

Events Calendar

April 23, 2:00pm

Our annual spring concert is taking place at the Bay Street Armoury. Listen to great music, peruse our museum, and have the chance to win some great prizes! Admission by donation, with proceeds to the Fifth Foundation.

May 22, 11:45am

The 5th Field Band supports the Regimental Guns at Ship Point as part of the annual Victoria Day celebrations.

If you recall, last June saw our fair city graced by a flotilla of over twenty tall ships from around the world, including the Canadian Navy's very own HMCS Oriole. The day before their official appearance at the Inner Harbour, we helped welcome them during a reception at Fort Rodd Hill. We mention this because, as frequent viewers of the Knowledge Network will no doubt be aware, that visit - along with a

July 1, 11:30am

The 5th Field Band celebrates Canada's birthday with a community celebration at Fort Rodd Hill. Free admission.

August 6, 13, 20, 27, 2:00pm

Every Sunday afternoon in August is a warm celebration of music at historic Fort Rodd Hill. Free with admission to the Fort.

snippet of our performance - forms part of a recent documentary entitled *Return of the Tall Ships*. By the time you receive this newsletter, there should be one last opportunity to view this broadcast at 6:30pm, April 19 on the Knowledge Network.

We look forward to the return of the Tall Ships in 2008.

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The Mouthpiece

The newsletter for friends of the
5TH (BC) Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Band

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From the Podium

By CWO Frank Eigler, Bandmaster

Greetings, and welcome to the second issue of *The Mouthpiece*.

First and foremost, a heartfelt thanks to those of you who were able to come out and support us at our various public appearances these past months – especially the hardy souls who braved the inclement weather of Remembrance Day! Your generous contributions at our Christmas Concert in support of the Mustard Seed Street Church were very much appreciated, as was your support of “live music” during the bi-annual *Go! Music Victoria* event held at the Laurel Point Inn in February.

Many of you were undoubtedly disappointed, as was I, to hear of this year's cancellation of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) annual Ceilidh. We've always enjoyed supporting this event and, of course, it's a wonderful opportunity to open up the armoury to the public. After some deliberation we have therefore decided, in the interest of keeping military music making alive in this historic building, to hold our Annual Spring Concert here in our home at the Bay Street Armoury! Plans are still in the making, but it is our hope that this may develop into an ‘Open House’ of sorts, with most, if not all of the lodger units represented. Please keep an eye on our website for further developments.

It has been many years since the band last performed ‘in concert’ within the walls of the armoury, and we're all very excited to see your response to this event. We have a wonderful program planned, including favourites from Shostakovich, Zaninelli and Bizet to the more traditional fare of Elgar, Handel and, of course, Alford! To that end, please find enclosed two ‘tickets’ to our Spring Concert. While admission remains by cash donation, these tickets will serve as useful reminders, and as door prize entry coupons that can be deposited into our ceremonial drum upon your arrival.

See you there!

What We're Up To

By MWO Daniel Moses, Band Sergeant Major

Recruiting

The band is always looking for a few more clarinetists, but we are also recruiting Flute, Saxophone, and Trumpet players at present. If you know of someone who is up for a challenge and wants to make a good wage while playing with a high-calibre group, send him or her our way. The Primary Reserve is a great way to finance a university education! This is a crucial time right now because the closer we get to summer, the more of a challenge it is to enroll a new musician in time to be signed up for summer training. It's not too late! Visit www.5fieldband.ca for more information.

Recent engagements

St. Barbara's Day, named for the patron saint of Artillery, was celebrated with an officers' mess dinner at Bay Street Armoury, and December 4th marked our annual appearance at the Christmas Dinner for the less fortunate, sponsored by the Mustard Seed Street Church, also held at Bay Street Armoury. Hundreds of people enjoyed a little Christmas cheer and a hot turkey dinner as they listened to a selection of Christmas favourites performed from the balcony of the armoury.

