## **NOTES**

A PATRIOTIC SALUTE features two songs written by the great American songwriter, actor, playwright and producer GEORGE MICHAEL COHAN. Born in Providence, Rhode Island, on July 3, 1878, George M. became a significant part of the early vaudeville scene, performing with his parents and sister, Josie.

As a songwriter, most of his tunes were created using the four chords he could play on only the black keys of the piano. His first musical, *The Governor's Son* (which featured the members of his family plus his new wife, Ethel Levey), opened on Broadway in 1901. Unfortunately, George sprained his ankle on stage in the first scene! He closed the show a month later after discouraging reviews.

His first big Broadway success came in 1904 with Little Johnny Jones. The time was right for Cohan's story of an American jockey wrongly accused of throwing a race, and featured two of his best-loved songs, "Yankee Doodle Boy" and "Give My Regards to Broadway."

In 1906 came the musical Forty-five Minutes from Broadway, followed by another successful show, George Washington, Jr., featuring Cohan's "You're a Grand Old Rag." Yes, you read the title correctly! After patriotic organizations protested, the song and lyric was changed to "You're a Grand Old Flag!"

Cohan continued to be active in all phases of the theatre. His most famous World War I song, "Over There," won him a Congressional medal in 1940.

After his final Broadway triumph playing President Roosevelt in 1937's *I'd Rather Be Right*, George M. Cohan died on November 4, 1942 at the age of sixty-four. His influence helped to mold the future of the American musical theatre's fast-paced musical comedies.

Later, in 1968, the biographical musical George M opened starring Joel Grey in the title role and featuring 30 Cohan songs.



dedicated to the Choral and Band participants of the 1999 Archdiocesan Music Festival — Philadelphia, PA

## A PATRIOTIC SALUTE

for 2-part voices (opt. kazoos) and piano with optional Concert Band accompaniment or SoundTrax CD\*

Arranged by

SALLY K. ALBRECHT



<sup>\*</sup> Also available for S.A.B., Level Three (18651). SoundTrax CD available (18653).

Concert Band accompaniment available ("Young Symphonic Band" Series), arranged by John O'Reilly (18801).













\* If using kazoos, all voices unison on melody from meas. 83-97. 18652

















