

PROGRAM NOTES

Quincy Symphony Chorus
March 14, 2026 Quincy, Illinois
Compiled by Mason Ellison

And We Are the Dreamers of Dreams - written by Neil Ginsberg and lyrics from Arthur O'Shaughnessy's 1873 poem, *Ode*. This piece celebrates the dreamers who influence the world with their imagination, paying tribute to music makers and dreamers of dreams, and how the people who create history are sometimes seen as outsiders. Ginsberg is a well-respected music educator and has published over forty choral works.

Dream a Little Dream of Me - written by Fabian Andre, Wilbur Schwandt and Gus Kahn. Written in 1930 and first recorded in 1931 by Ozzie Nelson and his orchestra, this song has been covered by over 40 groups and artists. One of the most popular versions was the 1968 recording by Cass Elliot and the Mamas & the Papas. On January 1, 2026, this song entered the public domain.

To Sit and Dream - music written by Rosephanye Powell and lyrics from Langston Hughes' poem *To You*, to express themes of hope, equality, and resilience in an unjust society. The message is for those who are dreamers to help make the world anew. Dr. Powell has been composing music since 1996, and she is currently a vocal music professor at Auburn University.

With a Song in My Heart: The Music of Richard Rodgers - arranged by Mac Huff. Songs performed include "Some Enchanted Evening" from *South Pacific*; "You'll Never Walk Alone" from *Carousel*; and "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*. Richard Rodgers is often considered one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th Century and is credited for revolutionizing musical theatre as an artform that ties music and orchestration to narrative. His work with lyricist Lorenz Hart and later Oscar Hammerstein II continues to be performed and enjoyed around the world today.

The Power of the Dream - written by David Foster, Linda Thompson and Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds. Composed and written for the 1996 Summer Olympics' opening ceremony, this was performed by Canadian singer, Celine Dion, to an audience of over 3 billion television viewers and was later listed by *USA Today* as the second-best Olympic theme of the modern age.

A Million Dreams is from the 2017 movie musical *The Greatest Showman*. Written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the song is performed in the film by a young P.T. Barnum who dreams of a life grander than his working-class status. The song has achieved great popularity outside of the film, being certified Gold and Platinum in several countries, including the United States.

Dream - music and lyrics by American composer Johnny Mercer. Originally created in 1944 as the closing theme of Mercer's radio program, its optimistic lyrics and soothing melody helped make it popular during WWII. *Dream* has been covered by artists such as The Pied Pipers, Frank Sinatra, and Jimmy Dorsey.

The Impossible Dream was originally written for the 1965 musical *Man of La Mancha* by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion. This show-stopping number has become a classic staple, seeing cover versions from Andy Williams, Frank Sinatra, Shirley Bassey and Cynthia Erivo.

I Dreamed of Rain written by Jan Garrett in 2002 during a drought and subsequent wildfires near her home in Colorado, expresses the composer's dream of rain to sooth the land. Garrett and her husband, J.D. Martin, continue to write and perform across the United States and have written and produced over seven albums.

I Dreamed a Dream - music by Claude-Michel Schönberg and original French lyrics by Alain Boublil. Written in 1980 for the musical *Les Misérables* and later adapted to English in 1985 with lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer, this lament is sung by Fantine as she reflects on her life and how it has fallen apart since the father of her child

abandoned them. Originally performed by Patti LuPone for the English version, this song has inspired covers from Aretha Franklin, Anne Hathaway, and Susan Boyle among others.

Hoagy Carmichael: A Choral Portrait - arranged by Robert Sterling. Hoagy Carmichael (1899-1981) was an American musician, composer, songwriter, actor, author and lawyer. Carmichael was one of the most successful songwriters of the 1930s and 1940s, composing several hundred songs, including 50 that achieved hit record status. He was among the first singer-songwriters to use radio broadcasts, television, microphones, and sound recordings (musical records). He is best known for composing four of the most-recorded American songs of all time: "Star Dust" (1927), "Georgia on My Mind" (1930), "The Nearness of You" (1937), and "Heart and Soul" (1938). "Star Dust" was his first big hit of many, and was later recorded by hundreds of artists, including Artie Shaw, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Willie Nelson, and Wynton Marsalis. Note by Lavern Wagner 2012

I Dream a World written by David Conte is based on the Langston Hughes poem *I Dream a World*, which explores what the world would be like if racism and restrictions didn't exist. During Conte's childhood in Cleveland, Ohio in the 1960's and '70's, he witnessed the conflict of neighborhoods struggling with issues like segregation. Hughes' dream of what the world could be continues to inspire Conte.

When Dreams Take Flight with music by Rollo Dilworth and lyrics based on the poem, *Dreams*, by Paul Laurence Dunbar, speaks of articulating your dreams into existence and some of the obstacles that stand in the way. The lyrics consider how the power of dreams helps them fly to heights of hope and inspiration.

Disney Spectacular Medley is arranged by Mac Huff, and features 21 well-known classics from Walt Disney productions. The songs selected for tonight's performance are "Some Day My Prince Will Come," from *Snow White*; "A Dream Is A Wish Your Heart Makes," from *Cinderella*; and "When You Wish Upon A Star" from *Pinocchio*.

California Dreamin' written by John Phillips and Michelle Phillips, was first performed by the Phillips' band The Mamas & the Papas in 1965. The song was conceived in 1963 while they were living in New York City during a particularly cold winter. The song found success in January 1966 on the US charts and appeared in the top 40 in the UK. It was also later covered by the Beach Boys in 1986.

Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams (And Dream Your Troubles Away) - music by Harry Barris lyrics by Billy Moll and Ted Koehler. Originally published in 1931, this became a hit recording for Bing Crosby. This song has remained a popular piece that has seen covers from Louie Armstrong and Sarah Vaughan to Barbara Streisand and Tony Bennett.