

## THE SOUNDS OF SALT LAKE

**M**onths before the first athlete will compete during the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, the sounds of Olympic music fill the air around Utah, and indeed, around the world. Whether it is the sounds of musicians performing in the Olympic Arts Festival or following the torch from Olympia to Rice Eccles Stadium, the wishes of Pierre de Coubertin are once again being brought to life. After the first modern Olympics in 1896, the Baron wrote *"Fashions have undergone many changes over two thousand years, but music has remained the factor which best conveys the emotion within a crowd, which best accompanies the amplitude of a great spectacle."* Salt Lake will certainly be no exception!

### The Olympic Arts Festival

The programme of the Olympic Arts Festival includes more than sixty performances, concerts, theatre plays, and exhibitions. More tickets will be sold to these events than the athletic competitions. Salt Lake Games president Mitt Romney stated that the Olympic Arts Festival *"will provide Olympic audiences with distinguished arts events and, for posterity, a legacy of newly commissioned works."*

Music-related events in the Festival includes a premiere ballet by the *Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre* based on the life of Olympian Florence Griffith-Joyner. Among many

by William K. Guegold\*



others, a celebration of American folk music and children's dancing by Pete Seeger and the *Children's Dance Company*, a premiere of *"Limon and Jazz"* by the Jos Limon Dance Company with music by James Newton. *"A Little Night Music"* by Stephen Sondheim, will be presented by the Utah Opera in conjunction with Houston Grand Opera.

Sam Cordon and Kurt Beston, both Utah musicians and Emmy Award-winners, will present *"Keepers of the Flame"* for four evenings at Kingsbury Hall on the campus of the University of Utah, which includes original musical soundtracks set to various Olympian stories, filmed by Bud Greenspan who is credited with five official Olympic films (Los Angeles in 1984, Calgary in 1988, Lillehammer in 1994, Atlanta in 1996, and Nagano in 1998). In addition, Utah's governor, Michael Leavitt, has commissioned these two composers to produce a CD that was available beginning in the summer of 2001 that had as its

theme the values and ideals espoused by the Olympic Ideal. The world-renowned Mormon Tabernacle Choir, under the direction of Craig Jessop will perform several concerts including those with guest artists mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, The Kingsingers, and percussionist Evelyn Glennie.

Not to be outdone, the Utah Symphony under the director of Keith Lockhart has scheduled concerts with Elaine Paige, "First Lady of British Musical Theatre," Tony Award winning soprano Audra McDonald, Marcus Roberts and his jazz trio, and Itzhak Perlman. Performing with musicians from around the world, the Utah Youth Symphony will present works by American composers Bernstein, Copland and several new arrangements of Olympic fanfares. Billy Taylor, jazz legend, will perform in two concerts during the Games.

The overall theme is to celebrate the state of Utah, embrace the West (western United States) and its cultures, and highlight America's contribution to the arts and humanities.

### Opening and Closing Ceremonies

Following Olympic tradition, SLOC participated in the Closing Ceremonies in Nagano (Japan) with a five-minute segment entitled *"Contrast, Culture, Courage"* and featured thematic material depicting the American West. The segment included ten horses with riders and an 1890 stagecoach.

In June of 1999, Scott Givens was selected as Director of Ceremonies for SLOC followed shortly thereafter with the naming of Don Mischer as Executive Producer. Givens' past production experience included work for Disney, Super Bowl XXXII in San Diego, and was a segment producer and designer for the Games of the XXVI Olympiad, the Centennial Games, in Atlanta in 1996. He also produced for SLOC events unveiling the official mascot and emblem of the Games. Mischer, as head of 13-time Emmy Award-winning Don Mischer Productions, is working on his second Olympics, having served in the same capacity for the Atlanta Games in 1996. The Opening and Closing Ceremonies will be broadcast to an estimated worldwide audience of nearly 3.5 billion people - arguably the most-watched events of the year from the Rice-Eccles Stadium with a capacity of more than 56,000. Pre-Games SLOC publicity has touted the ceremonies with the following: "What do you get when you combine more than 30 Grammy Awards, nearly 40 Academy Award nominations, five Oscars, numerous platinum and gold records, a few Golden Globes, a 360 piece choir and a world-renowned symphony? The answer is the music of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies." With the worldwide distribution of the Ceremonies, music had to play a large part in conveying the emotion and message of Salt Lake. Producer Mischer stated that *"The Ceremonies are broadcast in 88 languages, so we can't incorporate a lot of narrative, therefore music*

