

This year's "Music Under the Stars" drum and bugle corps show will be unlike anything in the 20-year history of the event, organized by the Maple City Sound Committee and the City of Hornell.

To begin with, it's free.

There is no charge to attend this year's event, which will be held at **7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, 2009**, at Maple City Park. However, a free-will offering will be taken during the show, with all proceeds to benefit local charities.

The free admission is the organizers' gift to the community to celebrate 20 very successful years of top-quality musical performances, according to Hornell Mayor Shawn D. Hogan.

"We wanted to pay back the community for 20 years of support. That's why we're doing it for free," said Mayor Hogan, who also is a member of the Maple City Sound Committee.

The other noticeable change this year is the musical lineup. For most of the past two decades, "Music Under the Stars" featured some of the nation's top junior drum corps. However, Drum Corps International – which manages junior corps competition nationwide – abruptly eliminated the Hornell venue from its 2009 schedule for what DCI said was a cost-savings measure.

"This year, we ran into difficulties with DCI and we felt we were treated unfairly by them," Mayor Hogan said. "But that didn't deter us from turning our show into an all-senior corps event."

Exhibiting senior corps like the Empire Statesmen have been crowd-favorites in past shows in Hornell. So, "Music Under the Stars" will become a senior corps showcase through Drum Corps Associates – but the switch can't be fully made until the 2010 season.

"We did not want a year to go by without having a show, because this will be our 20th year," said Mayor Hogan.

Consequently, this year's event in Hornell will be an amalgam of past and future shows, along with a couple of new wrinkles.

For example, one of the four corps to perform will be the Glassmen, the world-renowned junior drum corps from Ohio who have performed in Hornell numerous times. For more than 15 years, the Glassmen have been a finalist in the annual Drum Corps International Championships, and has performed around the world throughout its 45-year history.

"Music Under the Stars" also will feature a senior corps – Mighty St. Joe's Alumni Corps from LeRoy, which has been wildly popular in exhibition performances in past shows in Hornell. This year's musical lineups include old favorites, like "Georgia on My Mind" and "I Go to Rio."

New this year in Hornell: the Prime Time Brass ensemble, and the Ghost Riders mini corps.

Prime Time Brass, based in Rochester, was formed in 2005 by a dozen of the top brass players from Western New York and Canada. According to the ensemble's website, Prime Time Brass features "an enormously large sound, mixed with a little shtick and a lot of personality."

The Ghost Riders, from Batavia, were originally formed in 1996 to compete in the Drum Corps Associate's "Mini Corps" Competition. They won the New York State American Legion Crown and the prestigious DCA Mini Corps World Championship. The Ghost Riders have competed in 11 consecutive championships. In 2006, the Ghost Riders were the only American drum corps invited to perform at the prestigious International Marine Tattoo in Rochester.

"Music Under the Stars" is expected to last two hours. Gates will open at 5:30 p.m.

**For more information:
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