

Ladies and gentlemen, Boys and Girls, welcome to the Lynchburg Pops Community Band's VERY FIRST concert for young people! Children of all ages from 5 to 95 are welcome to this afternoon's special performance. My name is Steve Aiello, and it will be my pleasure to guide you through today's program.

Will you please welcome to the stage the conductor of the Pops band, Maestro Jim Meredith. **Jim enters and steps to the podium. Jim cues drum roll.** Please stand if you are able and join YOUR Lynchburg Pops Band in singing our National Anthem!

**Band pays the Star-Spangled Banner.**

What do you think about when I say the words STAR WARS?(pause)Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Han Solo, Chewbacca and all the wonderful characters come to mind don't they? If you say Star Wars to a musician they might just think about the famous composer, John Williams who wrote the unforgettable music for all of the movies. Please sit back in your seat and enjoy the Pops band as they play for you music of Star Wars which includes, The Star Wars theme, Parade of the Ewoks and the Imperial March. Ladies and gentlemen, Boys and girls STAR WARS!

**Band plays Star Wars!**

*After the applause.* Did you recognize the music? *Wait for response.* You know how powerful a Jedi Knight's light saber is? Well, Maestro Jim has a very powerful tool he uses called a "baton". Jim, would you demonstrate the power of the baton? And how about a legato phrase? How about a "staccato" from the band. Can you show us how you control the energy level of the band? (Jim demonstrates quiet to loud and back to quiet) Pretty cool, huh? Maestro Jim can actually shape the musical sound with his baton. Now, one more very important thing for you to know as a good audience member. The piece of music is not over and it is NOT time to applaud until the conductor drops his baton to his side. Okay? So watch the conductor very carefully just like the band members do!

I know you all have watched cartoons. I believe the kids in the audience know how to answer this . And if you do, answer with a **very strong voice**, okay? "Are you ready, kids?"

*Kids 'response (hopefully)“ Aye, aye, Captain!”*

Announcer “**I can't hear you!**”

*Kids (louder) “Aye, aye, Captain!”*

*Band plays the Theme from Spongebob Squarepants.*

*After the applause.* Do you like the sound of the band? *Wait for response.* *Please welcome to the stage Associate Conductor, Steve Williams*

Now I'm going to ask you a question but I don't want you to answer out loud. Just think the answer in your head... have you ever wondered how a band makes all the different sounds you hear? Why do some instruments sound so sweet while other instruments are big and boomy? Why are there so many different instruments? The Pops Band hopes to answer all these questions as they continue. But for now, listen for the wide variety of sounds that will be made by the sections of the band.

The next piece we're going to play for you will create images in your mind of witches...wizards...flying monkeys, lions and tigers and bears, **OH MY!**

**Band plays Wizard of Oz**

Now that music should've been familiar to you. *Wait for response.* That's right! The Wizard of Oz. Music that is familiar to us helps us to remember the movies we have seen. Did you notice that the really high sounds were played by the very small instruments, the flutes and the piccolo? Did you laugh when you heard the great big tubas play the Scarecrow's theme “If I only had a Brain”? If you were listening carefully, I'm sure you heard many different instruments shine through.

Good music inspires our imagination. Just like a good book, music has the power to take us away to another place in our imagination. In our minds **WE** can create stories and characters. We see scary creatures like witches or flying monkeys, or silly characters like SpongeBob. Music helps us to create stories in our mind - it helps our imaginations **TAKE OFF!**

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and gorillas...OOPS...I mean boys and girls we welcome back to the stage associate conductor Steve Williams to conduct Dance Monkey.

