THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT

A Grand Evening of Orchestra and Three Chorales presented by NOVA and The Reunion Music Society, Inc.



MASTERS OF MELODY FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2013 AT 8:00 P.M.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall
NOVA Alexandria, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311





Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale and Alexandria Music Programs and
The Reunion Music Society, Inc.
Present
The Spring Concert

of

The NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra Christopher Johnston, Music Director

with The Northern Virginia Chorale, The NOVA Annandale Chorale, and The NOVA Community Chorus

Artistic Directors: Robert S. Webb, Jr. and Dr. Mark A. Whitmire

MASTERS OF MELODY Symphony and Opera Choruses

Friday, May 3, 2013 8:00 p.m.

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 3001 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311



PROGRAM

Welcome

Ann Schlesinger, M.F.A. Adjunct Instructor of Art NOVA – Annandale Campus

Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

Richard Wagner

Symphony No. 9 in E Minor "From the New World" Antonín Dvořák

Adagio - Allegro molto

II. Largo

III. Scherzo: Molto vivace

IV. Allegro con fuoco

Intermission

Orchestra with the Northern Virginia Chorale and the NOVA College Choruses of Annandale and Alexandria

Bridal Chorus from "Lohengrin" Richard Wagner

Pilgrim's Chorus from "Tannhauser" Richard Wagner

Anvil Chorus from "Il Trovatore" Giuseppe Verdi

Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, Giuseppe Verdi

"Va, pensiero" from "Nabucco"

Hymn and Triumphal March Giuseppe Verdi from "Aida"

Thank you for turning off cell phones and signal watches during the performance.

PROGRAM NOTES

Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg

Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

The medieval guild of amateur poets and singers is about to hold its spring festival. Thousands of visitors pour into town as the town cobbler, Hans Sachs, (base baritone) presides as the guild chief and top judge of the competition. The opera is filled with grand, heroic melodies, lyrical poetic songs, and many light comic interludes as we get caught up in the shenanigans of the behind-the-scenes judging of the songs. Nuremberg takes its music seriously and wants to know if low scores are due to bad song-writers or just bad singers? Unlike many opera composers, Wagner did it all: he created his own original story, wrote the libretto, wrote the overture first -- not after, as a medley --, wrote the complete score, and personally conducted the overture in Leipzig in 1862. While audiences today seldom sit through the entire four hours plus of the full opera, the overture is much beloved and played all over the world.

Symphony No. 9 in E Minor "From the New World" Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

The ninth symphony by Antonín Dvořák remains one of the most often-played, well-known, and well-loved works of the symphonic literature. Antonín Dvořák, a famous Czechoslovakian composer, was among the first prominent Europeans to visit the United States and influence and encourage American composers. During 1892-95, he was the director of the new National Conservatory in New York City. While visiting the United States, Dvořák was struck by the power and beauty of African-American folk melodies and spirituals. Of these American melodies, Dvořák wrote, "They are pathetic, tender, passionate, melancholy, solemn, religious, bold, merry, gay, gracious, or what you will."

The symphony opens with an elegiac, haunting melody and then changes to a fast, bold triumphant theme. In the slow, stately second movement, the English horn solo has a spiritual-like quality. Feel the quick-stepping folk dancers in the lively third movement and hear the heroic, thunderous, inspiring marches of the finale. With his ninth symphony performed in Carnegie Hall in1893, Antonín Dvořák was teaching Americans to explore and cherish their own musical roots and culture instead of merely imitating European traditions. Gradually, Americans began to rely on their own heritage and creativity. A distinctive American style began to develop in the music of such composers as Charles Ives, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, and Richard Rodgers. Antonín Dvořák was the visitor from the old world who inspired the new world.

Composers Wagner and Verdi Share a 200th Anniversary.

