The Lawrence Welk Show
16th Cycle Program Descriptions – encore season

#1601  Lawrence Welk’s Premiere Show (1955)  Airs: 8/25/18

“Say It with Music” opens this very first national television broadcast of the Lawrence Welk Show. Alice Lon sings “Love Me or Leave Me,” Larry Hooper delights with his signature song “Oh Happy Day,” Rocky Rockwell charms us with “I Love Girls,” and since it wouldn’t be a Welk show without a polka, “The Clarinet Polka” fits the bill perfectly. Don’t miss the show that started it all.

#1602  Songs from the Movies (1980)  Airs: 9/1/18

Some of your favorite songs and themes from movies are heard in this entertaining show. “Hooray for Hollywood” gets us underway, Anacani gives Carmen Miranda her due with “South America, Take It Away,” Guy and Ralna sing the romantic “Somewhere My Love,” while Ava Barber, with the help of Charlie Parlato will tickle your funny bone with “Tumbling Tumbleweeds.” Jack Imel and the group close the program with “Singin’ in the Rain” a fitting tribute to Gene Kelly.

#1603  Down on the Farm (1973)  Airs: 9/8/18

“How Ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down on the Farm” gets us rolling on this “farm” show that aired first in 1973. Norma Zimmer sings “Suddenly There’s A Valley” and Bobby and Cissy make “Turkey in the Straw” come to life. Joe Feeney’s Irish tenor soars on “Oh What A Beautiful Morning,” and Jimmy Roberts will make you want to sing along on “Shine On Harvest Moon.” “Old MacDonald” will introduce you to some unexpected barnyard critters! Come join us on the farm.
“Sweet and Lovely” opens the show and sets the mood for the following hour. Bobby and Elaine dance the English quickstep to “Whispering,” Skeets Herfurt plays a beautiful saxophone solo on “Someone to Watch over Me,” and Guy Hovis teams up with Neil Levang “For the Good Times.”

This was the first show on the newly forms Welk Syndication after the cancellation by ABC. Big hair, mini-skirts, hot pants—it was the ‘70s. Lawrence Welk thanks his audience for their years of unfailing loyalty.

This tune filled tribute to the “young at heart” is filled with wonderful melodies, starting with “Dearie.” Along the way Gail, Ron, & Michael invite us to “Let’s Go Dance Again,” Jim Turner croons “Try To Remember,” while Kathie Sullivan sings “Among My Souvenirs”. Lawrence conducts the band on “You’re an Old Smoothie” and even fits in a dance with the ladies.

What would a county fair be without “Cotton Candy and a Toy Balloon?” Bob Ralston delights with “The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down,” Arthur Duncan invites everyone to “Meet Me In St. Louis,” and everyone agrees “There’s Something About A Hometown Band.”

This program was based on Lawrence Welk’s book of the same name. Highlights include Tom Netherton’s rendition of “Young at Heart,” “Isn’t It Romantic” played with style by the orchestra, and Bob Havens and the rhythm section swing out with “Maggie Blues.” Kathie Sullivan and Ken Delo add a comic twist to “Kids” and everyone comes together for the “Beer Barrel Polka.”

Larry Hooper gets things underway in this Halloween show singing “This Old House” with the aid of some friendly ghosts. Sandi, Gail and Mary Lou sing “Put On A Happy Face” while Norma, the prettiest scarecrow you’ve ever seen sings “Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered.” You won’t forget Ken Delo’s “Shanty In Old Shanty Town” and you’re sure to agree it’s one of the best in a series of outstanding Welk Halloween shows.

“This Wonderful” is the perfect choice to open a show saluting the great Fred Astaire. Bobby and Elaine dance “The Carioca,” Jack Imel plays a memorable marimba solo on “Limehouse Blues,” and the Aldridge sisters join the Otwell twins for “Three Little Fishes.” Myron Floren plays a rousing “I Love Louisa” and the band shines under the direction of George Cates on “Dancing in the Dark.”

