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# Thanks for the memories: David Hagy planning his final Pops at the Post

By Karen Kistler  
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David Hagy, who has served 36 years as the Salisbury Symphony conductor and has conducted the annual Pops at the Post concert since it began 20 years ago, will be retiring this year.

His career has spanned decades, beginning while in high school as he was encouraged by his music teachers to write music for the school's orchestra and conduct it as well as conducting some of his original music at a summer music camp the public school offered.

Attending Indiana University, Hagy played in the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and studied with the conductor Thomas Briccetti who became his first mentor. Following his time at the university, he got a job with the Omaha Area Youth Orchestra where he was employed for four years before going to graduate school at Yale, where he worked with his second mentor, Otto-Werner Mueller, and earned his masters and doctorate degrees.

In the summer of 1988, Hagy said he was hired as

the conductor of the Salisbury Symphony, while at this same time, conducting both the Greensboro and Winston-Salem Youth Orchestras, and for 27 years, he served as the orchestra director at Wake Forest University, retiring from them two years ago.

While Hagy will be retiring this year, he will still be involved in various aspects of the symphony, serving as the music director emeritus, which means he will continue to conduct "The Nutcracker" each season, plus he will be available as

a resource to whoever the new music director will be, and the board, if they need to ask questions or consult, he said.

And, the title emeritus is a way of showing respect for the job one has done, "so, I'm hopeful that the title is also partially that," Hagy said with a laugh.

Also as the director emeritus, he could possibly fill in if an emergency situation arises with the new conductor. Multiple candidates have been reviewed to serve as his replacement;

See **Thanks**, 3D



Conductor David Hagy speaks to the audience during the annual Pops at the Post concert on June 3, 2023.

Photo by Andy Mooney, Salisbury Post.

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# Thanks

Continued from 2D

however, no announcement has been made as to who will be replacing him.

Noting that because they still have to hire a director and negotiate with that person, he did stress this is “probably” his final Pops at the Post, but he did go on to say “whether or not this is my absolute final, I don’t know, but we are preparing it as if it will be my final Pops at the Post.”

This special concert began 20 years ago as a one-time celebration for the 100th anniversary of the Salisbury Post and when searching with the editor at the time for a place to have it, he was struck with how incredible the acoustics were at the loading dock, and the concert platform was settled on and has continued to be held in this location each year.

At the first concert, Hagy said, “there were so many people at that concert, loved the concert that they clamored for that concert to be done again and so a board was formed separately from the Salisbury Symphony and incorporated as a 501c3 organization to present this concert annually.”

While serving as the conductor with the Salisbury Symphony, Hagy said “there were so many wonderful moments.”

He told of the 25th anniversary as they celebrated with the founding conductor Albert Chaffoo, the beginning of “The Nutcracker” performances, a 50th anniversary concert with the performance of a very difficult piece called “Don Juan” by Richard Strauss and some wonderful soloist performances, gospel choirs and other choral groups.

See **Thanks**, 4D



The Salisbury Symphony performs during the annual Pops at the Post concert on June 3, 2023.

Photo by Andy Mooney, Salisbury Post.



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# Thanks

Continued from 3D

Hagy noted one concert in particular, in 2000, subtitled the Resurrection Symphony by Mahler, where there were more than 200 people in the chorus and more than 100 in the orchestra, and some of them hidden backstage, in the balcony and other places with camera to see him and follow his conducting, making it seem as though the “sound came presumably from heaven. It was amazing! That was a remarkable concert.”

Hagy said his parents were not musical. They had no piano in the home and not even a record player; and therefore credits his becoming a musician to the public school system in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Throughout his years in school, beginning in first grade, they had a drop

the needle on a record test and had to identify both the piece and composer. So by the time he reached the eighth grade, he was trained in 80 orchestral pieces. This, plus the music teachers helping him learn instruments and encouraging him in his writing and conducting, he said, “you can see how this public school system made a child of nonmusical parents into a classical orchestral conductor. It was just amazing, the level of teaching was phenomenal and the level of interest.”

Looking toward retirement, Hagy said he wanted to say thanks to the Salisbury community for their support and “allowing me to work with their orchestra for this wonderful length of time and for funding it.”

He was also thankful for the friendly people he has been able to work with through his time and that



The Salisbury Symphony performed during the annual Pops at the Post concert in 2023

Photo by Andy Mooney, Salisbury Post.

he has made some lifelong friends, mentioning Linda Jones and Missy Shives, the orchestra’s first two managers and executive directors.

To those who have attended concerts and sup-

ported through the years, Hagy said it is his “sincere hope that they will continue to enjoy the Salisbury Symphony and they continue to support it.”

He thanked all for “attending when they could,

supporting when they couldn’t attend and just being a part of the symphony’s extended family.”

On behalf of the Pops at the Post board, Audrey Eudy, who serves as the vice chair said, “The Pops

at the Post board would like to thank David Hagy for his many years of excellence with our community concert and wish much happiness for his future.”

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# Pops at the Post to offer lots of Hagy's favorites

By Karen Kistler  
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Music lovers, get ready for the 20th annual Pops at the Post.

Held the first Saturday in June, this free community event will be June 1 in the 100 block of South Church Street with the orchestra seated behind the Salisbury Post building.

