

6TH ANNUAL FARMINGTON FOUNDERS FESTIVAL July 23-25

1970 Founders Festival Will Stage Musical Extravaganza



MUSIC -- This is how the Farmington Community Concert Band looked when it played its concert during last year's Founders Festival. The band will play a concert from 7 to 8 p.m. July 24 in the Downtown Farmington Center during this year's Founders Festival. (Evert photo)

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Davey Gives Another Concert At Center

By LIZ WISSMAN

A thrilling climax to 1970's Founders Festival will be offered on the Farmington Community Center grounds at 4 p.m. Sunday, July 26.

"Of A Land So Fair" will be presented outdoors in the valley at the center by Max Davey and his 18-man orchestra of top professional musicians and 40-voice Max Davey Singers.

THE MUSICAL FARE will be a kaleidoscope of patriotic and war songs from Revolutionary Days through today.

Included on the program will be the top-rated barbershop quartet, "The Shop Lifters," which has just returned from an 18,000-mile, 48-performance tour for the government through Vietnam.

In keeping with the Founders Festival theme, costumes worn by the women performers will be long-skirted, old-fashioned frocks, while the men will appear in straw hats and old time shirts.

DAVEY EXPECTS that his new stage will be completed by the July 26 concert which will give the audience an opportunity to hear the music while sitting on the hill which surrounds the small valley on the center grounds.

It is suggested that guests bring blankets or folding chairs to sit upon.

The Max Davey Singers have a background of two major concerts a year, originally at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and more recently, as the demand for tickets assured sellout audiences, at Ford Auditorium. They have also presented several lesser concerts in Detroit annually.

President of the Davey Design and Die Engineering Co., Davey is also president of Concert Series, Inc. He is a member of the North Farmington Kiwanis Club and has show business experience as director of music for five years at a resort in upstate New York. He resides at 25747 Kilreigh Ct., Farmington.



AS A CLIMAX to Founders Festival days, Max Davey (at far left) will present his orchestra and 40-voice Max Davey Singers in a concert at 4 p.m. July 26 on the Farmington Community Center grounds. (Evert photo)

Davey Singers in a concert at 4 p.m. July 26 on the Farmington Community Center grounds. (Evert photo)

By ELIZABETH WISSMAN

A top-topping treat is in store for all visitors to the Downtown Farmington Center between 7 and 8 p.m. July 24 during Farmington Founders Festival days.

For that hour, marvelous music will swell forth from the stage in the center as the Farmington Community Concert Band plays its sixth concert of the year.

Since the band played its festival concert a year ago, its membership has grown from 40 musicians to 65, so you'll be able to hear the music wherever you are in the center during its hour of performance, but it'll be much more fun to join the crowd in front of the

stage to enjoy musical camaraderie.

PAUL BARBER, as usual, will be directing the assemblage through its musical paces.

He has selected repertoire in the lighter vein to fit the festival occasion. Numbers will include "Stars and Stripes Forever," "16 Trombones," selections from "Gypsy," "Bugler's Holiday," and the "National Emblem March."

Sponsorship is the Farmington Exchange Club's number one project.

The band's board of directors include members from all segments of the city and township.

THEY ARE: Bruce Polkinghorne, chairman, representing the band; Mary Legg, secretary, Farmington Township; Harry Wingenter, treasurer, Board of Commerce; and Bill Conroy, executive director Exchange Club.

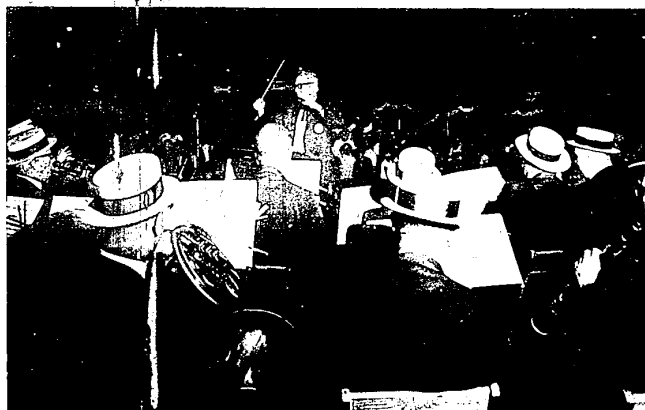
Other board members include: Dick Habicht, Exchange Club; Don Howell, Farmington schools; Ralph Yoder, City of Farmington; Charles Bridges, Exchange Club; Lanny Swanson, the band; Art Lamb, Exchange Club; Roland Sharette, Oakland Community College; and Barber.

OCC also gives assistance to the band by leading music and instruments.

ONE VERY IMPORTANT instrument the band uses did not come from OCC. It is a heritage drum given to the band by Floyd Sallow. The band was used by Sallow's grandfather, Henry Sallow, in the Farmington band of the early 1890s.

The drum isn't the only thing about the band that spans the years. Its membership includes persons from seventh grade to University of Michigan graduates.

It seems music bridges the generation gap, and persons of all ages will have the tuneful time of their lives listening to the band's music in the Downtown Center July 24.



EVENING CONCERT -- Dr. Conrad Lam, Wood Creek Farms resident, directs the Franklin Village Band for a concert under the stars in downtown Farmington for the 1969 Founders Festival. The Franklin Village Band

will present another concert for the festival on Thursday, July 23, at 7:15 p.m. in the downtown center. (Evert photo)

Festival Again Slates Franklin Village Band

The Farmington Founders Festival would not be the same without the annual appearance of the Franklin Village Band.

And in 1970, the Franklin Village Band will once again present a concert for the festival. The 80-minute concert will begin at 7:15 on Thursday, July 23, at the Chrysler Show Room in the Downtown Farmington Center.

THE FRANKLIN VILLAGE Band is a favorite in Farmington because it was founded by Dr. Conrad Lam, Wood Creek Farms resident, who still directs the band.

Dr. Lam's wife, Marian, is a bass drummer and is an origi-

nal member of the band which was organized in 1959 with four members.

Now the band has grown to 30 members, resplendent in straw hats and maroon blazers.

DR. LAM chief of thoracic surgery at Henry Ford Hospital, once sold instruments and organized community bands in Texas.

Three of the bands, known as Lam's Lamb Country Bands, were the Sudan Municipal Band, Amherst Fire Dept. Band and the Littlefield Concert Band.

Impetus for the Franklin Village Band came in July 1959 when two members of the Franklin Community Association

(Jack Skeels and Charles Hall) decided to see if a small band could be organized to lead the parade for the September Roundup.

A notice was printed in the Birmingham Eccentric of an organizational meeting to be held in Hall's home. Dr. Lam, the only one to show up, appeared with a battered cornet.

Lam, Skeels and Hall went out recruiting and in a few weeks gathered 12 musicians who first appeared for the Roundup 11 years ago.

AMONG THE present members of the band is Larry Midtemas, a sports writer for the Detroit News who is also profi-

cient on the clarinet and bass saxophone.

Famous names have appeared with the Franklin Village Band at concerts. Gene Krupa once played drums with the band and just this month Meredith Wilson, composer of "Music Man," was guest conductor for the band.

Dr. Lam's musical background includes playing for the Tahoka, Tex. Town Band, the Hardin-Simmons University Cowboy Band, the Yale University Marching and Concert Band, and the 131st Field Artillery Band of the Texas National Guard.

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Quaker Histories