

Free Veterans' Day Patriotic Pops Concert

The Willamette Valley Concert Band will hold its annual Veterans' Day patriotic pops concert, "Never Forget Their Service," at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Lebanon High School auditorium.

The concert is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted. The money will be used to defray the costs of presenting the program, and the band will donate a portion to the Lebanon High School music program.

The concert is dedicated to the memory of Mel Downing who played baritone/euphonium in the band for 45 years joining in its first year, 1970, and retiring in 2015. He passed away this last summer and is sorely missed.

The band will present a wide selection of music written including American patriotic music appropriate for celebrating Veterans' Day and commemorating the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor plus music from the soundtracks of several well-known motion pictures and rounding out the program with three traditional marches by John Philip Sousa.

Members of the Lebanon H.S. Junior ROTC unit will present the colors for the playing of the *Star Spangled Banner* at the opening of the concert.

The Lebanon High School Choir, directed by Kevin Wong, will sing *Armed Forces Salute* featuring the official songs of the U.S. Armed Forces as members of the Lebanon American Legion present the flags of the six branches. They will also sing two songs from American motion pictures, *Forty Second Street* from the movie with the same title and *New York, New York* from the 1977 movie directed by Scorsesis of the same title.

Band president Donald Recek, a resident of Lebanon, will be featured trombone soloist playing *Atlantic Zephyrs* by Gardell Simons, featured trombone soloist with the John Philip Sousa Band and later the Edwin Franko Goldman Band.

Guest conductors from the band will include trumpeter Julie Buchert, a middle school band director at Memorial Middle School in Albany, who will conduct *Bond, James Bond*, a medley of well-known pieces from the series of popular James Bond movies.

Assistant conductor of the band, principle clarinetist Chris Barreto, a retired music teacher from Lebanon, will conduct two marches by John Philip Sousa, *Bullets and Bayonets* and *The Gallant Seventh*.

Other traditional marches on the program include the closing piece of the concert, *Stars and Stripes Forever*, by Sousa.

Other selections on the concert will include: *At Dawn They Slept* a musical depiction of the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor; *Variations on "America"* by 20th Century rebel New England American composer Charles Ives; *Selections from the Great Race* motion picture; the main title song from the movie *The Magnificent Seven*; *Medley from Miss Saigon* and *The Bare Necessities* from the Disney movie *The Jungle Book*.

The Willamette Valley Concert Band, a community ensemble based in Albany, was formed in 1970. Its membership includes some 55 musicians ranging from teens to senior citizens, from Benton, Linn, Marion and Polk counties. The band director and assistant director are, respectively, Dr. Richard Sorenson, emeritus director of bands at WOU, and Christine Barreto, a retired Lebanon music teacher.

For further information go to www.wvcband.org or call 503-838-3474