

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Portland, Oregon

Parade season brings a call for new members

PORTLAND – Spring means warmer temperatures and more sun, not to mention flowers, festivals and marching bands. One of the area’s larger bands is gearing up for a spring and summer full of appearances and is looking to expand its ranks.

“We’ve got regional performances scheduled in Keizer, Astoria, Newberg, Hillsboro and several around Portland in the next few months.” says Steve Tolopka, music director and president of **The Beat Goes On Marching Band (TBGO)**. “Now is a great time for folks from 18 to 80 to join us for a summer of fun!”

This adult band currently has 150 members and is looking to grow by about 20. Since many members work, expanding the number of players and auxiliaries helps ensure a big, enthusiastic performance each time out.

“What a thrill it is to march down the street with TBGO! I love being a part of this great group. Everyone works together, making fine music and creating deep friendships,” says Marcy Tuffli, the band’s most senior member. “Marching down the street, twirling my baton and seeing the many smiling faces in the crowd makes the adrenalin flow and the energy come alive! Every parade creates a new memory.”

“I’ve been playing trombone since fifth grade, including in high school, Air Force ROTC and community bands. So The Beat Goes On gives me the chance to continue making music with nice people,” says Jon French. “All along the way, I enjoy playing both at rehearsals and at our gigs, concerts and parades. And I really enjoy watching the audience reactions.”

But you don’t have to be a lifelong musician to join in the fun. “I’m still working on a couple of people who say ‘It’s been so long since I played.’ I always tell them that most of the current band members said the same thing before they joined,” says trumpeter Judy Lugar, one of TBGO’s best recruiters. “I tell them it comes back pretty easily and that practice makes perfect! I also tell them that they can print free fingering charts from several websites.”

If you’d like to see the band in action, its next performance will be in the Keizer Iris Festival parade, north of Salem, on May 17. Musicians of all stripes as well as baton twirlers, dancers and flag spinners can join TBGO – the only requirements are being at least 18 and having previous school, college or military band experience. An application form can be found on the band’s Website at <http://www.thebeatgoesonmb.org/forms/enroll.htm>.

THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND: More smiles per mile!

Want to come out and play?

Email: director@tbgo.org

Website: <http://www.tbgo.org/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheBeatGoesOnMarchingBand