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Gettysburg National Military Park News Release

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Gettysburg's Music Muster Offers a Day of Free Music and Dance on August 22



GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Performances by authentic Civil War musicians will fill the air on August 22 at Gettysburg National Military Park, during the 15th Annual Gettysburg Music Muster. This one-of-a-kind performance, much of it played on original instruments, includes songs of balladeers, Victorian dance music and dance performances, along with fifes, banjo, mandolin and more.

The Gettysburg Field Music Muster will include performances by the Susquehanna Travellers — a band that got its start playing traditional tunes around the campfire at re-enactments. The Victorian Dance Ensemble will call and perform several dance numbers of the era in Victorian dress. This all-volunteer organization performs and provides dance instruction and their grand finale will include audience participation.

Additional performers include the 2nd South Carolina String Band, playing the music that was in the hearts and minds of soldiers in both armies during the Civil War, and the 77th New York Regimental Balladeers, returning this year with vocalist Gisella Montanez-Case. The 26-member Camp Chase Fifes and Drums specialize in military field music and have been leaders in the historical military field music scene since the 1980s.

New this year will be the 46th Pennsylvania Regiment Band. Also known as the Logan Guards, this 12-member band will perform on the historical instruments of the day, playing the music that kept the men in step while on the march. The Irish Volunteer, David Kincaid, will play the music of the Irish Soldier — appealing to both history buffs and Irish music fans alike. An authentic 12-piece orchestra known as Music American will also perform in the style and dress of the Civil War era.

This full day of free music at five different Gettysburg locations begins at 10 a.m. and continues until sunset. The first performance is in front of the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, 1195 Baltimore Pike. Additional performances take place on the back lawn of the Museum and Visitor Center from 10:30 a.m. until 4:45 p.m., and at the Dobbin House Courtyard from noon to 4:30 p.m. Later in the day, two memorials on the Gettysburg battlefield serve as performance venues. Performances take place at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial and at the Pennsylvania Memorial from 5:30 p.m. until sunset.

The public is invited to attend all of the performances **FREE OF CHARGE**. Bring lawn chairs, umbrellas, lunches and blankets to spread on the grass. For more information or a full schedule of performances, call 717/ 334-1124, extension 3251 or extension 8023.

Gettysburg National Military Park is a unit of the National Park Service that preserves and protects the resources associated with the Battle of Gettysburg and the Soldiers' National Cemetery, and provides an understanding of the events that occurred there within the context of American history.

— NPS —

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Gettysburg National Military Park 15th Annual Gettysburg Music Muster Performers

- **The Susquehanna Travellers** — The day will begin with a performance from the Susquehanna Travellers at 10 a.m. in front of the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center. They perform the music of the 19th Century America focusing on Civil War era and Irish music. The musicians are Civil War re-enactors and members of the 87th PA Volunteer Infantry.

The band got its start playing traditional tunes around the campfire at Civil War re-enactments and with the support and encouragement of other re-enactors, the lads decided to officially form the Susquehanna Travellers. While the band certainly enjoys playing for the public, they feel most at home playing for their fellow re-enactors around the campfire.

Allen Brenner began playing his grandfather's hand-me-down violin at the age of 11. Throughout high school and college, he received classical training and played in various orchestra and chamber ensembles, including one that performed at Carnegie Hall. After a hiatus from music for more than 20 years, he rediscovered his interest, but he quickly realized he needed to explore other musical styles. He would become interested in Civil War re-enacting, where he would meet the other Travellers. Craig Hershock has been involved in music since he picked up his father's saxophone at the age of 9. He's had instruction in piano, saxophone, clarinet and voice. The Susquehanna Travellers has enabled Craig to meld his love of music and history. Jim Van Laeys has been playing guitar for more than 40 years. In 1996, he joined the 87th PA Volunteer Infantry re-enacting group. Soon Craig Hershock, Allen Brenner and Mark Ehram joined the group. They played music around the campfire and became the Susquehanna Travellers. Mark Ehram began playing guitar while in college in the 1970s and performed with several acoustic groups in the York, Lancaster and Harrisburg areas. In later years, he added mandolin, mandola and octave mandolin to the list of instruments he plays. Mark became a member of the 87th PA Volunteers and joined the Susquehanna Travellers, adding the mandolin and fretless banjo to their sound.

- **Victorian Dance Ensemble** — This year marks the 11th appearance of the Victorian Dance Ensemble at the Gettysburg Music Muster. Founded in 1995, the Ensemble has presented dance demonstrations for the Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, Civil War Preservation Trust, Pennsylvania Civil War Trails Project, National Civil War Museum, Maryland Historical Society, Pamplin Park, North Carolina's Museum of Cape Fear and numerous other historic sites and museums. Their first performance will be at noon at the Dobbin House Courtyard and at the back of the Museum and Visitor Center lawn at 2 p.m.