This show features the score from the Broadway musical “No, No, Nanette” and the entire cast gets into the act for one of the greatest finales in the history of the Lawrence Welk Show. Before that happens however, Clay Hart sings “Oh Lonesome Me,” Sandi and Salli do “Rose Garden,” and Bobby and Cissy delight on “Let’s Face the Music and Dance.” But it’s the “No No Nanette” segment and that great finale that are guaranteed to make you smile.
#1613  Thanksgiving (1981)  
**Airs:** 11/17/18  
“There’s No Place Like Home for The Holidays” sets the mood for this holiday show. Guy and Ralna sing the touching “A House With Love In It,” Joe Feeney reminds us to “Be Thankful,” and Ken Delo and Arthur Duncan team up for a rare song & dance on “Back In Your Own Backyard.” Bob Lido and the Hotsy Totsy Boys lead the group in a fun filled “Baby Face,” and “We Gather Together” sets a perfect mood for the Thanksgiving feast to follow.

#1614  Highways and Byways (1981)  
**Airs:** 11/24/18  
This show from 1981 starts out “On The Street Where You Live” and takes us all the way to New Orleans and the “South Rampart Street Parade.” You can find Ava Barber on “Primrose Lane,” Jim Turner is on the “Streets of Laredo,” and George Cates and the band are “On The Trail.” Dick Dale is a “Cab Driver” that Ken Delo will never forget and Arthur, Gail, Ron, & Michael are out on “Route 66.” Enjoy the highways and byways with our musical family.

#1615  Do You Remember? (1974)  
**Airs:** 12/1/18  
You’ll probably remember every song on this show from “Que Sera, Sera” to “The Girl That I Marry.” Norma Zimmer gives a beautiful performance of “My Favorite Things” and you’ll laugh as Larry Hooper and Buddy Merrill cut up during “Sleepin' At The Foot of the Bed.” The orchestra is in the spotlight for a medley of songs from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “Carousel” and you won’t want to miss Buddy Merrill’s impromptu solo on “My Blue Heaven.”

#1616  Winter (1967)  
**Airs:** 12/8/18  
The Champagne Music Makers present a “Winter Show” as they sing “Button Up Your Overcoat,” JoAnn Castle goes all out on “Skater’s Boogie,” and the Lennon sisters sing one of their favorites—“It’s A Marshmallow World.” Bob Lido and the boys present a Dixieland version of “I Can’t Give You Anything But Love” and Dick Dale sings “Let It Snow.”
This program is a tribute to the unforgettable songs of Nat “King” Cole. “L-O-V-E” opens the show with a bang! Tanya croons “Paper Moon,” Clay Hart pleases with “Ramblin’ Rose,” and Sandi Griffiths and the girls are beautiful on the song “Too Young.” Larry Hooper and the gang end this tribute with those “Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer.”

We go back to 1966 to celebrate Christmas with Lawrence, his Musical Family, and their families. Lawrence makes his annual singing entrance on “Jingle Bells.” You’re guaranteed to fall in love with Barbara and Bobby as Raggedy Ann and Andy for the “Doll Dance.” The Lennon Sisters sing the beautiful “Star Carol” while JoAnn Castle rocks the house with “Frosty The Snowman.” Aladdin gives the show a perfect touch with the holiday classic “Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus.” You’ll want to watch this show with your whole family.

From “This Could Be The Start of Something Big” to “Auld Lang Syne,” this show is filled with happy holiday nostalgia. It includes a salute to the Rose Bowl and the Rose Parade with songs like “Moonlight and Roses,” “Before the Parade Passes By,” and “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.” Norma Zimmer sings “I Could Have Danced All Night” and Gail and Dale inspire the cast with a rousing “Let’s Start The New Year Right.”

A Champagne salute to Broadway musicals, this show features the great songs from “The Sound of Music,” and “My Fair Lady.” Sandi and Salli “Put On A Happy Face,” Guy & Ralna sing “People Will Say We’re in Love,” and Bobby and Cissy are “Dancing In The Dark.” The whole group winds things up with a toe-tapping version of “The Black Bottom.”

Lawrence and his Musical Family tell the history of America from folk songs to pop tunes. This exciting show opens as the band and all hands get together for “Yankee Doodle,” a song popular around the time our country was born. Myron Floren plays “Skip to My Lou” and Guy and Ralna sing “Home Sweet Home.” A real highlight is when Lawrence leads the group in “The Stars and Stripes Forever.”
On this second part of Lawrence’s salute to the Bicentennial Guy and Ralna sing “Love Nest,” and “I Can’t Help Falling In Love With You.” Guy also gives his spot-on Elvis impression. The Band plays a medley of big band theme songs, Henry Cuesta plays “Stardust,” and Myron Floren gives his all on the “Beer Barrel Polka.”

Aladdin, the show’s resident Italian, acts as the host for much of this show—and he does it with humor and verve. The Lennon Sisters boat down a Venice canal singing “Santa Lucia,” and Barbara and Bobby dance a spirited “Tarantella.” Joe Feeney sings a poignant “O Sole Mio,” and JoAnn Castle romps through the “Carnival of Venice.” Filled with a sense of Italian laughter and love, the whole show is, well—bravissimo!

This show features some of the great songs that have marked Sinatra’s journey through the nation’s musical life. Henry Cuesta opens the show with “I’ve Got You Under My Skin” followed by a glowing version of “Young at Heart” by the sax and trumpet sections. Guy and Ralna sing “The Tender Trap,” and Tom Netherton sings a heartfelt “This Love of Mine.”

On this 1966 show we’re invited to “Come To The Mardi Gras,” the Lennon Sisters sing a whimsical “I Dreamed,” and Natalie Nevins does a beautiful rendition of “Mr. Wonderful.” Dick Dale tells us about the “Shrimp Boats,” “Jambalaya” is a perfect choice for Bob Lido, and the cast and band swing out to close the show with the “South Rampart Street Parade.”

Lawrence has fun tracking down the origin of contemporary songs adapted from the classics. In the opening Lawrence asks, “What do ‘Mack the Knife,’ ‘Our Love,’ and ‘Hot Diggity, Dog Ziggity,’ have in common?” The answer is all of them were originally classical compositions. As the show proceeds, Lawrence explains the origins of each song including “Baubles, Bangles, and Beads” and “I’m Always Chasing Rainbows.”

This 1974 show salutes the songs the recording industry has called, “…the best.” “Little Green Apples” is sung by Clay Hart, Dick Dale and the girls “Catch A Falling Star,” and Norma Zimmer enchants with “Moon River.” “Rose Garden” and “Cabaret” are just a couple of the wunnerful, wunnerful songs included in this Grammy Award-winning selection.

In this show Myron Floren and JoAnn Castle team up for a rare accordion duet, Bob Ralston joins Bobby & Cissy for the “Warsaw Concerto,” and Arthur Duncan is “Runnin’ Wild.” Lynn Anderson tries “Walkin’ on New Grass” while Bob Lido and our 3 Steppers are “Walkin Happy.” This show is guaranteed to, “Keep a song in your heart.”

“It’s A Great Day for The Irish” on this 1979 show. Joe Feeney is accompanied by Myron on the beautiful “Galway Bay” and Ava Barber sings “Harrigan.” Guy & Ralna sing a touching “Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ra” while Bob Ralston plays “How Are Things In Glocca Morra” with flair. Even Bob Lido and the Hotsy Totsy Boys get into the act with “Four Leaf Clover.”

Norma passed away in 2011 and this show is a tribute to her in the truest sense. Taped in 1965, Norma sings “Whistle While You Work” while showing off her exquisite paintings. She teaches Barbara & Bobby to dance in “The Polka Lesson,” and dances a Viennese waltz with Lawrence on “Vienna Echoes.” The Blenders join Janet Lennon for “I’m Gonna Build a Fence Around You,” and Bob Lido and Aladdin are the comic relief on “Beans, Beans.”
On this 1979 show you’ll hear from Lawrence and the Band in a lively updated version of “Up A Lazy River” while Bobby & Barbara dancingly give you an idea of just what L.A. is. Henry Cuesta and the band perform “Smoke Gets In Your Eyes” and the Wax Museum comes to life with some surprise guests. It all wraps up when Bob Lido and the Hotsy Totsy boys take us to the race track with “Runnin’ Wild.”

