

Saturday, March 12, 2011

**CONCERT PROGRAM**

Loras John Schissel, Music Director

The Star-Spangled Banner . . . . . John Stafford Smith  
Loras John Schissel, conducting  
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Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel, conducting

March: In Storm and Sunshine . . . . . John C. Heed

*Pace, Pace Mio Dio* from *La Forza del Destino* . . . . . Giuseppe Verdi  
Lori Lind, soprano soloist

Fantasia Brasileira . . . . . Hudson Nogueira  
Dale Underwood, saxophone soloist

*Un Bel Di* – from *Madama Butterfly* . . . . . Giacomo Puccini  
Ms. Lind

*Nessun Dorma* - from *Turandot* . . . . . Giacomo Puccini  
Russell Penney, tenor soloist

Radetzky March . . . . . Johann Strauss

*Finale, Act 1* – *Madama Butterfly* . . . . .Giacomo Puccini  
Ms. Lind and Mr. Penney

**INTERMISSION**

The Sinfonians . . . . . J. Clifton Williams  
Loras John Schissel, conducting  
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Silk and Satin . . . . . Ron Thielman  
Colonel Jere Fridy, conducting  
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March: America First (opus 376) . . . . . F.H. Losey  
Loras John Schissel, conducting

March Slave (opus 31) . . . . . Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

**THE VIRGINIA GRAND MILITARY BAND** is widely recognized as one of the finest bands of its kind. Members of the VGMB are a veritable “Who’s Who” in the concert band world and bring to each performance an artistry and professionalism which have earned them accolades and praise throughout the world. Many band members are current or retired members of the premiere Washington, DC service bands. Other hand-selected members are outstanding wind and percussion musicians who travel from Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, and Ohio to perform. The Band performs music for the “Classic Concert Band,” both original and transcribed, which has stood the test of time and has become part of the living history of the American concert band. Not only is the music a part of this living heritage, but the interpretations are a result of over 20 years of research, study, and performance of this music by our conductor, Loras John Schissel.

**LORAS JOHN SCHISSEL** is the music director and conductor of both the Virginia Grand Military Band and the Cleveland Orchestra’s Blossom Festival Band, two of the finest bands of their type in the world. Mr. Schissel has traveled throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, conducting orchestras, bands, and choral ensembles in a broad range of musical styles and varied programs. As a composer and orchestrator, Mr. Schissel has created an extensive catalogue of over 400 works for orchestra, symphonic wind band, and jazz ensemble. Mr. Schissel has appeared in the award-winning PBS documentary *If You Knew Sousa* for the American Experience series, as well as Ben Wattenberg’s Think Tank. He continues to serve as commentator on the Voice of America and for the U.S. Information Service. Mr. Schissel is an honorary member of the prestigious Circumnavigators Club and an honorary conductor of the historic Ringgold Band (the last band conducted by John Philip Sousa). Mr. Schissel has been recognized and honored with induction and membership in the American Bandmasters Association.

**COLONEL JERE W. FRIDY** is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University where he was solo cornetist and president of the famed Penn State Blue Band. He served in the military as solo cornetist with the 553<sup>rd</sup> Air Force Band, the ANG Band of the Mid Atlantic. In 1976, he was selected as commander of the band. Under his direction, the band developed into one of the finest concert bands in the reserve forces and toured extensively. The band received the coveted Eagle Award and the Air Force Meritorious Service Award for its outstanding tour performances. Colonel Fridy was recently honored by the Music Educators National Conference as a Lowell Mason Fellow.