

# Musical Encounters

presented by the UW-W Music Department and Horizons

4/2/2009

## Schedule

Arrive

9:30 - 9:45am

Harriet Tubman  
Performance:  
Theatre IV (YA)

10:00 - 11:00am

Underground  
Concert (LRH)

11:15am - 11:45am

Lunch

11:45am - 12:15pm

Return Home

12:15pm

Seats for  
this Musical  
Encounters  
concert are no  
longer available.  
You must have  
a reservation in  
order to attend.  
Thank you for  
your cooperation!

## Sounds of the Underground

Thursday, April 2, 2009, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

Light Recital Hall, Greenhill Center of the Arts

(Seats are assigned for this performance.)

### More About the Musical Encounters Concert Series

Thank you for joining us for the first season of the Musical Encounters Series. This program is a collaboration of the UW-Whitewater Music Faculty and Young Auditorium. The mission of the program is to expose students to classical and choral music by linking it thematically to the curriculum and the Horizons School Matinee Series performances.

This season's pilot program consists of two 1/2 hour free concerts. The response to the series has been overwhelmingly positive. We appreciate your interest and support and look forward to you attending additional concerts in the future. Next season we will again offer one free concert in the fall, "Creative Composition: A Musical Encounter with Frindle" and one in the spring, "American Journey: A Musical Encounter with Patchwork." Please look for full descriptions of these concerts and the corresponding Horizons shows in the 2009-10 Horizons brochure which will be distributed to all schools and teacher patrons later this month.

### Concert Description

Music played a vital role in African Americans' struggle for freedom during the time of Harriet Tubman. Many of the songs sung by Tubman and other escaped slaves are still well-known today. In this presentation, you will experience live performances of spirituals such as *Go Down Moses*, *Wade in the Water*, and *Steal Away*. Discover the secret codes hidden in the words of these songs! The UWW Chamber Singers, a choir of 30 students conducted by Robert Gehrenbeck, will join forces with UWW voice professor Julie Cross in presenting and explaining this music.

## When That Old Chariot Comes

When that old chariot comes,  
I'm going to leave you,  
I'm bound for the promised land,  
Friends, I'm going to leave you.

I'm sorry, friends, to leave you,  
Farewell! Oh, farewell!  
But I'll meet you in the morning.  
Farewell! Oh, farewell!

I'll meet you in the morning,  
When I reach the promised land;  
On the other side of Jordan  
For I'm bound for the promised land.

## Follow the Drinking Gourd

Follow the drinking gourd!  
Follow the drinking gourd!  
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom.  
If you follow the drinking gourd.

When the sun comes back and the first quail calls,  
Follow the drinking gourd.  
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom  
If you follow the drinking gourd.

The riverbank makes a very good road,  
The dead trees will show you the way.  
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on,  
Follow the drinking gourd.

The riverbank makes a very good road,  
The dead trees will show you the way.  
Left foot, peg foot, traveling on,  
Follow the drinking gourd.

The river ends between two hills  
Follow the drinking gourd.  
There's another river on the other side,  
Follow the drinking gourd.

When the great big river meets the little river,  
Follow the drinking gourd.  
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom  
If you follow the drinking gourd.



## Curriculum Connections

### Song or Secret Code?

When Harriet Tubman decided to escape from her master's plantation, she announced her intentions by singing *When That Old Chariot Comes*. This song refers to crossing the River Jordan. According to the Bible, the Jordan River was the scene of the baptism of Jesus and in many spirituals it is the river that must be crossed before reaching the promised land which to escaped slaves was the free states or Canada.

*Follow the Drinking Gourd* was a song that was commonly used to provide slaves with directions to the Underground Railroad. In the song, the drinking gourd refers to the Big Dipper which points to the North Star.

## Program Notes

African American Spirituals encompass a vast repertory of some of the most moving melodies ever sung. Their musical roots extend to Africa, and the songs were passed down from singer to singer within African American communities during the centuries-long period of American slavery. During the Abolitionist era in the 1800s many of these songs took on added meaning as “code songs”—music that helped guide African Americans to freedom along the underground railroad. Slave owners were often unaware that the Bible stories retold in the spirituals actually provided slaves with detailed information on when, how, and what routes to use to escape north.

