



West Point
The United States Military Academy

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY BAND
685 HARDEE PLACE
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996
(845) 938-2445; FAX: (845) 938-5187
January 19, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST POINT BAND PERFORMS FREE CONCERTS IN MIDLOTHIAN AND WACO

MIDLOTHIAN AND WACO, TEXAS – Bring your patriotic hearts to hear the *Armed Forces Service Medley* and some of the greatest classical and wind band literature of all time. The oldest premier band in the U.S. Army, the West Point Band, will perform a free concert on Sunday, February 14th, 3:30 p.m. at the Midlothian High School Auditorium, 923 S. 9th Street, Midlothian, Texas, 76065 (972-775-8237); and at the Jones Concert Hall in Baylor University's Glennis McCrary Music Building, Waco, Texas, 76706 (254-710-3571) on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. Both concerts are free and open to the public.

Works on the program include Morton Gould's *Symphony for Band* and symphonic dances from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. Master Sergeant Wayne Tice will premiere the *Concerto for Alto Saxophone* by Evan Chambers, and Sergeant First Class MaryKay Messenger, soprano, will sing the debut performance of Roshanne Etezady's *Points of Departure*. The band will offer tribute to active duty members and veterans of the Coast Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army with the *Armed Forces Service Medley*.

The West Point Band performs concerts, ceremonies, and at athletic events for the U.S. Corps of Cadets. It can also be heard around the Greater Hudson Valley, the New York City, and throughout the United States. Over the band's 193-year history, it has performed for numerous U.S. Presidents, Heads of State, and foreign dignitaries. The West Point Band recently received the Colonel George S. Howard Citation of Musical Excellence for Military Concert Bands.

The West Point Band has performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and at Tanglewood. The West Point Band recently earned the title of the New York Philharmonic's "Army Band in residence." The band collaborated twice with the New York Philharmonic, at *Musical Fireworks* events in July of 2008 and on a holiday concert in December of 2009 at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. The West Point Band will return in July of 2010 for another patriotic joint concert with the New York Philharmonic.

At Carnegie Hall, the West Point Band premiered Morton Gould's *Symphony for Band* in celebration of the U.S. Military Academy's sesquicentennial in 1952. Fifty years later, the band returned to Carnegie Hall to celebrate the Academy's bicentennial with selected works

from more than 35 commissions that honored the 200-year tradition. Composers who wrote for that project include Samuel Adler, Eric Ewazen, Donald Grantham, Joseph Turrin, and James Kimo Williams.

The West Point Band is regularly invited to participate in high-profile events around the Northeastern United States. In April 2009, the West Point Band performed the *National Anthem* at the first home game in the new Yankee Stadium. The West Point Band was also involved in a number of events commemorating the quadricentennial of the exploration of the Hudson River in 2009.

For many years, the West Point Band has maintained a busy studio schedule. In 1942, during WWII, the band's recording of *The Star Spangled Banner* was used in movie theaters throughout the United States. West Point spirit songs like Philip Egner's *Official West Point March* and *On, Brave Old Army Team* are heard on countless Academy radio and TV advertisements. The *West Point on the March* CD comprises the standard marches and ceremonial pieces heard on Cadet parades, alumni and graduation ceremonies. The six-CD set of the *USMA Band Bicentennial Project*, spanning from 2001 to 2004, captures all of the works commissioned for the Academy's 200th anniversary. In 2007, the band undertook a significant recording project entitled *A Tribute to Percy Grainger*, celebrating the close association between Grainger and the band. The recording features nineteen of Grainger's works including *Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon*, *Handel in the Strand*, *Colonial Song*, and *Country Gardens*. The band's *Music Under the Stars* CD is a studio recreation of the outdoor summer concerts to which so many Hudson Valley residents are treated each year. The recording features the light fare and concert favorites that make the *Music Under the Stars* series a perennial favorite. In 2009, the West Point Band featured eight soloists from within its ranks on **Liquid Ebony: Stars of the West Point Band**. To hear free recordings of the West Point Band, visit our [Listening Room](http://www.westpoint.edu/band/recordings/bcdmain.htm) at <http://www.westpoint.edu/band/recordings/bcdmain.htm>

The West Point Band's popular concert series attracts thousands to West Point each year for displays of world class musical talent. Recent superstars to perform with the West Point Band include Joseph Alessi (principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic), Jay Ungar and Molly Mason (Grammy-winning folk duo who performed music on Ken Burns *The Civil War*), Larry Combs (principal clarinet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a West Point Band alumnus), Caissie Levy (Broadway and L.A. *Wicked* star), John McDermott (PBS - *The Irish Tenors*), Lea Salonga (*Les Miserables* and *Miss Saigon*), and Philip Smith (principal trumpet of the New York Philharmonic). Check your local PBS TV station and look for **Marina at West Point: Unity through Diversity**. The West Point Band and Cadet Glee Club performed a variety of musical styles with pianist Marina Arsenijevic.

Visit the West Point Band at WWW.WESTPOINT.EDU/BAND to check the concert schedule, download music from the *Listening Room*, sign up for the *Sounds from the Hudson* email newsletter, and check for employment opportunities in the band.

Go to this link to download more press information on the West Point Band:
<http://www.usma.edu/band/Publicity/kits/CB%20kit.htm>