**Band plays Dance Monkey. After the applause...**

Our next selection is music you've never heard before because **YOU** are the very first audience to ever hear this work! It's a brand new piece composed by our conductor, Jim Meredith. It has a very spooky title....**Cobra Tango. Wait for response.**

Maestro Meredith imagined in his mind,

*"What if a deadly cobra got loose from his basket and slithered all over the place to a tango rhythm? As you listen to this new piece you can just imagine the cobra crawling, slithering, slowly moving toward it's prey. You can imagine the snake STRIKING not once but many times. And if you listen very closely, you will hear the snake crawl back into his basket, and the lid being shut at the very end."*

Now Maestro Meredith would like your help as we play. I'm sure you know that snakes like to **hi-s-s-s!** Can you **his-s-s-s** like a snake? **Wait for response.** EXCELLENT! There are two times in this piece when we need you to HISS! Maestro will give you a big CUE and you are to **hiss all you can** while the cobra strikes! Now, remember to watch the Maestro because there are several times in the piece where the music stops...but the piece is NOT over Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, **Cobra Tango!**

**The band plays Cobra Tango. (3:00)**

*Woodwind soloists front and center.*

We're going to do some presentations of the different instruments of the band for you. We said before that the small instruments played high and the big instruments played low, but every instrument that plays melody can play many different notes from low to high.

On the band instruments, the player uses his or her fingers or valves or slides, on the brass, to use part of the instrument or all of the instrument. Watch carefully as our band members demonstrate their instrument and what they do to produce those high and low sounds.

The band is made up of three families of instruments. This is the woodwind family. Bonnie will demonstrate the piccolo.

Piccolo *demonstration*

Madalyn Flute demonstration

*Flute demonstration*

Next Dr. Lynn will demonstrate the clarinet.

*Clarinet demonstration*

Next we have the bassoon performed for you by Greg

*Bassoon demonstration*

This is Alex playing the alto saxophone.

*Alto Sax demonstration*

Next we have Bruce playing the Tenor Saxophone.

*Bari Sax demonstration*

And finally, Jeffrey on the baritone saxophone.

*Baritone Saxophone demonstration*

And now, just for fun, HAROLD, will you please demonstrate the slide whistle?

*Harold demonstrates the slide whistle.*

Now!...

Joe Ayers "Excuse me!" Joe walks to the microphone with his baritone. What are doing up here you're supposed to be hiding in the band!

Joe says "It's my understanding that we are about to play The Irish Washerwoman!"

Narrator "That is correct but you're not a woodwind. You're a brass instrument. You play the baritone horn."

Joe "We prefer the term euphonium!"

Baritone players CHEER!

Narrator “Okay Joe, So what does the euphonium sound like?”

Joe’s joke, Do you know how to contact a Baritone player? Euphonium

(wait for audience groan)

Joe demonstrates the euphonium. When he’s done...

Euphonium section CHEERS!

Joe walks back to his seat COCKY! Woodwinds go back to their seats.

That was Joe Ayers and he makes a good point. The band is going to play a very famous band piece entitled The Irish Washerwoman. After a brief introduction by the full band you will hear the flutes play the melody of this song followed by the clarinets, then the alto saxophones THEN the euphoniums. Listen carefully and see if you can identify the instruments as they are featured. Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, The Irish Washerwoman.

Band plays Irish Washerwoman.

After the applause

That was the woodwind family WITH the full band.

We’re going to have some real fun now, maybe even some silly fun. Shavena will you please stand and show your clarinet to the audience? (Shavena stands displaying the clarinet.) The clarinets comes in 7 different parts and one of the first things beginning clarinetists learn to do is how to assemble those 7 pieces properly. From the top down you have a wooden reed attached to the mouthpiece using a clamp we call a ligature. The mouthpiece is attached to the barrel. Then you have the “body” of the instrument which is the 2 longest pieces, and finally the bell. Thank you Shavena! (Shavena sits down.) Popular composer, Gary Fagan, has written a piece titled Clarinets Packing Up Early. It’s a very clever piece and as we play it, keep your eyes on the clarinet section. Beginning with the bell at the bottom they will gradually disassemble their clarinets but continue to play as the instrument gets smaller and smaller. Near the end you will hear them playing on just the mouthpiece and finally, NOTHING AT ALL! Boys and girls this is Clarinets Packing Up Early.

