

Friday, February 10, 2012

10:00 a.m.

Coronado Performing Arts Center

This Land Is Your Land



Special Performance Presented by:

Kantorei—The Singing Boys of Rockford

Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra

Rock Valley Children's Choir

With Special Guest Tom Mac

This concert is partially supported by a grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

About this concert...

The Great American Song Book is a compilation of songs that are a part of every United States citizen's cultural heritage. This isn't a 'real' book in the conventional sense—but a gathering of traditional and popular music that speaks to the American experience of struggle, triumph, fun, work, love, family, wanderlust, adventure, fantasy, and reality. As one would expect by the 'title', this collection of music is dynamic in that it changes over time, and it is also inclusive of the vast array of ethnic backgrounds and cultural diversity our country has experienced since the first Europeans landed on shore and found native Americans established with a rich culture of their own.

This concert was conceived as a way to showcase some of the music written and sung to celebrate the working American—the dignity of work, the struggle to find work, the hardship of traveling or relocating families in order to find work, and the search for the American Dream. The guide on this journey of song and music written and performed from the Great Depression forward to the mid 20th Century is iconic folk artist Woody Guthrie.

In 2012 we celebrate Woody Guthrie's 100th birth anniversary! For the concert we chose Rockford musician/actor Tom Mac to portray Guthrie for the concert. While many younger Americans may not have heard of Woody Guthrie, many of his songs and the songs of his era will sound familiar.

Several of Guthrie's songs are included on the concert including the title tune *This Land is Your Land* celebrating the uniqueness and beauty of America and sends a message of hope and inspiration to us all.

We hope you enjoy preparing your students for this wonderful adventure and of course for the performance at the Coronado PAC on February 10.

See you then!

Lorie Langan
RSO Education and Community Engagement Director

Who is Woody Guthrie? (And Why is He So Important?)



Quick! Name some of the biggest events of the last century. You know, the 1900's, the century your teachers, parents, and grandparents (and that older brother of yours) were born in. How about the Great Depression, World War II, the Dust Bowl, the Civil Rights movement? Or you could just say, **Woody Guthrie**. After all he lived, and lived large, through every one of those momentous events.

What are some of the ways you can reach out to other people and communicate with them? (Remember this is in the days before computers, I-phones, and the internet!) Well there's books, newspapers, radio, rallies, protest songs, long letters, (snail mail) to name a few. Frankly, we could just name **Woody Guthrie**, since he mastered all these forms of communication.

OK, let's play a game. List all the words you can think of that belong in the category: "Fine Arts." Did you think of music, composing, singing, playing instruments, acting, writing books and poetry, drawing and painting, or dancing? Again, you could say it all in two words, **Woody Guthrie**. He did all those things and did them well. (Well maybe not the dancing part, but his wife was a member of the famous Martha Graham dance company in New York, and he played for her.)

Woody Guthrie was a singer/songwriter decades before the phrase was invented. Today our greatest musicians all clamor to record his songs. The folk songs in your music books are there for you to sing because Woody Guthrie helped inspire people to write them down, record them, and sing them for others. No wonder he was called the "people's troubadour."

Now, how many ways can you think of to get around the good old USA? Walking, automobiles, trains, planes, boats, ships, even horses and hitchhiking. And who did them all? Of course, **Woody Guthrie!** He really did travel "from the red wood forests to the Gulf Stream waters, and from California to New York. So the songs and music you will hear at *This Land is Your Land* the will demonstrate the many ways there are to get around our United States just the way Woody did. We hope you enjoy listening to them.



Woody Guthrie

(1912-1967)

American songwriter, folk singer, and champion of the common man.



WOODY GUTHRIE BIOGRAPHY

CHILDHOOD (1912–1931)

Woodrow Wilson Guthrie was born on July 14, 1912, in Okemah, Oklahoma. He was the second-born son of Charles and Nora Belle Guthrie. His father – a cowboy, land speculator, and local politician – taught Woody Western songs, Indian songs, and Scottish folk tunes. His Kansas-born mother, also musically inclined, had an equally profound effect on Woody.

Slightly built, with an extremely full and curly head of hair, Woody was a lively, curious and creative boy from the start. Always a keen observer of the world around him, the people, music and landscape he was exposed to made lasting impressions on him. During his early years in Oklahoma, Woody experienced the first of a series of immensely tragic personal losses. With the accidental death of his older sister Clara, the family's financial ruin, and the institutionalization and eventual loss of his mother, Woody's family and home life was forever devastated. From his experiences in Okemah, Woody's unique outlook on life, as well as his abiding interest in rambling around the country, was formed. And so, he took to the open road.

