THE UNITED STATES ARMY FIELD BAND

Encore!

Partnering WITH THE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WE STAND READY
VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES

SOUNDTRACK OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER
Album Release

VIRTUAL MUSIC CLASSROOM
NEW ONLINE Teaching Tool

2020
FOR 74 YEARS, The United States Army Field Band has shared the Army story and a wealth of diverse music across the United States and the world. This long-standing mission to connect Americans with their Army has built and fostered valuable relationships with countless organizations and agencies throughout our nation. One relationship that The United States Army Field Band is most proud of is that with the National Park Service. For more than 100 years, the National Park Service has maintained and protected some of our nation’s most treasured natural resources and historic sites, and the Army Field Band has celebrated this heritage as part of its ongoing mission, supporting key events as The Grand Canyon National Park Centennial, National Park Week, and naturalization ceremonies at NPS sites across the nation.

Most recently, the Army Field Band commemorated the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” with a Defenders Day concert at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, an event the band has been honored to support many times over the years. To mark 100 years of Grand Canyon National Park, the band premiered a new program honoring “The Star-Spangled Banner” with a Defenders Day concert at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, an event the band has been honored to support many times over the years. To mark 100 years of Grand Canyon National Park, the band premiered a new program honoring “The Star-Spangled Banner” with a Defenders Day concert at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, an event the band has been honored to support many times over the years. To mark 100 years of Grand Canyon National Park, the band premiered a new program honoring “The Star-Spangled Banner” with a Defenders Day concert at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, an event the band has been honored to support many times over the years.

Continuing its strong relationship with the National Park Service remains a priority for the Army Field Band. Whether at historic sites and monuments throughout the nation or at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., it is always an honor for the Musical Ambassadors of the Army to celebrate the beauty of our national parks. Until our touring missions begin again soon, The United States Army Field Band will deliver these performances to you through its virtual platforms so we can all enjoy the wonder and beauty that the National Park Service provides.

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ALTHOUGH THE U.S. ARMY FIELD BAND’S concert tours are on hold until Spring 2021, the mission of the organization continues. The Musical Ambassadors of the Army now connect America to its Army with the daily virtual concert series “We Stand Ready” via Facebook and YouTube. This change represents the most significant operational shift in the band’s history, and has made the organization the most versatile of its kind, leading the way for other military bands and performing ensembles.

The Concert Band and Soldiers’ Chorus were on Spring Tour 2020 when the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming clear to the world. As news sources and government agencies began advising against large gatherings and schools and venues began to close, the decision was made to end tour early. But America still needed the service that the Army Field Band provides, and the band still had the resources to make it happen.

“When The U.S. Army Field Band’s much-anticipated Spring Tour 2020 was cancelled, you could feel the disappointment from so many of us who worked long hours behind the scenes to put this tour on the road,” said Master Sergeant Lauren Curran, Strategic Communications NCO with the Army Field Band. “We knew how much our audiences were anticipating our concerts. The shows were ready, the music rehearsed and ready to be played...but how to get it out there safely? We quickly realized that as people made the choice to stay home for the good of their communities, there was an opportunity to share music and make connections virtually.”

With that realization, the virtual concert series “We Stand Ready” began to take shape. As soon as the band and chorus returned to Fort Meade, the Army Field Band’s two largest rehearsal spaces were transformed into a television studio and recording booth, and within a few days live concerts were being broadcast to thousands of listeners. Although limitations on large gatherings and proximity makes performances by the Concert Band, Soldiers’ Chorus, and Jazz Ambassadors not possible, the virtual concerts continue to reach audiences around the world.

“Our mission is to continue connecting with our audiences near and far, inspiring through music, and uniting us together as a nation,” said Master Sergeant Lauren Curran. “We Stand Ready” has brought music and hope to many Americans during this challenging time. The Army Field Band continues to serve America and its military personnel with pride and dedication.

The Army Field Band’s mission is to connect America to its Army through music and performance, and the virtual concert series “We Stand Ready” is just one way they continue to do so. The band looks forward to resuming their live tours in Spring 2021 and continuing to share their music with audiences around the world.

*Above: Sgt. 1st Class Jared Morgan and Staff Sgt. Ricky Furr operate video and sound for an installment of the We Stand Ready virtual concert series. Below: During a speaking segment of a livestream performance, Master Sgt. Lauren Curran operates the teleprompter from the Army Field Band control room.*
impractical, small ensembles can still perform together safely, and pre-recorded large ensemble concerts are also being broadcast. “Everything was designed to keep safety protocols in place,” continued MSG Curran, “while still allowing our tech crew and performers to execute online broadcasts. The entire unit has come together to support this effort.”

Currently, the concert series consists of Saturday and Sunday performances by the Concert Band, Soldiers’ Chorus, Jazz Ambassadors, and Six-String Soldiers. Every Monday and Wednesday, the band broadcasts new installments of The Soldier Sessions, each one featuring a single member of The U.S. Army Field Band.

“It’s so important during this time to let Americans know that their Army is here for them, from the Corps of Engineers to our brave medical staff,” said Sergeant Major Erica Russo, Operations Group Leader. “This livestream provides a daily reminder of that, and the response has been exceptional. Our primary mission has always been to inspire communities and foster patriotism, and we know how to bring that message to people, in their kitchens, living rooms, home offices, and makeshift home classrooms while we wait for a return to normalcy. Audiences frequently tell us that this is the best part of their day, or that their kids were riveted for a solid hour. As a mom, I know that’s high praise right now.”