Band plays Clarinets Packing Up Early.

On the applause the brass group moves to the front.

These instruments represent the brass family. While the woodwinds give the band the beauty of its sound, it's the brass that gives the band its POWER.

All brass players respond with CHEERS and FISTS IN THE AIR!

Todd Jennings will now demonstrate the trumpet. A great deal of the changes in the sound of the brass instruments are due to how tight or loose the player makes his or her lips. Todd, will you demonstrate that before you play your piece?

Todd demonstrates lips then

Trumpet demonstration.

This uniquely shaped instrument is the French horn and David Toothman will demonstrate for you.

French horn demonstration

Isaac will demonstrate the trombone. The trombone is the easiest instrument to see the size/pitch relationship. When Isaac moves his slide, it's almost like he makes the instrument get bigger and smaller. Like the slide whistle, (demonstrate SW) Slide demonstration.

Trombone demonstration.

We've already had a demonstration by the euphonium (Euphonium section CHEERS!) But now we have the tuba. Now, because the tuba has a very big mouthpiece and it is a very long and fat instrument, the tuba player can't make the instrument go very high, but it can play very, very low. Bill would you please demonstrate the sound you can make on your mouthpiece?

Tuba demonstration.

Finally we present you the third family of instruments, the percussion family.

Percussion does a spontaneous noisy and dissonant demonstration.

Narrator waves them off. They stop.

One at a time please! The snare drum!

Snare drum demonstration.

The timpani or kettle drums.

**Timpani demonstration.**

The bass drum.

**Bass drum demonstration.**

The cymbals

**Crash Cymbals demonstration.**

There is so much more to playing percussion than “just playing drums” A percussionist must also be able to play the melodic percussion instruments. These instruments have bars of varying size from very small to very large. So, let’s see what you’ve learned. What kind of sound would a small bar make? high or low? Right! And what kind of sound would a large bar make? high or low, Right! so, here’s a tough one, what kind of sound will a medium sized bar make? A sound in the middle!

The mallet instruments are represented by the xylophone, marimba, and the bells and they are played by striking the bars with mallets. They will now be featured on a special piece entitled Mallet Maniacs.

**Band plays Mallet Maniacs**

**INSERT INTRODUCTION TO ORANGE BLOSSOM SPECIAL AND GEORGE MIKLAS**

How many of you know who Indiana Jones is? **Wait for response.** We would now like to demonstrate ALL of the instruments of the band, the beauty of the woodwinds, the power of brass, and the rhythmic drive of the percussion on music from Raiders of the Lost Ark! But watch out, you might just see Indiana Jones lurking somewhere in the audience.

**Band plays Raiders March.**

I hope you are beginning to distinguish between the various instruments. We’re going to have some real fun now. How many of you know what a harmonica is? **Wait for response.** I would like to introduce you a real virtuoso. What’s a virtuoso? A virtuoso is a musician who has MASTERED their instrument to the point that he OR she is widely known all over the country or even perhaps all over the world. We have a virtuoso of the harmonica who lives right here in Lynchburg and he is

going to play for you the Orange Blossom Special. Will you welcome to the stage George Miklas on the harmonica.

**Band plays Orange Blossom Special.**

**After the applause....**

Have you enjoyed today's presentation? We hope you have a better understanding of what a concert band is and all the unique sounds that make up the sound of a band. Please come back for our Christmas Concert on November 28<sup>th</sup> where you'll enjoy music of the Christmas season. Thank you for being a wonderful audience.

Bands love to play marches. Marches are fun to play and fun to listen to. Marches make you want to move and wave and smile.

As a matter of fact, I'll think I'll join the band for this very famous march.

Ladies and Gentlemen, March Grandioso.

**Band plays March Grandioso.**