

**Sarasota Concert Band Announces Annual Memorial Day Concert
at Phillippi Estate Park Featuring Soloists, Speakers and Music With the Theme of “Women
To Remember”**

*An Outdoor Event of Honor, the Sarasota Concert Band Pays Tribute to The Men and Women Who
Have Given Their Lives for Our Country Over the Years, With Music and Words In A Traditional
Concert at Phillippi Estate Park on Monday, May 30th at 5 pm.*

Sarasota, Florida.
May 20, 2011

Did you know that it was *women* who started the tradition of Memorial Day by placing flowers at the graves of Civil War soldiers? And did you know that it was a woman (Moina Michael) who conceived the idea of wearing red poppies in honor of those who have died serving the nation during war ...and sold them to friends to benefit servicemen in need? And it was yet another woman (Madam Guerin) who learned of this custom and carried it to France.

“*Women to Remember* is the theme of this year’s Memorial Day Concert,” says Sarasota Concert Band’s Musical Director William Barbanera. “We’re featuring the role females have played in remembering these sacrifices. We have Major Tessa Suplee (US Air Force Nurse Corps Flight Commander, Dental Services) as speaker; Linda Carson (ABC 7 News Anchor) as announcer, and Carmen Ramsey (soprano, featured soloist).” Also joining the cast of performers is Carl Denney (bass baritone, guest soloist).

Music will ring in the air on Monday, May 30th in honor of Memorial Day on the grounds of Phillippi Estate Park at 5500 Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. The concert starts at 5 pm. The cost is \$5 with 12 and under free. Tickets are available at the gate and online at www.SarasotaConcertBand.org.

Food and drink vendors will be available with a wide variety of choices starting at 4 pm. This concert is made possible through the generosity of our co-sponsors Sarasota County Parks & Recreation and the Herald-Tribune.

The Sarasota Concert Band will be performing selections with themes such as Civil War, Pledge of Allegiance and American Patriotism. There will be the traditional Sousa marches, Big Band selections and of course Broadway.

“We also have two new pieces of music purchased for this performance,” says Barbanera. “One is by the renowned female composer Anne McGinty and is a musical tribute commissioned by, and dedicated to, the soldiers of the US Continental Army Band. It’s called *Victorious*. The other is by a relatively new composer on the scene, Sam Hazo, with motifs that suggest piloting a fighter jet in combat. It’s called *In Flight*.”

Just as *books* are the culture of the mind and *art* is the culture of the eyes ... *music* is the culture of the *heart*. It enlivens humanity. We honor our fallen soldiers with music of the heart.

Organization Info: Sarasota Concert Band is the preeminent symphonic band of Sarasota and Manatee Counties, performing since 1954. As a large ensemble with wind instruments and percussion, we promote good band literature that showcases music of all styles and eras. We work to keep this genre alive and well-understood. (941-364-2263). www.SarasotaConcertBand.org.

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