



Headquarters Allied Air Command Ramstein

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NEWS RELEASE

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NATO Music Festival update

Performers Finalized for Festival on 11 June 11



Ramstein – 1 March 2011 – Preparations for the NATO Music Festival on 11 June 2011 are in full swing. The joint team of HQ Allied Air Command Ramstein, the City of Kaiserslautern and the Bundeswehr Military Music Service finalized the list of nations performing during the show.

“We have put together a most interesting and diverse event,” says Colonel Dr. Michael Schramm, head of the Bundeswehr Military Music Service, who is in charge of the Festival’s musical arrangement. Germany will be represented by the Naval Band Baltic Sea and a drill formation from the Guards Battalion. Other participants are the Upper Austria Military Band, the Royal Naval Band from Belgium, the Latvian National Armed Forces Band from Riga, and the Koszalin Military Band from Poland. “All musical ensembles will stage their exciting shows. The military ensemble from Luxembourg is going to accompany special guest star Joy Fleming – certainly a fascinating highlight!,” says Colonel Schramm, “and last, but by no means least, the United States Air Forces in Europe Band will present their breathtaking show.”

“I invite all our neighbors from the Kaiserslautern area and beyond to attend this first-class musical event”, says General Mark A. Welsh III, commander of HQ AC Ramstein and United States Air Forces in Europe, who co-hosts the event with Kaiserslautern Lord Mayor, Dr. Klaus Weichel, “it is a tremendous opportunity to enjoy outstanding entertainment and support a worthy charitable cause.”

The NATO Music Festival has been a long-standing tradition that represents the connection between the people in the region and the North Atlantic Alliance. Participating bands present their nation’s culture as well as individual musical styles. 2011 marks the 22nd edition of this event. Since 1965, thrilling atmosphere, colorful uniforms and military precision of musical performances have been highlights of this unique Kaiserslautern festival.

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Proceeds from the Kaiserslautern event go entirely to the NATO Music Festival Foundation, established in 2003. Last year more than 12,000 EUR was donated in support of regional handicapped, kindergartens and the Children's Aid Organisation SOS-Kinderdorf. This assistance is possible only because participating military bands forgo their fees and overhead costs for the organization are kept to a minimum.

“I would be delighted to see all of you on 11 June,” said General Welsh, “get ready for another edition of the NATO Music Festival featuring outstanding military bands from seven NATO countries, the spectacular presentation of the Bundeswehr drill team and a special performance by the famous German vocalist, Joy Fleming.”

Tickets for the NATO Music Festival 2011 are on sale at the Tourist Information in Fruchthallstraße (telephone: +49 (0)631 365-2316 or -2317) and at Ticket-Online advance booking offices (ticket phone hotline: +49 (0)1805-4470; Internet: www.ticketonline.de). Advance booking prices range from 14 to 25 EUR (16 to 27 EUR on the night); discounts and special rates are available for wheelchair users, youth, schoolchildren, students as well as basic service conscripts and persons doing community service.

As a memento, special NATO Music Festival pins are on sale for 2 EUR at the Tourist Information and during the festival. The City of Kaiserslautern offers another new service: festival goers may park their car near the stadium for a fee of 5 EUR.

Opening hours of the Tourist Information are as follows: Mondays to Fridays from 09.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m, Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

For more information please visit www.nmf-kl.de