

BAND CONCERT
CLASSIC CITY BAND

MERLE EVANS
Guest Conductor



C. B. MELL AUDITORIUM

October 20, 1983

CONCERT PROGRAM

Part I

Chris Clark Conducting

1. Star Spangled Banner Anon.
2. Suite of Old American Dances Robert Bennett
 - a. Wall Flower Waltz
 - b. Cake Walk
3. A Cyclone in Darktown (Just Rags) George Barnard

Part II

Circus Routine

Merle Evans Conducting

1. Entry of the Gladiators J. Fucik
 2. Grand Entry--Royal Bridesmaids March John Casto
 3. Trampoline--Broadway One-Step Karl King
 4. Elephants--Olympia Hippodrome March Russell Alexander
 5. High Wire--Kentucky Sun-Rise Karl King
 6. Lions--Jungle Queen George Barnard
 7. Liberty Horses--Robbins' Brothers Triumphal O. A. Gilson
 8. Clowns--Trombone Blues Fred Jewell
 9. Tigers--Abdallah, Oriental Fox-Trot Karl King
 10. Menage--Georgia Girl, Two Step Karl King
 11. Wire Act--Copa Cabana, Samba Harold Walters
 12. Acrobats--The Cantonians March Russell Alexander
 13. Flying Act--Among The Roses Waltz C. L. Barnhouse
 14. Races--Galop Go! Fred Jewell
 15. Finale--The Greatest Show On Earth Victor Young
- Encore: Barnum & Bailey's Favorite Karl King

Ringmaster: Jerry Marshall

"MAY ALL YOUR DAYS BE CIRCUS DAYS"

THE CLASSIC CITY BAND

FLUTES/PICCOLOS

Colleen Boynton

*Wally Cox

Caroline Ellis

Joey Ward

CORNET/TRUMPETS

Carl Berklund

*Alex Boskoff

Tom Carlson

Clyde Noble

Lara Rosser

Ed Sandor

HORNS

Emily Cofield

*Chuck Kay

Jill Read

PERCUSSION

*David Boardman

Lisa Eberhart

Jeff Kellar

Doug MacCleod (Guest)

CLARINETS

*Tom Cooper

Pam Edwards

Mary Greenwalt

Don Johstono

Stefan Leuthner

Bob Matthews

Michael Matthews

R. L. Ratckiff

Mary Rees

Ken Reid

Kathleen Shukair

EUPHONIUM

Matt Brazier

Mickey Gautney

*Howie Neufeld

TUBAS

*Mike Coleman

Glover Housman

Meg Kiser

David Randolph

BASS CLARINET

Olin Parker

ALTO SAX

Ricky Rees

*Ralph Rice

Valerie Thrun

TENOR SAX

Stacey Brazee

*Herman Joy

TROMBONES

Bob Brussack

Charlie Doyle

Ken Michelle

Bob Peckham

*Rick Peckham

STRING BASS

Francis Sibley

*Denotes Section Leader

ABOUT OUR GUEST CONDUCTOR MERLE EVANS

At 8:00PM on the evening of March 29, 1919, in Madison Square Garden in New York City, the leader of the band raised his cornet to his lips with one hand and with the other gave the band the downbeat to commence the first performance of the greatest entertainment spectacular ever seen on this earth. The occasion was the initial performance of the "Greatest Show on Earth"-- the combined show of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circuses.

The bandmaster was a twenty-six year old out of Columbus, Kansas with eleven years of experience as a circus musician behind him. He was of course, our guest conductor, Merle Evans, who was embarking on a fifty year career as leader of the band for Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey.

During this period, Merle led the band with one hand, while playing his cornet with the other through good times and bad, war and peace, storm and sunshine, train wrecks, blow downs, and the Hartford Circus fire when the band continued to play the "disaster march" until the quarter poles supporting the tent crashed across the bandstand, all the time providing the musical lifeblood of the circus.

Each performance involved over 300 different cues, 100 different pieces of music and the stamina of a man of steel. For these fifty years the "Toscannini of the Big Top" never missed a single performance. An energetic person, during the off-season he busied himself leading circus bands in England, Russia, Cuba and South America.

Now semi-retired in Sarasota, Florida, he comes to Athens as our guest conductor. He says that it has been quite sometime since he last visited Athens, his only other trips to this area being in 1916 when he was leader of the Buffalo Bill-101 Wild West Show and that show played here, and in the mid-twenties when the Ringling Show played in Athens.

An engaging individual who has been described as "Will Rogers with a Horn" Merle is a homespun philosopher who maintains a voluminous correspondence with friends the world over. Of interest to sports fans is the fact that he is an ardent sports enthusiast and a supporter of the Georgia Bulldogs. He also has the reputation for never missing a televised broadcast of the Atlanta Braves, and is still suffering from the demise of the Braves during the last month of the season.

The Classic City Band is honored to have as its guest conductor, Merle Evans.