

# THE NEW YORK POPS

SKITCH HENDERSON FOUNDER AND MUSIC DIRECTOR

## Notes on the Program

by Skitch Henderson

Friday, December 17, 2004, 8:00PM, Carnegie Hall  
Saturday, December 18, 2004, 8:00PM, Carnegie Hall  
*A Holiday Celebration*

This holiday we once again welcome The Juilliard Choral Union, with Judith Clurman, their director, but we also have a very special set of holiday cheer from Texas. The Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir, based in Fort Worth, brings us a spectrum of sound most unusual on this stage. Even though they are amateurs, they present a formal tradition of the ringing of the bells and promise to be a major part of our sound. I am indebted to their director, Jack Noble White, for his musical advice and his total cooperation in making this a meaningful event for their organization and ours. I have an old friend, a great pianist by the name of Van Cliburn, who has praised this organization for years and we're very happy to present them here at Carnegie during this festive season.

The composer Sir Edward Elgar wrote incidental music for a "child's play" called *The Wand of Youth*. The selections we play tonight represent the inspiration and the variety of his compositional output dedicated to youth. There are many suites of this music which haven't seen the light of day, but these excerpts from the second suite, dedicated to a minister in Worchester, bring you the true sound of the Elgar orchestra with a somewhat British flair. The finale, "Wild Bears," has for years been a staple of the Oslo Philharmonic when they tour, used as an encore.

Our program includes tradition, memories, melodies old and new, melodies cherished and discarded, but all in all a bountiful wreath of the international music scene.

