

Montgomery Philharmonic

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Montgomery Philharmonic 2013 - 2014 Concert Season – A Confluence of Culture Music of North America – February 27, 2014

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Morton Gould – *American Salute* (1943)

American Salute by Morton Gould is a fantasy based on the song *When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again*. The work was originally written for orchestra but Gould quickly transcribed it for concert band. The piece was written for a radio broadcast on the Mutual Radio Network for Lincoln’s birthday. Gould’s producer asked him to write a patriotic piece in the wake of the Pearl Harbor invasion; it was written in one night and performed the following day (he actually began the composition after dinner and finished it just in time for the 9:00 a.m. broadcast).

In this set of fantasy-variations, the simple melody was written in both major and minor keys, with Gould giving it rhythmic and harmonic treatment to help to bring out his vision for the fantasy. Written during World War II, the emotional content of the piece is sentimental without being excessively so. In the fantasy-variations, Gould used the entire orchestra, casting the woodwind, brass, strings, and percussion in the melody at various times while using the extremes of very soft to very loud dynamics and a variety of accompaniment figures to create excitement.

The piece was played at a United States Military Academy Concert Band concert that he attended on the last day of his life, and it has proved to be the most popular piece that he wrote.

About Morton Gould

Morton Gould was an American composer, conductor, arranger, and pianist. He was a child prodigy who had the remarkable abilities to improvise and compose, and published his first composition at the age of 6.

Gould played the piano in movie theaters during the Great Depression and when Radio City Music Hall opened, he was hired as the staff pianist. By the time he was 22, he was the staff conductor and arranger for radio station WOR in New York City. He appeared on television, most notably on *The Chrysler Hour* on CBS, before he had turned 30. During the same time period, Gould began composing for film and Broadway. He served as the president of ASCAP from 1986 to 1994. Gould’s greatest contribution to performing artists was lobbying for the intellectual rights for them on the Internet.

Gould included a wide variety of styles in his music—folk, jazz, pop, and classical elements. He was as adept a conductor as a composer and won a Grammy Award for Classical Music in 1966 for his recording of Charles Ives’ *First Symphony* with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 1994, Gould received the Kennedy Center Honors award in recognition of his lifetime of contributions to American culture.

- **Born:** December 10, 1913, New York City, NY
- **Died:** February 21, 1996, Orlando, FL
- **Nationality:** American
- **Compositions:** *Stringmusic, American Salute, Flourishes and Gallop, Spirituals for Strings, Fanfare for Freedom, Ballad for Band, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Centennial Symphony – Gala for Band, Fall River Legend, Formations for Marching Band, Remembrance Day – Soliloquy for a Passing Century, Symphony of Spirituals*, soundtracks for the movies *Cinerama Holiday* and *Windjammer*.
- **Education:** Julliard School, New York University
- **Awards:** Grammy Award for Classical Music – 1966 and Lifetime Grammy – 2005, Kennedy Center Honors –1994, Pulitzer Prize for Music – 1995

Instrumentation – 3 flutes (3rd flute – piccolo), 2 oboes (2nd oboe – English horn), 3 clarinets (3rd clarinet – bass clarinet), 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, piano, harp, timpani, bells, chimes, snare drum, bass drum, crash cymbals, violin 1, violin 2, viola, cello, double bass

Artifact –

<http://rs5.loc.gov/service/music/eadxmlmusic/eadpdfmusic/2010/mu010028.pdf>



1. [The Best Of - Arthur Fiedler](#)

2. [Reader's Digest Music: God Bless America - Patriotic Favorites, Vol. 1 - Various Artists](#)

3. [Gould: An American Salute - The President's Own United States Marine Band](#)



1. [American Salute](#)

2. [American Salute](#)

3. [Morton Gould: American Salute](#)