest recordings of the song was by Al Jolson on June 4, 1913.</p> <p>"Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody" was introduced in the Broadway musical Sinbad and published in 1918. Probably one of the best-known recordings of the song was by Al Jolson who introduced it and whose version reached #1.</p> <p>"California, Here I Come" written for the 1921 Broadway musical Bombo, starring Al Jolson. The song was written by Buddy DeSylva and Joseph Meyer, with Jolson often listed as a co-author. Jolson recorded the song in 1924. It is often called the unofficial state song of California.</p> |

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| 20 | American Trilogy Arranged by Arranged by: Mickey Newbury Adapted by: Alwyn Humphries: Mickey Newbury Adapted by: Alwyn Humphries | MMVC | <p>A medley of three 19th century songs — "Dixie", a blackface minstrel song that became the unofficial anthem of the Confederacy since the Civil War; "All My Trials", originally a Bahamian lullaby, but closely related to African American spirituals, and well-known through folk music revivalists; and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", the marching song of the Union Army during the Civil War.[1]</p> <p>Over 465 versions of "An American Trilogy" have been recorded by different artists</p> |
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THE WEST'S AWAKE!

MEN OF 1917
NORTH ROSCOMMON,
Ireland Expects You
To STRIKE a BLOW
FOR OUR SMALL NATIONALITY
AND RETURN
COUNT PLUNKETT,

AS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE, and FREE HIM from
EXILE, and his Children and your Countrymen from
Prison Chains.

Will **North Roscommon**
Loosen their Bonds or act as
Gaolers over Irishmen.

The EYES of IRELAND are ON YOU!

The eyes of your sons and daughters beyond the seas,
and of your countrymen scattered all over the world are
on you.

ALL true LOVERS of IRELAND TRUST NORTH
ROSCOMMON, and WILL THEY MAY,
To Return Count Plunkett.

"Democrat Print," Strokestown