

# HAMPSONG / FOUNDATION

*Song of America* in the Classroom:  
A Media Event  
for Educators, Students, and Song Enthusiasts

Part of the *Song of America* Curriculum Initiative

Presented by the Hampsong Foundation

With the WFMT Radio Network & The Patrick G. and Shirley  
W. Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago



Saturday, December 12, 2015 | 11am-3pm

Levin Performance Studio @ WFMT  
Renée Crown Public Media Center  
5400 N St. Louis Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60625

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*“Song is a metaphor of the imagination; it is poetic thought encapsulated in music. Poetry is driven by the basic instinct to tell the story of existence and American poetry explores the cultural roots of our nation.”*

*—Thomas Hampson*

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## **Event Overview**

Participant biographies can be found on pages 4-6.

## **Introduction**

Steve Robinson, Executive Vice President for  
Radio and Development at WFMT Radio Network

## **Keynote Address**

Thomas Hampson

## **Introducing the *Song of America***

### **Master Teachers**

Mark Clague, Susan Key & Dan Tolly

## **Roundtable Discussion with Q&A**

Mark Clague, Thomas Hampson, Susan Key &  
Dan Tolly with Carolyn Paulin

# Break

## American song performances

by Artists of the Ryan Opera Center

### “The World Feels Dusty”

from *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson* (1950)

Composer: Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

Poet: Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

Annie Rosen, mezzo-soprano  
Craig Terry, piano

### “To What You Said”

from *Songfest* (1977)

Composer: Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Poet: Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Richard Ollarsaba, bass-baritone  
Craig Terry, piano

### 2. “Look Down, Fair Moon”

### 4. “Reconciliation”

from *Five Poems of Walt Whitman* (1970)

Composer: Ned Rorem (b. 1923)

Poet: Walt Whitman (1819-1892)

Jonathan Johnson, tenor  
Craig Terry, piano

## **The World feels Dusty**

by Emily Dickinson

The World feels Dusty  
When We stop to Die  
We want the Dew then  
Honors taste dry

Flags vex a Dying face  
But the least Fan  
Stirred by a friend's Hand  
Cools like the Rain

Mine be the Ministry  
When they Thirst comes  
Dews of Thyself to fetch  
And Holy Balms

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## **To What You Said**

by Walt Whitman

To what you said, passionately clasping my hand,  
    this is my answer:  
Though you have strayed hither, for my sake,  
    you can never belong to me,  
Nor I to you,  
Behold the customary loves and friendships the cold guards  
I am that rough and simple person  
I am he who kisses his comrade lightly on the lips at parting,  
And I am one who is kissed in return,  
I introduce that new American salute  
Behold love choked, correct, polite, always suspicious  
Behold the received models of the parlors --  
What are they to me?  
What to these young men that travel with me?

## Look Down, Fair Moon

by Walt Whitman

Look down, fair moon and bathe this scene,  
Pour softly down night's nimbus floods, on faces  
    ghastly, swollen, purple;  
On the dead, on their backs, with their arms toss'd wide,  
Pour down your unstinted nimbus, sacred moon.

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## Reconciliation

by Walt Whitman

Word over all, beautiful as the sky,  
Beautiful that war and all its deeds of carnage  
    must in time be utterly lost,  
That the hands of the sisters Death and Night  
    incessantly softly wash again,  
and ever again, this soil'd world;  
For my enemy is dead, a man divine as myself is dead,  
I look where he lies white-faced and still in the coffin—  
    I draw near,  
Bend down and touch lightly with my lips  
    the white face in the coffin.

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## Participants in Today's Event:

Dr. **Mark Clague** is an associate professor of musicology with tenure at the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan who also enjoys affiliate appointments in American Culture, African and Afro-American Studies, Non-Profit Management, and Entrepreneurship.

**Thomas Hampson** enjoys a singular international career as an opera singer, recording artist, and “ambassador of song,” maintaining an active interest in research, education, musical outreach, and technology. The American baritone has performed in the world’s most important concert halls and opera houses with many renowned singers, pianists, conductors, and orchestras. He is the founder and president of the Hampsong Foundation.

Second-year Ryan Opera Center tenor **Jonathan Johnson** holds a professional artist certificate from the A. J. Fletcher Institute of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. In the 2014-15 Lyric Opera season Johnson performed in *Capriccio*, *Il trovatore*, *The Magic Victrola*, and *The Passenger*. This season at Lyric he appears in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *The Merry Widow*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*. Future engagements include debuts with Portland Opera and San Diego Opera.

Dr. **Susan Key** is a public musicologist. Her various roles include serving as Executive Director of the Star Spangled Music Foundation; as Community and Collegiate Partnership Adviser for the Pacific Symphony; and as Education Specialist for the Napa Valley Opera House.

Third-year Ryan Opera Center bass-baritone **Richard Ollarsaba** earned a postgraduate certificate and master of music degree through the A. J. Fletcher Opera Institute at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. He has performed in Lyric productions of *Otello* (debut), *Madama Butterfly*, *Parsifal*, *La traviata*, *The Family Barber*, *Don Giovanni* (stepping in to sing the title role), *Capriccio*,

*Anna Bolena, Tosca, and The Passenger*. This season at Lyric, Ollarsaba will be featured in *Der Rosenkavalier*.

**Dr. Carolyn Paulin** is a freelance classical music radio producer and choral conductor. From 2001 to 2014 she was a producer and program host at 98.7 WFMT Radio and the WFMT Radio Network, where she produced programs and features for local air, including the *Song of America* radio series.

Mezzo-soprano **Annie Rosen** is a first-year Ryan Opera Center member. During the 2013-14 season she joined the Metropolitan Opera roster for *Die Frau ohne Schatten* before returning to the apprentice program of The Santa Fe Opera. Rosen debuts at Lyric Opera during the 2015-16 season as Tisbe/*La Cenerentola* and later appears in *Bel Canto* and *Der Rosenkavalier*.

Pianist **Craig Terry** regularly performs with some of the world's leading singers and instrumentalists. His 2015-16 performance schedule includes concerts with Stephanie Blythe, Christine Brewer, Andriana Chuchman, Joyce DiDonato, Renée Fleming, Luca Pisaroni, and Patricia Racette. Currently Terry is in his eleventh season as Assistant Conductor at Lyric Opera of Chicago and serves as Music Director for the Ryan Opera Center.

**Dan Tolly** is a music educator whose teaching has been recognized with multiple awards, among them the American Historical Association's Beveridge Family Teaching Prize. He currently teaches music in the Ann Arbor Public Schools; his education includes graduate studies at the University of North Texas and the University of Michigan.

## About the *Song of America* Curriculum Initiative

*Song of America* is the Hampsong Foundation's multi-faceted project exploring the history of American culture through classic song—poetry set to music. *Song of America* offers high-quality online resources, including a 13-part radio series and the *Song of America* database, a catalogue of information and supplementary materials on American composers, poets, and songs, all free of cost.

We invite humanities educators at all levels to listen to these programs online and to explore how one or all of them could enhance teaching and learning in their classrooms. We look forward to working with teachers, administrators, and curriculum and resource specialists to develop strategies to integrate these materials into language arts, history, civics, and other humanities classes, using classic song as the gateway for a richer knowledge of the cultures, languages, peoples, and events that have shaped American life.

## About the Hampsong Foundation

*Song of America* is a project of the Hampsong Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2003 by distinguished American baritone Thomas Hampson with the mission of creating high-quality and accessible materials that explore the world of classic song as a prism for understanding culture and history.

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