We remember two great opera composers born two hundred years ago. Wilhelm Richard Wagner was born on May 22, 1813 in Leipzig, Germany. Giuseppe Verdi was born on October 10, 1813 in Le Roncole, near Busseto, Italy. The Overture to *Die Meistersinger* and five Choruses from Grand Operas are presented in celebration of the 200th anniversaries of these two innovative opera composers.

Bridal Chorus, from Act III, scene 1, "Lohengrin"

Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

In this fairy tale opera, a mysterious knight in shining armor defends the fair lady Elsa, who has been accused unjustly. On their wedding day, she comes down the aisle to Wagner's most famous chorus, as have millions of brides ever since. But alas, in opera seldom is there a storybook ending. Elsa is tricked into betraying the name of her knight Lohengrin. Her dead brother Gottfried is transformed from a swan, Lohengrin is escorted back to the castle of the Knight of the Holy Grail, and Elsa dies as the curtain falls. Purists will tell you that in the opera, the bridal chorus actually comes after the ceremony, not before, and that the marriage was rather short-lived. Fortunately, however, not too many brides worry about the intricacies of Richard Wagner's opera stories. The passionate, magnificent music of the Bridal Chorus lives throughout the generations.

Pilgrim's Chorus, from Act I, "Tannhauser"

Richard Wagner (1813-1883)

Tannhauser, having just escaped from the powerful Venus, is feeling spiritually bereft. While sitting on the banks of a river, he sees and hears a band of pilgrims passing. Their passionate prayer moves him deeply.

"Once more with joy, O my home, I may meet Once more ye fair, flowr'y meadows I greet My Pilgrim's staff henceforth may rest Since Heaven's sweet peace is within my breast." The troubadour Manrico visits his supposed Mother Azucenko in the camp of the gypsies. Upon rising at dawn, the manly gypsies hammer on their anvils, praising hard work, good wine, and their beautiful women.

"Lift up your hammers, Who turns the Gypsies day from gloom to brightest sunshine? the Lovely Gypsy Maid."

Verdi's opera tells of bloody rivalry between a poor troubadour, Manrico, and the powerful Count di Luna for the lovely Lenora. In a story filled with amazing twists and magnificent arias, the gypsy daughter avenges her Mother's grisly death at the hands of Count di Luna.

Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, "Va, pensiero," from Act III, "Nabucco"

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

After the destruction of the first temple in Jerusalem, the Israelites are imprisoned in Babylonia, far from home. The exiles yearn for their native land and cry out for their lack of freedom.

"Oh, my homeland, so beautiful and so lost!

Oh, remembrances, so dear, and so fatal!"

The opera *Nabucco* made Giuseppe Verdi world-famous, and his chorus "*Va, pensiero*" was to play an important role in history. Italian patriots adopted "*Va, pensiero*" as their revolutionary song in the long struggle to unify Italy, finally achieved in 1861. When Giuseppe Verdi died in 1901, bystanders in Milan broke out in "*Va, pensiero*" as his coffin passed.

Hymn and Triumphal March from Act II, "Aida" Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

The victorious warrior Radames and his Egyptian troops are marching into ancient Memphis to the spectacle sights and sounds of great pageantry. Trumpets are blaring throughout, 170 choristers are singing a hymn to the ancient gods, the town orchestra is going full tilt. Due to crowded stage conditions, however, we are unable to recreate the war chariots, banners, sacred vessels, dancing girls, and Radames marching under a canopy carried by twelve officers.

Dance, sons of Egypt, circling round, And sing your mystic praises, As round the sun in mazes Dance the bright stars of night.

Then, the beautiful slave Aida sees her elderly father, the Ethiopian King Amonasro, being paraded among the prisoners. Such is the stuff of grand opera.

Christopher Johnston, Music Director, NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra

Christopher Johnston, a native of Virginia, has served as the Music Director of the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra since 1996. He is a graduate of Indiana University, where he studied piano with Dr. Nancy Harbottle and composition with Dr. John Eaton. In 1996, he earned a Master of Arts in Music in conducting, from George Mason University.

