

Govenaires' Winter 2007 Rehearsal Schedule

January

5: 7 – 11 pm, Brass and Perc.

6: 10 am – 6 pm, Full corps
-Brass 1 to 6 pm only

19: 7 – 11 pm, Brass and Perc.

20: 10 am – 6 pm, Perc.
-Brass 1 to 6 pm only

February

2: 7 – 11 pm, Full corps

3: 10 am – noon, Full corps

23: 7 – 11 pm, Brass and Perc.

24: 10 am – 6 pm, Perc.
-Brass 1 to 6 pm only

March

9: 7 – 11 pm, Full corps

10: 10am – 6 pm, Full corps

30: 7 – 11 pm, Full corps

31: 10 am to 6 pm, Full corps

**Check the Govenaires website
for rehearsal locations and
directions.**

**Please contact the corps for
more information about any of
these rehearsals!**

WINTER PERFORMANCES!

**February 3: Winter Carnival
Parade, St. Paul**

**February 9: WinterFest parade,
St. Peter**

**March 17: St. Patrick's Day
parade, St. Peter (4 pm)**

**Everyone is welcome to join the
corps for any of the above
performances!**



The Mouthpiece

The member and alumni newsletter for the Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps

Winter 2007

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World Champions!

Over Labor Day weekend, 2006, the Govenaires traveled to Rochester, NY, to compete in the Drum Corps Associates World Championships, and they returned to St. Peter as the Class A World Champions!

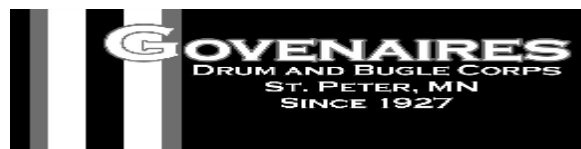
The corps dominated in preliminary competition on Saturday even through performing in a torrential downpour, courtesy of Tropical Storm Ernesto. On Sunday, the weather was much nicer for final competition, and the corps took first place with a score of 78.625. The corps also won many specific caption awards, including High Visual, High Overall Effect, Best Colorguard, and Best Drum Major. Lastly, many corps members competed in Individual and Ensemble competition, and members Aaron Hartwell and Angie Braunwarth won first place in the Brass Duet category.

"I'm happy that we performed well; we had a really entertaining show and the crowd loved it. I'm happy with how we represented Minnesota and our home city of St. Peter," says John Mayer, the corps' artistic director and drum major.

This is the first Drum Corps Associates (DCA) World Championship title for the Govenaires, who have been in existence since 1927 and are the oldest competing all-age drum and bugle corps in the world! This is only the third year that the Govenaires have traveled to the East Coast to compete in the DCA Championships—they stormed on the national drum corps scene with second place finishes in both 2004 and 2005, and this year have earned the top honors.

The Govenaires would like to thank everyone who donated time or money this season to help out the corps, and all the people who watched them perform in local parades and shows.

In 2007, the Govenaires will be celebrating their 80th anniversary! There's plenty of time to join and become a part of the nationally renowned Govenaires!



The Govenaires announce a Capital Fundraising Campaign to buy new horns!

The corps hopes to raise \$40,000 to fully pay for 22 new horns in B-flat, bringing the Govenaires up to date with other corps. In order to raise this money, the corps is expanding their 'Friends of the Govenaires' membership program, and devoting all individual contributions in 2007 to this capital campaign. Donation levels are as follows:

\$1 to \$100: Bronze Level

\$101 to \$250: Silver Level

\$251 to \$500: Gold Level

\$501 to \$999: Diamond Level

\$1000 to \$1999: Concert-in-your-backyard Level!

\$2000 and above: Concert-on-your-backyard plus super prizes Level!

All contributions will also be rewarded with publicity in this newsletter as well as our program for the Drum Corps Expo, the St. Peter drum and bugle corps competition held next year on August 19th, 2007.

The Govenaires plan to reach this goal of raising \$40,000 through individual and business donations, supplemented by grant funds and sponsorships if available. If you or your business is interested in donating to support this fundraising campaign, please contact the Govenaires (contact info on back page of newsletter).

Thank you for your support!

In Govie news...

ST. PETER WINTERFEST

The City of St. Peter is again holding 'Winterfest', held over the second two weekends of February. The Govenaires will be appearing in a Winterfest parade held on Friday, February 9th. All alumni and friends are invited to march this parade! The parade will follow a similar route as the St. Patrick's Day parade. For other Winterfest events, check the city's website, at www.tourism.st-peter.mn.us.

NEW HORNS!

The Govenaires will be purchasing new horns for the 2007 season! The new line will consist of 22 B-flat horns—6 sopranos, 4 mellophones, 4 contras, 2 euphoniums, and 6 baritones. The corps' current G horns are for sale to anyone who is interested. Prices are:

Sopranos @ \$200 each

Mellophones @ \$300 each

Baritones @ \$400 each

Euphoniums @ \$600 each

Contrabass @ \$1200 each

All are in the key of G, silver-plated, and have three working valves and tuning slides and all that good stuff. Cases are also included with each bugle. Contact brass@govenaires.org to order—payment is due upon delivery of the bugle. Also, see the 'Capital Campaign' announcement on this page!