Think about: Imagine growing up in a really small town like Woody Guthrie—without TV or phones. What would you have done for entertainment?

THE GREAT DUST BOWL (1931–1937)

In 1931, when Okemah's **boomtown** period went bust, Woody left for Texas. In the **panhandle** town of Pampa, he fell in love with Mary Jennings, the younger sister of a friend and musician named Matt Jennings. Woody and Mary were married in 1933, and together had three children, Gwen, Sue, and Bill.

It was with Matt Jennings and Cluster Baker that Woody made his first attempt at a musical career, forming The Corn Cob Trio and later the Pampa Junior Chamber of Commerce Band.



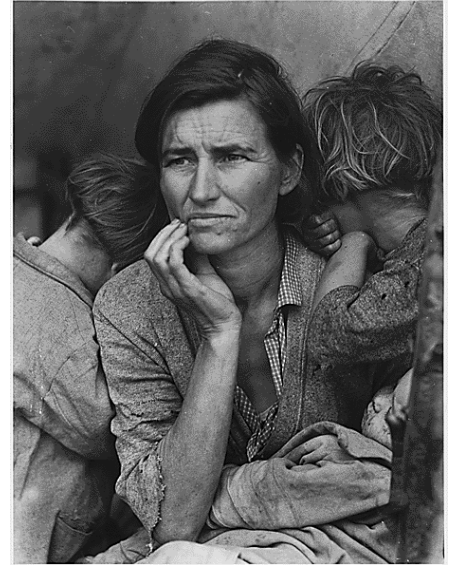
Moneyless and hungry, Woody hitchhiked, rode freight trains, and even walked his way to California, taking whatever small jobs he could. In exchange for bed and board, Woody painted signs and played guitar and sang in saloons along the way, developing a love for traveling the open road—a lifelong habit he would often repeat.

Think about: Do you know anyone who had to move to find work? What do you think that would be like? Identify two things that happened to people during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression.

KFVD RADIO YEARS (1937–1940)

By the time he arrived in California in 1937, Woody had experienced intense scorn, hatred, and even physical bullying from resident Californians, who opposed the massive **migration** of the so-called “Okie” outsiders. In Los Angeles Woody landed a job on KFVD radio, singing “old-time” traditional songs as well as some original songs.

The local radio airwaves also provided Woody a forum from which he developed his talent for controversial social commentary and criticism. On topics ranging from corrupt politicians, lawyers, and businessmen to praising the compassionate and **humanist** principles of Jesus Christ, the outlaw hero Pretty Boy Floyd, and the union organizers that were fighting for the rights of **migrant workers** in California’s agricultural communities, Woody proved himself a hard-hitting advocate for truth, fairness, and justice.



Think about: Why do you think radio was so important during this time? What kinds of topics were on the radio when Woody Guthrie was a young man?

NEW YORK TOWN (1940-1941)



Never comfortable with success, or being in one place for too long, Woody headed east for New York City, arriving in 1940. He was quickly embraced for his homespun wisdom and musical “authenticity” by artists, writers, musicians, and progressive intellectuals. That same year, folklorist Alan Lomax recorded Woody in a series of conversations and songs for the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Woody also recorded “Dust Bowl Ballads”, his first album of original songs, and throughout the 1940s he continued to record hundreds of discs for Moses Asch, founder of Folkways Records. The recordings from this early period continue to be touchstones for folk music singer-songwriters

everywhere.

In New York City forming a loosely knit folk group called The Almanac Singers with several like-minded musicians Woody took up social causes such as union organizing, anti-Fascism, strengthening the Communist Party, peace, and generally fighting for the things they believed in the best way they could: through songs of political protest and activism. Woody became one of the prominent songwriters for the Almanac Singers.

The Almanacs helped to establish folk music as an important **genre** within the popular music industry. A decade later, original members of the Almanacs would re-form as the Weavers, the most commercially successful and influential folk music group of the early 1950s. It was through their tremendous popularity that Woody’s songs would become known to the larger public. With increasing popularity, prosperity and critical success from public performances, recordings, and even his own radio show, Woody could afford to bring his struggling family to New York to enjoy his new found success.

Think about: Describe the Almanac Singers. What was their music about?

COLUMBIA RIVER (1941)

Despite his success, Woody became increasingly restless and disillusioned with New York's radio and entertainment industry. Leaving New York, with his wife and three young children in tow, Woody headed out to Portland, Oregon where a **documentary** film project about the building of the Grand Coulee Dam sought to use his songwriting talent.

When his contract expired, Woody moved his family back to Pampa, Texas. Hoping to get back to New York City, and on the radio, he hitchhiked his way across the country. Woody's constant traveling, performing, and lack of regular work throughout the early 1940s took a hard toll on his family. Together with his increasing interest and involvement with **progressive “radical” politics** helped bring about the end of his first marriage.

WORLD WAR II (1942–1945)

Back in New York, Woody met and vigorously courted a young dancer with the Martha Graham Dance Company named Marjorie (Greenblatt) Mazia. Sharing humanist ideals and activist politics, Woody and Marjorie were married in 1945 and over the years had four children: Cathy, Arlo, Joady, and Nora Lee.



During World War II, moved by his passion against Fascism, Woody served in both the **Merchant Marine** and the Army. Shipping out to sea on several occasions with his buddies Cisco Houston and Jimmy Longhi, Woody's tendency to write songs, tell stories and make drawings continued. He composed hundreds of anti-Hitler, pro-war, and historic ballads to rally the troops, such as “All You Fascists Bound to Lose”, “Talking Merchant Marine,” and “The Sinking of the Reuben James.”

Think about: What kind of songs did Woody Guthrie write during WWII? Find out more about the Fascists and think about why Woody Guthrie opposed them.



CONEY ISLAND (1946–1954)

Following the war, in 1946, Woody Guthrie returned to settle in Coney Island, New York, with his family. The peace he had fought so hard for seemed finally within his reach. It was during this time that Woody composed and recorded *Songs to Grow On for Mother and Child* and *Work Songs To Grow On*, considered children's classics winning him success and recognition as an innovative writer of children's songs.

Woody's unique approach was to write songs that dealt with topics important to children written in language used by children such as; friendship (“Don't You Push Me Down”), family (“Ship In The Sky”), community (“Howdi Doo”), chores (“Pick It Up”), personal responsibility (“Cleano”) and just plain fun (“Riding In My Car”).

During these years, Woody was exposed to Coney Island's Jewish community through his mother-in-law, Aliza Greenblatt, a **Yiddish** poet. Inspired by this new relationship, he wrote a remarkable series of songs reflecting Jewish culture, such as “Hanuka Dance,” “The Many and The Few” and “Mermaid's Avenue.”

Toward the late 1940s, Woody's behavior started to become increasingly moody and violent, creating tensions in his personal and professional life. He was beginning to show symptoms of a rare disease called Huntington's Chorea. This is a **hereditary**, illness that effects the nervous system that eventually robbed him of his health, talents, and abilities. At the time, little was known about this disease.

Think about: Describe the kind of songs Woody Guthrie wrote during the time he lived on Coney Island. How did his illness affect his life?



HOSPITAL YEARS (1954-1967)

The late 1940's and early 1950's saw a rise in anti-Communist sentiments. Leftist and progressive-minded Americans were subjected to Red-scare tactics such as "**blacklisting**". Many people, particularly in the arts and entertainment fields, either lost their jobs or were prevented from working in their chosen careers. The Weavers, along with Woody, Pete Seeger and others from their circle, were targeted for their activist stances on such issues as the right to unionize, equal rights, and free speech.

Woody headed south to Florida, where friend and fellow activist Stetson Kennedy offered blacklisted artists living space on his property. While in the South at Kennedy's "Beluthahatchee", Woody worked on a third novel, *Seeds of Man*, and composed songs inspired by a heightened awareness of racial and environmental issues.

Picked up for "vagrancy" in New Jersey in 1954, he was admitted into the nearby Greystone Psychiatric Hospital, where he was finally diagnosed with the incurable **degenerative** nerve disorder now known as Huntington's Disease or HD. Woody Guthrie died on October 3, 1967 while at Creedmoor State Hospital in Queens, New York. His ashes were sprinkled into the waters off of Coney Island's shore.

In his lifetime, Woody Guthrie wrote nearly 3,000 song lyrics, published two novels, created artworks, authored numerous published and unpublished manuscripts, poems, prose, and plays and hundreds of letters and news article which are housed in the Woody Guthrie Archives in New York City.

Think about: What were some ways Woody Guthrie contributed to the development of American Music?

Source: <http://www.woodyguthrie.org/>

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY

Divide students into small groups. Each group should read one of the sections above and answer the questions or discuss the statement at the end of the section. Have each group share what they learned with the entire class.

THE PERFORMERS

TOM MAC, portraying Woody Guthrie

Tom Mac's accomplishments as a musician have ranged from performing Vivaldi's *Gloria* at Carnegie Hall to being the opening act on acoustic guitar for the Beach Boys. His concert engagements throughout the years with the DuPage Opera Theatre, the Rockford Symphony Chorus, the Mendelssohn Chorale and the Beloit Symphony Chorus include amongst others *Madam Butterfly*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, *La Boheme*, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Poulenc's *Gloria*, Hayden's *Creation*, *Otello*, and Rutter's *Te Deum*.



A prolific acoustic guitarist, Mr. Mac has received honors from the International Acoustic Music Awards for an instrumental composition appearing on his second album entitled *Upper Palette* released in 2004. The jazz-influenced *Upper Palette* CD includes notable guest artists Paul Wertico, former drummer for the Pat Metheny Group; Larry Gray, current bass guitarist for Ramsey Lewis; Roscoe Beck, former bass guitarist for the Robben Ford Band and Leonard Cohen; and Stanley Jordan.

Currently, he fronts a 10-piece world music band (The Tom Mac Group) that performs at festivals in the Midwest and has been honored with a Rockford Area Music Award (RAMI). Mr. Mac's acting experience includes roles as an extra/super in *One Thousand Acres*, *ER*, *Unconditional Love*, *Mercury Rising*, and *Tosca*.



Kantorei-The Singing Boys of Rockford

Joel Ross, Director

Since its inception (in 1964), Kantorei's mission has been to represent the finest tradition of boychoirs by offering an outstanding musical and cultural education while providing many

opportunities for personal growth. Services are offered without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, or socio-economic status.

Kantorei members study many aspects of choral proficiency. Learning the mechanics of vocal production, the development of tone, and the physical elements of posture and breath support help members develop vocal technique. Visual aspect is reinforced through music theory, sight-reading, and the study of form and structure in music, while critical listening skills are developed with instruction in ear training, rhythm, and foreign language skills. All of this is coupled with the study of text and music in a social context.

The boys are encouraged to give their best, recognizing that what they achieve as a group would be impossible to accomplish alone. Members of Kantorei are part of a special brotherhood, and they relish, along with making music together, the many friendships they make along the way. To them, singing in a choir is about learning life skills through music.



The Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra Daniel Black, conductor

The Rockford Symphony Youth Orchestra (RSYO) is northern Illinois' only full-training symphony orchestra program for middle and high school students. Under the direction of conductor Daniel Black, RSYO continues to thrive. Since 2009 the orchestra has added several honors chamber ensembles including the Sterling String Quartet, RSYO Brass Choir, RSYO Woodwind Quintet, Percussion Ensemble, and the Chamber Orchestra. Students are recruited from a seven county area in northern Illinois and south central Wisconsin. Auditions are held in the late spring for the following season. RSYO's mission is to build community through excellence in music education.

Founded in 1965 by Donald Zimmerman, RSYO continues its affiliation with the Rockford Symphony Orchestra as its parent organization. Members of the RSO have led RSYO musicians as conductors and served as sectional coaches for the past sixteen years. Orchestra members have the opportunity to learn professional orchestral literature while they enjoy meeting other young musicians. Selected members of the orchestra perform three concerts each year in addition to a side-by-side concert with the RSO for the annual Youth Concert in the Coronado Performing Arts Center each Spring.

The Rock Valley Children's Choir Leah Baskin, Director



The Rock Valley Children's Choir, a performing and education choral organization, was established in 2002 at Rock Valley College in Rockford, IL by Leah Baskin and Dean Durst. It is part of the music program offerings for children within the Community Education Division of the college. Beginning as one small choir, the program has grown to become four separate choruses which encompass grades one through twelve.