Mr. Johnston has composed and arranged numerous choral, orchestral, and jazz ensemble works for high school, college, and professional ensembles. His composition *From Far and Away* was commissioned by the Reunion Music Society and first presented by the NVCC-Annandale Symphony in October 2002 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Reunion Music Society, Inc.

As instructor in Music and Computer Technology, Mr. Johnston teaches composition to high school students at the Fairfax Academy for Communication and the Arts. In 2005, he received national recognition for his work in music education as a recipient of the Claes Nobel Distinguished Educator Award. In 2006, he was a recipient of the Wolf Trap Foundation Scholarship Award, and, as a result, designed and produced a project in which eight young composers created and premièred a new multi-movement work entitled *Suite for Electric Guitar and Orchestra*. Most recently, he was the recipient of the LFI 2008 Virginia Leader in Education Award, and was honored at a ceremony attended by approximately 400 business and community leaders for his work and leadership in music education. In addition to his work at the Fairfax Academy, he is currently on the faculty of Northern Virginia Community College, where he serves as Adjunct Professor and conductor of the NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra. An accomplished musician and mainstay of the Washington, D.C. music scene, Mr. Johnston is in frequent demand as a composer, conductor and keyboard recitalist.

Robert S. Webb, Jr., Artistic Director, The Northern Virginia Chorale and the NOVA Annandale Chorale

Robert S. Webb, Jr. has been Director of the Northern Virginia Chorale since the fall of 1982. He has directed the Chorale in several prestigious venues in Europe, including Salisbury Cathedral, Bath Abbey, and Covent Garden in England and the Basilica of San Marco in Venice. He has fostered a series of exchange concerts and visits between the Northern Virginia Chorale and several English, French, and Italian choirs. Mr. Webb is the Director of Music at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where he directs the Chancel Choir and manages a comprehensive music program.

Robert S. Webb is a professor of music at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale campus, where he directs the NOVA Annandale Chorale and teaches music theory, music appreciation and voice. He also has a broad range of experience in performing instrumental music and conducting. He played trumpet with the U.S. Navy Band (Washington, D.C.), the Richmond Symphony, the Filene Center Orchestra, the Virginia Chamber Orchestra, the Arlington Symphony, and the National Symphony Orchestra. He currently plays in the Virginia Grand Military Band.

Mr. Webb is a member of the Music Educators National Conference, Virginia Music Educators Association, The National Association of Teachers of Singing and The American Choral Directors Association.

Dr. Mark A. Whitmire, Artistic Director, The NOVA Community Chorus

Dr. Mark Whitmire is Director of NOVA Community Chorus and Professor of Music at Northern Virginia Community College. Dr. Whitmire has received numerous grants and awards, including a scholarship for post-graduate studies at the Britten-Pears School in England (where he studied with Sir Peter Pears), and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for research and writing on the music of Benjamin Britten. He was been named "Outstanding Faculty of the Year" by the college in 1999 and 2010, and in 2004 he was awarded the "President's Sabbatical," the highest honor given by the college. He has been conductor-in-residence at Gloucester Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral in England. In 2008 he conducted performances in Leipzig, Germany, including a performance at the famed Gewandhaus. In summer 2010, he led a choral tour of France, conducting performances at Chartres Cathedral, Rouen Cathedral, La Madeleine (Paris) and Notre Dame. This summer, Dr. Whitmire will lead a choir tour of Italy, including performances at San Marco Basilica (Venice) and St. Peter's Basilica (Rome). Dr. Whitmire attended Abilene Christian University, the University of Texas, and the University of Maryland, where he received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra Christopher Johnston, Music Director

First Violin

Kevin Pham **
Riann Edson
Patrick Geddes
Eddie Kapusciarz
Minkee Kim
Reed Martinko
Beth Miller
Suzanne Murray
Brendan Slocumb
Nicole Springer

