

NEWS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: RICHARD SORENSON, conductor, Willamette Valley Concert Band & Reconstituted Monmouth Independence Town Band. 503-838-3474  
E-mail [sorenson@minetfiber.com](mailto:sorenson@minetfiber.com)

A free concert in the park titled “Americans We” will feature the Willamette Valley Concert Band and Reconstituted Monmouth-Independence Town Band on Thursday, July 3, at 7 pm in Monmouth Main Street Park. The program is part of the annual Western Days Arts in the Park Celebration in Monmouth. The free Concert will feature a wide variety of traditional band music of a patriotic and popular vein celebrating the diversity of people who make up America. Sponsor of the concert is the Monmouth-Independence Community Arts Association.

Opening the program will be the Willamette Valley Concert Band, a community band based in Albany that has been performing in the mid-Willamette Valley for the past 38 years. Featured soloists will be band principal trumpeter Steve Iverson and principle clarinetist Christine Barreto who will play *La Virgen de la Macarena* a traditional Spanish/Mexican bullfighting song. Other selections will include highlights from the hit Broadway musical *Chicago*, *In Praise of Freedom*, *Waltzing Matilda*, a swing arrangement of the old spiritual *Dry Bones* and the marches *Americans We* and *Under the Double Eagle*.

During a brief intermission the Monmouth-Independence Community Arts Association will have an auction for the conductor’s baton to guest conduct the grand finale to the concert.

The second half of the concert will feature the Reconstituted Monmouth-Independence Town Band, a band which organizes each year to perform for the Western Days Fourth of July Celebration.

The group, in its 36th year, comprises musicians from many mid-valley communities. Featured vocalist for this part of the program will be WOU voice professor, Dr. Kevin Helppie, who will sing selections from Bart’s Broadway musical, *Oliver*. They will also play *American Pageant*, *Cameo Suite*, *Sombra del Monte*, a Spanish paso doble, *Themes Like Old Times II*, *Red’s White and Blue March* by Red Skelton and *Hail to the Spirit of Liberty* by Sousa. .

The two bands of about 80 musicians will combine for the grand finale, a performance of John

Philip Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* conducted by the winner of the auction for the baton.

Both bands are conducted by Dr. Richard Sorenson, Emeritus Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Western Oregon University. For further information contact Sorenson at 503-838-3474. In case of rain, the concert will be moved to the Pacific Room in the Werner University Center on the campus of Western Oregon University on the corner of Church and Monmouth Avenue.