



SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS
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SUU's DEPT. OF MUSIC PRESENTS
MORE COWBELL! THE SOUNDS OF THE 1970S!
THE FIRST ANNUAL ROCK 'N' ROLL CHOIR SHOW
FEBRUARY 26, 2016

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Feeling nostalgic and long for the days of feelin' groovy? Then **SUU's Department of Music's Masterworks Season Series** has a concert sure to shake off your contemporary doldrums. On **Friday, February 26**, come on out for ***More Cowbell! The Sounds of the 1970s***, the 1st Annual Rock 'n' Roll Choir Show. Under the direction of Dr. Steve Meredith, the SUU Choirs time travel back to the 1970s and perform a series of songs from the period in irresistible choral arrangements. The concert is scheduled to be performed at Cedar City's **Heritage Center Theater** and performance begin at **7:30pm**. Tickets are **\$10** for adults, **\$8** for alumni with card and **\$5** for youth. **SUU faculty, staff and students are admitted free with a valid I.D. card.**

Join SUU's Concert Choir, Women's Choir, and Opus Chamber Choir for an evening of classic rock and roll. The evening's program features the music of The Doobie Brothers, Queen, Led Zeppelin, Carole King and Kansas plus many others in a tribute to some of the greatest music of the 70s. Joining the Choirs for the concert are special guest artists The Phat Old Professors and Friends.

When asked about the inspiration for this specialized concert, Dr. Meredith replied, "As anyone who knows me well will tell you, I am constantly humming and whistling (usually without being aware of it). One day, the 'inside my head playlist' stumbled across 'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen, which of course was part of the soundtrack of my teen years, and a great example of glam rock that was popular at the time. As I was whistling the tune, a couple of my students walked past, and started to sing the lyric. This caught my attention, as I was surprised that they knew this 40-year old pop music. They assured me that they knew lots of classic rock, so I went back to my office and started to think about a concert of classic rock music that would work for a choral group. To me, the evidence of the quality of this music is that we

are now into the 3rd generation of people that know it and love it. SO . . . all I needed to do was create some charts, find a rock band and put it together. It will be something different and great fun - - and really, great music as well.”

Dr. Steve Meredith is the Director of Choral Activities and Music Technology Southern Utah University. He received his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in Choral Music Education from the University of Utah, and his Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Choral Conducting from Arizona State University. He is a certified instructor with the Technology Institute for Music Educators (TI:ME) and is an Apple Certified Pro. Dr. Meredith was originally appointed to develop the (pending) Master of Music degree in Music Technology at SUU, and was additionally appointed to the choral position in the fall of 2015. Most recently, Dr. Meredith conceived and directed the hugely successful Music Masterworks concert, *The Battle Cry of Freedom*, which celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Civil War's end.

As a conductor, Dr. Meredith's choirs have been in great demand for their flexibility of tone and ability to perform a wide variety of literature. Recent performances include Josh Groban's *In the Round Tour* in Salt Lake City and Las Vegas, *Star Wars Live* (International Tour) touring performances of *Video Games Live* with the Utah, Las Vegas and Golden West Symphony Orchestras and the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He is also the conductor for the Synagogue for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Meredith is also one of the most sought-after concert vocal performers in the United States. As a bass-baritone vocal soloist, he has been described as a performer of "uncommon intelligence and musicality" (*San Antonio Express-News*) with a tone described as "seamless and superb" (*Arizona Republic*). A favorite of conductor Robert Shaw, Dr. Meredith sang Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and *9th Symphony* under his direction with orchestras throughout the United States. Dr. Meredith has also appeared with other notable conductors, including Margaret Hillis, Hermann Michael, Stewart Robertson, and Robert Page. In Utah, he has performed numerous times with the Utah Symphony and Opera, as well as being a featured vocal soloist and guest conductor with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

Dr. Meredith has had a significant career as a studio voice artist and producer and has appeared in films, film trailers and on many national and local commercial recordings. He has been heard nationally and internationally in work for IMAX films, ABC Sports, *Xena: Warrior Princess* and the LDS Church. He was featured as a soloist in the BYU-TV miniseries, *Fires of Faith*. As a studio producer, Dr. Meredith has specialized in integrated media (graphics, video, music) for both recorded and live applications. For commercial clients, he has created radio and television commercials, audio books, presentational materials, and original background and foreground music as well as producing a large number of live events integrating sound and visual images. For educational clients, he has produced several large-scale artistic works integrating live music, video and dance.

Beginning in 2010, Dr. Meredith released his first commercially available CD: *Christmas Cometh Caroling: The Complete Alfred Burt Carols*, and has followed that up with additional releases,

including *Christmas Tapestry* (featuring Blend5) in 2011, and *Songs of the World* in 2012. He is currently working with the EMH Classical Music label to produce Christmas works for the Warner/Chappell music library. All of his CDs are available from a variety of online sources and local retailers.

Break out your tie-dye shirts and bell bottoms for ***More Cowbell! The Sounds of the 1970s***. Be sure to get your tickets early, because this show promises to be “standing room only”. For more information on SUU’s College of Performing and Visual Arts’ events, please visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as the new Center for Shakespeare Studies and a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. The Center for Shakespeare Studies offers a minor in Shakespeare Studies. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College’s affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit www.suu.edu/pva/arts.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: MORE COWBELL! THE SOUNDS OF THE 1970S.

- WHAT:** Under the direction of Dr. Steve Meredith, the SUU Choirs time travel back to the 1970s and perform a series of songs from the period in irresistible choral arrangements.
- WHO:** Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Department of Music
- WHEN:** Friday, February 26, 2016
- TIME:** 7:30pm
- WHERE:** Heritage Center Theater, Cedar City, UT
- TICKETS:** Adults: \$10, Alumni with card: \$8, Youth: \$5
SUU faculty, staff & students free with a valid I.D. card
- PURCHASE:** Centrum Ticket Office, 435-586-7872 (Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm)
Online: www.suu.edu/pva/arts
- INFO:** www.suu.edu/pva/arts