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## **OLNEY CONCERT BAND CELEBRATES 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH MUSICAL CELEBRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMPOSER IN RESIDENCE**

Olney, MD – The Olney Concert Band (OCB) is delighted to be commemorating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with a musical celebration on Sunday, May 15, 2016, at the Performing Arts Center at Sandy Spring Friends School and the appointment of James Bishop as the Band's first Composer in Residence.

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, OCB will host "30 Years in Olney: A Musical Celebration" to honor the Band's 30 year history serving the Olney Community. This event will feature performances by OCB, including a special appearance by the band's founder and first director, Joe Reiff; and a world premiere by James Bishop; guest performers; a silent auction; and 50/50 raffle. All proceeds will benefit the Band's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund to aid in the purchase of percussion equipment to support the next 30 years of the Band. The event begins at 2pm, tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students under 18, children under 10 are free, available online or from any OCB member.

Olney Concert Band is also pleased to announce James Bishop as the Band's first Composer in Residence. OCB has previously performed two new works by Mr. Bishop – Hector (2013) and White Water (2015). Mr. Bishop has been a member of OCB since 2013 and holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts from Rice University. "Community music making has always held an important place in my life, I truly believe it is the foundation and sustaining force for the art music profession. That's why I'm so excited to be Olney Concert Band's first composer in residence and work with a great community organization to create music," James Bishop. OCB Director Joel Frisch commented that "this is what's great about community music, finding and promoting incredible talent in our area. Having such a gifted Composer in Residence is a wonderful resource to raise the musicianship of the group and present great works of new music to the community."

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In the fall of 1985, Joe Reiff, then-conductor of Sherwood High School instrumental music, decided to start up what he called the Olney Community Band, a musical group consisting of interested Sherwood student and local adult musicians. As word of mouth spread, soon there were as many as 17 regularly attending the Wednesday evening rehearsals. In 1997, active members of the band decided to incorporate the group as a non-profit organization. Today the band boasts over 50 members and regularly performs free concerts at community events around Olney. Band President and charter member, Rich Sonnenschein “has had the profound joy of watching this band grow through the years, from a few local musicians to a vibrant community partner. It has been a privilege to be an integral part of the Olney community through music over the past thirty years.”

A community ensemble, OCB has openings for players in all sections, with a focus on clarinet, saxophone, low brass, and percussion. The band meets on Wednesday evenings at Blake High School in Silver Spring.

### **About Olney Concert Band**

The **Olney Concert Band** (OCB) is a non-profit, community-based band formed in 1985 and currently celebrating its 30th anniversary season. OCB offers a challenging outlet to local musicians of all ages (from high school to long-retired adults) who enjoy the thrill of making music together. The band draws its membership from the greater Olney area as well as other parts of Montgomery, Howard, and Prince George's Counties and surrounding areas. OCB provides free entertainment and exposure to the Arts, and forms an integral part of the program at community festivals, celebrations, and charity events. The band also performs for residents of assisted and independent living facilities who may be unable to travel to, or afford to pay for, other musical performances. OCB prides itself in performing a wide range of musical styles such that audience members of all ages and backgrounds can experience a personal connection to the performance. For more information visit [www.olneyconcertband.org](http://www.olneyconcertband.org).

### **About James Bishop**

Composer James Bishop currently resides in Maryland where he spends his days writing and teaching music. Before moving to Maryland he taught music theory and ear training at Houston

Community College. In 2003 he completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in music composition at Rice University. He also holds a Master of Music from The Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music from The University of Texas at San Antonio. During the course of his education, James has studied with James Balentine, Anthony Brandt, Arthur Gottschalk, Ladislav Kubik, Richard Lavenda, Ellsworth Milburn, David Soley and Kurt Stallmann. Mr. Bishop's music has been played at Rice University, Florida State University, University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin, University of Montevallo, Houston Community College, and the Museum of Czech Music in Prague. In addition to composing, Mr. Bishop plays and teaches the clarinet, saxophone and flute. His favorite instrument to play is the bass clarinet. For more information visit <http://jbishop18.wix.com/jamesbishop>.