



May 25, 2005  
(For immediate release)

**Madison Symphony Orchestra and Chorus**

- with -

**Special Guest Star Sandi Patty**

highlight

**Rhythm and Booms<sup>®</sup>: Celebrate America 2005**

This year's event will be on Saturday, July 2, 2005  
Televised LIVE on Wisconsin Public Television

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WOLX/Miller Oldies Stage stars GARY PUCKETT;  
Charlie FM Music Stage stars THE GOMERS

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Army Guard Band to perform; Carnival and Skydivers featured

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Proceeds to Benefit Children's Charities

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**Madison, Wis.** – A special edition of Rhythm & Booms<sup>®</sup> is scheduled for Warner Park on Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was announced today.

Terry Kelly, President of Madison Fireworks Fund, Inc. said this year's event will be titled "Celebrate America 2005" and will feature the Rhythm & Booms<sup>®</sup> world class fireworks performance accompanied by, and timed to, LIVE music performed on stage by the Madison Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, whose 250 performers will be conducted by Music Director John DeMain. Music selections include segments from some of the greatest moments in classical music as well as themes from "Phantom of the Opera", "Oklahoma", and "King Kong".

Special guest star Sandi Patty and her group will perform with the Orchestra and Chorus. Patty, a five-time Grammy Award winner, will open with her stunning rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, which she performed at the rededication of the Statue of Liberty back in 1986. She will also perform show tunes, ballads, and other patriotic favorites.

“Celebrate America’s” main stage major presenting sponsor is American Family Insurance, with additional stage sponsorship from MG&E, Foley & Lardner, and American of Madison.

Wisconsin Public Television will broadcast the event LIVE from 8:30 to 10:30 PM on WHA-TV(21) in Madison, and on all other Wisconsin Public Television stations statewide. Giant screen “Jumbotron” will allow the crowd to see the stage close up.

Attendees are asked to bring radios to the park, for live announcements throughout the day, and to hear the live Symphony soundtrack that accompanies the fireworks display. Tune your radios to WOLX 94.9 FM.

“Celebrate America will be our most spectacular Rhythm & Booms ever, and this year’s fireworks display will be phenomenal,” said Kelly. “Thousands of shells from around the world will be computer timed to the Madison Symphony’s live performance, and broadcast to the crowd on Oldies 94.9 (WOLX-FM). Our new partner, Bay Fireworks, will deliver many new effects, and John DeMain’s “all-star” music score will make this year’s Rhythm & Booms® an emotional and unforgettable event.”

Bay Fireworks of Westhampton Beach, New York, will provide the spectacular excitement this year. One of the country’s top fireworks companies, Bay has brought world-class excitement to Walt Disney World, New York City events, including the Statue of Liberty celebration, and major sports stadiums nationwide. Bay Fireworks was recently featured on The Discovery Channel.

The 1812 Overture, as played by the Madison Symphony Orchestra, will be set to the fireworks “grand finale”, and will be accompanied by Army National Guard 105MM Howitzers.

A four-ship F-16 flyover by the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin Air Guard, a Blackhawk helicopter appearance by the 147<sup>th</sup> Command Aviation Battalion of the Wisconsin Army National Guard, and precision skydiving by Seven Hills Skydivers will thrill the crowd before the fireworks.

The Wisconsin National Guard 132<sup>nd</sup> Army Jazz Band will also perform on the Celebrate America stage from 4PM to 7PM, and the Madison Scouts Drum & Bugle Corps will entertain the crowd throughout Warner Park during the afternoon, and at the Celebrate America stage from 7PM to 8PM.

Rhythm & Booms® will feature all-day family events, including a large carnival, children’s events, and a major Oldies Stage (Admission \$5 per person). The Miller/WOLX Oldies Stage will feature **GARY PUCKETT**. One of the most successful groups of the sixties, Gary Puckett and The Union Gap garnered six consecutive gold records. Also performing on the oldies stage will be **Road Trip**, a six-piece rock and roll band from Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and returning for their tenth consecutive year at Rhythm & Booms® is a perennial favorite, **The Vic Ferrari Band**.

The “Charlie FM Stage” (sponsored by Madison’s newest radio format, 105-1 Charlie FM) will feature one of Madison’s best groups, **The Gomers**, along with **Swing Crew** and **Sonic Circus**. Tickets for the Charlie FM stage are \$5.

The Madison Mallards will play the Waterloo Bucks in the baseball stadium, beginning at 5:05 PM. Fans will be able to spread blankets in the outfield after the game, listen to the official soundtrack – which will be played on the stadium speakers – and watch the fireworks.

Rhythm & Booms® is the largest annual single day event in Wisconsin, and is funded by major sponsors American Family Insurance, Culver's, Wipfli LLP, M&I Bank, Weather Central, and WKOW-TV27. Media sponsors are WOLX 94.9 FM, WCHY 101-5 Charlie FM, WMMM 105.5 FM, Charter Communications, and WKOW-TV. Hundreds of other area businesses and individuals contribute as well. The City of Madison and County of Dane also provide financial support.

The Oldies Stage is sponsored by Miller Beer and WOLX 94.9 FM, with major support from Culver's and Pepsi.

Sponsors appealed today for an increase in public support for the event. "Please give generously to the Boy Scouts and other volunteers collecting contributions in the crowd," Kelly said. "Every dollar you give goes right back into making this a great family event, and proceeds from food, drink and souvenir sales, sold by our 800 volunteers, help support worthy children's charities. Over the past twelve years, almost \$350,000 has been donated to help children in need throughout Dane County! However, many more needs remain un-funded, so please be generous – we need your help!"

Madison Metro will again offer round-trip express shuttle service from the MATC parking lot – generously made available by MATC – direct to the event. A round-trip ticket will cost \$3 (children 4 and under ride for free). A parking fee of \$3 per vehicle will be collected by Rhythm & Booms® volunteers at MATC.

Madison Police and Fire Departments are ready to assist with what is Wisconsin's largest single event. Over 170 officers from Madison, Dane County, Maple Bluff, Middleton, Monona, Waunakee, and other cooperative agencies will coordinate to assure a safe, smooth event again this year. Extensive City planning will help ensure smooth "after event" traffic control, with WOLX providing live traffic reports from the air.

In the event of a weather postponement, Rhythm & Booms®: Celebrate America 2005 will be moved to Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and all events will be held.

Madison Fireworks Fund officials remind the public that RV's, campers and trucks will not be allowed in the Warner Park parking lot. Instead, arrangements have been made for paid parking in the Sherman Plaza parking lot directly across the street from the park.

The Rhythm & Booms® website contains extensive information about the timing and location of events, transportation and parking, safety procedures, and more. To access the website, go to [www.rhythmandbooms.com](http://www.rhythmandbooms.com).

For additional information contact:

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