(Program out of order due to holiday)

This is the perfect show to welcome Spring! “April Showers” gets things started, Norma and Jim Roberts “Look For The Silver Lining,” and Steve Smith sings about “April Love.” Natalie Nevins invites us to “Look To The Rainbow” and JoAnn Castle plays a rousing “You Are My Sunshine.” Happy Spring!


This show from 1979 opens with “Easter Parade” as pretty girls in gay nineties finery stroll on a flower-bedecked set with their handsome escorts. Sandi, Gail, and Mary Lou “Tiptoe Through The Tulips,” Myron Floren does a thrilling version of “The Lost Chord,” Henry Cuesta plays “Love Lifted Me,” and the whole cast sings a group of beloved hymns at the close.

(Program out of order due to holiday)

This show salutes show business greats like George M. Cohan with a medley of his songs including “Yankee Doodle Dandy” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.” The Mills Brothers’ classic tune “Glow Worm” is sung by Gail, Ron, & Michael, and our saxophone section recalls Duke Ellington’s “Sophisticated Lady.” Judy Garland is remembered with “You Made Me Love You” and Eddie Arnold is saluted by Ava Barber with “Make The World Go Away.”
Salute to Cole Porter (1973)  
Airs: 5/4/19

The irresistibly joyful song “Wunderbar” opens this sparkling tribute to the music of Cole Porter. Bobby & Cissy swirl to “The Continental,” Henry highlights “Begin the Beguine” with his clarinet artistry, and Guy & Ralna harmonize on “True Love.” The orchestra soars on several outstanding numbers—“Night and Day,” “I Get A Kick out of You,” and “Easy To Love.” The whole cast gathers around Clay Hart for “Don’t Fence Me In” at the end.

Mother’s Day (1956)  
Airs: 5/11/19

This black and white classic aired for the first time in 1966. Buddy Merrill plays “Blue Suede Shoes” in tribute to the latest rage, Elvis Presley. All four very young Lennon Sisters sing an a capella version of “Kentucky Babe,” and Rocky Rockwell will tickle your funny bone on “When I Take My Sugar To Tea.” Alice Lon teams with Buddy Hayes for “The Birds And The Bees” and Aladdin joins the Lennon Sisters for “The Shifting Whispering Sands.”

Childhood Memories (1972)  
Airs: 5/18/19


Salute to the Armed Forces (1968)  
Airs: 5/25/19

Jack Imel does his hosting duties on this show from the Veterans’ Memorial Museum in Branson, Missouri. This show is also a tribute to Jack’s skill as a producer/choreographer, with highly creative numbers that range from “How Ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down On The Farm” and “Alley Cat” to “Pack Up Your Troubles” and “Jack Is Every Inch A Sailor.”

Famous Resorts (1972)  
Airs: 6/1/19

If you’re ready to say “Let’s Get Away From It All,” come along with us! We can be “In Acapulco” with Anacani, “On The Boardwalk In Atlantic City” with Gail and Mary Lou, or on the “River Shannon” with Joe Feeney. Tanya sings about “Old Cape Cod,” Norma and Jimmy love “Springtime In The Rockies,” and “On Top Of Old Smokey” is Clay Hart’s resort of choice. Come with us to some “Fabulous, Faraway Places.”
#1642  My Blue Heaven  (1964)  
Airs: 6/8/19

On this show JoAnn Castle makes “Hello Dolly” come alive and Arthur Duncan is a stand out with his tribute to Bill “Bojangles” Robinson. Norma Zimmer sings the aria “One Fine Day” by Puccini and it all winds up with a patriotic recitation called “Flag Day” by Aladdin, and a rousing version of the “President Kennedy March.” It’ll make you proud to be an American.

