

**Michigan Remembers the Civil War in Music**

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**Michigan Remembers the Civil War (1861-1865) in Music****A FREE CIVIL WAR CONCERT!!**

Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Featuring -

*The Dodworth Saxhorn Band*

Friday, June 3, 2011

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

On the grounds of the State Capitol in Lansing

For more information, click on the link below:

[Michigan Remembers the Civil War in Music](#)

Click here for a sample of the music you'll hear:

[The Dodworth Saxhorn Band](#)

The concert sponsors:

[Friends of Michigan History, Inc.](#)**MUSIC, MUSIC!**

Civil War-era Americans preferred ante-bellum hymns, ballads, marches, and songs popularized by entertainers. According to studies by musicologist Dr. William Mahar, "The Last Rose of Summer" (1813), "Home, Sweet Home" (1823), "Annie Laurie" (1835), "Listen to the Mockingbird" (1855), "Lorena" (1857), and "Dixie" (1860), were the six most popular songs of the war years. All prewar favorites, five of them focused on sentimental themes. Only "Dixie," written

by Northern minstrel performer, Daniel D. Emmett, made a regional reference. Ranking in sales at 7th, entertainer Harry McCarthy's "Bonnie Blue Flag" (1861) was the most popular tune lyrically addressing the national political schism. Based on numbers of editions, the three most popular songs in the Confederacy were "Dixie," "the Bonnie Blue Flag," and "Maryland, my Maryland."

As or more popular than secular songs were religious hymns. The top three of the Civil War era (1847-1864) were "When I Can Read my Title Clear," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," and "There is a Land of Pure Delight."

A growing music-publishing industry molded Northern and Southern tastes. During the war, 9,000 new songs were printed for the entertainment of soldiers, reproduced in single-page broadsides or small, inexpensive songbooks called "songsters." Neither the Union nor the Confederacy had an official national anthem. "The Star-Spangled Banner" (1814), by Francis Scott Key, was popular during the war but did not become the National anthem until adopted by Congress in 1931. Other patriotic songs (like "Hail Columbia") were equally popular.

Following tradition, bands saluted President Abraham Lincoln with "Hail to the Chief." The piece was first played at President James K. Polk's March, 1845 inauguration, and thereafter, became associated with the Presidential office. No musical composition similarly honored Confederate President Jefferson Davis.

A second musical tradition began during the war. "Taps," the bugle composition played at the end of a soldier's day, was adapted from the 1835 "Tattoo, in July, 1862, by Union Major General Daniel Butterfield while in camp at Harrison's Landing. Major General Emory Upton's Infantry Tactics (1867), established "taps" as the official "lights-out" call.

[For more on the music of the 1860s](#)

I encourage you to attend this free concert and enjoy what is sure to be a fantastic musical trip back in time.

The June issue of the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular will be out later this week with event updates and more.

**Sincerely,**

Bruce B. Butgereit  
History Remembered, Inc.  
*A Civil War History Partner*

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