

June 14, 1999

## PRESS RELEASE

Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, Conductor Emeritus of The United States Air Force Band, will conduct the Guilderland Town Band in a concert July 22, at 7:30 PM in the Guilderland Performing Arts Center, in Tawasentha Park, Guilderland. Col. Gabriel retired from the United States Air Force in 1985 following a distinguished 36 year military career. He served as Commander/Conductor of the internationally renowned U.S. Air Force Band, Symphony Orchestra, and Singing Sergeants from 1964 to 1985. In 1990, he was named the first Conductor Emeritus of the USAF Band. In addition to the numerous honors he has received, Col. Gabriel was inducted into the National Band Association Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors, becoming the youngest inductee ever to have received this honor. He is also a Past President of the prestigious American Bandmasters Association.

A combat machine gunner with the United States Army's famed 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Europe during WW II, Gabriel was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the French Croix de Guerre. Following his separation from the Army in 1946, he attended Ithaca College, where he earned both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Music Education.

Col. Gabriel served on the faculty of George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, from 1985 to 1995, as Conductor of the GMU Symphony Orchestra and as Chairman, Department of Music for eight of those years. In recognition of his ten years service to the university, he was named Professor Emeritus of Music.

One of the world's most widely traveled musicians, Col. Gabriel has conducted ensembles in all 50 of the United States and in 48 countries around the world. He continues to appear as clinician at major state, regional and university music festivals and guest conducts outstanding school, college, municipal and military bands and orchestras around the world. He is currently the Conductor and Music Director of the McLean Orchestra in Virginia.

Col. Gabriel has chosen to open his program with the classic overture "Light Cavalry", by Von Suppe. Also on the program are Verdi's "La Forza del Destino", the "Pineapple Poll Suite" by Sir Arthur Sullivan, and "Variations on America" by Charles Ives. Henry Fillmore's march "Rolling Thunder", "Irving Berlin: A Symphonic Portrait", and Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess Suite" are included. The program will conclude with Carmen Dragon's stirring arrangement of "America the Beautiful".

The Guilderland Town Band performs each summer under the auspices of the Town of Guilderland Parks and Recreation Program. The concert is free and open to the public. The Guilderland Performing Arts Center is located in Carl Walters Tawasentha Park on Route 146 ¼ mile south of Route 20 in Guilderland. Parking is free and refreshments are available at the concession stand. The public is encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair. There is no rain date planned for this concert. Information on cancellations and other GPAC concerts may be had by calling the GPAC telephone number 456-8604.