

THE THREE B'S
 CHESTER RIVER CHORALE
 Ann Turpin, Artistic Director

Mass in C Ludwig van Beethoven
Kyrie
Gloria
Agnus Dei
 Soloists: Kari Paludan*, Molly Keck*, Wesley Dessesow, Jack Shaum

CHESTER CHAMBER SINGERS
 Jonathan Emmons, Conductor

I Have Had Singing Ron Jeffers
When I Am Filled with Music Stephen Paulus
 Ann Turpin, piano
Charm Me Asleep Henry Leslie
Sure on this Shining Night from **Nocturnes** Morten Lauridsen
 Ann Turpin, piano

Ombra mai fù from **Serse** G. F. Handel
 Wesley Dessesow, tenor

CHESTER RIVER CHORALE

Psalm 150 Ernani Aguiar
If Music Be the Food of Love Donald McCullough
Ticket to Ride Lennon and McCartney, arr. Snyder
Danny Boy arr. Joseph Flummerfelt
West Side Story Leonard Bernstein, arr. Len Thomas
 Soloists: Wesley Dessesow, Mary McCoy, Linda Ruggles, Jack Shaum

* Ms. Paludin's and Ms. Keck's performances, courtesy of the Hedgelawn Foundation.
 Special Thanks to R. A. Daffer Church Organs for providing the organ for this concert.

PROGRAM NOTES

Our theme, "The Three B's," is an updated version of the customary "Three B's," Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, presenting Beethoven's genius along with the music of inspired 20th century musicians Leonard Bernstein and the Beatles.

Beethoven wrote the *Mass in C, Opus 86* in 1807, hoping to gain the favor of Prince Nikolaus Esterhazy II. It was first performed on the "name day" (feast day of the saint for whom one was named) of the Prince's wife, Maria. However the Prince was not impressed. Although the years 1807–1808 were a highly productive time for Beethoven—he composed both the *Fifth* and *Sixth Symphonies*, as well as the *Choral Fantasy* and *Coriolan Overture* during this period—he was struggling to find a secure position. It was not until Sept. 1811 that the *Mass* was finally performed successfully.

The *Mass in C* was performed many times during Beethoven's lifetime. More accessible than his more famous and challenging *Missa Solemnis* and the *Ninth ("Choral") Symphony*, it has become a favorite with community choruses. We are performing the first, second and final movements of this beautiful work.

After the Chester Chamber Singers and soloist Wesley Dessesow have performed, our next piece is a rhythmically charged setting (in Latin) of Psalm 150 by Ernani Aguiar, born in 1949 in Brazil.

Next is the famous text by the 17th century poet, Colonel Henry Heveningham, "If Music Be the Food of Love," set to heartachingly beautiful music by Washington, DC composer Donald McCullough. The poem's first line, "If music be the food of love," is a quote from Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

The second of our "B's" is a medley of familiar Beatles pieces from the mid-1960's by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, arranged by Audrey Snyder.

This is followed by an arrangement of *Danny Boy* by another 20th century composer and conductor, Joseph Flummerfelt, best known as the former head of Choral Conducting at Westminster Choir College and the founding director of New York Choral Artists. It remains a matter of discussion whether the narrator in *Danny Boy* is the love, mother or father. It has also been suggested that it is Ireland herself, singing for her children forced by famine and poverty to emigrate.

We conclude with a medley of well-loved songs from Leonard Bernstein's classic urban American retelling of the Romeo and Juliet story, *West Side Story*.