

THE ALLENTOWN BAND

Ronald Demkee, Conductor
Loras John Schissel, Guest Conductor

SIDE BY SIDE CONCERT

ALLENTOWN SYMPHONY HALL

7:00 pm, May 20, 2012

AMERICANS WE

Saluting 250th Anniversary of City of Allentown
and 200th Anniversary of Lehigh County

Part One - The Allentown Band

Salute to Allentown Ray Wetherhold

Fantasy Humoresque on Yankee Doodle David W. Reeves

Lehigh County Game Preserve Albertus Meyers

*USAAC March John Philip Sousa/Wetherhold

*When My Dreams Come True (Irving Berlin) John Philip Sousa/Schissel

*Loras John Schissel, conducting

Part Two – The Allentown Band with students

*Americans We Henry Fillmore

*American Folk Rhapsody Clare Grundman

*Loras John Schissel, conducting

Old Home Days Suite Charles Ives

Waltz, The Opera House, The Collection, Slow March, London Bridge is Fallen Down

March Intercollegiate Charles Ives

*Tone Poem: “America” John Philip Sousa/Schissel

*Loras John Schissel, conducting

The Stars and Stripes Forever! John Philip Sousa



Loras John Schissel, Conductor

Virginia Grand Military Band, Blossom Festival Band, Cleveland

Loras John Schissel has served as conductor of the Blossom Festival Band since 1998. He also regularly conducts the Blossom Festival Orchestra. He is founder and music director of the Arlington-based Virginia Grand Military Band, an ensemble comprised of current and former members of the four U.S. service bands.

Loras Schissel has traveled throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia conducting orchestras, bands, and choral ensembles in a broad range of musical styles and varied programs. A native of New Hampton, Iowa, Loras John Schissel studied brass instruments and conducting with Carlton Stewart, Frederick Fennell, and John Paynter. In the years following his studies at the University of Northern Iowa, Mr. Schissel has distinguished himself as a prominent conductor, orchestrator, and musicologist.

Deeply committed to young musicians, he has appeared as conductor of All-State music festivals and of festival bands and orchestras in more than thirty states. In Northeast Ohio, he has conducted the Berea All-County Orchestra Festival and regularly visits Baldwin-Wallace College as conductor of the Summer Band Camp there.

As a composer and orchestrator, Mr. Schissel has created an extensive catalogue of over 500 works for orchestra, symphonic wind band, and jazz ensemble, published exclusively by Ludwig/Masters Music. His musical score for Bill Moyers: America's First River, The Hudson, which first appeared on PBS in April 2002, received extensive coverage and critical acclaim. He also created musical scores for two films for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Home in Hyde Park, New York. As a recording artist, Mr. Schissel has amassed a large discography with a wide variety of ensembles and various musical genres. A frequent guest conductor of the Allentown Band, Mr. Schissel recently collaborated with the band as Associate Producer of Our Band Heritage recording, "Pennsylvania Pioneers."

Loras Schissel is a senior musicologist at the Library of Congress and a leading authority on the music of Percy Grainger, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor Serge Koussevitzky. Schissel and John Philip Sousa IV (great-grandson of the composer) have recently completed a book entitled John Philip Sousa's America, a photo-biography of the March King. 20th Century Fox has recently reissued the Clifton Webb classic "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Loras John Schissel made his Cleveland Orchestra debut in May 2007, conducting three performances of an Education Concert titled "Spirit of America." He also made his debut with the Phoenix Symphony that month, conducting a "Gershwin Celebration" program; his return concerts there in May 2008 were sold out. He made his third annual appearance in Phoenix in May 2010 conducting an all-American Memorial Day program.

Acknowledgements

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