*becomes a key element in the show."*

*"Light the Fire Within"* was selected as the creative theme for the Opening Ceremonies and will feature performances by the Utah Symphony Orchestra and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. 4,000 cast members selected from nearly 12,000 who auditioned will take part in the Ceremonies. 98% of the talent came from the state of Utah. Oscar-winning composer John Williams was chosen to write the official theme of the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. *"Call of the Champions"* will be conducted at the ceremonies by the composer. It was also recorded on 27 November 2001 in Salt Lake with the Mormon

Tabernacle Choir and Salt Lake Symphony for release on the *American Journey* CD. Williams is well known for his prodigious production of film scores (most recently *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*). However, he has also achieved universal recognition for the music he has written for the Olympics. Williams composed the theme for the 1984 Los Angeles Games, the 1988 NBC Olympic coverage *"Olympic Spirit,"* and *"Summon the Heroes"* for the 1996 Centennial Olympics in Atlanta. Once again his soaring melodies and contemporary treatment of percussion and brass carry forth the Williams signature with *"Call of the Champions."*



Pianist Billy Taylor.

Repeating as musical director for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies is Mark Watters (also Atlanta 1996). Watters has composed and conducted for Disney, MGM, various television series as well as country music star Trisha Yearwood. As musical director it is his duty to coordinate the musical elements of the programme. Yet, his musical talents will also be prevalent in many of the Ceremonies' segments.

In addition to Williams and Watters, the Ceremonies also include the music of Michael Kamen, Robbie Robertson, David Foster, Kurt Bestor, and Sam Cardon. Kamen is well known for his film scores to *Lethal Weapon*, *Die Hard*, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* and *Mr. Holland's Opus*. He has worked with film producers Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Robertson collaborated with Martin Scorsese for the score to *Casino* and, as a Native American, has worked with the Hawks and The Red Road Ensemble. Keyboard specialist and composer Foster is a much sought after studio musician and has credits with *Chicago*, Natalie Cole, Barbra Streisand, Celine Dion, and Christina Aguilera. He received the most Grammy nominations in 2001 (seven) and was named Billboard's Top Singles R&B Producer in 1993. His film credits include *Ghostbusters*, *Footloose*, and *The Bodyguard*.

In keeping with the festive nature of the Closing Ceremonies of recent Olympics, Salt Lake will feature its



*The Salt Lake Mormon Tabernacle Choir*

fair share of popular and "headliner" talent. Styles will range from pop to rock to jazz to soul to big band to classical with Nsync, Christina Aguilera, Bon Jovi, Harry Connick, Jr., Josh Groban and Charlotte Church. In a departure from past Ceremonies and beginning what may be a new tradition, Olympic skating stars Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Oksana Kazakova, Artur Dmitriev, Iliia Kulik, Renee Rota, and Gorsha Sur will perform stunning and emotional routines for the stadium and television audience.

### Ice Skating and Dancing

Some of the most memorable musical moments from each winter Games comes from the Ice Skating and Ice Dancing events. Down through the years some of the most performed music included selections from *Carmen*, *Don Quixote* and *Porgy and Bess*. During the 70's and 80's, music was often cut quite drastically with a great number of tempo changes, mood swings, and often a collage of pieces were mixed into one programme. In recent years we have

heard better quality arrangements of the selections, and, thanks to digital editing, better quality sound tracks accompanying the skaters. Although ballet selections and tunes from Broadway musicals remain popular, film scores and soundtracks have become quite prevalent.

