

Lynchburg Pops Community Band
From Stage and Screen Concert March 6, 2025
Announcer's Script

7:30 pm. Band President, Bonnie Brunner says a few words and introduces Stephanie Reed.

After the applause...

Stephanie: Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Let's welcome to the stage our Maestro, Jim Meredith and your Lynchburg Pops Community Band!

Jim bows, steps to the podium, gestures instruments to rise, then leads the band in *The 20th Century Fox Fanfare* followed by a *Drumroll!*...

Stephanie: Ladies and gentlemen please stand if you are able and join the Lynchburg Pops Community Band in singing our Nation Anthem!

Band plays the National Anthem. After the applause, without further announcement, the band goes right into **Fantasy Adventures at the Movies**.

After the applause...

Did you recognize any of those tunes? If so, you heard the Theme to the original *Star Trek Movie*, *Back to the Future*, *The Princess Bride*, and the *Flying Theme* from *Stephen Spielberg Classic*, *E.T.* Tonight we bring you Music from Stage and Screen and we know you will be thrilled and moved by our program. Our goal is to always take our audience on emotional journeys.

Let's turn to the films of James Bond! (insert something of your own here concerning James Bond, if you wish.) Stephen Bulla's superb arrangement features *The James Bond Theme*, *Goldfinger*, *Nobody Does it better*, the *Theme from Skyfall*, and *Live and Let Die*. Ladies and gentlemen this is **Bond, James Bond!**

After the applause...

Were you *shaken* or *stirred* by that presentation? Our first two medleys were from the movies. Now we turn to the Broadway stage and music from a tragic story of a love that could never be, *West Side Story*. Based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, composer Leonard Bernstein along with lyricist Stephen Sondheim, and choreographer Jerome Robbins planted Shakespeare's love story in the slums of New York city and two rival gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. The story of Polish-American, Tony and Puerto Rican Maria takes place over a 24 hour period in which a boy and girl find each other despite their cultural differences.

Gee, Officer Krupke, is one of the lighter moments in the play where the boys from the Jets Gang speculate on their private lives that likely lead to a life of violence on the street. And they tell it to none other than Officer Krupke. We welcome to the stage the associate conductor of the Pops, Steve Williams to conduct ***Gee, Officer Krupke!***

After the applause...

Continuing with *West Side Story*, where we just listened to the boys of the Jets, we now turn to the young ladies from the Sharks as they bear their hearts about life in America versus life in Puerto Rico. When the movie version came out in 1960, it was the Puerto Rican boys from the Sharks singing and dancing with the girls. Leonard Bernstein's brilliant musicianship is evident from the beginning of this song. Starting in the percussion section with a single clicking clave, Bernstein layers sound upon sound as this song unfolds and evolves into a masterpiece of rhythmical excitement. If I may brag a little bit, it takes a band of exceptional maturity to perform this level of music and after you hear them, I'm sure you'll agree. Ladies and gentlemen, ***Ah-MED-ika!***

After the applause...

We're staying on Broadway for our next medley. Who hasn't seen *The Wizard of Oz*? I'll bet not many of you. In 1995 author Winnie Holzman published *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, which told the tale of Elphaba and Glinda who ultimately become The Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch. The musical, *Wicked* premiered on Broadway in 2003 and is still running. The motion picture premiered in 2024 and has grossed almost 800

million dollars and has become a contemporary classic. The band would like to play for you Michael Brown's arrangement of music from *Wicked* and we welcome to the stage our guest conductor. He is a member of the clarinet section and recently completed his masters degree in Conducting from Liberty University. Please welcome, Matt Shinsky to lead the band in ***Highlights from "Wicked."***

After the applause...

We return to music of the movies for our next selection. In 1971 the movie, *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* was released. Film critic Roger Ebert gave it 4 stars and said, "It is probably the best film of its sort since *The Wizard of Oz*. It is everything that family movies usually claim to be, but aren't: Delightful, funny, scary, exciting, and, most of all, a genuine work of imagination. ... Imagination! In the film, legendary Comic actor, Gene Wilder, as Willie Wonka, sang the signature song, *Pure Imagination*. Since its release hundreds of artists have recorded it. It is always the goal of the Lynchburg Pops to take you, the audience, on an emotional journey through the inspiration of your imagination. Allow the Pops to do it once again as we perform for you ***Pure Imagination***.

After the applause...

Walt Disney Studios has given the world some of the most iconic and enduring films in the history of motion pictures, not to mention some of the most unforgettable music. Our next medley features just a few of them. John Higgins is the brilliant arranger of this medley. This is ***Disney at the Movies***.

After the applause...

One of the greatest collaborations of director and film composer in the history of motion pictures, is Stephen Spielberg and John Williams. They've teamed up to give us, *Jaws*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* as well as the other *Indiana Jones* movies, *Schindler's List*, *E.T.*, and many more. With our next selection, the Pops Band is going back to early Spielberg & Williams, from 1979. The comedy war film, ***1941*** is a farce, telling a story of hysteria that develops along the California coastline just after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The

film featured legendary comedian, John Belushi as army air corps pilot, Wild Bill Kelso. In John Williams's own words, "Kelso is a crazy, impertinent but lovable character whose antics seemed to require humor and rhythmical vitality." So Williams set Kelso's personality to the Classic military "march." Ladies and gentlemen, we give you ***The March from 1941***

After the applause...

Steve Williams returns to the stage to conduct two more selections from ***West Side Story***. In the story, Tony and Maria first meet at a dance at the gym. It's a tenuous moment as both gangs arrive with their ladies for an evening of dancing and merrymaking. The tension is extraordinary! Prior to the fateful meeting of the lovebirds, the kids dance to the instrumental feature, ***Mambo!*** Later on in one of the most heartfelt moments of the musical, Tony and Maria sing, "*There's a Place for Us*," also known simply as ***Somewhere***. As they sing, one can feel the hopelessness of the moment that despite their shared love and best efforts to reconcile the Jets with the Sharks, their union can never be. Ladies and gentlemen, ***Mambo*** followed by ***Somewhere***.

After the applause...

We certainly hope you have enjoyed our concert this evening. Coming up on May 15 the Pops will be presenting a program centered on ***JAZZ***. Our central piece for the evening will be George Gershwin's ***Rhapsody in Blue*** featuring Dr. Paul Rumrill as pianist. It'll be an evening of Big Band and jazz standards, both quick-tempoed pieces and ballads. You won't want to miss this one. (Any closing comments by Stephanie are appropriate here.)

You cannot celebrate the music of Broadway and film without the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein. What a great impact they've had with their wholesome and entertaining stories set to some of the most unforgettable songs of all time. Thank you for coming tonight! We close our concert with ***The Golden Age of Broadway***.

After the applause...

JIM MEREDITH: From 1963 to 1971 we heard this song on tv everyday, at least once a day on each channel. Composer, Elmer Bernstein regretted selling the performance rights for a mere \$5000. Had he gone for residuals, he would've made a fortune! Giddyup!