

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRUENORTH CULTURAL ARTS PERFORMS FALL CONCERT

Event on November 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Avon Lake, OH—TrueNorth Cultural Arts will present a fall concert titled ***The Songs We Carry: An American Journey in Music*** at Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.

What are the songs we carry with us? The songs we learned as children. The songs our parents loved. The melodies that remind us of a place, a person, a season, or a time when life seemed different. ***The Songs We Carry: An American Journey in Music*** explores those memories through a richly varied concert with the TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra, Chorale, and theatrical storytelling.

The program moves through the American musical landscape with chamber orchestra works ranging from Aaron Copland's exuberant "***Hoe-Down***" from Rodeo and the Appalachian traditions of "***Blackberry Blossom***" to Mark O'Connor's evocative ***Appalachia Waltz*** and music by Antonín Dvořák, whose own encounter with America helped shape his celebrated "***American***" ***Quartet***.

At the heart of the evening are four distinctive choral arrangements by acclaimed conductor and composer Craig Hella Johnson: Carly Simon's "***Let the River Run***," Dolly Parton's "***Light of a Clear Blue Morning***," the traditional "***The Water Is Wide***," and Johnson's moving combination of "***I Love You / What a Wonderful World***." Johnson's arrangements have been closely associated with Conspirare and have become part of the contemporary choral repertoire.

But this concert is more than a sequence of musical selections. TrueNorth's narrators, equity actors, Greg Violand and Maryann Nagle Violand, serve as the evening's storytellers. Rather than simply introducing each piece, they inhabit the spaces between the music, sometimes offering history or poetry, sometimes sharing a memory, sometimes slipping into a small scene, and sometimes simply speaking to one another. Their journey gradually becomes part of the audience's journey. They talk about rivers and roads, the places we call home, the things we leave behind, the hope that carries us through difficult seasons, and the people who travel beside us. There is humor. There is nostalgia. There is longing. And, ultimately, there is love.

The concert builds toward a final celebration of the ordinary wonders that surround us every day, culminating in Johnson's "***I Love You / What a Wonderful World***." The arrangement brings two songs together in a musical expression of connection and wonder.

TrueNorth's ***The Songs We Carry*** invites audiences to listen not only for the music, but for the memories inside it. Because sometimes a song is more than a song. Sometimes, it is home.

CONCERT INFORMATION

The Songs We Carry: An American Journey in Music
Saturday, November 7th, 2026
7:30 p.m.

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church
32340 Electric Blvd.

Free-Will Offering

PROGRAM – TrueNorth Chorale and Chamber Orchestra
Rick Fortney, Artistic Director

Aaron Copland — Hoe-Down from Rodeo
Craig Hella Johnson, arr. — Let the River Run
Traditional — Blackberry Blossom
Dolly Parton / Craig Hella Johnson — Light of a Clear Blue Morning
Mark O'Connor — Appalachia Waltz
Traditional / Craig Hella Johnson — The Water Is Wide
Traditional / Mark Hayes – Deep River
Antonín Dvořák — “American” Quartet
Craig Hella Johnson, arr. — I Love You / What a Wonderful World

Narrator/Storytellers: Greg Violand & Maryann Nagle Violand

About TrueNorth Cultural Arts



TrueNorth is a multidisciplinary arts organization committed to building and strengthening individuals and communities through the performing, visual and the literary arts. Our vision is two-fold: To educate, equip, and empower individuals so they can embrace and succeed in the creative arts; and to envision and encourage communities where creative arts and art appreciation flourish. To learn more visit www.TNCArts.org

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