

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND

Portland Marching Band Bound for Calgary "Come Hell or High Water"

Portland, OR – On July 5, Portland's hardest-working marching band becomes part of "The Greatest Outdoor Show On Earth" as **The Beat Goes On Marching Band (TBGO)** takes to the streets in the world-famous Calgary Stampede Parade. The parade is one of North America's premier band events, boasting twenty-five to thirty top-tier bands, a live audience of 350,000 spectators, and a national television audience exceeding 10 million viewers. The Beat Goes On, an all-adult group with members ranging in age from 20's to 80's, has been preparing for the trip since earning the much-coveted invitation last November. Nearly 100 travelers will depart Portland starting July 2.

The 101st Stampede comes hard on the heels of disastrous flooding that inundated much of downtown Calgary and forced at least 75,000 people from their homes. Despite the devastation, Stampede president and board chairman Bob Thompson remained undaunted: "We will be hosting the greatest show on Earth come hell or high water," he said. "Throughout our entire history we have never cancelled a show, despite two wars and a Great Depression – 2013 will be no exception."

"We're in awe of Calgary's resiliency and are really looking forward to rocking out with the Calgary crowd," said TBGO President and Music Director Steve Tolopka. "We'll rotate through four tunes on the parade route including some Lady Gaga and a version of Shania Twain's 'Up!' that we arranged especially for our Canadian friends." Since TBGO appeared in the Pendleton Westward Ho! Parade last September, he added, "It's way cool that we get to perform at two of the world's great rodeo events inside a year."

Tom Higham, TBGO Co-Founder and Travel Director, added his own take on the trip: "We're totally jazzed at getting to perform at a major event like the Calgary Stampede. Those other show bands may have more spit and polish, but we guarantee we'll put more smiles on more faces!"

The Calgary appearance is one highlight in a 2013 calendar that already contains two dozen events for TBGO, including May's historic performance as the first marching band ever to open a legislative session of the Oregon House of Representatives. Following its return from Calgary, **The Beat Goes On** will be appearing at Troutdale Summerfest on July 20 and at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts on July 24.

TBGO is always seeking new members to join the fun and encourages any adult with band experience to apply at www.thebeatgoesonmb.org.

THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND: More events, more music, more smiles!

Want to come out and play?

Email: director@tbgo.org

Website: <http://thebeatgoesonmb.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheBeatGoesOnMarchingBand