

# THE NEW YORK POPS

A DIFFERENT KIND OF ORCHESTRA

## Original Program Notes Friday, October 9, 2015

Welcome to opening night of another wonderful season with The New York Pops at glorious Carnegie Hall!

Throughout the year to come, we'll explore the very best that the Great American Songbook has to offer—from classic movie scores to jazz standards to contemporary musicals.

But tonight, we travel back to the Golden Age of Broadway, when showtunes reached beyond Times Square to music lovers all across the country—topping record charts, prompting television specials, and inspiring beloved films. Without a doubt, there are no two names more synonymous with this era than Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Though composer Richard Rodgers and lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II enjoyed plenty of success with earlier collaborators, it was their specific partnership that changed the course of musical theatre history. Together, they produced a string of hits — from *Oklahoma!* to *Carousel* to *South Pacific* to *The King and I* to *The Sound of Music* — that remain some of the most popular works to this very day.

They also revolutionized the musical genre by fully integrating song and dance into their stories, while many other shows of the time simply used these elements to bookend scenes.

Most importantly, Rodgers and Hammerstein tackled real social issues, forever changing the type of stories that could be told on the musical stage.

This evening, we're thrilled to represent every single musical in the Rodgers and Hammerstein canon — including ones they specifically created for screens large (the feature film *State Fair*) and small (the television sensation *Cinderella*).

To help us celebrate this prolific duo, we've invited two of the most talented performers working on Broadway today: Sierra Boggess and Julian Ovenden. And once again, we're joined by our wonderfully talented friends from Judith Clurman's Essential Voices USA.

So sit back and relax, as we share a few of the greatest songs ever written. If you don't already know these tunes by heart, we're sure they're bound to become some of your favorite things!

Steven Reineke  
Music Director and Conductor