The Ensemble also provides dance instruction and floor managers for balls, including three of the premiere vintage balls in the nation, the Sons of Union Veterans Remembrance Day Ball in Gettysburg, the Union League's Abraham

Lincoln Ball in Philadelphia and the Civil War Preservation Ball in the Rotunda of the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg.

In addition to dancing, the Ensemble's members present programs on such topics as Civil War-era fashions, jewelry, newspapers, photography, weapons, flags and the roles of civilians, using original artifacts from their own extensive collections.

The Victorian Dance Ensemble is an all-volunteer organization, deeply committed to supporting historic preservation and education. Its programs have raised thousands of dollars for numerous organizations. Through 2007, the Ensemble has directly donated more than \$19,000 to various preservation and education causes, including the repair of three monuments vandalized at Gettysburg National Military Park. The Susquehanna Travellers will accompany their performance this year.

- **2nd South Carolina String Band** — Joining the lineup for their second year is the 2nd South Carolina String Band. The band will begin their day in front of the Museum and Visitor Center at 11 a.m. and they will play again at 12:20 p.m. at the back of the Museum and Visitor Center. This year, the 2nd South Carolina String Band is celebrating their 21st season as an active, vibrant member of the Civil War re-enacting community. Though most of them no longer take the field with musket and bayonet as the once did with their namesake unit, Co. I, 2nd SC Volunteer Infantry, they are still as impressive a musical force at major re-enactment events as they once were a military one.

The 2nd South Carolina String Band is arguably the best band of its kind in the nation, with credits ranging from Ken Burns films, to Turner Films' *Gods and Generals*, to theme music for the popular video game "The American Civil War," and their four outstanding CDs — ranked in the top 20 bestsellers in the Civil War music category on Amazon.com. No strangers to performing on the battlefield, in July 1998, they were the featured band at the installation and dedication of the Longstreet Monument in Pitzer Woods, and again a few years later at the dedication of the last monument to be placed on the Gettysburg battlefield — that of the 11th Mississippi, on West Confederate Avenue.

The 2nd South Carolina String Band plays the songs and music that moved the American people of the early and mid-19th century. They play the music that was in the hearts and minds and on the tongues of the citizen-soldiers that made up the ranks of the armies of the North and the South as they marched off to take part in the cataclysmic struggle that was to become the defining event of our nation's history. They play it on instruments of the era and in an authentic manner and style that carries the listener back to simpler times. They play it with a verve and excitement that infects even the most reserved listener with their own enjoyment and brings back to life the tumultuous energy of the American experience during the War Between the States. To experience the 2nd South Carolina String Band is, for a moment, to reach out and touch the past.

As Bobby Horton, accomplished musician and widely recognized expert in the field of historical music of the War Between the States has said, “Listening to the 2nd South Carolina String Band is like eavesdropping on history.”

- **The 77th New York Regimental Balladeers** — After a three-year absence from the Gettysburg Music Muster, the 77th New York Regimental Balladeers returns to the stage. Co-founded by John C. Quinn and Michael Yates, the 77th New York Regimental Balladeers are dedicated to preserving the songs, history and spirit of the 1860s. John, Mike and fellow balladeers John Perreault, Sharon Quinn, Bill Lonecke, Gisella Montanez-Case, Joseph and Jim Broden use the original Civil War music arrangements and lyrics to convey the thoughts, motives and sorrows of the men and women who lived during one of the most defining periods of our American heritage. The songs are sung as they would have been performed in camp or the family parlor 146 years ago. Join the 77th New York Regimental Balladeers beginning at 10:20 a.m. in front of the Museum and Visitor Center and at 11:25 a.m. in back of the Museum and Visitor Center. They also perform from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial.
- **The Camp Chase Fifes and Drums** — This year we welcome the Camp Chase Fifes and Drums after a five-year absence. The Camp Chase Fifes and Drums has been a leader in historical military field music since the early 1980s. An authentic re-creation of a Civil War-period regimental fife and drum corps founded in 1983, the corps is named after the large Union Army training camp that was located near Columbus, Ohio during the war. Members are from across Ohio and several neighboring states. Their music, played on authentic wooden fifes and rope tension drums, comes from the military field music manuals utilized by the armies of America and Europe from the mid-18th century to the late 19th century.

The corps performs regularly at historical events and commemorations, re-enactments, musters and musical programs around the country. Some of its best remembered performances began with its participation in the 1985 Presidential Inaugural Ball and the movies *Gettysburg* and *Gods and Generals*.