ADAPTING THE CAPABILITIES of The United States Army Field Band to meet the needs of the Army and of the American people has been a monumental task, but not one the band has had to do alone.

WE STAND READY VIEWERSHIP

SINCE MARCH 20

TOTAL VIEWERS
19,175,379

TOTAL VIEWERS
7,545,526

TOTAL VIEWERS
33,244,004

= 1 MILLION

A MUSICAL TRIP TO THE ZOO

SIX-STRING SOLDIERS WITH MR. BILL DANCE

THE SOLDIERS’ CHOIR FEATURING STRAIGHT NO CHASER

WATCH NOW!
Staff Sgt. Hamilton Price, bass, and Sgt. 1st Class Randy Wight, vocals, perform together on an installment of the We Stand Ready virtual concert series.

We Stand Ready
VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES

ARMYFIELDBAND.COM/PRESENTER
PRESENTER PROVIDES

- CONCERT VENUE
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- PRINTING/DISTRIBUTION OF FREE TICKETS
- PRINTING OF PROGRAMS

WE PROVIDE

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- ARTWORK
- POSTERS

For updates on upcoming performances by The U.S. Army Field Band, follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Flicker, YouTube, or visit our website, ArmyFieldBand.com. As America continues to adapt to this challenge, The United States Army Field Band will be here, bringing you quality and uplifting entertainment and connecting you with your Army. We look forward to seeing you back in the concert hall soon, and until then, we'll see you online for the We Stand Ready virtual concert series!

FOLLOW US

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ON AUGUST 28, The United States Army Field Band released its newest album, Soundtrack of the American Soldier. Featuring classic audience favorites as well as newly commissioned works, the album showcases music that embodies the spirit of the American Soldier and tells the story of America’s Army through film, television, and even video games. In addition to representing a groundbreaking collection of new wind band music, the recording process itself is a technological marvel, providing an unparalleled listening experience and effectively transporting the listener into the ensemble through IMMERSIVE DOLBY ATMOS® (5.1.4), SURROUND (5.1), and STEREO monitoring and mixing.

To accomplish such a feat of audio engineering, the Concert Band and Soldiers’ Chorus spent a week at the world-renowned Skywalker Sound in Marin County, California at the suggestion of producer and frequent Army Field Band collaborator Dan Merceruio. Weeks earlier, Merceruio spent hours listening to the band at Fort Meade, Maryland, mapping specific seating configurations for each selection to ensure that the ensemble’s sound would be captured effectively in the studio. For most of the musicians it was an entirely new way of playing and recording music in an ensemble that wrapped 360 degrees around the conductor’s podium. Once in the studio at Skywalker, the days were long and attention to detail was painstaking, but the result was incredibly rewarding. The rare opportunity to make music in one of the world’s most well-engineered recording spaces was not lost on members of the Concert Band and Soldiers’ Chorus. “I was just blown away by how acoustically perfect the space was,” recalls Sergeant First Class Daniel Goff, saxophonist with the Concert Band. “I could hear across the entire ensemble with total clarity. I’ve never experienced anything like it.”

MUSICALLY, THE ALBUM encompasses a wide array of soundscapes, transporting listeners back in time with music from classic films like Sergeant York and 1941, and even into the future with “The Jedi Steps and Finale” from Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens. The Army Field Band also forged collaborative relationships with some of America’s finest contemporary film, television, and video game composers, including Mark Isham, Jeff Beal, and Joseph S. DeBeasi.

Following the recording session at Skywalker Sound, composers Mark Isham, Jeff Beal, and Joseph S. DeBeasi conduct The U.S. Army Field Band performing their music in concert, Los Angeles, California.

THE WORLD DESERVES TO HEAR THE PROFOUND STORY TOLD IN THIS RECORDING

—COL. JIM KEENE
television, and video game composers. Jeff Beal’s thrilling score from National Geographic’s miniseries The Long Road Home tells the story of the 1st Cavalry Division in Sadr City, Iraq in 2004, and Joseph DeBeasi arranged his American Sniper Suite from his score to the hit film, which chronicled the story of Navy Seal Chris Kyle.

“We are forever indebted to the composers who lent their spirit to this project,” says Colonel Jim Keene, Commander of The U.S. Army Field Band. “People like Grammy and Emmy award-winning composer Laura Karpman, who created a powerful representation of the service of America’s first female Four-Star General, Anne Dunwoody, appropriately titled ‘Brass Ceiling.’ Her use of artillery shells as percussion were just a part of painting an inspired picture of a trail-blazing Army officer. Another amazing voice, composer Joshua Moshier, made a profound and beautiful statement as he told the story of service to country in ‘A Portrait of Honor.’ His maturity was evident beyond his years in his exploration of the different colors that the ensemble could paint.”

For the Soldiers of The U.S. Army Field Band, the only thing as exciting as recording this album is hearing the final product and sharing it with listeners around the world. “The world deserves to hear the profound story told in this recording,” Colonel Keene adds. “The fact that it was done by the best of the best, performed by Soldiers who have dedicated themselves to serving others through music, shines through in this one-of-a-kind surround sound recording.” Soundtrack of the American Soldier tells the Army story in a new and powerful way, and is sure to have a profound impact on listeners for years to come.

Below From left: Col. Jim Keene, Grammy Award-winning recording engineer Leslie Ann Jones, producer Dan Merceruio, Skywalker staff engineer Dann Thompson, Chief Arranger Master Sergeant Adrian Hernandez, and Lt. Col. Domingos Robinson in the recording booth at Skywalker Sound.