

2D • TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024

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

By Karen Kistler karen.kistler@salisburypost.com

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.

versity. Hagy played in the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and studied with the conductor Thomas Briccetti who became his first mentor. Following his time at he served as the orchestra 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.

Attending Indiana Uni- the conductor of the Salisbury Symphony, while at this same time, conducting both the Greensboro and Winston-Salem Youth Orchestras, and for 27 years, 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. Hagy said he was hired as 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,

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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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

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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



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 at-

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 "atthrough his time and that tended concerts and sup- tending when they could, vice chair said, "The Pops

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

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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SALISBURY POST

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

By Karen Kistler karen.kistler@salisburypost.com

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.. termission.

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

hours with a 20 minute in- 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 lasting approximately two something from the orches- Thought of You;" Lauren as they will perform Star Stephenson performing

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 Elgar. with ecology; and Teresa Moore-Mitchell, who will first portion of the program 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 Moore-Mitchell, Eury and

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

The final piece for the 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 "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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JUNE 1, 2024 20th ANNUAL

Salisbury Symphony Pops at the Post

"STAR-SPANGLED BANNER" — CONCERT VERSION	John Stafford Smith, arr. John Williams
"JUPITER, BRINGER OF JOLLITY" from The Planets	Gustav Holst
"COMEDY TONIGHT" from A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum	Stephen Sondheim, arr. Don Sebesky
"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
"COLORS OF THE WIND" from Pocahontas Lauren Stephenson, soprano	Alan Menken
"SUMMERTIME" from Porgy and Bess Teresa Moore-Mitchell, soprano	George Gershwin
"UPTOWN FUNK"	Mark Ronson
STAR TREK THROUGH THE YEARS	various composers, arr. John Moss
"NIMROD" from Enigma Variations	Edward Elgar
"ADVENTURE ON EARTH" from E.T., the Extraterrestrial	from John Williams
Pause for pass the hat & to meet your neighbors	
"TOGETHER WHEREVER WE GO" from Gypsy Teresa Moore-Mitchell, Vince Eury, Lauren Stephenson, vocalists	Jule Styne
"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 South Church Street.

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 Bell Tower Green will be Catawba College. This deci-

As noted on the Pops at event. the Post website, Church, West Fisher and Jackson

In the event of rain, the concert may be moved to streets surrounding the the Keppel Auditorium at closed on the day of the sion will be made on Friday.

Check www.salisburypost. lowed at the concert. com for updates.

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

For details on parking, Food vendors will be tailgating and other questions, visit www.salisburysymphony.org/pops-at-the-



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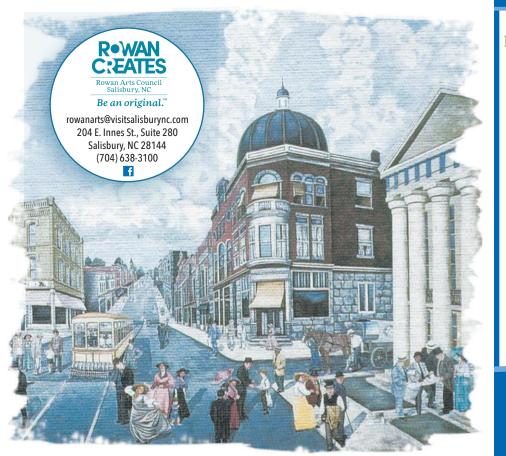
Last year, Som's Meat on a Stick grilled meat before the annual Pops at the Post, venders will be available to feed the masses.

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.

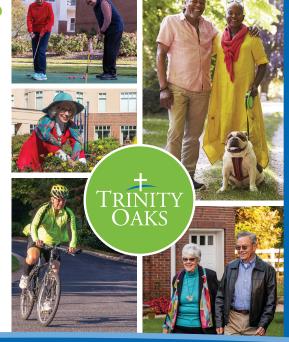
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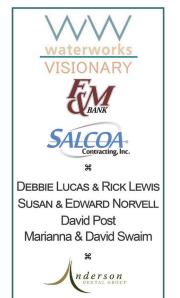
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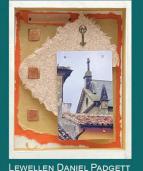




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