After the end of the Civil War and following the Emancipation Proclamation, many more African Americans benefited from learning to read and write, including reading and writing music. Musicians started writing down spirituals, and African American singers and choirs began performing spiritual arrangements in concerts, introducing the rest of the world to this incredible body of music.

The songs in this presentation were composed and arranged by African American musicians from many generations, including musicians active in the first decades of the 1900s, during the end of Harriet Tubman’s life. Other songs are featured in modern arrangements by composers living and working today. Titles include Go Down Moses, Wade in the Water, Steal Away, Follow the Drinking Gourd, Guide My Feet, Lord, and Harriet Tubman’s personal favorite, Swing Low, Sweet Chariot.



## Meet the Musicians

**Robert Gehrenbeck** directs three choirs as well as musicals and opera productions at UW-Whitewater. Last year he was the conductor for UWW’s production of Peter Pan. He also teaches students how to become conductors, and is the director of UWW’s annual summer choir camp.

**Julie Cross** teaches people to sing here at UW-Whitewater. She teaches people who want to be music teachers, and people who want to sing professionally. She also sings around Wisconsin and throughout the United States. She is excited to introduce these wonderful songs to all of you.

**The UW-Whitewater Chamber Singers** is made up of the finest student singers on the UWW campus. The choir sings several concerts on campus every year, and travels throughout Wisconsin and the upper Midwest on annual tours. Members of the Chamber Singers are also excellent solo singers who have performed starring roles in musical and opera productions at UWW and elsewhere.

## For Your Information

### The Horizons Performance

Harriet Tubman will be performed in the Young Auditorium at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The show is approximately 1 hour long.

### Lunch

Following the concert there will be an opportunity for your group to eat lunch. When you reserved seats for the Musical Encounters concert, space for your group to eat bagged lunch was automatically reserved for you. Bagged lunches should be placed in large bags or boxes and labeled with your school name. Bring your lunches in when you arrive for the show and drop them off in the lobby with a Young Auditorium volunteer or staff person. If you do not plan to stay in the building for lunch, please call Shannon at 262-472-1432 at least one week ahead so that this space may be released for others to use. Your group will be escorted by a volunteer or staff person from your seat block in the concert hall to your designated lunch space.

### The Concert

The concert will be held in the Light Recital Hall in the Greenhill Center of the Arts (adjacent to Young Auditorium). A volunteer or staff person will escort your group from Young Auditorium to the concert hall. Doors will open at 11:15 a.m. Just as with the show, seat blocks will be reserved for you. Please allow an usher to escort you to your designated seat block within the recital hall.

### Busses

Please anticipate 30 minutes for the concert and 30 minutes for lunch. Your approximate departure time will be 12:15 p.m. You will meet your bus in the same lot that you were dropped off.

PLEASE SHARE THIS  
INFORMATION WITH  
ALL TEACHERS AND  
CHAPERONES  
IN ORDER TO MAKE  
YOUR DAY A SUCCESS!



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## UW-W Music Department

Welcome to Music at Whitewater! The UWW Music Department offers a wide variety of courses, ensembles, and experiences for those interested in the performance and study of music.

UW Whitewater Music Department faculty members hold teaching as their main priority, yet are also very active performers, researchers, and leaders in their respective fields. Each music student studies privately with a highly skilled active performer in his or her area, who serves as a role model, mentor and advisor. Music faculty have been recognized for excellence through an impressive number of teaching awards including six W.P. Roseman Awards, the highest University-wide teaching award for faculty, and four awards for outstanding teaching by academic staff.

Whatever your interest, you will find that the Music Department is a vibrant community of student and faculty performers, scholars, and teachers. We hope you will contact us if you would like to pursue your musical interests at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Please visit [www.uww.edu/cac/music/welcome.html](http://www.uww.edu/cac/music/welcome.html) or call 262-472-1310 for more information about music studies at UW-W.