Second Violin

Amanda Scheetz *
Michelle Banks
Cheri Bloom
Shawn Grogan
Alicia Jones
Michael Hansen
Reem Khaldi
Diane Kirik
Lisa Lombardo
Joyce Rizzolo
Cari Schmucker
Suzi Schroer
Jody Smalley
Alexander Touzinsky
Mario Viso

Viola

Margie Bassman *
Pamela Dahlhauser
Matt Dennis
Nathi Jeerakul
Amanda Koman
Eve Lotterer
Eugene Nojek
Max Oppenheimer
Ariel Perez-Mejia
Bucky Roup
Kasey Ulery

Cello

Linda Kapusciarz *
Christine Dunnington
Sharon Jones
Angelica Kalasz
Robert Meltzer
Joseph Pincus
Joseph Schmucker
Sam Swift

Bass

Randolph Sharp * Andrew Johnston Michael Lewis James Petersen

Flute

Robin Schultz *
Teresa Diaz
Jennifer Kerwin, piccolo
Elizabeth McPhilomy

Oboe

Sue Neff, English horn * Bruce Salad

Clarinet

Mitch Bassman * Robert Hoyler Laura Pilkington

Bassoon

Louis Reichwein * Aaron Hahn

Horn

Roger Whitworth * Miguel Trujillo Dan Rigby

Trumpet

John Wright *
Marty Kaplan
Fred Marcellus
Bob S. Webb, Jr.
Rob Webb

Trombone

Sarah Hatler Sarah Meltzer Zach Sellers

Tuba

Raffi Artinian Tom Lyckberg

Harp

Emlyn Koehl

Percussion

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Joanna Ormesher Norma Hughes Dean Duncan Tebow

^{**} Concertmaster

^{*} Principals

The Northern Virginia Chorale Robert S. Webb, Jr., Artistic Director Raymond Freeman, Accompanist

Singers

Soprano I

Fiona Agnew
Lanni Brisson
Caiti DeMulder
Peggy Freeman
Daria Hoobchaak
Anna Krause **
Claire Mungo
Mary Beth Pierce
Melissa Torres
Marcia Van Camp
Pamela Westfield

Soprano II

Pamella Appler Susanne Cook * Nancy Edwards Regina Gilbertson Regina Girouard Gloria Page Hamly Christie Kent Clydette Lobred Jeanne Noel Miller Cheri Seitz

Alto I

Sarah Bachmann Mary Ann Davis Margaret Eccles Mary Lu Fuson Marge Jackman Karen Randall ** Stephanie Selice Sylvia Will *

Alto II

Marilyn Anderson Elaine Cummings ** Jean Duggan Joyce Raezer Ellen Sibre

Denotes

* Section Leader

** Assistant
Section Leader

Tenor

Peter Campbell
Phil Carpenter**
Dennis Dzierzawski
Mike Hoobchaak *
James Kenyon
Dick Marvin
Dennis Murphy
Paul Techau

Bass/Baritone

Lambert Anderson Bob Bell * Oliver Easterwood Tim Eccles Alan Moser Jeff Reed John Rephlo Brent Robins Bill Smith Jim Wakefield **

The NOVA Annandale Chorale Robert S. Webb, Jr., Artistic Director Laurel Benson Brown, Accompanist

Singers

Soprano

Fiona Agnew Whitney Akridge Jenna Cann Eun Kyung Kim Anna Krause Lauren McLeod Stephanie Murray Mary Beth Pierce Natalia Rodriguez Rebecca Rozmajzl

Alto

Amy Cohen Lyndsey Harvey Ellen Johnson Ji Yoon Kim Katherine Knott Lydia Mockabee Christina Moore

Tenor

Kevin Beisel Skyler Dache Daniel DeVera Joshua Dorton Robert Duquette Maxwell Talley

Bass

Ryan Alexander Tremayne Bailey Sandeep Bhopal Brandon Boling Ralph Johnson Darren Lopez Alan Moser

NOVA Community Chorus Dr. Mark A. Whitmire, Artistic Director

Soprano 1

Therese Antonio
Elizabeth Bozhich
Sara Dudley Brown
Jesse Calzado-Esponda
Marya Fitzgerald
Lene Jensen
Angelica Kajiwara
Terri LaGoe
Phyllis McKenzie
Jamaica Peralta
Judith Robb
Maria Rynn
Jane Simpson
Theresa Wells
Mary Yee

Soprano 2

Karen Besser Cathy Brown Ginger Caress Lisa Clark Pat Connors Charlotte Cox Felicia Gonzales Margaret Harrison Michelle Lewis Barbara Lowrey Mary Maher Carolyn Miller Linda Rosenberg Nancy Ruth Wood Selamit Worku

Alto 1

Ellie Briscoe Elizabeth Bull Kate, Cantrell Claire Dubas

Alto 1 continued

Pat Flagg Holly Hambley Agnes Malicka Marion Mangus Deborah Peetz Carol Pelenberg Maria Rinaldi Jane Roningen Linda Rosenberg Desta Shaw Cynthia Young

Alto 2

Halina Banas-Jones
Arlene Brigida
Jacqueline Constance
Martha Evans
Nancy Ford-Kohne
Izola Hawkins
Ruth Herndon
Amy Hirschauer
Joyce Lombardi
Tyra Newman
Vicki Rateliffe
Annette Reilly
Carol Uri
Barbara Wade
Judy Wulff

Tenor 1

Lee Croman Tom Donlan Mike Jarvis Kris Kouzougian Bill Reilly Francisco Robles Alex Thomas

Tenor 2

DeMarcus Bolds John Connors Chris DeGeiso Ray Gavert Bob Gerbracht Larry Goldschmidt Estee Herndon Bill Meyer

Bass 1

Michael Burke John Clark Bernie Cohen Addison Dhouti Walter Gans Lock Handley Mark Johnson Richard Kennedy Ray Lombardi Tom Munger Matthew Relton Steven Rich Sasa Stevic Fred Wulff

Bass 2

Bill Brown Alan Bunner Ed Caress Larry Carnahan Bob Clark Connor Folz Nick King Alan Krause Rich Rosenberg Will Russell

THE REUNION MUSIC SOCIETY, INC., FOUNDED IN 1992

In the summer of 1977, musicians who had studied with Dr. Claiborne T. Richardson at Lake Braddock Secondary School came together to form an ensemble. As these students continued to meet and perform, this reunion of high school friends led to a broad-based community musical reunion. In 1992, The Reunion Music Society, Inc. entered into an historic partnership with the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale campus. Under this joint sponsorship, a small orchestra began rehearsing in the Ernst Community and Cultural Center Theater and gave its first concert in April, 1994. Truly this partnership has been a most positive and productive experience. Since then, hundreds of NOVA college students have been able to earn college credits while participating in a full symphony orchestra. NOVA is deeply proud of this unique orchestra! Likewise, The Reunion Music Society, Inc. has served our community by promoting music of diverse cultures and heritages, nurturing rising composers, giving financial assistance to local artists, and providing a welcoming stage for amateur musicians of all ages and backgrounds, fostering the love of music.

Support the varied musical programs of the RMS.

What began as a reunion of musical friends has evolved into an outstanding non-profit organization advancing the arts in Northern Virginia and elsewhere. Please send your tax deductible check payable to the Reunion Music Society, Inc. to 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale, VA 22003 or consider stopping by the RMS table after the concert. Thank you most sincerely.

THE NOVA-ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

This concert marks our 19th birthday. How we have grown and blossomed from the fledgling group that first met to rehearse on January 18, 1994. Maestro Christopher Johnston has been our Music Director for 17 years, since 1996. More than an orchestra, we are a musical family: We are old and we are young; we are college students and even some from high school; we are professionals from nearly every career or occupation; we come from many different cultural backgrounds and heritages; we are mostly amateur but include some professional music teachers. We come together on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. to study and practice with Christopher Johnston, who is a very patient, amazing musician and teacher. We always welcome new musicians and support staff. Call the Annandale campus music program at (703)-323-3114 for information. The orchestra's Advisory Board helps Director Chris Johnston manage the orchestra.

