

Market Square Presbyterian Church

20 South Second Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101

(717) 257-1270

www.marketsquarechurch.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

**Lois Gayman
(717) 257-1275**

NEW HOLLAND BAND TO PLAY CONCERT NEW YEAR'S EVE AT MARKET SQUARE CHURCH

Harrisburg – The New Holland Band, one of the oldest musical organizations in the United States, will play its ninth annual New Year's Eve pops concert at Market Square Presbyterian Church in downtown Harrisburg **on New Year's Eve**.

The concert begins at 10 p.m., part of Harrisburg's annual celebration of the New Year that includes fireworks and the traditional Strawberry Drop. Afterward revelers are invited into the church's Fellowship Hall for coffee and muffins at midnight.

Admission to the concert is free, but a freewill offering will be received.

Parking is available in the Market Square Garage, located on the northwest corner of Second and Chestnut streets, adjacent to the church.

The New Holland Band is composed of 60 musicians whose wide-ranging repertoire includes pops favorites, symphonic works, march tunes, patriotic anthems and sacred music. **The Band** performs at concerts and parades throughout the region and has a weekly Saturday morning radio program over WLAN-AM 1390, Lancaster.

Under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Laudermilch, the band dates its founding to 1856 when John Philip Sousa, destined to become America's March King, was but two-years-old. Three of Sousa's marches are on the program for New Year's Eve: *Keeping Step with the Union*, *The Glory of the Yankee Navy* and the popular *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

The program also includes music by George Gershwin (*Strike Up the Band*), Leroy Anderson (*Forgotten Dreams*), Sergei Rachmaninov (*Italian Polka*), and Johann Strauss Sr. (*Radetsky March*).

When Sousa directed the U.S. Marine Band, his principal cornetist was Herbert Lincoln Clarke. The New Holland Band will perform one of Clarke's compositions, *Stars in a Velvety Sky*, featuring solo cornetist [.] Gene Clark. And the band's conductor emeritus, Marlin Houck, will direct the ensemble in Claude Smith's *Overture on an Early American Folk Hymn*.

The band will close its program with a Pierce Getz band arrangement of the hymn, *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*, as a memorial tribute to Dr. Getz' contributions to the music life of Market Square and the larger Central Pennsylvania community.

Dr. Getz was director of music and organist at the church until his death on March 30 of this year. In recent years, a highlight of the New Year's Eve concerts was Dr. Getz' collaboration on the organ with the band.

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