GOVIE MEMORABILIA NEEDED

Do you have newspaper clippings, show programs, old pictures, or other Govenaires memorabilia? The corps is trying to collect as much as possible to scan in and add to our history archives. Contact us if you have something to share!

GOVIES BULLETIN BOARD

Looking for a way to keep track of what's going on with the Govenaires? Stop by the Govies' website, www.govenaires.org, and check out our bulletin board! Feel free to post questions, comments, concerns, or anything else. Use the board to keep us updated about your lives, or to see what's new with the Govies!

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Business meetings are the second Monday of every month, held at either Midtown Tavern or The Oleander in Mankato, at 7:00 pm. If you have an idea or opinion to share with the corps, stop on in to a business meeting!

RECRUITING!

It's time to focus on recruiting—adding new members in all sections as well as support staff! Anyone interested in the corps is welcome to drop by winter rehearsals, and experience what it's like to be a part of the Govenaires. Contact the corps at recruiting@govenaires.org if you are interested, or if you know anyone else who wants to join! The first rehearsals are held on January 5th and 6th at the Performing Arts Center at Minnesota State University—Mankato, and all rehearsals are open through March for people to drop in. Keep checking the Govenaires website for updated rehearsal time and location information, and come on down and check out the World Champion Govenaires!

The following essay was submitted by Cari White, a Govenaires rookie in 2006, as application for the 2006 Michael Wick Sponsorship, donated by alumni Michael Wick to pay the corps dues of one member. This essay won Cari the sponsorship, and the corps would like to share this with all of our members, alumni, and friends.

The Joys of Being a Govenaire—by Cari White

I distinctly remember being 17, and sitting in the stands in Hastings Minnesota. It was the summer before my senior year of high school and I was at a drum corps show for the first time. My best friend was marching Blue Stars, and I was so excited to see her perform. However, before the Stars entered the ring, out marched these guys in green and white, wearing sunglasses. I didn't know what to expect, because they seemed like they were going to have fun. Now, in my limited experience of marching band, one thing we were not supposed to have on the field was fun. Marching band was a serious activity, full of discipline and yelling. When the Govenaires drum major (who I now know as the legendary John Mayer) announced the corps and they began to play, my perception of drum corps and even marching band changed. For the first time I saw that it is possible to have fun and still perform to an amazing level. I don't remember the music from that year, I don't remember how big the horn line was, or how many people were in the pit. But I do remember that the Govenaires got the crowd on their feet when they were done and they looked like they loved what they had just done, put on a great show for people who love drum corp. I remember as they left the field thinking 'someday, I want to be a Govenaire.'

I believe that experience encompasses what it means to be a Govenaire. It means to have a passion to entertain. To truly love what it means to be a part of the drum corps community. It is something that goes beyond simply playing an instrument in a competition. After spending my first season with the Green corps, I now understand what I only glimpsed at 17. It's about meeting people from all over the country who love the same thing you do. It's not simply about winning, but how well you personally played/performed that day. (Although being a world champion is nice). There were many times when I asked an instructor what he thought of our performance and he would simply ask me if I thought I had done a good job. If I thought I had, that was good enough. The score doesn't matter, as long as we can drink beer and hang out together at the end. (As a horn player so aptly put it.) While working hard was not overlooked, I also was accepted for my playing abilities and was pushed to improve.

I learned a lot in my first season as a Govenaire, not only about how to play a show with a very wet instrument in the aftermath of a hurricane, but about myself. I was able to step out of my box, meet new people and be accepted for who I am. This is why I am proud to be a Govenaire, and why I will always be a Govenaire. Because of the people who make up the Green Corps, the people who are some of the most accepting I know, and the fun we have together putting together something that is truly amazing, world champion amazing.

Return Address:

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St. Peter MN
56082

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80th Anniversary Show!

In 2006, the Govenaires earned a World Championship Class A title at the Drum Corps Associates Championships! In 2007, the Govenaires will celebrate their 80th anniversary, and will only build upon their extraordinary success of the previous season. The 80th Anniversary show is entitled "**We've Only Just Begun**", featuring a mix of music old and new to the corps.

The show opens with '*Julius*' by Phish, and continues into the jazz standard '*Love for Sale*', the classic last played by the Govenaires in 1999. The next piece is entitled '*Harlem Nocturne*', written by Earle Hagen. Lastly, the show closes with '*Sing Sang Sung*', by Gordon Goodwin and His Big Phat Band. It's going to be an incredible show! All pieces are arranged for the Govenaires by Andy Yosviak and Jeremy Kunkel. The corps is also excited to bring back drill designer Jeffrey Peterson, as well as talented staff in all sections.

There's plenty of time to join the World Champion Govenaires and be a part of what will surely be another wonderful season. Rehearsals begin in January, and are open to all who are interested. Just email the corps at recruiting@govenaires.org, and the corps will answer your questions and send you information. The rehearsal schedule is now posted online at www.govenaires.org.



Govenaires contact info:

Mail: The Govenaires Drum and Bugle Corps, p.o. box 235, St. Peter, MN, 56082

Phone: (507) 388-1927
(corps hotline)

Website: www.govenaires.org

Email: For comments / concerns / info,
email president@govenaires.org.

With questions/concerns regarding this newsletter, contact Emily Stark at pr@govenaires.org.