



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University of Akron Steel Drum Band concert to air on May 21 on Western Reserve PBS

NORTHEAST OHIO — Wednesday, May 15, 2013 — Enjoy Caribbean and calypso music by The University of Akron Steel Drum Band when **Hammer on Steel: Steel Band Paradise** airs on Tuesday, May 21, at 10 p.m. on Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1). Additional air dates for the program can be found at <http://westernreservepublicmedia.org>.

Hammer on Steel: Steel Band Paradise features highlights from the UA Steel Drum Band's April 2013 concert at E.J. Thomas Hall, including performances by these guest artists: calypso singer Keet Styla, master pan player Ray Holman of Trinidad and percussionist Tom Miller, a 1984 alumnus of the UA Steel Drum Band.

The program was produced by students from Z-TV at the UA School of Communication under the guidance of Z-TV general manager and Wadsworth resident Phil Hoffman, an award-winning documentary producer.

One of the country's oldest and largest collegiate steel bands, The University of Akron Steel Drum Band was created in 1980 by professor Larry Snider of the UA School of Music. Committed to showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the steel drums, the band has become a well-known favorite throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond. Performing classical to jazz to Caribbean music, the band always draws full houses for its performances at Akron's First Night and its annual spring concerts at UA's E.J. Thomas Hall.

In 1987 the band was one of the first ensembles of its kind from the United States to travel to Trinidad to study performance, rehearsal techniques and style from the original masters of the instrument. Graduates of the UA percussion program now number more than 110 and are working as musicians and music educators around the globe. For more information about The University of Akron Steel Drum Band, visit www.uasteelband.com.

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Snider, a resident of Twin Lakes, continues to lead the band and the percussion studies program in The University of Akron School of Music. Matt Dudack, a resident of Akron, is the band's artistic director. The student musicians include:

Daryl Belcher, undergraduate student from Las Vegas, Nev.
Clay Chabola, undergraduate student from Ashtabula, Ohio
Jim Curtis, undergraduate student from Wadsworth, Ohio
Colin Dees, graduate student from the University of Southern Mississippi
Matt Diehl, undergraduate student from Orrville, Ohio
Matt Edick, undergraduate student from Akron, Ohio
Joseph Fox, undergraduate student from Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Alex Fragiskatos, graduate student from the University of Cincinnati
Austin Ferguson, undergraduate student from Brilliant, Ohio
Blaine Klein, undergraduate student from Canton, Ohio
Neil Lantry, undergraduate student from Stow, Ohio
Emily Larson, undergraduate student from Pickering, Ohio
Tyler Mashek, undergraduate student from Tallmadge, Ohio
Sam McKenzie, graduate student from the University of Mont.
Josh Minhinnick, undergraduate student from Columbus, Ohio
Jonathan Monacelli, undergraduate student from Mentor, Ohio
Jordan Morrison, graduate student from Malone University
Stephen Neal, undergraduate student from North Canton, Ohio
Laura Runion, undergraduate student from Indianapolis, Ind.
Thomas Russell, undergraduate student from Hartsville, Ohio
David Singhaus, undergraduate student from Dover, Ohio
Louis Turndick III, undergraduate student from Akron, Ohio
Shelby Waters, undergraduate student from Newark, Ohio
Cameron Weichman, undergraduate student from Ravenna, Ohio
David Wolf, undergraduate student from Louisville, Ohio

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and

Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (5.13 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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