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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BANDS
Urbana, Illinois
February 1, 1958

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We have waited a long time for this day.
Many of you have waited a long time, too --
sharing companionably our interest and sometime anxiety.
But now, at last, the great day is at hand!

On March 7, 1958 we will dedicate the new Band Building, a truly magnificent building worthy of the great state of Illinois - a truly magnificent building which will inspire great achievements and provide the tools for their accomplishment.

Exactly twenty years ago the University of Illinois Bands were hosts to the youthful American Bandmasters Association. We announce with a great measure of pride that this organization, which numbers among its members the outstanding names in the band field, has chosen to return to our campus for its 24th Annual Convention in order to be with us for these dedication ceremonies. So many luminaries of the band world in one place shall surely set the sky ablaze!

These two tremendous happenings combine with the Sixty-eighth Anniversary Concerts of the Concert Band and make up a never-to-be-forgotten event. We want you to be our guest for as many of the festivities as possible. Outlined below are the principal features of the program; more details will be forthcoming later. Plan now to be with us on this happy and auspicious occasion.

Thursday, March 6

There will be a preliminary concert by the First Regimental Band in the University Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. Conductor Everett Kisinger will share conducting honors with twelve distinguished members of the American Bandmasters Association: James Berdahl, Howard Bronson, Gregory Bueche, Thomas Fabish, Bernard Fitzgerald, Leonard Haug, George Howard, Karl King, Franklin Kreider, Hugh McMillen, Leonard Meretta, and George Reynolds. Leonard Falcone of Michigan State University will be guest euphonium soloist. We extend a special invitation to complete high school bands to attend this concert.

Friday, March 7
Dedication Day!

From 8:30 to 9:30 in the morning and from 1:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon there will be Open House, with guided tours, in the Band Building.

10:00 a.m. is the hour of the Dedication Convocation in the Auditorium. The speakers will be Governor Stratton, President Henry, Director Emeritus Harding, and representatives of the alumni, students, and professional band organizations.

Following the Convocation the audience will be invited to join in the procession to the Band Building for the official presentation by the President of the Board of Trustees, Park Livingston.

At 2:00 p.m., in Lincoln Hall Theatre, Harold Bachman, Richard Goldman, Owen Reed, William Revelli, William Santelmann - whose names conjure up thoughts of the best in band and music - will participate in a symposium on "The Role of the Concert Band". This will be a session of genuine musical and academic interest.

For the Band Alumni only (including spouses!) there will be a reunion in the Illini Union at 5:00 p.m., followed by a banquet at 6:00 p.m. in the Ballroom.

At 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium the Dedication Concert of the Concert Band, Mark Hindsley, conductor, will appropriately climax a day now solemn, now festive. Guest conductors will be former University of Illinois students and Bands staff members who are also members of the American Bandmasters Association: Director Emeritus Albert Austin Harding, Glenn Cliffe Bainum, Raymond Dvorak, Clarence Sawhill, Milburn Carey, Russell Howland, Bruce Jones, George Wilson, and Keith Wilson. Russell Howland will conduct the premiere of his ILLINI SAGA and Owen Reed of Michigan State University will conduct the first performance of his work, RENASCENCE, both commissioned especially for this occasion.

Saturday, March 8

An Alumni Band is being formed for an intimate session in the Band Building with Director Emeritus A. A. Harding. He will call on his former assistants and other Illini members of the ABA to conduct. Physical limitations of the room dictate that the audience for this special event must be limited to the band alumni and members of ABA. The rehearsal is at 9:00, the performance is at 2:30.

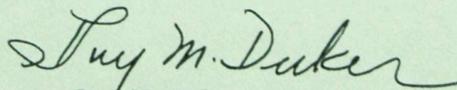
The final concert, by the Concert Band, will be played in the Auditorium at 8:00 p.m. Roy Harris will conduct the premiere performance of his newest and commissioned work for band, a symphonic tone poem based upon themes of the prairie. There will be a first performance of the winning composition in the Ostwald ABA competition. The other conductors on this program are all universally known members of the ABA: Harold Bachman, Charles Brendler, Hugh Curry, Frederick Fennell, Richard Goldman, Ferde Grofe, Earl Irons, William Revelli, Frank Simon, and Manley Whitcomb. The concert will close in a burst of patriotic glory with the newly elected president of the American Bandmasters Association conducting THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER.

Admission to the concerts will be by complimentary ticket on the basis of "first come, first served". A form for requesting tickets is attached. We know from experience that we will not be able to accommodate all who want tickets. We ask that you request only the tickets you know you will use since those that may not be used will deprive others of the opportunity of attending. To expedite the handling of your ticket request please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope (no stamp is needed if the University mail is to be used).

No tickets will be necessary for the convocation or the symposium, nor for the presentation of the Band Building if weather permits this ceremony to be held out-of-doors. Should the weather be unfavorable, only a small audience can be admitted to the rehearsal room of the new building.

When these three historic days are over I am sure you will be glad you shared them with us.... I know for a certainty that we will be glad that you were our guest.

Yours truly,



Guy M. Duker
Assistant to the Director

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Room 140, Band Building
I request the following tickets:

First Regimental Band Concert, 4:00 p.m., March 6 - Main floor_____ Balcony_____

Dedication-68th Anniversary Concert, 8:00 p.m., - Main floor_____ Balcony_____
March 7

ABA-68th Anniversary Concert, 8:00 p.m., March 8 - Main floor_____ Balcony_____

(Don't forget to enclose
a return envelope.)

Signed_____

Name

Address

PLEASE RETURN TO THIS OFFICE ANY TICKETS YOU WILL NOT USE, BEFORE TUESDAY, MARCH 4!
Any unused ticket deprives someone else of the opportunity of attending.