



PRESS RELEASE

From: Vincent Pezzimenti, Public Information Specialist

Re: Press Release

Date: March 13, 2019

Salamanca Band Students to Perform World Premiere Composition at March 21 Concert

SALAMANCA, NY – Composer Rick Kirby is set to visit Salamanca City Central School District for a two-day residency that will culminate in the world premiere of his “Woodsongs” piece performed by district students.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled for 6 p.m., March 21 at the Salamanca High School auditorium at 50 Iroquois Drive.

More than 200 fourth through 12th grade Salamanca students will perform Kirby’s piece together at the end of the district’s all-band concert.

“Composer Rick Kirby has teamed up with Bill Crouse to write a piece of concert band music that incorporates a native social dance melody into it,” said district music chair, Scott Bean.

Kirby was a public school teacher for nearly 30 years before retiring in 2001 to pursue a full-time career as a composer and arranger.

He has arranged or composed for many marching bands, including groups from Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, Arizona, and California. He is the staff arranger for the award-winning Sound of Sun Prairie Marching Band and the Wisconsin state champion Waukesha West High School marching band.

Mr. Kirby has also been involved in many commissioning projects including writing compositions for concert bands, jazz ensembles, choirs, orchestras, and other instrumental ensembles. His music is published by Boosey and Hawkes, Daehn Publications, Hal Leonard Music, Arrangers’ Publishing Company, and his own publishing company, Spirit of the Music Publications.

Kirby directed the *Waukesha Area Symphonic Band* from 2003 until his retirement in 2017. Under his leadership, the band was awarded the coveted Sudler Silver Scroll Award in 2017. It is presented only to the most outstanding community bands in the United States.

A decorated band director, Mr. Kirby was the Wisconsin Music Educators Association’s 2002 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to a music educator for lifelong meritorious service, excellence and dedication to music education in Wisconsin.



SALAMANCA

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Website www.salamancany.org

Prospect Elementary School
300 Prospect Avenue
Salamanca, New York 14779
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/SalamancaWarriors

Most recently, Kirby was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee.

Contact Scott Bean, district music chair and teacher, at (716) 945-2404 x6216 or sbean@salamancany.org for more information.

To learn more about the Salamanca City Central School District visit www.SalamancaNY.org. You can also find us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SalamancaWarriors.

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