



## **Asheville Community Band Celebrates Memorial Day with A Widely-Varied Music Program**

May 11, 2019

The Asheville Community Band is pleased to announce our Annual Memorial Day concert, which is a patriotic-themed concert with traditional marches, military music, Appalachian music, and other music honoring our nation's history. Highlights will include themes from the five branches of the U.S. Military, Ryan Nowlin's "Century of Service" march, "Appalachian Morning" by Robert Sheldon, "American Big Top" by Brian Balmages (which includes snippets of patriotic favorites), and others. Finally, one of the primary highlights of this concert is the beautiful "God's Country" which captures the sweeping landscapes of America with soaring melodic lines. Written by Rossano Galante, this is a beautiful piece you won't want to miss hearing! The festivities will begin with a performance of our National Anthem and a presentation of colors by members and friends of the Asheville Community Band. We will also announce summer music camp scholarship winners for middle and high school students.

The concert will be performed at the Folk Art Center in Asheville adjacent to the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway on Sunday, May 26 at 3:30 PM (address: 382 Blue Ridge Pkwy, Asheville, NC 28805). Our music will be presented in an open shell that has both indoor and outdoor seating. We advise arriving early if you want to sit inside since seating is limited. Plentiful outside lawn seating is available, so bring a blanket and/or chairs (and family and friends!) and enjoy the afternoon of festive music! This is a free public concert, however donations to the band are accepted, with proceeds earmarked towards our scholarship programs for the community youth of Western North Carolina.

Fran Shelton is our new Musical Director for the 2018-2019 season, and we are very excited to introduce her energy and determination to you. After graduating from Hendersonville High School, Fran received her B.A. degree in Elementary Education and B.M. degree in Music Education from Mars Hill College. She received her Masters of Music degree from Appalachian State University. Fran holds membership in North Carolina Bandmasters Association, Women Band Directors International, and American School Band Directors Association. Fran has served in many board positions in these organizations, as well as other organizations centered around high school music education. In December 2009, Frances was awarded the Silver Baton Award by the Women Band Directors International at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. Fran also has served as clinician and adjudicator throughout the United States and Canada, and has been staff conductor fourteen times on European Tours. Fran was director of bands at Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville, North Carolina for the past 28 years. During her tenure the concert, marching, and jazz bands received numerous superior ratings, and performed at Billy Graham's Congressional Medal Ceremony, 1996 Olympic games, Gator, Sugar and Orange Bowls, Carnegie Hall in NYC, Symphony Hall in Boston, Mass., the Kennedy Center in Washington DC, Chicago Symphony Hall in Chicago, IL, Renee and Henry Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Los Angeles, Disney World, and Atlanta Symphony Hall. Finally, while Fran assumed Musical Director for the Asheville Community Band in September 2018, she has played trumpet throughout her career with the Asheville Community Band.

Previous Directors were Patricia L. Garren (led from 1979-1996), Michael L. Robinson (led from 1996-2016), and James Kirkpatrick (led from 2016-2018).

The Asheville Community Band was organized in October 1979 as a concert band for musicians of all ages and professions. Now composed of over ninety musicians, the band truly represents Western North Carolina with members

representing six counties. The all-volunteer band ranges in age from high school to octogenarian and is a 501(c)3 organization. Our mission is to support music education and the proud tradition of community bands and symphonic band music across America, and have a great time together doing so.

Because this is a free concert, no tickets are required. Please attend and support your community musicians!



**ASHEVILLE COMMUNITY BAND**  
**MEMORIAL DAY CONCERT**  
**SUNDAY, MAY 26, 3:30PM AT THE FOLK ART CENTER**  
**FREE ADMISSION, DONATIONS GRACIOUSLY ACCEPTED**