

## **Veteran's Day Memorial Concert Narration – 11 November, 2001<sup>1</sup>**

*This was the Choir's first performance following the "9-11" attack. It was not part of our scheduled concert series but it was realized that Choir members and citizens alike needed to express pent up emotions. Since November 11, 2001 was both Veterans' Day and the two-month anniversary of the disaster it was selected as the date for our memorial concert.*

*The Washington, D.C. Temple Visitors' Center offered us the use of their auditorium. The audience filled that room very early. Overflow was put in rooms on the main floor. Soon those rooms filled as did the foyer. The crowd then spilled out to the sidewalk in front of the building. The audience was estimated at approximately 1200-1300 people.*

### **Opening remarks**

#### **Prayer**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **America the Beautiful**

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Good evening ladies and gentlemen. The Mormon Choir of Washington DC is honored that you would choose to spend part of your Sabbath Day with us. We are also grateful to the Washington DC Temple Visitors Center for letting us use this beautiful auditorium...and to the Shenandoah Conservatory Brass Ensemble from Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. They are joined by percussionist; Perry Young.

The Choir is under the baton of Music Director Colonial Gary Clawson, United States Army, Retired. Our accompanist is Kay Durr and I'm Captain Ken Jarvis, United States Navy Reserve.

In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated. After four years of bitter war, an armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over.

For many years thereafter, this day...November eleventh...was known as Armistice Day. However, after World War Two and the Korean War...the name was changed to "Veterans Day".

Tonight we honor you, our veterans...and you, our younger brothers and sisters in uniform who will...all to soon...become veterans. We all love peace and freedom. Thank you for sacrificing your peace that we might have our freedom.

Today is all the more sacred because it is the two-month anniversary of a day that changed our lives. This program is also a memorial service for those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in New York City...the Pentagon in Washington, D. C. and in a field in Pennsylvania.

For you the families, friends and co-workers...we pray this program will give you peace. Please know that we love you...and we dedicate this evening to you as well.

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<sup>1</sup> The narration and introduction were written and delivered by Kenneth A. Jarvis.

***This Is My Country***

In the year 580 B-C...the ancient American Prophet, Lehi, said... “Notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; a land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children forever, and also all those who should be led out of other countries by the hand of the Lord.”<sup>2</sup>

Over 2 thousand 3 hundred years later President John Adams said... “Statesmen...may plan and speculate for liberty, but it is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand.”<sup>3</sup>

Tonight the Choir has chosen three songs that allow us to express our need for divine intervention to guide us in these dark and difficult days.

Joyce Bennett and Jeanie Farnsworth will accompany the Choir as we sing...”Sheep and Lambs May Safely Graze”. We will then perform “Come Unto Him” with violinist Jenny Oaks-Baker. Senator Orrin Hatch wrote the words to our third song...”Heal Our Land”.

***Sheep & Lambs May Safely Graze***  
***Come Unto Him (Jenny Oaks Baker)***  
***Heal Our Land***

The events of September eleventh gave most of us a new definition of the word “horrible”. But there are those among us who already knew what that word meant.

You know who you are. You are today’s grandparents and great-grandparents and you remember where you were when Pearl Harbor was attacked. You remember long lines and short supplies. You remember recruiting posters, boot camp and the USO. But most important you remember what our country did...for itself and for the world...and you helped make it happen.

Tonight we are privileged to have soprano Andrea Thornock with us to sing “My Own America”...a song written by Allie Wrubel in 1941 that pays tribute to this great land and to all of you who helped save democracy in an earlier troubled time.

***My Own America (Andrea Thornock)***

Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guard. Each responds to a song that expresses the great pride that we have in our branch of the Military.

Tonight we salute you who currently serve in the military or are veterans. As we sing your service song, we invite you to stand and be recognized.

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<sup>2</sup> 2 Nephi 1:5

<sup>3</sup> Letter to Zabdiel Adams, June 21, 1776

Following that...the Choir will sing a song that is a prayer for protection. It was originally sung by the United States and British Navies and called “The Navy Hymn”.

Our Conductor, Colonial Clawson, created a special arrangement that embraces members of all our Armed Forces. To all who put themselves in harm’s way...we dedicate this hymn.

**Service Songs**

**Eternal Father, Strong to Save**

**Introduction of General Carlson**

**Memorial Message (General Carlson)**

**God Bless the USA**

Composer Kurt Bester was a Mormon Missionary in the country that was then called Yugoslavia. When its citizens separated and began fighting amongst themselves it broke his heart.

His thoughts and his prayers turned toward the children, and inspired him to write “Prayer of the Children”.

The Mormon Choir of Washington, D.C. performs this song and dedicates it to the children of a new war.

We pray that their lives, their hopes and their dreams will be safe.

**Prayer of the Children**

**Battle Hymn of the Republic**

After the military marches fade and the bugle’s call to battle silenced ...there is always left one terrible...but inevitable fact...not everyone comes home. For it has always been that when old men declare war...young men die.

Our own Carl Morgan sings of this in the beautiful song from *Les Miserables*.....”Bring Him Home”.

The Choir will then sing about a sacred place so close to our hearts... and so close to our Pentagon.

The place is Arlington National Cemetery.

The song is “Morning Breaks on Arlington”.

**Bring Him Home (Carl Morgan Solo)**

**Morning Breaks on Arlington**

Our next song was composed by Irving Berlin in 1918 and immediately tucked away in a file without ever being performed. It stayed there for twenty years until, on the eve of the Second World War, he decided the time was right.

It was 63 years ago tonight...November eleventh 1938...that Kate Smith introduced to the world a song that many call our “unofficial national anthem” Andrea Thornock, the Shenandoah

Conservatory Brass Ensemble and Perry Young join the Choir in performing... "God Bless America".

We conclude this concert by performing a special arrangement of the "Star Spangled Banner". This arrangement was first presented on Television as the finale to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. Inasmuch as this is not the official version of our National Anthem it is not necessary to stand.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for coming tonight.

We leave you with a quote from one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. "I anticipate the day when to command respect in the remotest regions it will be sufficient to say...I am an American."<sup>4</sup> Sir...you were correct.

Good night. May God bless you and may God bless America!

**God Bless America**

**Star Spangled Banner**

**Encore—Gary Clawson**

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<sup>4</sup> Governor Lewis Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence