

Music Blurbs for 6-30-19 (Celebrating July 4)

News and Notes:

This week Lori Minasian will sing "I Vow to Thee My Country." In 1921 composer Gustave Holst adapted a portion of the "Jupiter" movement from his work "The Planets." for a text by Cecil Spring-Rice. We will also sing "The Church's one foundation," "O beautiful for spacious skies," and "God of our fathers."

Sunday Bulletins:

In the summer of 1892 Katherine Bates and other instructors celebrated the end of a summer school session in Colorado Springs by climbing up Pike's Peak. Because of the altitude they only stayed long enough for an "ecstatic gaze." Recounting the outing in 1918 Miss Bates said, "It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated in to my mind." The poem "America the Beautiful" was published in 1895 in the Fourth of July issue of *The Congregationalist*. The tune, MATERNA (Mother) was composed by Samuel A. Ward and published an 1888 collection called *The Parish Choir*. The text it was written for was "O mother dear, Jerusalem" and they remained together in the Episcopal hymnals up through 1940. However, in 1912 the president of the Massachusetts Agricultural College requested permission from the composer's widow to use this tune with Bates' text. The hymn, "O beautiful for spacious skies," became widely popular in WWI and text and tune have become inseparable since.