

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 12, 2014

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BAND, BATON AND BASEBALL MAKE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER
Carlos Kalmar strikes up the band for the Hillsboro Hops

HILLSBORO – On Aug. 24, one of America’s outstanding maestros will stand not on a podium, but on a ball field. The ensemble he’ll be leading isn’t a group of symphony players ... but the marching band equivalent of the Bad News Bears.

It’ll be a comingling of “tails and t-shirts” when Oregon Symphony Music Director Carlos Kalmar guest conducts The Beat Goes On Marching Band in the National Anthem and *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. The Hillsboro Hops face the Spokane Indians at 1:35pm that day at Ron Tonkin Field.

TBGO is Oregon’s Musical Ambassadors of Fun – an all-adult band whose players span decades in age and travel anywhere from a few to a few *thousand* miles to entertain and perform. They prefer playing Lady Gaga to John Philip Sousa, and eschew tasseled uniforms in favor of untucked t-shirts.



The Oregon Symphony loves Lady Gaga *and* John Philip Sousa (and a few others as well), playing a wide variety of music for over 150,000 people each year at concerts in the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. And if that weren’t enough, the Symphony and its talented musicians can also be found in classrooms and communities throughout the region, sharing the power of music as widely as possible. Maestro Kalmar’s appearance is yet another example of the Symphony’s appreciation of the support it gets from the entire community.



“The band is really excited – but a little apprehensive – to be working with Maestro Kalmar,” said TBGO Music Director Steve Tolopka. “After all, there’s about three levels of class between the Oregon Symphony and The Beat Goes On. But if Carlos is crazy enough to try it, we’re crazy enough to let him! Once this thing is over, we’ll all be updating our musical resumes!”

(more)

Kalmar replied: “Crazy? Absolutely! But what could be more fun than a great marching band, some great music and a great baseball game! I’m looking forward to this, and I’m bringing a lot of our staff as well.”

The maestro and the band have at least two things in common. Though based in Portland, both are globetrotters. Kalmar performs regularly in Chicago where he heads up the summertime Grant Park Music Festival and in Madrid throughout the year with his Spanish Radio/Television Orchestra and Choir. The Beat Goes On appeared in New England in July and will be featured at China’s Shanghai Tourism Festival in September. Both Kalmar and TBGO also enjoy taking their music to the people.

At the Hops game on the afternoon of Aug. 24, the fun begins with a pre-game band concert led by Tolopka outside the stadium. Then Kalmar will conduct *The Star-Spangled Banner* before the first pitch and lead TBGO and the crowd in baseball’s traditional song during the seventh-inning stretch.

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