

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NOTE: THE MEDIA IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE SEND-OFF PARTY ON SEP. 3. DETAILS BELOW.**

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## The Beat Goes On Marching Band

Portland, Oregon

### Band Enters Home Stretch in its Race to Shanghai

PORTLAND – In China, 2014 is the Year of the Horse. In Portland, that horse – **The Beat Goes On (TBGO)** marching band – is rounding the clubhouse turn, headed for the finish line ... which just happens to be in Shanghai.

On Sep. 10 the band's 122 members will fly across the Pacific to be the sole U.S. representative at the Shanghai Tourism Festival. This year's theme of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual festival is marching bands, and ensembles are coming from around the world to take part in the five-day gala. TBGO's trip includes a parade through the largest city in the world and two other performances in Shanghai as well as one in Portland's sister city of Suzhou.

The Beat Goes On is an all-adult band whose members range in age from 20 to 82. They've performed nearly 20 times this year – across western Oregon and from Massachusetts to San Francisco – in anticipation of their China adventure. That includes the Noon Showcase this Wednesday, Aug. 20, on SW Main Street, between Broadway and Park Ave. in downtown Portland. They'll also appear with Oregon Symphony conductor Carlos Kalmar at the Hillsboro Hops game on Sunday, Aug. 24.

Of course, it takes dough to blow a band across the Pacific. The band has been raising funds for months for the trip. Donations have ranged from five-dollar raffle tickets to corporate sponsorships from Moda Health and Intel, to a \$50,000 Public Diplomacy Cultural Programming Grant from the U.S. State Department. The band's Website, [www.tbgo.org](http://www.tbgo.org), is accepting online donations as well.



TBGO's final fundraising push – largely dependent on those raffle tickets – takes place at its send-off party on Wednesday, Sep. 3 at the Lloyd Center Buffalo Wild Wings (BWW) at 1200 NE Broadway in Portland. The public and media are invited to join the party. The band will receive 15 percent of food and beverage sales from 5 – 10pm that night. For the raffle (more)

that evening, BWW is donating a pair of Trailblazer tickets, transportation to the game and a gift card. Other prizes include an overnight stay at McMenemy's Kennedy School, gear from the Portland Timbers, Thorns and the MLS All-Star Game, seats to the Oregon Symphony and more. Band members are already selling raffle tickets and they'll be available at the send-off party, at Buffalo Wild Wings on Sep. 3.

"People should expect a good time that night. We're going to take this fund-raiser and make it the best it can possibly be," says BWW general manager David Gray. "We'll have the band outside the front door playing for people as they are coming in. We'll be showing TBGO videos on the big screens and the band will decorate the place. The Beat Goes On will get 100 percent of the raffle proceeds. That'll be where most of the money comes from. Hopefully, it will be an electric environment."



Flute player Debb Chapman (left) is organizing the event and raffle for the band. "When it comes to raising money for the trip, we're in the home stretch for sure. I've had some experience with being on Get-on-your-knees-and-beg committees years ago and was relatively successful. I wanted to see what I could make happen this time for the band – by having us *play* instead of beg!"

She's also excited to see what the band can make happen in China: "I can't wait to share what we do when we step out onto their streets. That we've been invited to come to Shanghai and perform boggles my mind!"

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#### PHOTO CAPTIONS/CREDITS:

The Beat Goes On marching band and auxiliary units performing at the Multnomah Days celebration in southwest Portland on Aug. 16. Page 1 and Debb Chapman photos © Ross Dickinson. Other page 2 photos by Suzanne Stoker. Photo files available upon request.



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

***Want to come out and play?***

Email: [director@tbgo.org](mailto:director@tbgo.org)

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