#1643  Harry Warren Salute (1972)  
Airs: 6/15/19

This 1972 salute to the music of Harry Warren opens with “Lullabye of Broadway.” Norma sings “I Only Have Eyes For You,” Jimmy Roberts charms with “I Love My Baby,” and “Chattanooga Choo Choo” is made to order for Clay Hart. Mary Lou and the boys tell us that “Lulu’s Back In Town” and Ralna delivers a memorable “You’ll Never Know.” They just don’t write ‘em like that anymore.

#1644  Country and Western (1968)  
Airs: 6/22/19

Howdy, partners! Grab your honey and get ready to square dance to the “Orange Blossom Special.” Neil Levang and Buddy Merrill shine on “San Antonio Rose,” Larry Hooper is our “Auctioneer,” and Bob Lido puts his very own original stamp on “Ragtime Cowboy Joe.” Feel free to dance to the “Tennessee Waltz” or sing along with Joe Feeney and the gang on “Goodnight Irene.”

#1645  Hometown Band  (1968)  
Airs: 6/29/19

This show boasts an eclectic mix of musical styles including the polka, waltz, country, Broadway, and patriotic songs. Larry Hoopper is a “Ding Dong Daddy”, Sandi and Salli invite us to “Keep A Little Sunshine In Your Heart,” and Andra Willis recalls Wee Bonnie Baker with “Oh Johnny.” The whole cast salutes Lawrence Welk’s birthplace with “My North Dakota Home.”

#1646  Strike Up The Band (1964)  
Airs: 7/6/19

This show is a classic black and white program from 1964. Barbara and Bobby dance to a medley of songs that include everything from “The Bunny Hug,” to “The Twist.” Myron kicks off a Norwegian segment with the “Happy Norwegian Polka” and the Lennon Sisters take us to “Mockingbird Hill.” Aladdin delivers a moving recitation called “I Am The United States” which is followed by a rousing rendition of “The National Emblem March.”
The Great Gershwin (1972)  
Airs: 7/13/19

When this 1972 show opens with “Of Thee I Sing” you know that wonderful music will follow. Norma Zimmer fills the bill with the haunting “Someone To Watch Over Me,” Bobby & Cissy dance to “The Man I Love,” and nobody plays “Rhapsody in Blue” like Bob Ralston. Joe Livoti reminds us just how beautiful “Summertime” is and Sandi & Salli have fun with “Do Do Do.” “S’Wonderful” sums up the music of the great George Gershwin.

From Polkas To Classics (1967)  
Airs: 7/20/19

The band opens this show with the “Pennsylvania Polka” and the Lennon Sisters follow with a wistfully lovely “Serenade of the Bells.” Natalie Nevins asks “How Do You Solve A Problem Like Maria” and Bob Lido and the entire cast wind things up with a toe-tapping Dixieland medley of “Ain’t She Sweet,” “Baby Face,” and “Five Foot Two.”

Henry Mancini-Johnny Mercer (1973)  
Airs: 7/27/19

Henry Mancini plays “The Days Of Wine And Roses” on this very special salute. Jim Roberts delights with “Dear Heart,” the band plays the haunting “Laura,” and Tanya and Anacani invite us to “Accentuate The Positive.”

Airs: 8/3/19

Myron Floren hosts this 1969 show that really showcases the talents of costumer Rose Weiss and the glorious sets of Chuck Coon. Those “Dear Hearts and Gentle People” and “That Old Gang of Mine” sing the praises of hometowns everywhere. Andra Willis sings “Peace In The Valley,” Steve Smith stops by the fishin’ hole to sing “My Heart Is A Hobo,” and Jack Imel and Bob Ralston are just a couple of “Small Town Boys.” The show ends with a reverent “Prayer for Peace.”

Can’t Help Singing (1966)  
Airs: 8/10/19

This program from 1966 is filled with memorable melodies. Natalie Nevins and Jimmy Roberts “Cuddle Up A Little Closer,” JoAnn Castle plays a rousing “Bill Bailey,” and Norma “Can’t Help Singing.” Myron Floren’s expertise is on display in the “Spanish Samba” and violinist Joe Livoti plays the haunting “Intermezzo.” You’ll want to join the celebration for the classic Dixieland tune “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

August 24, 2019 begins 17th cycle on public TV. Info to come.