In 2000, the corps performed with Doc Severenson and the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra conducted by Erich Kunzel, in a special July 4 performance broadcast nationally on PBS, and has been an active supporter of the annual Don Hubbard Music School.

Camp Chase has performed at venues from Connecticut to Colorado and from Georgia to Michigan, beginning with the American Civil War 125th Anniversary events, when the Corps was the official music organization of the Western Brigade, through performances for the Percussion Arts Society (PASIC) and the American Patriots Rudimental Drummers Club (APRDC).

In their secondary role as field music of the First American Regiment — the U.S. Army’s very first regimental field music unit following the American Revolution — they performed at all of the Bicentennial events of that organization from 1987

until 1996. This impression includes brightly trimmed, red, 18th century, military musicians' coats, white linen military overalls, black felt hats covered with bearskin, and a Federal Period musical repertoire to match.

Camp Chase Fifes and Drums will begin their day at 2 p.m. at the Dobbin House Courtyard, continue at 3 p.m. in back of the Museum and Visitor Center and at the Pennsylvania Memorial from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

- **The 46th Pennsylvania Regiment Band** — The 46th Pennsylvania Regiment Band, also known as the Logan Guards, is performing at the Gettysburg Music Muster for the first time. The Logan Guards was a militia unit organized in 1858 in Lewistown, Pa. It gained fame in April 1861, when President Abraham Lincoln issued an urgent appeal for troops to protect Washington, D.C. in response to the firing by rebels on Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C. The President's call was issued late on April 16, 1861. The Logan Guards and four other companies of Pennsylvania militia were the first troops to arrive in the nation's capital. They marched out of Lewistown listening to William Hopper, a lone fifer, play "The Girl I Left Behind Me."

In 1861, every regiment brought with it a band, providing the music that kept men in step while on the march. Many of the musicians acted as buglers and issued calls which regulated army life. The officers of the 46th Pennsylvania recruited as its musical arm an entire band from Birdsboro, Pa., led by Richard Stanley, Principal Musician.

The re-enactment unit, known as the 46th Pennsylvania Regiment Band (The Logan Band) was formed in December 1995 by Robert Counsman, Jr., and a group of musicians from central Pennsylvania. The band is now run by President, Lt. Rick Long and Principal Musician, Sgt. Maj. Bob Myers. The unit honors the Logan Guards Militia from Lewistown, the 46th PA Regiment, and the musicians from the Birdsboro Community Band who enlisted as a group and maintained the morale of the troops with their music throughout the war.

The 46th Pennsylvania Regiment performs at the Dobbin House Courtyard at 2:40 p.m., then at the back of the Museum and Visitor Center at 3:55 p.m., and at the Pennsylvania Memorial from 6:30 p.m. until sunset.

- **David Kincaid, the Irish Volunteer** — The muster welcomes the return of David Kincaid, the Irish Volunteer, a vocalist who plays the octave mandolin and performs in period clothing, presenting an engaging, all-ages program appealing to both history buff and the Irish/Celtic music fan alike.

Recognized as both musician and historian, David Kincaid presents a compelling combination of the songs and history of the Irish in the American Civil War. Years of research, recording and performing experience have been translated into two critically acclaimed albums. Recognized as both musician and historian, David Kincaid presents a compelling combination of the songs and history of the

Irish in the American Civil War. Years of research, recording and performing experience have been translated into two critically acclaimed albums: *The Irish Volunteer* and *The Irish-American's Song* — collections of authentic Irish songs of both the Union and the Confederacy. He has performed at Irish/Celtic festivals, historic sites and folk music events across the United States, and in Europe. David's music has also been used in several documentary films, and he was engaged as a consultant and performer in the film *Gods and Generals*.

Join Mr. Kincaid for a mini-concert in the front of the Museum and Visitor Center at 10:40 a.m. and at 1:15 p.m. in back of the Museum and Visitor Center, and at the Dobbin House Courtyard at 3:20 p.m.

- **Music Americana 12-Piece Orchestra** — The Music Americana 12-Piece Orchestra specializes in period music from the mid-19th century. The repertoire of this dedicated group includes old favorites such as “Kingdom Come,” “Dixie,” “Jenny Lind Polka,” as well as many lesser-known and beautiful waltzes, inspiring marches, lively reels and polkas. Instrumentation includes flutes, violins, clarinet, cornets and percussion. All Music Americana members dress in the style of the times. Based in Harford County, Maryland, Music Americana has performed in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia. After a one-year absence, this will be their fifth solo performance at the music muster.

Join Music Americana for their single performance of the day at the Dobbin House Courtyard at 4 p.m.

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