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Mr. Mitch Bassman, woodwinds

Ms. Sharon Jones, cellos

Mr. Randolph Sharp, string bass

Mr. Claiborne Richardson, Jr., percussion

Mr. John Wright, brass

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHORALE www.northernvirginiachorale.org

The seventy-voice Northern Virginia Chorale, formerly the Springfield Chorale, is celebrating its thirty-eighth season. From its inception in 1975, the Chorale has achieved a well-earned reputation for providing the community with high-quality performances under the leadership of its artistic director, Robert S. Webb, Jr.

In addition to its three local concerts each season, the Chorale has performed in several European venues. In July of 2008, it conducted seven concerts near Verona and Lago di Garda, culminating its tour by singing at San Marco's Cathedral in Venice. In previous years it has performed in Sofia, Bulgaria, Salisbury, England, Munich, Vienna, and Paris.

Closer to home, the Chorale has performed with the Washington, Fairfax, and Alexandria Symphony orchestras. It has sung at the Kennedy Center, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the National Cathedral, and the French Embassy, as well as in the Pageant of Peace on the National Mall. The Chorale has, in recent years, had the honor of singing with the distinguished Metropolitan Chorus for the "Handel's Messiah Sing-Along" concert at the Kennedy Center.

As part of its outreach program, the Chorale conducts numerous sing-along concerts each year at area retirement and nursing homes. Additionally, it conducts an annual yuletide holiday sing-along concert at the VA Hospital in Washington, D.C. It also provides an opportunity for music majors attending the Northern Virginia Community College to perform with us, thus deepening their learning experience while receiving college credit for the association.

The Northern Virginia Chorale rehearses on Monday evenings at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, Virginia. The Chorale welcomes new singers and support staff. For information, please send email to the Director, Robert S. Webb, Jr., at rwebb@nvcc.edu or to the president of the Chorale, James Kenyon, at jkenyon1@cox.net or to the Board Chair, Clydette Lobred, at tclobred@aol.com.

Officers of the Northern Virginia Chorale:

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The Northern Virginia Chorale thanks the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of our 2012 - 2013 Season

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Acknowledgements

Sincere appreciation is extended to the staff of the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, and the following individuals and organizations:

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The Annandale Campus Liberal Arts Division
(Ms. Nancy Minogue, Mr. Huan Ton, and Mr. John Aakesson)

Upcoming Performances During 2013

- May 19: The Annandale Brass performs at NOVA's spring graduation ceremony at George Mason University, Patriot Center, 2:00 p.m.
- June 23: Reunion Music Society Jazz Orchestra performs at Mason District Park, 7:30 p.m.
- July 17: NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra performs at Lee District Park, 7:30 p.m.
- July 21: NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra performs its summer concert at The Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.
- July 26: NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra performs at Lake Accotink, 7:30 p.m.
- August 1: The Annandale Brass performs at Frying Pan Park, 7:30 p.m.
- **November 8:** NOVA-Annandale Symphony Orchestra performs its fall concert at The Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8:00 p.m.
- **December 8:** The Annandale Brass performs its annual "Winter Wonderland" concert at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum, 4:00 p.m.





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PAT SAWHNEY IS A LOVER OF MANY TYPES OF MUSIC. AN AVID FAN AND SUPPORTER OF THE NVCC ANNANDALE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, THE REUNION JAZZ AND THE REUNION BRASS . PAT IS A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE REUNION MUSIC SOCIETY Board of Directors and helps at most of the concerts. She lives near the NOVA campus and has

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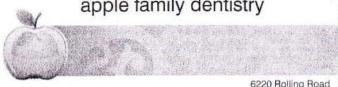


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