



# Music to your ears

## Association of Concert Bands National Convention



**Wednesday:** The Air Force Band of Flight, and Kalamazoo Concert Band  
**Thursday:** East Winds Symphonic Band from Pittsburgh, PA, and Windiana from Valparaiso, IN  
**Friday:** The North Oakland Concert Band from Lake Orion, MI, and The Grand Rapids Symphonic Band from GR, MI  
**Saturday:** The ACB Concert Band (consisting of ACB members from across the country who get together just for this opportunity), and the West MI Concert Winds

The West Michigan Concert Winds (WMCW), will host the Association of Concert Bands (ACB) National Convention in Muskegon from May 11-14. This opportunity recognizes the Muskegon area as an active cultural center as well as an attractive recreational and scenic destination.

Bringing people to the Muskegon area is good for local business, and the convention is opening all concert events to residents and visitors to enjoy free of charge.

Tickets will only be necessary for the opening concert featuring the Air Force Band of Flight on Wednesday, May 11. However, these tickets can be obtained at the Frauenthal Box Office at no charge.

The ACB will be the largest group of exceptional national band talent from across the country ever assembled together at one time in West Michigan. Musicians will attend seminars and workshops, perform concerts, tour the local area by trolley and play together in the Convention Band. There will be 6500 seats open to the public during this venue.

The event will bring in approximately 250 convention guests and 600 musicians. The Muskegon Holiday Inn is the comfortable host hotel for convention guests and is situated across the street from the Frauenthal Center for the Performing Arts, which will be the site of most convention activities. The Shoreline Inn will also have rooms available for guests and band members.

Two bands will perform each evening at the Frauenthal. Besides the opening and featured Air Force Band of Flight, guest bands will hail from Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids and Oakland County.

These talented bands were selected from 17 extraordinary bands that applied.

The ACB Convention Band and the WINDS will perform the closing concerts on Saturday night, May 14. The ACB Convention Band is made up of ACB members coming to the convention to practice and perform while together in Muskegon.

These presentations are made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and the generous support of their sponsors: Nichols Paper, Baker College, Muskegon Community College, Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, MCCVB, Raymond James, JSJ Corp. and the Women's Division of the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce.

WMCW has also organized "The Many Colors of Community Bands" for Saturday afternoon, May 14. Ten bands and ensembles, including the Ein Prosit German Band, the Ypsilanti Town Band and brass bands and small ensembles from as far away as Washington State, will perform at various downtown institutions which are within a short

walking distance of each other. These bands/ensembles are all different and come from different locales.

Venues include the Hilt Building, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Central United Methodist Church and the Frauenthal. Attendees can move freely between any of these performances and students will be given credit for attendance. For more information visit [www.wmcw.org/acb2011](http://www.wmcw.org/acb2011).

What a great week for music aficionados and players. 🎷