The most often used music in 2002 includes

selections from *Moulin Rouge* (Lady Marmalade and El Tango de Roxanne), *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *Pearl Harbour*, *The Mask of Zorro*, music from *Les Miserables*, and *The Mummy Returns*. Although the off beat and shocking has become more of the rage, especially in Ice Dancing, the more mainstream rhythm oriented pieces still win the day. Whereas in the ice skating events, the more emotional melodic pieces seem to still be the judges' (and fans') favourites.

### The "Olympic Spirit" Band

With the weather and setting decidedly important factors, the Olympic band of Salt Lake will not compare in size to the 2,000 member Millennium Marching Band of Sydney. However, the 132 member "Olympic Spirit" Band could certainly match its name. The group will be conducted by Scott Hagen and Brian Sproul of the University of Utah. Assistant director and drumline specialist is Randall Beach of Brigham Young University, Provo. Also assisting is Steve Bentley from Mountain Crest High School in Logan. Steve is noted for

his work with the world champion Blue Devils drum and bugle corps. The band consists of 24 woodwinds (six each piccolos, clarinets, alto saxes, and tenor saxes), 89 brass instruments (32 trumpets, 15 mellophones, 16 trombones, 12 baritone, and 16 tubas), and 19 percussionists. Nearly all of the membership are from Utah colleges and high schools. Twelve members of the band also performed for the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Atlanta on 4 December last. Smaller contingents of the band performed throughout the Olympic venues. The brass section of the band features in the Opening Ceremonies on "herald trumpets" augmented by

members of the US Army Band "Pershing's Own" from Washington, D.C. The Herald Trumpets from the US Army Band have played at three other US Olympic sites (Squaw Valley in 1960, Los Angeles in 1984, and Atlanta in 1996). The 2002 "Olympic Spirit" Band's repertoire includes: *Summon the Heroes*, *Olympic Spirit*, *Bugler's Dream*, *March from "1941," Winter Games*, *Malaguena*, *Faces/In the Stone*, *Sing Sing Sing*, *El Congo Valiente*, *Stars and Stripes*, and *76 Trombones*. The band's uniforms is long snow white coats with a splash of ice green at the sleeves, cuffs, and right shoulder, white pants and American "western" style hats.

### Conclusion

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then a musical picture must be worth a million. The story of Salt Lake City 2002 will be told and retold down through the years by examining the many musical moments provided by thousands of individuals, from stars to ordinary citizens. Pierre de Coubertin was certainly correct when he said: "There is no better accompaniment to the great spectacle of the Olympic Games than music!"

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## Olympic Quiz\*

### The Olympic Winter Games

#### Questions

1. The XIX Olympic Winter Games will be held in 2002 in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the United States. How many previous Olympic Winter Games have been held in the United States?
2. Has any other nation conducted more than one Olympic Winter Games?
3. The Olympic Winter Games began in 1924. Which nations have appeared at all celebrations of the Olympic Winter Games?
4. Skeleton racing will be on the Olympic programme at Salt Lake City. It is often incorrectly labelled a "new" Olympic sport, but it has been on the Olympic programme previously. When was skeleton racing held at the Olympic Winter Games?
5. Women will participate in one of the Olympic Winter sports for the first time at Salt Lake City. Which sport?
6. In addition to the last two questions, there are five other new events that will be conducted in cross country skiing and biathlon at Salt Lake City. What are these events?
7. There are three events on the Olympic Winter programme that are mixed, that is, men and women may compete together. What are these three events?
8. There will be 41 men's events and 34 women's events at Salt Lake City. The Olympic Winter programme is almost the same for men and women, with one primary difference. What is that primary difference?
9. One sport on the Olympic Winter programme has always had the exact same events for men and women. Which one?
10. How many sports and disciplines constitute the Olympic Winter programme?

\*Compiled by Bill Mallon, president of the International Society of Olympic Historians