



Actor Ron Masak and News Journalist Donna Lyons at the Basilica

Credits:

Donna Lyons Washington DC

THE 2011 NATIONAL US VETERANS DAY CONCERT

"I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from everyone loves music." Billy Joel

An exceptional and celebrated symphony orchestra and chorale - made up of medical professionals from around the nation - will perform a free concert honoring our nation's veterans. The doctors, nurses and other medical specialists who dedicate their time and talent to the Medical Musical Group Chorale and Symphony Orchestra (MMG) believe music is healing, and they are coming together again this year on Wednesday, 9 November 2011 at the magnificent Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for another stunning performance "Healing for the Nations" Concert.

Directed by outstanding "Medical Maestro," Victor Wahby, MD, the program also includes readings by many illustrious narrators, such as actor [Ron Masak](#). Ron served this great Nation and understands the commitment and excellence of our U.S. military. He served in the Army from 1959-61. Ron was the only Military Policeman ever that took part in the All-Army Show that toured the world. They played places like Annapolis, West Point and the Air Force Academy. Ron also has a book about his colorful life called "I've met all my heroes from A-Z".

"I was honored to be invited last year to be the host for the event. As a veteran I was proud to be a part of something that was honoring our military and the joy of music is a wonderful way of getting so many people involved. Then to be invited by the Marines, along with Actress Lindsay Bloom, to lay a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial was a privilege I will always cherish. We also laid a wreath at The WWII Memorial which brought a flood of childhood memories as my father was a pilot during that war. The highlight of our time was visiting our returning wounded warriors in the hospital; an adult memory never to be forgotten. The Medical Musical Group should be seen, heard and talked about all over America as they create with music the Spirit of this great country and honor the men and women who served and continue to serve and protect us all. I am honored to be a small part of this GREAT Program. It is one not to be missed." Ron Masak

Also participating is actress [Lindsay Bloom](#). Lindsay was Miss Arizona, Miss USA and made appearances in many television shows in the 70's. Today she is a staunch advocate of our troops past and present and makes many public appearances to show her support.

Country singer [Lucas Hoge](#) will be performing with the orchestra. Lucas is a huge advocate of our military. He has traveled to the Middle East to support our troops. He wrote 'Soldiers Creed' and 'Medal Of Honor' which are featured on the Music for Our Troop's CD. Lucas is the official spokesperson for Guardian Angels for a Soldier's Pet, a group that fosters animals for our soldiers while they are stationed overseas. Lucas participates in several charity events and concerts for our military throughout the year.

Lucas traveled to the Middle East, participating in the Wrangler National Patriot Tour. On that tour it was announced that his song "Medal Of Honor" would be the official theme song for Wrangler National Patriot and is now available for download on the [WranglerNationalPatriot.com](#) website.

Lucas also gained recognition in the Christian Country genre when he answered a woman's dying wish and wrote a song inspired by her poem, "How Was I to Know".

A non-profit organization established in 1991 and the recipient of the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor Society's Bob Hope Award, MMG is the largest medical musical organization in the U.S. with over 250 members from nearly every state. Many are associated with the Department of Veteran Affairs; some have private medical practices, teach or do research. They all travel to concert sites at their own expense, united by the healing and inspiring power of music.

The concert will include a variety of classical and patriotic favorites performed by a 200-voice choir and full symphony orchestra. There is a country music segment featuring Lucas Hoge.

A pre-concert will commence at 6:30 p.m. followed by the concert at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free and reservations are recommended. Please call 202-797-0700 or e-mail: vanmmg@hotmail.com

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Donna Lyons, Military Community Examiner

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