In 2006, the Rock Valley Children's Choir formed a partnership with the Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center in downtown Rockford. In 2012 they will become the anchor group for the new Mendelssohn Music and Movement Education Center. Children in the Rock Valley Children's Choir come from all types of schools and education programs including public, private, parochial and home school settings. The singers come from all over the Rock Valley College tri-county area and represent fourteen different communities. Each week Leah Baskin, the choir's director, brings a variety of learning experiences and styles, including Kodaly, Orff, and High/Scope Movement approaches to the children's rehearsals. Linda Smith serves as the choir's talented accompanist and assistant choral director.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Please use the following list and description of the music in order of performance on the concert. The descriptions below are provided to give students background and listening tips.

ROCK VALLEY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Follow the Sun (Joyce Elaine Eilers) - The singer in this song tells about how he can't stay in one place for very long, just like Woody Guthrie. He says that he was "born to travel" and "born to run." The music moves quickly as if he can't wait to be off on his next adventure. It reminds us of a theme song from some old television western show.

John Henry (traditional) - Before Woody or anyone could "ride the rails," someone had to build the railroads. The most famous railroad worker was John Henry, former slave who worked for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. According to legend he won a famous contest between man and machine, driving down more railroad spikes than a steam machine could, but paying dearly when his heart "burst" shortly after his win. You'll hear the steam engine in this bluesy song, and if you're listening carefully, you'll hear how the composer sneaks in an entire chorus of "Swing Low Sweet Chariot," when they bury the mighty man who "died with a hammer in his hand."

Shennadoah (traditional) - This beautiful song tells about the "wide Missouri" river. No one knows for sure who wrote it or why it became a ballad for sailors to sing! But we do know that Shennadoah is an Indian chief with a beautiful daughter whom the singer loves. Any time you're in a boat floating down calm waters you might sing this song too.

Riding in My Car (Woody Guthrie) - Woody Guthrie only had one new car in his entire life, a Plymouth. It was big enough for his whole family (three kids and a wife) plus a few of his singing friends. He drove cross country from New York City to California. He wrote this silly sounding car song, complete with horns beeps and engine hums, for his youngest daughter, Cathy.

Home on the Range (traditional) - One hundred years ago most children growing up in Oklahoma and Texas knew how to ride a horse. They had to because there still weren't very many cars around. But there were a lot of cowboys, and all of them knew this greatest of cowboy songs. I bet you know it too. And you'll hear a new tune mixing in with familiar old melody.

The Ship I Sail (John Jacobson) - The earliest sailors guided their boats using the position of the stars in the skies. Even though the oceans were vast and full of danger, a good sailor could depend upon his abilities to navigate the waters and reach his destination safely. Life is sort of like a boat on the water. To reach our goals we have to guide ourselves through life trusting our instincts and the knowledge we gain from our teachers at school and our family at home. There will always be some storms along the way, but if we work hard and stay on the path we set for ourselves, we too, will arrive at a safe harbor every time.

Route 66 (Bobby Troup) - When jazz was "cool" people sang about the most famous piece of highway in the United States, Route 66, which went from Chicago to Los Angeles. In the days before the interstate highways it was the fastest way to get "from here to there and any place in between." Woody spent a lot of time on this road, and if you've watched the movie, "Cars," you'll have a pretty good idea of what his ride was like.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

KANTOREI - THE SINGING BOYS OF ROCKFORD

Goin' Down the Road (Woody Guthrie) - Woody Guthrie was a traveling man. Sometimes because he wanted to be, and sometimes because he had to be. In Oklahoma, where he was born, the oil dried up and his little town went bust. His father, just like most everybody else, lost all his money. The whole nation was in the depths of the Great Depression. Even worse, in 1935 the dust storms came to the plains states, and stripped all the topsoil off the land. People were starving, and had to leave for a better life elsewhere. They were called "Dust Bowl Refugees." This song tells how these people weren't treated very kindly.

Biggest Thing That Man Has Ever Done (Woody Guthrie) - America was built on the backs of the working folks--strong men and women who weren't afraid to put in a honest day's work for honest wages. You could say that the country works because the people work. And the people have rights, too. Woody tells the story of the working man from the time of the Revolutionary War up to his day.

