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SCHOLA CANTORUM SINGS THE MUSIC OF BELOVED COMPOSER RANDALL THOMPSON

There's something identifiable about Randall Thompson's music that says *America*. It's the poetry of Robert Frost, the soaring sounds of Alleluia. It's melodies that are accessible to all people, and text that allows both listener and singer to expose his or her humanity. Choral group Schola Cantorum pays tribute to this quintessentially American composer in a Randall Thompson Retrospective on May 14 @ 7:30 PM at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto, and May 15 at 3:00 PM at the Los Altos United Methodist Church.

Music Director Gregory Wait says, "The retrospective will appeal to people who grew up with this repertoire. Younger generations will experience what choral music was at the time, but also hear works that the human voice and soul can express."

Los Altos resident John Murden is sponsoring the concert, his second to date. "It's a tangible way to support Schola and its mission," he says, and points out that different concerts require different funding needs, such as soloists or orchestras. "Knowing that a concert will be completely funded, and resources available, gives Gregory Wait the confidence and flexibility to be creative." Murden has served on Schola's board for five years, singing with the choir for three years. "This retrospective demonstrates the range of abilities that Schola has," he says.

Audience members attending the concert will hear songs they may remember listening to, or singing, including *Peaceable Kingdom*, *Frostiana*, *Testament of Freedom*, and *The Feast of Praise*, a piece that Randall Thompson dedicated to his friend Harold Schmidt, who, at the time of the work's premier, was director of choral activities at Stanford University.

Also on the program: the inspirational *Alleluia*, originally commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra for the Berkshire Music Festival in 1940. Thompson didn't complete writing *Alleluia* until 45 minutes prior to the performance. When the conductor G. Wallace Woodworth received the score, he saw the word Alleluia repeated over and over and told his choir, "Well, text at least is one thing we won't have to worry about."

Ticket prices are \$26 general, free for students 25 and under. Reserve at www.ScholaCantorum.org, or 650-254-1700.

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