



CC-Air Ramstein

Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein

Public Information Office



Press Release

NATO Music Festival on 2 June 2007 - First-Rate Military Music

Kaiserslautern/Ramstein (ang). Already since 1965 the NATO Music Festival, organised jointly by the City of Kaiserslautern and Allied Air Component Command Headquarters Ramstein, has been conducted biennially on the Betzenberg meanwhile attracting audiences not only from the local region.



Music across the borders – this could be the motto of the long tradition of NATO Music Festivals. After all, military bands from more than 20 nations have performed during the past 19 events. Not all participating military bands have yet definitely signed up for this 20th festival taking place in the evening of 02 June 2007. But the programme of the anniversary festival is already now taking shape promising a spectacular mix. Confirmations were received from the United States, Germany and France; this year, negotiations are also underway with a number of non-NATO guest nations interested in participating. Hence, the Principality of Liechtenstein's representative band will possibly be joined by bands from China and Egypt.

It almost goes without saying that the United States Air Force in Europe Band will naturally participate; for the USAFE Band stationed in Sembach the event on the Betzenberg is what you could call a home game. Like during the last festival, soldiers of the Bundeswehr Guard Battalion are again going to present their drill skills.



Military music as such has always aspired to be the sounding expression of the armed forces' self-image. It has come to play a part in the cultural lives of almost all countries, serving as an important link between the forces and the population. The Kaiserslautern festival has been tremendously successful in underlining this claim. The thrilling and foot-tapping atmosphere of the festival owes much to the representative uniforms on display and to the military precision of the musical performance, which is not limited to classical military marches. In fact each participating band will present its country's very typical features. Different national mentalities and characteristics as well as the style and quality of each conductor very much determine the bands' performance. The combination of instruments also reflects national traditions, meaning that there are not only smart Prussian parade marches, but also sounds of Scottish bagpipes, Turkish Janissary music, Swiss alphorns and Greek shawms.

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The NATO Music Festivals conducted since 1965 have been a story of success: military musicians have raised more than EUR 460,000 for social and charitable purposes. The net proceeds of the 2001 festival amounting to EUR 52,000 were used to establish the NATO Music Festival Foundation. This year again the goal is to further increase the foundation capital with the proceeds raised by the musicians who are forgoing their fees, and from a maximum interest of the audience, in order to support worthy charities.

Tickets are on sale at the Tourist Information at Fruchthallstraße (tel. 0631-365-2316 or 2317) and at all Ticket Online advance booking offices (ticket hotline: 01805 4470; internet: www.ticketonline.de). Prices range from EUR 14.00 to 22.00 if booked in advance (and from EUR 16.00 to 24.00 if bought on the night); special prices are available among others for wheelchair users. The Kaiserslautern Tourist Information also offers a special weekend package. Further details can be obtained at www.kaiserslautern.de.

