



PRESS RELEASE

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THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY BAND'S *JAZZ KNIGHTS* COME TO OCEAN PARK WITH HOMETOWN MUSICIAN

OCEAN PARK, MAINE – The United States Military Academy Band's *Jazz Knights*, from West Point, New York will present a concert of big-band and popular music on Sunday, August 20 at 7:30 pm. Free and open to the public, the performance will take place at The Temple, 50 Temple Avenue, Ocean Park.

For over thirty years the *Jazz Knights* have brought musical excellence and variety to their audiences by presenting the best of big-band jazz and popular music. Members of the group are graduates of some of America's finest music schools. They are recruited and selected through a competitive audition process, specifically for service in the United States Military Academy Band at West Point, where they help support the academy's mission of developing leaders for our Army.

One of the newest members of the band is from the Ocean Park area: Staff Sgt. Joshua Economy, trumpet, from Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Staff Sgt. Economy joined the *Jazz Knights* in March of 2006. He earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of New Hampshire in 1999, where he studied with Dr. Robert Stibler. In 2002, he completed his Master of Music in Jazz Studies from the New England Conservatory, where he studied with George Garzone, Bob Brookmeyer and John McNeil. Prior to joining the *Jazz Knights*, Staff Sgt. Economy was a freelance musician in the Los Angeles area, participating in jazz festivals and recording albums in various genres. His jazz trio, Zinfandel, worked as the house band at Parker's Lighthouse in Long Beach, California. In 2005, he was a finalist at the Long Beach Jazz Festival New Artist Competition. Staff Sgt. Economy was also a featured soloist on Will Street's album *Seven Colors of Love* and can be heard on Ayn Insetto Jazz Orchestra's *Clairvoyance* featuring Bob Brookmeyer and George Garzone. He has performed with Lewis Nash, Dave Liebman and Clark Terry.

The band's highlights over the years include playing with Benny Goodman at Lincoln Center in 1982, performing with the Duke Ellington Orchestra for the 200th Anniversary of the New York State Legislature and twice appearing at the Hatch Shell for Boston's Independence Day celebration. The *Jazz Knights* also perform for jazz festivals and music educators'

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conventions. Notable guests who have performed with the Jazz Knights include David Liebman, Jim Pugh, Scott Robinson, Emil Richards, Byron Stripling, John Clayton, Eddie Daniels and James Carter.

At West Point, the *Jazz Knights* provide music for numerous functions throughout the year. In combination with the *Concert Band* and field music unit, (the *Hellcats*), they help fulfill official musical requirements of the Military Academy and the Army, including military and patriotic ceremonies both at West Point and throughout the country. The Jazz Knights also perform for the summer concert series at the Trophy Point Amphitheatre and for the winter concert series at Eisenhower Hall. By recreating the sounds of the greatest big bands, as well as performing the innovative styles of today, they enjoy resounding approval from all who have the opportunity to hear them.

More information about the United States Military Academy Band can be found on the Internet at <http://www.usma.edu/band/>. For more information about this concert, please contact the Ocean Park Association at (207) 934-9068, ext. 205.

Ocean Park is a Chautauqua community in its 125th season of providing cultural, educational, religious, and recreational programs. For more information, visit the website at www.oceanpark.org.

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