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The Beat Goes On Marching Band

Portland, Oregon

The beat went on in The Netherlands, Switzerland; and continues Saturday in Keizer



PORTLAND – Oregon’s marching band ambassadors, The Beat Goes On (TBGO), fresh off a European tour, take to the streets for the Keizer Iris Festival this **Saturday, May 19 at 10:30am**.

The all-adult marching band took 120 members to Europe in late April for a 17-day tour which included performances in the suburbs of Amsterdam, and Utrecht in The Netherlands and along the shore of Lake Lucerne in Switzerland.

“Our audiences were terrific!” said Steve Tolopka, TBGO Music Director (above, right). “Folks were welcoming, enthusiastic and ready to have a good time with us. People who lived along the route even refilled our water bottles when we ran low during the parade.”

While in The Netherlands over the weekend of April 20 - 22, the band marched in a pair of segments during the two-day, 24-mile *Bloemencorso Bollenstreek*, one of the world’s largest and longest flower parades. It also performed an outdoor concert at *Slot Zuylen* castle near Utrecht.

“At *Slot Zuylen*, people laughed at our dopey jokes, sang along as we played, and hung around just to talk with the band afterward,” said Tolopka. “In Lucerne, a crowd of giggly teens allowed themselves to be pulled into doing a line dance with us to the Pharrell Williams song *Happy*. We put smiles on faces from the Netherlands to Switzerland. What a trip!”

Even though some band members aren’t yet over their jet lag, they’re not slowing down. Staying in flower mode, TBGO will march in the Keizer Iris Festival parade, north of Salem, this Saturday morning. Then, on **Friday, June 8 at noon**, TBGO plays an hour-long concert in Pioneer Courthouse Square in downtown Portland, part of the 33rd Annual Festival of Flowers. After that, the band will perform seven more times before the end of July, in venues ranging from Hillsboro to Hood River. The band is always looking for new musicians and opportunities to play. Information on joining or booking the band can be found at <http://www.tbgo.org>.

Whether it’s tulips in Amsterdam, irises in Keizer or roses in Portland, as far as The Beat Goes On is concerned, everything’s coming up music!

THE BEAT GOES ON MARCHING BAND: More smiles per mile!

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