



**Press Release: Ferris Set to Host Eighth Annual Veterans Day Concert**

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Included below is a press release regarding the eighth annual Veterans Day Concert at Ferris State University on Sunday, Nov. 14 in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium. Further information is available by contacting Sandy Gholston, interim assistant director of News Services.

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**Ferris Set to Host Eighth Annual Veterans Day Concert**

BIG RAPIDS – Our country’s veterans will be honored at center stage this Sunday (Nov. 14) in a musical salute straight from the heart of the Ferris State University and Big Rapids communities.

Ferris State’s West Central Concert Band will host a “pro-veteran” tribute with its eighth annual Veterans Day Concert at 4 p.m. in Williams Auditorium on the Ferris campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

Richard Scott Cohen, musical director and conductor of the WCCB, sees the concert as one of the unique ways that Ferris can thank the men and women who currently serve or have served in the United States military. The WCCB is in its 19<sup>th</sup> concert season and is comprised of Ferris students, adult community members and high-school students from music programs.

“This concert is neither pro-war nor an anti-war event. It is simply, and suitably, a pro-veteran tribute – making the effort to reach out to the men and women who have put their lives on the line for all of us back home,” Cohen said.

Sunday’s concert features a series of special guests including HBO actor Benjamin Busch, an award-winning writer, director and photographer, and a former major who led two tours in Iraq as a U.S. Marine; Ferris’ Veterans Association, which will perform the “Honored Guest Ceremony” in memory of our nation’s MIA/POWs; the Croton American Legion Post 381 Honor Guard from Newaygo, which will present the flags to open the ceremony; Dave Stuart O’Neil, who will perform with bagpipes prior to and during the concert; Dale E. Skornia, faculty director of the FSU Athletics Pep Band, who serves as a guest conductor; John R. King, a Big Rapids native and professor of voice at Albion College, who will be a featured vocalist; and Donna Smith, WCCB’s announcer, who will serve as host.

The band’s performance will feature several patriotic classics. The selections will include “Amazing Grace,” “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, “The Echo Never Fades” and more.

“The musical selections will include patriotic songs and other pieces composed during our nation’s various eras of military conflict, as well as pieces specifically prepared to honor those who have served our country,” said Cohen, an associate professor and director of instrumental concert ensembles at Ferris.

As part of the concert, the FSU Military Support Group plans to collect donated goods such as individually-wrapped snacks and toiletries for troops serving overseas. Cash donations, to assist men and women actively serving in the military, can be made out to “FSU Military Support Group.”



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