Three days later, on December 7, 5TH Field Band was once again honoured to share the stage with the Greater Victoria Concert Band in our annual joint concert held at Esquimalt High School. The Mustard Seed Street Church benefited from a sizeable donation of food made by the audience in lieu of a cash admission to the concert.

A small but enthusiastic crowd was on hand for our performance on February 4 at Go! Music Victoria held at Laurel Point Inn, sponsored by Advocates for Music in Our Schools (AMOS). Supporting music in our schools and the encouragement of musical education is in the best interest of all!

Summer

Chances are this will be our Summer issue as well, so you'll want to make a note of our Summer appearances. Others may be added, but these are our regular gigs. On Victoria Day (May 22), our parade band will be performing at Ship Point, downtown, in support of the Regiment's three guns. They fire the 21-gun Royal Salute at twelve noon to honour the namesake of our fair city. July 1st, Canada Day, the band will be appearing at Fort Rodd Hill to celebrate Canada's 139th birthday. After another gun salute, twelve noon signifies the rolling out of the largest birthday cake you will ever see! Watch for our appearance at the Saanich Strawberry Festival again this year, on a sunny Sunday afternoon in July and of course, the band will be appearing at Fort Rodd Hill for its series of Park concerts in August, every Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. The grand finale, and our most highly-anticipated concert of the season is held in mid-September at the Cameron bandshell of Beacon Hill Park. Stay tuned for details or visit our website at www.5fieldband.ca.

In The Spotlight

Two of our newest military members are Privates Rémy Bédard and Jonathan Eng. Both percussionists, their lively personalities and musical skills are true assets to the 5th Field Band.

Rémy was born in Québec City, and received both his Bachelor of Arts in Music and his Teaching Certificate, after studying music at CEGEP in Drummondville, Quebec. At the young age of seven, Rémy wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and learn how to play the drums. At Sunday night dinners, Rémy and his family listened to rock music, classical music, and military music recorded by the local regular force band, la Musique du Royal 22e Régiment. As a teenager, Rémy started playing drums both in a garage band with friends and in the school band. Rémy loved the thrill of performance, and decided to pursue musical studies.

Music continues to be a constant in Rémy's life. He teaches music at Victoria's Ecole Victor Brodeur, plays in a jazz trio, plays guitar and sings for a Québécois folk/pop music named "Un air de chez-nous" and was recently sworn in as a member of the 5th Field Band. Rémy doesn't see the role of music in his life changing anytime soon. "[In five years] I see myself in Victoria with the 5th Field Band, and teaching music to students at all grade levels," predicts Rémy. "I am currently recording some of my own French folk and pop compositions with a friend, and we are hoping that some radio stations will start playing them. A francophone community radio station will soon be launched in Victoria, and I am hoping to broadcast a jazz radio program with a friend."

In contrast to Rémy's Eastern Canadian upbringing, percussionist Jon Eng was born and bred on Vancouver Island. Born in Sidney, Jon studied music at UVic with Sal Ferreras.

A self-confessed ham, Jon admits that he has always loved to be the centre of attention. "I was always in the spotlight. I craved attention and would often perform for my family at dinners on the instrument commonly known as the "air guitar." They used to call me the little Elvis!"

A well-known musician throughout Victoria, and a regular performer with the Victoria Symphony, Jon joined the 5th Field Band and was immediately accepted to the esteemed Band of the Ceremonial Guard. There, Jon obtained a new respect for the Canadian Forces, and is now working towards joining the Regular Force. Jon stresses a balanced lifestyle as the key to being a good musician and a healthy person. "Music takes up a great portion of my life, with performing, teaching, rehearsal and personal practice. But it's also important to balance it with other areas to be well rounded as a person." Although he admits that he enjoys expressing himself creatively by climbing trees and flying kites at midnight, everyone who hears Jon's incredible talents on all percussion instruments agrees that he is a natural performer!

Privates Jonathan Eng and Rémy Bédard

