The Promised Land invokes many images and emotions. For some, it’s a covenant from God in a land of milk and honey. On this continent, many would think of the ethos called The American Dream. For Mike and Sarah it conjured a Springsteen song of driving across country, through deserts, dogs howling as you take charge of your destiny – just like thousands of desperate farmers did some 90 years ago trying to escape the coming dust storms. Just like thousands of immigrants do every year searching for something better. Or, perhaps, what thousands of us will be doing in a few years fleeing rising waters.

John Steinbeck, as lauded as he was critically, was far from perfect. He was deeply complicated and contradictory, very much like the road we are exploring tonight. In his classic 1939 novel The Grapes of Wrath, Steinbeck wrote a cry of rage for The Joad Family – “their trials and their repeated collisions against the hard realities of an America divided into Haves and Have-Nots evolves a drama that is intensely human yet majestic in its scale and moral vision, elemental yet plainspoken, tragic but ultimately stirring in its human dignity.” We hope tonight we capture a little of that epic human spirit as we journey musically back and forth in time and across the continent in search of that ineffable Promised Land, whatever that may mean to you.

Esther Jun, Director
1. BATTLEHYMN/BLOWIN’ DOWN THIS ROAD

2. CALIFORNIA
Songwriter: Joni Mitchell Performer: Divine Brown

3. I AIN’T GOT NO HOME
Songwriter: Woody Guthrie Performer: Travis Knights

4. MISS AMERICA
Songwriters: Wayne Anthony Hector, James Blunt, & Steve Mac Performer: Alana Bridgewater

5. HOUND DOG
Songwriters: Jerry Leiber & Mike Stoller Performer: Raha Javanfar

6. MASTERS OF WAR
Songwriter: Bob Dylan Performer: Mike Ross

7. AS TIME GOES BY
Songwriter: Herman Hupfeld Performer: Travis Knights

8. HEROES
Songwriters: Brian Eno & David Bowie Performer: Hailey Gillis

9. THUNDER ROAD
Songwriter: Bruce Springsteen Performer: Mike Ross

10. MATERIAL GIRL
Songwriters: Peter H. Brown & Robert S. Rans Performer: Raha Javanfar

11. FREEDOM

12. THE PROMISED LAND
Songwriter: Bruce Springsteen Performer: Hailey Gillis

13. BORN TO RUN
Songwriter: Bruce Springsteen Performer: Alana Bridgewater

14. AMERICA
Songwriter: Paul Simon Performer: Ensemble

All songs arranged by Mike Ross except where noted.