

The 4th Annual
National Community Concert Band Sousa Festival
in Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, Virginia
a unique musical opportunity for community bands
June 24 - 26, 2011



featuring artistic director
Col. Arnald D. Gabriel



Organized by
Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours with Integrity

An Exclusive Community Band Festival

The annual **National Community Concert Band Sousa Festival** will feature individual and massed performances by six carefully-selected adult community concert bands. Additionally, repertoire will emphasize the life and influence of John Philip Sousa on the American Band movement. In conjunction with the National Park Service, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, and the U.S. Navy Memorial, Music Celebrations International annually invites bands of the highest quality throughout the country to participate in the annual concert series, the National Festival of the States, which features these ensembles in the most prestigious venues available with the greatest potential for audiences. We are excited to be organizing an exclusive community band festival in our nation's capital.



Washington, D.C. is a town of much renown: it is a government town, a company town, a scandalous town and the political capital of the world. But Washington also has another significant distinction – it is a musical town. In a city that claims *Duke Ellington*, *Pearl Bailey*, *Jelly Roll Morton* and *Shirley Horn*, it is expected that jazz not only be appreciated, but showcased. The city's proximity to the Appalachian Mountains led to bluegrass and country first finding a large forum in the Washington, D.C. area. The first nationally televised country music concert was broadcast from Constitution Hall in 1948.

John Philip Sousa, “The March King,” was born in Washington, D.C., to John António de Sousa and Maria Elisabeth Trinkhaus. His parents were of Portuguese and Bavarian (German) descent. John first learned the violin beginning at age 6. He was found to have absolute pitch. When the young Sousa reached the age of 13, his father, a trombonist in the Marine Band, enlisted his son in the United States Marine Corps as an apprentice. The boy soon attempted to run away and join a circus. John served his apprenticeship for seven years, until 1875, and apparently learned to play all the wind instruments while honing his mettle with the violin.

Several years later, John left his apprenticeship to join a theatrical (pit) orchestra where he learned to conduct. He returned to the U.S. Marine Band as its head in 1880, and remained as its conductor until 1892. Sousa also led the marching band of Gonzaga College High School. Sousa organized his own band in 1892. It toured widely, and in 1900, represented the United States at the Paris Exposition before touring Europe. Sousa repeatedly refused to conduct on the radio, fearing a lack of personal contact with the audience. He was finally persuaded to do so in 1929 and became a smash hit. Sousa died in 1932.



Col. Arnald D. Gabriel

Conductor Emeritus, The United States Air Force Band, Professor Emeritus, George Mason University

Col. Arnald D. Gabriel retired from the United States Air Force in 1985 following a distinguished 36 year military career, at which time he was awarded his third **Legion of Merit** for his service to the United States Air Force and to music education throughout the country. He served as **Commander/Conductor** of the internationally renowned **U.S. Air Force Band, Symphony Orchestra**, and **Singing Sergeants** from **1964 to 1985**. In **1990**, he was named the first **Conductor Emeritus** of the USAF Band at a special concert held at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

Col. Gabriel served on the faculty of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, from **1985 to 1995**, as **Conductor** of the **GMU Symphony Orchestra** and as **Chairman, Department of Music** for eight of those years. In recognition of his ten years service to the university, he was named **Professor Emeritus of Music**.

A combat machine gunner with the United States Army's famed **29th Infantry Division** in Europe during WW II, Gabriel received two awards of the **Bronze Star Medal**, the **Combat Infantryman's Badge** and the French **Croix de Guerre**.

Col. Gabriel's professional honors include the very first **Citation of Excellence** awarded by the National Band Association, the Mid-West National Band and Orchestra Clinic's **Gold Medal of Honor** and its **Distinguished Service to Music Award**, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's **New Millennium Lifetime Achievement Award** and its rarely presented **National Citation** for “significant contributions to music in America,” Kappa Kappa Psi's **Distinguished Service to Music Award**, Phi Beta Mu's **Outstanding Contribution to Bands Award**, and the **St. Cecilia Award** from the University of Notre Dame. Col. Gabriel was inducted into the **National Band Association Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors**, becoming the youngest person ever to have received this honor, and was an inaugural inductee to the **Distinguished Alumni Wall of Fame** of Cortland High School in Cortland, New York. He is also a **Past President** of the prestigious **American Bandmasters Association**.

Festival Tour Itinerary

2 Nights / 3 Days

Friday, June 24TH, 2011

Arrive in Washington, D.C.

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will escort you through the duration of your activities

Take a panoramic motorcoach tour of the Capitol Hill area, seeing the Supreme Court Building and the Library of Congress

Check into D.C. area hotel

Afternoon walking tour of the Washington Monument, as well as the World War II, Vietnam, Korean, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Lincoln Memorials

Late afternoon dinner, on own

Visit the Marine Barracks to see the landmark John Philip Sousa Statue

Attend the Official Marine Barracks Evening Parade – featuring the Marine Band Drum and Bugle Corps, Silent Drill Team, and Marine Barracks Troops, all in resplendent Full Dress Marine Corps uniforms



Saturday, June 25TH, 2011

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit the Historic Congressional Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony at the graveside of “The March King,” John Philip Sousa

Board the motorcoach and travel to nearby Alexandria, VA

Lunch, on own

12:00pm *Afternoon performance by each individual band at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria, VA*



Attend a Festival Welcome Dinner with Introductions

8:00pm *Evening massed band rehearsal with Col. Arnald Gabriel*

Sunday, June 26TH, 2011

Breakfast at the hotel and check-out

Morning free to utilize the motorcoach and Tour Manager for Washington, D.C. sightseeing

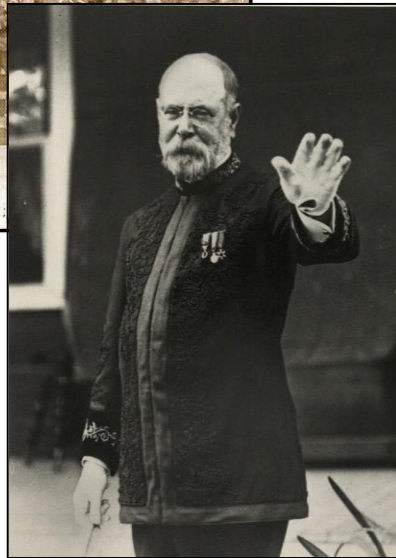
Lunch, on own

2:00pm *Early afternoon massed band performance at the United States Air Force Memorial, conducted by Col. Arnald Gabriel*

Afternoon departure for home



This itinerary is very flexible - longer itinerary length tours are possible, including visits to the “Historic Triangle” (Colonial Williamsburg/Jamestown/Yorktown), ***Philadelphia, and Gettysburg.*** Further musical activities you may enjoy while in our Nation’s Capital may include attending a performance at the ***Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage,*** a concert at the ***Wolf Trap Park for the Performing Arts*** (Vienna, VA), or a musical at the ***National Theater.*** Your band may also take a tour of ***Brucker Hall,*** home of “Pershing’s Own” U.S. Army Band (Ft. Myer, VA), travel to ***Ft. Meade,*** home of the U.S. Army Field Band, hear the ***U.S. Air Force Band,*** or hear the ***U.S. Navy Band,*** as their schedules and yours allow.



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