

HDCD

MARCO POLO



BROADWAY
CHORAL FAVOURITES

Shanghai Philharmonic Chorus/ Henry Shek



I. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Book by Andrew Lloyd Webber & Richard Stilgoe Lyrics by Charles Hart and others Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber Translated by Xue Fan

A musician whose face has been badly disfigured lives a solitary life in caverns beneath the Paris Opera. Infatuated with a young singer, he helps her to success and when he finds she has a lover, tries to force her to marry him. Finally he relents, realising his love is too great to want to possess the girl.

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, *The Phantom of the Opera* enjoyed greater success in 1925 as a film, a success repeated by further film versions in 1943, 1962 and 1989, with a television version in 1982. The same material inspired the Chinese film *Midnight Singing*. Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical was first staged in London in 1986, reaching New York two years later. Andrew Lloyd Webber is the only composer to have had three musicals, *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *The Phantom of the Opera*, running simultaneously in London and New York.

II. WEST SIDE STORY

Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim Music by Leonard Bernstein Translated by Zhen Jin

West Side Story, a modern American *Romeo and Juliet*, first staged in 1957, is the best known musical of the American conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein. In the slums of New York two rival gangs fight with each other. Tony, of the American Jets, falls in love with Maria, from the Puerto Rican gang, the Sharks, led by Maria's brother Bernardo, who strongly opposes the relationship. Tony's friend Riff, leader of the Jets, is killed by Bernardo, who, in turn, is killed by Tony. Thinking Maria to be dead, Tony allows himself to be shot by the Sharks.

West Side Story won the American Tony Award and a film of it appeared in 1961, winning ten awards, including best film of the year, in the Academy Awards of 1974. The songs *Maria* and *Tonight* have become widely familiar.

III. SOUTH PACIFIC

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II Music by Richard Rodgers Translated by Zhen Jin

Two inter-linked stories provide the basis of the Rodgers and Hammerstein 1949 musical *South Pacific*. Set during the Pacific War, the first story tells of the love between Lieutenant Cabull and a Polynesian girl, an affair that has to end, after one night of love. The second story is that of an American naval nurse and

a French settler on the Pacific island. Their affair starts on an enchanted evening, but comes to an end when the two men are sent away on a dangerous war-time mission. A film based on the musical was made in 1958.

IV. THE MUSIC MAN

Lyrics & Music by Meredith Willson Translated by Shen Da-jie, Shen Chen-zhou & Han Rong

A musical instrument salesman, in an American country town in 1912, arrives during Independence Day celebrations. Here he goes on the platform to expose gambling in the town and to urge the people to save the children, suggesting that a children's band should be formed. When he sings *Seventy-Six Trombones*, children join in the chorus, mimicking playing various instruments. He ends by selling all the instruments he has and winning the love of a girl. Finally he can conduct the children's band in a town carnival.

The Music Man was completed in 1957 and a film version was made in 1962.

V. CAROUSEL

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II Music by Richard Rodgers Translated by Sheng Jie

Billy Bigelow, working at a fairground selling tickets for the carousel, falls in love with a local girl and marries her. Trying to earn what money he can, he turns to robbery and is killed. After his death, however, he is allowed to return to life on condition that he does something good. His soul makes its presence known to his daughter at her final school prize-giving, when he encourages her self-reliance and belief in herself.

Carousel dates from 1945, with a film version in 1956.

VI. THE KING AND I

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II Music by Richard Rodgers Translated by Sheng Jie

In mid-nineteenth century Bangkok an English widow is engaged by the royal family of Siam as governess to the King's children. As she settles, with her son, in the palace, there are comic conflicts between European and Thai culture, but in the end, to our astonishment, Anne and the King fall in love.

Based on Margaret Landon's novel *Anne and the King of Siam*, the musical was first staged in 1951, with a film version five years later. By 1984 the stage musical had had 4625 performances.

VII. FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick Music by Jerry Bock Translated by Xue Fan & Zhen Jin

Fiddler on the Roof, based on a story by Sholem Aleichem, is a Broadway classic. It centres on the family of a poor Jewish farmer, in Russia in 1905. His first daughter marries a poor tailor, against her parents' wishes, the second follows her revolutionary lover to Siberia, while the third elopes with her Gentile lover. The Russians destroy the village, and the father, homeless, still follows his traditional beliefs and decides to emigrate to America.

First staged in New York in 1964, a successful film version of *Fiddler on the Roof* was made in 1971.

VIII. THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II Music by Richard Rodgers Translated by Xue Fan & Xu Yi

Rodgers and Hammerstein brought their successful collaboration to an end with *The Sound of Music* in 1959. Hammerstein died in 1960, outlived by Rodgers by some nineteen years. The work was based on the 1949 autobiography of Maria von Trapp, *The Trapp Family Singers*.

In Austria in 1938 Sister Maria is engaged by the retired widower Captain von Trapp as governess to his seven children. She looks after the children like a mother and fosters their love of singing and games. With the Nazi occupation of Austria, the family escapes together, taking advantage of the occasion of a singing festival.

The Sound of Music won a Tony award in 1959 and in 1965 the film version won five Academy Awards, including that of best film of the year.



Executive Producer: Joseph Wong
Producer: Chai Ben-yao
Recording Engineer: Gan Zhi-rong
Editing: Wang Feng-xia
CD Pre-mastering: Anthony Yeung (Avon Recording Studios, HK), Tse Hung-fei

Recording Location: Studio 1, China Records,
Shanghai, China
Recording Date: August, 1996
Cover Design: Kevin Lo (Southgate Design)

HENRY SHEK

Henry Shek was born in Tientsin, China and grew up in Hong Kong where he received his early musical training. After graduating from high school, he entered the San Francisco

Conservatory of Music with scholarship to study conducting and composition. He graduated with honours in 1972 and continued his conducting studies under such eminent teachers as Professor Saito in Tokyo, Carl Bamberg in New York, Nicolai Malko in Berlin, Professor Markevitch in Paris and Franco Ferrara in Rome and Milan. He also served apprenticeships in the opera houses of Germany and Italy as an opera coach and conductor.

In 1971, Shek won the Third prize in the Minon National Young Conductors Competition held in Tokyo. In 1975, he won the Bronze Medal at the Herbert von Karajan conducting competition and in the same year, also won the Gold Medal and Silver Baton Award at the San Remo Opera House Competition in Italy. In 1976, he won third prize at the Besancon Conducting Competition in France. Since then, Mr. Shek had become a busy guest conductor throughout Europe with orchestras and opera houses of San Remo, Berlin, Vienna, Cologne, Lausanne, Budapest, Rome and others. In Asia, he

also became a frequent guest conductor of orchestras in Taiwan, Philippines, Korea, Japan and Hong Kong. His repertoire consists of all the major operatic, symphonic and contemporary works.

Active in the operatic scene in New York, Shek was appointed Music Director of the Manhattan Opera Society in 1979 where he produced more than five productions of grand operas as well as operettas with more than a hundred performances each year. He was also invited to conduct other opera companies in New York such as the Bel Canto Opera, the New York Lyric Opera and the Regina Opera.

Shek is also a specialist in twentieth century contemporary music. In New York, he founded the Sinfonia da Camera of New York and the Concert Orchestra of Asian Contemporary Music where he premiered many works of Asian composers. Shek has recorded many symphonic and operatic repertoires for worldwide distribution. He has also appeared in numerous concerts and opera productions for television broadcast in Europe and the United States. His recent recordings with the Moscow Symphony of rare repertoires of Russian composers has won him distinguished reviews from the American CD Guide.

SHANGHAI PHILHARMONIC CHORUS

Shanghai Philharmonic Chorus was formed in 1990 from the earlier Shanghai Vocal Music Lovers Association Chorus. It now has a membership of a hundred singers, with an average age of 28, drawn from all walks of life. Since its foundation the Chorus has taken an active part in public performance in the concert

hall and in opera and ballet. It has won national awards in Beijing, where it has appeared a number of times to considerable acclaim. Under the artistic direction of Cao Ding it has reached a high level of competence and won praise with audiences at home and with visiting musicians from abroad.

I. THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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|--------------------------|------|
| ① The Music of the Night | 4:25 |
| ② All I Ask of You | 3:50 |
| ③ Think of Me | 4:09 |
| ④ Masquerade | 3:08 |

II. WEST SIDE STORY

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|-------------|------|
| ⑤ Somewhere | 4:28 |
|-------------|------|

III. SOUTH PACIFIC

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|---------------------------|------|
| ⑥ Bali Hai | 4:44 |
| ⑦ Some Enchanted Evenings | 3:04 |

IV. THE MUSIC MAN

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|-------------------------|------|
| ⑧ Seventy-six Trombones | 2:17 |
|-------------------------|------|

V. CAROUSEL

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|------------------|------|
| ⑨ If I Loved You | 5:33 |
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VI. THE KING AND I

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|---------------------------|------|
| ⑩ "The King and I" Medley | 7:42 |
|---------------------------|------|

VII. FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

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|-------------------|------|
| ⑪ Matchmaker | 3:00 |
| ⑫ Sunrise, Sunset | 4:40 |

VIII. THE SOUND OF MUSIC

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|------------------------|------|
| ⑬ The Sound of Music | 5:45 |
| ⑭ The Lonely Goatherd | 2:25 |
| ⑮ Edelweiss | 2:43 |
| ⑯ Climb Ev'ry Mountain | 3:14 |

PLAYING TIME: 67:17

ALL SONGS SUNG IN MANDARIN



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BROADWAY

CHORAL FAVOURITES Shanghai Philharmonic Chorus/ Henry Shek

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■ The Phantom of the Opera ①-④ OC: Andrew Lloyd Webber/ Charles Hart/ Richard Stilgroe OP: The Really Useful Group Ltd. SP: Polygram Music Publishing HK Ltd. ■ West Side Story ⑤ OC: Leonard Bernstein/ Stephen Sondheim OP: Leonard Bernstein Music Publishing Ltd. SP: Polygram Music Publishing HK Ltd. ■ South Pacific ⑥-⑦ OC: Richard Rodgers/ Oscar Hammerstein II OP: Williamson Music International SP: EMI Music Publishing (S.E. Asia) Ltd. ■ The Music Man ⑧ OC: Meredith Willson OP: Frank Music Corp SP: EMI Music Publishing (S.E. Asia) Ltd. ■ Carousel ⑨ OC: Richard Rodgers/ Oscar Hammerstein II OP: Williamson Music International SP: EMI Music Publishing (S.E. Asia) Ltd. ■ The King and I ⑩ OC: Richard Rodgers/ Oscar Hammerstein II OP: Williamson Music International SP: EMI Music Publishing (S.E. Asia) Ltd. ■ Fiddler on the Roof ⑪-⑫ OC: Jerry Bock/ Sheldon Narnick OP: Warner/Chappell Music, HK Ltd. ■ The Sound of Music ⑬-⑯ OC: Richard Rodgers/ Oscar Hammerstein II OP: Williamson Music International SP: EMI Music Publishing (S.E. Asia) Ltd.

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