



For Immediate Release: May 3, 2015

Bravo! Vancouver Presents

God Bless America—American Choral Classics

Bravo! Chorale and 56<sup>th</sup> US Army Band

## ABOUT THE CONCERT

**On Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 PM** Bravo! Vancouver presents *God Bless America! American Choral Classics*.

The concert will be conducted by Dr. Maria Manzo and features the 50-voice Bravo! Chorale with special guest artists—the **56<sup>th</sup> US Army Band**. The concert takes place at First United Methodist Church located at 401 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Vancouver WA 98663. Tickets are \$25 for adults. Kids 12 and younger are FREE. Tickets are available online at [www.bravoconcerts.com](http://www.bravoconcerts.com) or at the Bravo! Vancouver Box office: [360-906-0441](tel:360-906-0441). Directions to First United Methodist Church are at [www.vanfumc.org](http://www.vanfumc.org).

*God Bless America!* will be conducted by Maria Manzo. Dr. Manzo is the Founder of the Bravo! Chorale and Music Director at The Madeleine in Portland. The Chorale will be performing classic American Spirituals, Folk and Patriotic songs—such as *“Ain’a That Good News”*, *“Battle Hymn of the Republic”*, *“Shenandoah”*, *“Ezekiel Saw de’ Wheel”* and others. The band will perform on the second half of the concert—and will join forces with the Chorale for *Armed Forces Salute* — a tribute to our military men and women.

The **56<sup>th</sup> US Army Band**—officially known as **The I Corps Army Band**—is affectionately referred to as “America’s Corps Band.” Assigned to I Corps, stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the band provides musical support for the Corps, as well as communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. The band performs over 600 concerts and missions annually and is truly the “Heartbeat of America’s Corps.” The wide-ranging repertoire of the band includes traditional marches, standard concert band literature, popular music, jazz standards, rock, funk, video game and even cinematic soundtrack music.

## CELEBRATING AMERICA AND OUR ARMED FORCES

*“This concert celebrates America in song, and also honors our men and women in uniform”*, says Michael Kissinger, Artistic Director. *“The I Corps Band is recognized as one of the premiere military bands in the United States, so it is a real honor to be able to partner and perform with these top-notch musicians”* says Kissinger. A Color Guard unit from the Washington National Guard will post colors, and representatives from **HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK** will also be at this concert to accept contributions. The National Honor Flight Network (HFN) program honors WWII veterans by taking them to Washington, DC to visit their National WWII Memorial and other national memorials.

*“Our goal with this concert is to perform well-loved American songs, and to celebrate the rich history of America in song. But we also wanted to honor our men and women in uniform, and to acknowledge the contribution they make toward American freedom. We’ve got a world-class military band, a National Guard Color Guard and a nationally recognized veteran’s organization all at this concert, so we believe it will be a great event for our audience”* says Kissinger.

## **ABOUT BRAVO! VANCOUVER**

Bravo! Vancouver is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. The Mission is: *“Bravo! Vancouver is a music organization committed to the Performance, Presentation, Appreciation and Advancement of the Arts in our Community.”* The [Bravo! Vancouver Concert Series](#) is Southwest Washington’s professional series featuring classical, jazz, sacred, chamber music, Broadway, pops and contemporary new music. The Concert Series season extends from December to June. Bravo! Vancouver also produces the nationally acclaimed [Vancouver Wine & Jazz Festival](#) and the [Dubrovnik Jazz Festival](#) in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

## **TICKETS & CONTACT INFO:**

- **GOD BLESS AMERICA! AMERICAN CHORAL CLASSICS**
- **CONDUCTOR** — Dr. Maria Manzo
- **MUSICIANS** — Bravo! Vancouver Chorale, 56<sup>th</sup> US ARMY BAND
- **DATE** — Sunday, May 17 at 3:00 PM
- **VENUE** — First United Methodist Church
- **ADDRESS** — 401 East 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, Vancouver, WA 98663
- **TICKETS** — \$25 Adults / Kids 12 and younger are FREE
- **CONTACT** — 360-906-0441 or [www.bravoconcerts.com](http://www.bravoconcerts.com) or [tickets@bravoconcerts.com](mailto:tickets@bravoconcerts.com)
- **DIRECTIONS** — [www.vanfumc.org](http://www.vanfumc.org) or at 360-693-5881
- **WEB** — [www.bravoconcerts.com](http://www.bravoconcerts.com)