Roll On, Columbia (Woody Guthrie) - During the Depression, the U.S. government knew that the people had to get back to work, too. So they hatched a plan. They'd build roads, bridges, schools, hospitals. They'd open up our National Parks. They'd figure out ways to get electricity to the whole nation, because the people were using it up pretty fast. They even figured out how to put a dam up on the Columbia River out in Oregon state. This song is about the mighty river and how "its power is turning our darkness to dawn." *Can you think of other ways that electricity is produced?*

This is My Country (Jacobs & Rye) - The storm clouds of war were gathering across the sea. When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, our nation was officially at war, too. While men went off to fight, the women stayed at home to work in the factories. The whole nation pulled together to fight the Nazi forces, too. Families rationed food and gas so the soldiers and sailors wouldn't do without. Hundreds of thousands of lives were taken in this bloody conflict. People sang a lot of patriotic songs, too, because it helped them feel better. *Can you think of other patriotic songs?*

There is Nothing Like a Dame (Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein) - What the Nazis were doing bothered Woody a lot. So he enlisted in the Army and the Merchant Marines. That's the men that bring the supplies to the sailors out on the ocean. It's mighty dangerous, with torpedoes that can sink a ship in no time. But sailors at sea could still find some time to sing a few songs and strum on the guitar. Sometimes they felt very lonesome and homesick, and sang about the wives and girlfriends they left behind. This song is from the musical "South Pacific," where many World War II battles were fought. *Can you find where the South Pacific is on a map?*

Blue Skies (Irving Berlin) - After World War II, it was a prosperous time. Men returned from the war, got married, and raised families in tidy little houses that were springing up all over the country. We even were big-hearted enough to re-build much of Europe that was bombed during the war. Most people thought that the blue days were over, and blue skies were all ahead of them.

The House I Live In (Lewis Allen) - But America didn't always live up to its promise. The skies weren't always blue, at least not for the folks with dark skin, the poor folks, the ones with little or no education. Woody was a man who often wondered why there are some people who have trouble accepting others who don't look, talk, vote, or go to church like they do. Maybe sometimes we're afraid of what we don't understand. Our founding fathers believed that we were indeed "One nation, under God, with liberty and justice for all." *Can you list some of every American's constitutional rights? Which are you most grateful for?*

ABOUT THE MUSIC

THE ROCKFORD SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Footsteps Upon the Sea (Daniel Black) - This piece is all instrumental and is an original composition by RSYO conductor Daniel Black and was commissioned for the RSYO in 2010. The music reflects the struggle and triumph of immigrants coming to the United States from Sweden to settle in Rockford (at one point during the 1800's Swedish immigrants made up 40% of the population of the city). It is based on a traditional Swedish folk song. The challenges facing immigrants and people forced to relocate whole families in hopes of finding a better life is a subject near and dear to Woody Guthrie too! You'll hear the rolling sea, a section of despair and loneliness as well as music that depicts a happy outcome.

Symphony No. 1, first movement - William Grant Still's most famous work is this symphony, also known as *The Afro-American Symphony*, that is a rich blend of jazz and blues harmonies and style with traditional symphonic form and instrumentation. As one of the first prominent African American classical composers, Still was active in the first half of the 20th century and wrote film scores, dance band arrangements, musical arrangements, and a body of concert music. *The Afro American Symphony* reflects the migration of people living in strife and poverty in the South at the early part of the 20th century as they moved north to the industrial north in search of jobs and prosperity. Woody Guthrie's music reflected the struggle involved with separation from home in search of a better life.

CONCERT FINALE FEATURING ALL THREE ENSEMBLES AND THE AUDIENCE!

This Land is Your Land (Woody Guthrie) - This song, written in 1940 is perhaps one of America's most well known folk songs. Woody Guthrie first recorded it in 1944, but added and changed versus for many years. Originally written in response to Irving Berlin's *God Bless America*, Woody sought to create a more solid and inclusive image of America as he experienced it. The three ensembles look forward to performing this song with the audience. The actor portraying Woody Guthrie, Tom Mac, will lead the audience in the sing-along.

PRECONCERT ACTIVITIES

In addition to the biography of Woody Guthrie and related questions, here are some suggested activities to assist in the preparation for your students. The more they know and understand about his the music and life, the more they will enjoy the concert! Please feel free to duplicate material in the Study Guide.

VOCABULARY

Ballad - a song that tells a story

Boomtown- a community that was created and existed specifically around economic opportunity

Cultural Heritage -the traditions and customs of an ethnic group that are passed down from generation to generation

Degenerative — a condition that results in deterioration or decline usually in reference to physical or mental health

Documentary - a film or literary work that uses factual information to convey or express a subject or point of view

Fascism - the believe that the nation or the race in political power is more important than the individual citizen

Folk Song - a genre of traditional or ethnic music that is written in a simple stanza, refrain form

Genre—a category of music, art, literature that are grouped by style, form, or content

Great Depression - a world wide economic depression that began in the United States in 1929 and roughly lasted until the late 1930s.

