

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Portland, Oregon**

## **The Road to Shanghai starts in Portland**

PORTLAND, OR – The blustery spring showers of March and April may not bring blaring brass and bass drums to mind, but The Beat Goes On Marching Band (TBGO) is already deep into its parade and performance season.

TBGO is Portland’s traveling troubadours, journeying around the state and far beyond, though this marching band is far more likely to play Lady Gaga than John Philip Sousa. 2014 has already seen this adult troupe of 100 strong perform in San Francisco’s Chinese New Year Parade and morph into two ensembles to serenade participants in Portland’s Shamrock Run both downtown and in the Pearl District.

April brings gigs at Business Expo West in Beaverton (April 3), the Oregon Adult Band Festival in Canby (April 5), and southeast Portland’s 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue of Roses Parade (April 26). All told, TBGO will play more than 20 times this year.

Two highlights of the schedule are marching in the nation’s oldest Independence Day parade in Bristol, Rhode Island and multiple performances at the Shanghai Tourism Festival in China in September.

“It’s an ambitious schedule, but we’re an ambitious group ... and a little bit insane!” says TBGO founder and music director Steve Tolopka. “What better goals can a bunch of band geeks have than to celebrate history in New England and *make* history in China. We’re the *only* American band to be invited to the Shanghai festival – a festival whose theme this year *is* marching bands!”

The far-flung schedule and the prestigious events mean the band is seeking both new members and financial support. The band’s home page (<http://www.tbgo.org>) provides information about joining as a player or a sponsor. TBGO’s goal is 20 new players and \$150,000.

“There’s no getting around it,” says saxophonist Tolopka, “it takes dough for us to blow!” Especially across the country and overseas.

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

*Want to come out and play?*

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

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheBeatGoesOnMarchingBand](http://www.facebook.com/TheBeatGoesOnMarchingBand)