

NEWS RELEASE:

February 2018

Put on your best jeans, cowboy boots and hat and swing your partner down to Russell Tripp Performance Center on the Linn Benton Community College campus, 6500 Pacific Blvd. SW, Albany, to attend a free concert by the Willamette Valley Concert Band.

It'll feature music of the American West. The program, scheduled from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 17, will feature music from several movies depicting the expansion of the U.S. westward. The title of the concert, "How the West Was Won," features music from the 1962 epic Hollywood movie of the same name, telling the story of four generations of families moving from New York westward between 1839 and 1889, with an epilogue set in modern San Francisco. Alfred Newman wrote the movie soundtrack. The film is considered one of the last old fashioned epic movies made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Featured soloist will be well-known area baritone Paul Pritchard, who will sing selections from Lerner and Loewe's Broadway musical and movie, *Paint Your Wagon*, which depicts the adventures of gold prospectors in a mining camp during the California Gold Rush of 1848 near Sacramento, California. Some of the songs include: *They Call the Wind Maria*, *I Talk to the Trees*, *Wand'rin Star*, and *I Still See Elisa*.

The Cowboys is a 1992 American Western starring John Wayne and several child actors who later went on to star in many movies. The movie tells the story of aging rancher Wil Anderson whose ranch hands abandon him to join a gold rush, leaving him with no help for a 400-mile cattle drive. He is forced to use local school boys to do the work. Under his tutelage the boys learn how to rope, brand and herd the cattle. The exciting soundtrack music was written by *Star Wars* movie composer John Williams.

On the Trail is the second movement from Ferde Grofe's well-known *Grand Canyon Suite*. The music depicts the long, dusty ride into the beautiful Grand Canyon riding burros on the narrow, winding trail. The music is famous for the burros' numerous "hee- haws" and the clip-clop of their hooves while a beautiful melody floats above, creating the majesty of the fantastic view of one of our country's most revered national parks.

American composer Aaron Copland wrote the ballet *Rodeo* at the request of choreographer Agnes DeMille, and it premiered in New York City in 1942 with DeMille playing lead. The ballet tells the story of a rodeo and a young cowboy roper and his struggle to beat the head wrangler and gain the affections of the farmer's daughter. Instead, he gets a kiss from one of the cowgirls.

Silverado is a 1985 Western film. It tells a story of cattle ranchers wishing to maintain large, fenceless ranches while wagon train settlers work to fence and farm the land. It also includes

the usual bloodshed, and a gang of outlaws who terrorize the town until two men on their way to California join the town people to fight against them. The music soundtrack was written by Bruce Broughton with a mixture of bright fanfare-like themes and slow, nostalgic songs.

Willamette Valley Suite was commissioned by the band in 2012 for Dr. Richard Sorenson in recognition of his 40th anniversary as conductor of the band. It was written by his colleague, university band director and friend Dr. Martin Behnke, emeritus professor of music and director of bands at Willamette University in Salem. The piece depicts the beauty of the Willamette Valley. It was the final destination of the Oregon Trail, which was the path taken by thousands of Americans seeking new lands. The band will play three movements from the five-movement suite: *The Cascades*; *Harvest Time, Fine Wine*; and *Land of Milk and Honey*.

Shenandoah is the Native American name given to the beautiful valley and river in Western Virginia that was settled by American colonists after the American Revolution. As the population grew, people started moving even farther west. The song *Shenandoah* shows the feelings of homesickness of those who left. Frank Ticheli arranged this beautiful setting of the beloved folksong.

Sabre and Spurs, by John Philip Sousa, was dedicated to officers and men of the American Cavalry who, during the settlement of the U.S West, provided protection for the settlers and migrants from the Native Americans and numerous outlaws.

The concert is free but audience members are encouraged to make donations at the close of the concert to help cover costs.

Sponsors are Russell and Duffy Tripp, through the Linn Benton Community College Foundation.

The Willamette Valley Concert Band, an adult community band based in Albany, was founded in the spring of 1970 and has performed concerts in the mid-Willamette Valley for the past 48 years. The 50-member ensemble includes musicians from Benton, Linn, Marion and Polk Counties. Personnel range in age from teens to seniors with diverse occupations.

Directors of the band are Dr. Richard Sorenson, emeritus professor of music and director of bands at Western Oregon University, and Mike Rogers, retired high school and university director of bands in North Carolina, who moved to Albany several years ago and plays clarinet and keyboard in the band.

Mike Bevington will be a guest conductor for *Shenandoah*. He is a retired band director who taught in Jefferson for many years and was an adjunct instructor at Western Oregon University.

For further information, contact Sorenson at 503-838-3474 or go to the band website at www.wvcband.org.