The concert will begin with the Salisbury Swing Band taking the stage from 5-6:30 p.m., followed by the Salisbury Symphony, led by Maestro David Hagy. The symphony's performance will begin at 7:30 p.m., lasting approximately two

hours with a 20 minute intermission.

The theme of this year's Pops at the Post will be Hagy's Favorites.

"They were kind enough to let me do the theme," said Hagy. "I'm getting to choose things that I really love."

The symphony's first song will be a concert version of the "Star Spangled Banner," and Hagy shared they hope to have color guards from both the Boy Scouts and veterans.

The second piece will be something from the orches-

tra's classical season, he said. This year they will be performing two pieces, one from "The Planets," subtitled "Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity." He said it is a "wonderful, boisterous, beautiful thing."

The second will be a Stephen Sondheim piece titled, "Comedy Tonight."

Next will be a nod to jazz as they perform "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing" after which their three soloists take the stage – Vince Eury performing "The Very Thought of You;" Lauren

Stephenson who will sing "Colors of the Wind" from the Disney movie "Pocahontas," which Hagy said is one of his favorite Disney songs, because it deals with ecology; and Teresa Moore-Mitchell, who will be singing "Summertime" from "Porgy and Bess." Hagy said she is "just the perfect operatic singer for that."

Additional songs on the program will be a popular rock song "Uptown Funk" followed by Star Trek through the years as they will perform Star

Trek themes from all of the various Star Trek television shows and movies and "Nimrod" from Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar.

The final piece for the first portion of the program will be the ending music from the movie, "E.T." by John Williams.

Hagy said that the second half would be similar to what has been done previously with the exception of the opening piece which will be the trio of Moore-Mitchell, Eury and Stephenson performing

"Wherever We Go."

Peter Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" followed by two marches by John Phillip Sousa, "The Washington Post," which Hagy said they call the Salisbury Post, and "Stars and Stripes Forever" will conclude the program.

Two encores have been prepared, the first being "America the Beautiful" and a second he said, "is something to show off the orchestra, but I won't tell what that one is."

See **Favorites**, 8D



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# SALISBURY SYMPHONY POPS AT THE POST

"STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" — CONCERT VERSION.....	John Stafford Smith, arr. John Williams
"JUPITER, BRINGER OF JOLLITY" from <i>The Planets</i> .....	Gustav Holst
"COMEDY TONIGHT" .....	Stephen Sondheim, arr. Don Sebesky
from <i>A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum</i>	
"IT DON'T MEAN A THING IF IT AIN'T GOT THAT SWING" .....	Duke Ellington
"THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU" .....	Ray Noble, arr. John Stafford
Vince Eury, baritone	
"COLORS OF THE WIND" from <i>Pocahontas</i> .....	Alan Menken
Lauren Stephenson, soprano	
"SUMMERTIME" from <i>Porgy and Bess</i> .....	George Gershwin
Teresa Moore-Mitchell, soprano	
"UPTOWN FUNK" .....	Mark Ronson
STAR TREK THROUGH THE YEARS .....	various composers, arr. John Moss
"NIMROD" from <i>Enigma Variations</i> .....	Edward Elgar
"ADVENTURE ON EARTH" .....	from John Williams
from <i>E.T., the Extraterrestrial</i>	

*Pause for pass the hat & to meet your neighbors*

"TOGETHER WHEREVER WE GO" .....	Jule Styne
from <i>Gypsy</i>	
Teresa Moore-Mitchell, Vince Eury, Lauren Stephenson, vocalists	
"1812 OVERTURE" .....	Peter Tchaikovsky
"SALISBURY POST MARCH" .....	John Philip Sousa
"STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER" .....	John Philip Sousa





**The Salisbury Symphony performs during the annual Pops at the Post concert in 2023.**  
Photo by Andy Mooney, Salisbury Post.

# Favorites

Continued from 5D

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own

chairs or a blanket and sit in the Bell Tower Park to enjoy the concert. VIP seating for sponsors and special guests will be placed on South Church Street.

As noted on the Pops at the Post website, Church, West Fisher and Jackson streets surrounding the Bell Tower Green will be closed on the day of the

event.

In the event of rain, the concert may be moved to the Keppel Auditorium at Catawba College. This decision will be made on Friday.

Check [www.salisburypost.com](http://www.salisburypost.com) for updates.

Food vendors will be onsite the day of the event, and please note that only service dogs will be al-

lowed at the concert.

For details on parking, tailgating and other questions, visit [www.salisburysymphony.org/pops-at-the-post/](http://www.salisburysymphony.org/pops-at-the-post/)



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Stephanie Potter	Designated seat
Karen Alexander	Designated seat
Sada Stewart Trout	Designated seat
Greg Anderson	At large
Jason Walser	At large
David Hagy	Staff
Hunter Safrit	Staff



**Last year, Som's Meat on a Stick grilled meat before the annual Pops at the Post, vendors will be available to feed the masses.**

Photo by Andy Mooney, Salisbury Post.



**A couple enjoyed dancing to beach music performed by the Salisbury Swing Band before the annual Pops at the Post concert in 2023.**

Photo by Andy Mooney, Salisbury Post.

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