Hereditary - traits, tendencies, or characteristics that are carried by DNA in cells and are passed through families that share DNA

Humanist - a person following the belief that all things should be subject to critical thinking and review, also a focus on human interests and values as opposed to spiritual

Migration -the movement of people or animals from one location or geographic region to another in search of more favorable living conditions

Migrant workers - agricultural laborers who travel from farm to farm, sometimes across large areas, to perform seasonal work

Panhandle - the term used to describe a geographic feature in which a relatively narrow section of land suggests the shape of the handle of a pan.

Progressive “radical” politics - usually associated with non-conservative political philosophy; the term is associated with socialism in the context of the time period in which Woody Guthrie lived

Merchant Marine -the Merchant Marine is the fleet of ships that carries imports and exports during peacetime and becomes a naval auxiliary during wartime to deliver troops and war materiel

Yiddish - The high German language dialect and culture of chiefly Eastern European Jews

PRECONCERT ACTIVITIES

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Biographies on Woody Guthrie

Rambling Man – The Life and Times of Woody Guthrie by Ed Cray

Bound for Glory by Woody Guthrie

Woody Guthrie by Joe Klein

This Land was Made for You and Me by Elizabeth Partridge

YOUTUBE HISTORIC FILM AND AUDIO FOOTAGE

To hear Woody Guthrie sing *This Land is Your Land* with his son Arlo Guthrie go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxiMrvDbq3s>

To hear Woody sing John Henry with narration by Pete Seeger go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aljpo22ws1g&feature=endscreen&NR=1>

To hear about Woody’s project writing *On Columbia* and the songs of that era:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUoh2QSjXAw>

To hear about Woody’s life narrated by his son Arlo:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=OkRCBz-PAYE>

1. On page 9 is a list of vocabulary words. Have students find each word in the Biography and make sure you understand how this word is used in the paragraph. Students may work in small groups or individually to create their own Word Search or Crossword Puzzle.
2. On page 11 is a map of the United States with each state and capital marked. Have students look again at the Biography at the beginning of the Study Guide and mark all the states where Woody lived, traveled to, and worked. Connect the states in the order in which he visited them. It’s quite impressive!
3. The concert you and your students are going to is in the Coronado Performing Arts Center. It was built in 1927 as a movie palace which today would be known as a movie theater. Ask your students to determine how old was Woody Guthrie when the Coronado was built?
4. Print out the music on page 16 for *This Land is Your Land*. Practice singing it with your students. There is also a recording you can listen to on You Tube and the address for that is listed in the ADDITIONAL MATERIALS section on page. **STUDENTS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SING AT THE END OF THE CONCERT.** The lyrics will be projected above the stage, but practicing will help them enjoy being part of the music making!
5. Have students create a poster advertising a Woody Guthrie concert. Discuss what makes a good poster, what information should it include, what does it take to ‘sell’ something or advertise an event. Persuasive writing hints would encourage a compelling poster!
6. Make a list of important ‘audience manners’ to remember when attending a concert.



nationalatlas.gov
Where We Are

STATES AND CAPITALS



U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

The National Atlas of the United States of America®

Hal Leonard Hit Parade For Orchestra

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Words and Music By WOODY GUTHRIE
Arranged By JAMES D. PLOYHAR

CHORUS

Moderato
Orch. 6

Chorus

A Moderately bright

This land is your land, — this land is my land —
 — from Cal - i - for - nia — to the New York is - land. — From the red - wood
 for - est — to the Gulf stream wa - ters, — This land was made for you and
 Verse B
 me. — As I was walk - ing — that rib - bon of high - way —
 — I saw a - bove me — that end - less sky - way, — I saw be -
 low me — that gold - en val - ley, — This land was made for you and
 C Orch. 27 D Grandioso
 me. — This land is your land, — this land is
 my land — from Cal - i - for - nia — to the New York is - land. —
 — From the red - wood for - est — to the Gulf stream wa - ters, —
 E Orch. 12
 This land was made for you and me. — rit.

TRO - © Copyright 1956, 1958 and 1970 LUDLOW MUSIC, INC., New York, N.Y.
This Arrangement TRO - © Copyright 1975 LUDLOW MUSIC, INC.
Used by Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, Winona, MN 55987 by Permission