

## Lynchburg Pops Community Band Christmas Concert

### *Come Celebrate With Joy!*

**ANNOUNCER:** Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the stage YOUR Lynchburg Pops Community Band and their conductor Jim Meredith.

Jim Meredith enters, bows, then leads the band in a brief fanfare followed by a drum roll. On the drum roll...

**ANNOUNCER:** Please stand if you are able and join the Pops in singing our National Anthem.

Jim leads the National Anthem. After "...and the home of the brave!" announcer says

**ANNOUNCER:** *Come Celebrate With Joy Tonight* is an original composition by the Pops' chorus conductor, Danny Moore, and for the next hour we invite you to Come Celebrate With Joy as we enter into the Christmas Season.

Jim leads the band and singers in *Come Celebrate With Joy*. After the applause...

**ANNOUNCER:** Released in 1963 by legendary singer, Andy Williams, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year* has since become a Christmas Classic and a traditional holiday favorite. It is indeed the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

Jim leads band in *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. After the applause...

**ANNOUNCER:** The Pops Band and Singers would like to now offer a more solemn carol, John Rutter's Beautiful, "*Angels Carol*." This special arrangement for band and singers, is by Jim Meredith's college band director and mentor, Dr. Paul Noble. The Angels Carol.

Jim leads band in *Angels Carol*. After the applause...

**ANNOUNCER:** We turn now to a more upbeat Calypso-style of Christmas Celebration of the Caribbean, in Scott Ragsdale's "Christmas in the Islands." This piece was written for our guest soloist when he soloed with the United States Navy Band in Washington D.C. Please welcome to the stage Mr. Daryl Duff.

Jim leads "Christmas in the Islands." After the applause the band will go right into "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch." (Two songs before the announcer returns.) After the applause for Grinch announcer says...

**ANNOUNCER:** Daryl will be back with us a little later. It wouldn't be a Christmas concert without Leroy Anderson's classic "Sleigh Ride." It is interesting to consider that Anderson conceived and wrote Sleigh Ride during a July heat wave in 1946. It was first performed and recorded by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops and has been with us ever since. Ladies and gentlemen, Sleigh Ride!

After the applause for Sleigh Ride...

**ANNOUNCER:** "Carol of the Bells" was written by Ukrainian composers Leontovich and Wilhousky in 1914 and has been a staple of the Christmas season ever since. American band composer Richard Saucedo has given us this very energetic instrumental arrangement he calls "Ukrainian Bell Carol."

After the applause for Ukrainian Bell Carol...

**ANNOUNCER:** We want you to know that no one in the Pops band or the singers receive any kind of payment for their services, not even their director. We perform for the enjoyment of sharing music. That doesn't mean we are not a professional organization. There are 24 either professional musicians or music majors performing tonight. Four of them are published composers and arrangers whose music has been featured this evening.

One of our trombonists, Dr. Chris Sharp is an asst. professor of music at the University of Lynchburg and an arranger who has given us our next piece, a very clever medley of Christmas tunes entitled Visions of Sugar Plums.

After Visions of Sugar Plums applause...

**ANNOUNCER:** Now we take you south of the border. Puerto Rican composer Jose Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad" was written in 1970 and has become a Christmas Classic across all cultures. Ladies and gentlemen, Feliz Navidad!

After the applause for Feliz Navidad...

**ANNOUNCER:** "What Child is This" was written in 1865 by American composer William Chatterton Dix, but it's based on the English folk song Greensleeves. Although written in Great Britain, this carol today is more popular in the United States than its country of origin. Ladies and gentlemen, "What Child is This."

After the applause for What Child is This...

**ANNOUNCER:** We welcome back to the stage the Pops Singers and their conductor, Danny Moore. They are joined by pianist Jeannie Craig. "The Christmas Song," also known as "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," was written by Robert Wells and the great entertainer Mel Torme. As Torme told the story, like Sleigh Ride it was written in July. It was first recorded by Nat King Cole, and is presented FOR YOU tonight by the Pops Singers. The Christmas Song!

After the applause...

**ANNOUNCER:** Did you ever really wonder what you might do with all the Christmas presents given to you in The Twelve Days of Christmas? Twelve lords a leaping? Eleven ladies dancing? Ten pipers piping? ...REALLY? Pops soloist Mary Smallshaw tells us what she did with all these gifts last Christmas. Please welcome Mary and the Pops Singers as they explain to us, The Twelve Days *After* Christmas.

After the applause...

**ANNOUNCER:** O' Holy Night was first premiered in France in 1847 and has been a staple of Christmas Season ever since. We welcome back to the stage our guest artist Mr. Daryl Duff accompanied by Mrs. Jeannie Craig.

After the applause for O Holy Night, Steve Aiello will step the mike to say a few words. When he is done...

**ANNOUNCER:** In 1950 legendary conductor Arthur Fiedler of the Boston Pops asked Leroy Anderson to write an overture for their upcoming Christmas album which resulted in an instant classic. The singers and the band join together once again for the Leroy Anderson classic “A Christmas Festival.”

After the music, Jim will ask the entire ensemble to stand and be recognized by the audience. This may take a little time but will lead right into the encore. On Jim’s cue

**ANNOUNCER:** (Any summation you’d like to do would be appropriate at this time.) The Lynchburg Pops Community Band and Singers would like to invite you to sing a long on Irving Berlin’s classic, White Christmas.