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McKinney hosts musical D-Day tribute to America's veterans

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By Allen Rich
Jun 9, 2009

McKinney -- In honor of U.S. veterans of all branches, whom, for 233 years have defended the land of the free, The North Texas Chapter - American Theatre Organ Society and the McKinney Community Band presented a moving musical tribute to the Red, White and Blue. The D-Day tribute to America's veterans was performed Saturday, June 6 at McKinney Performing Arts Center.

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This concert was a unique opportunity to enjoy a big band sound with the added

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special feature of a 1925-era Wurlitzer and the combined effect made for a memorable evening of patriotic music.

The wind-driven Wurlitzer synthesizer is the result of a three-year effort to piece together parts of Wurlitzer pipe organs to build a functioning instrument.

According to the website of The North Texas Chapter - American Theatre Organ Society (www.ntc-atos.org), "A theatre organ is like an iceberg in that the audience only sees the console on the stage. The console is merely the control center for the several tons of equipment installed in the pipe chambers. There are two chambers on the third floor containing all the pipes, tuned percussion instruments, traps (drums, cymbals, castanets, etc.) and special effects."



On Saturday night, this extremely complicated organ was played by Bill Whiteman.

In addition, the audience enjoyed three-part harmony from the Sorta Sisters on favorites such as "Sentimental Journey," "Stage Door Cantina" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree." This trio is comprised of Linda Young, Karen Fruzia and Jenny Wennerberg. Soloist Jeannie Fisher also performed with the McKinney Community Band.

To learn more about the McKinney Community Band, visit www.mckinneycommunityband.com.

To learn about upcoming events at McKinney Performing Arts Center, go to www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org.

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