

Peter And Paul Decker To Headline The Tidewater Winds' 25th Anniversary Opening Night At The Harrison Opera House

It is a Silver Celebration for The Tidewater Winds as this professional concert band goes into its 25th Summer Season.

Peter G. Decker, Jr. and his son Paul are the opening night spotlight. The Tidewater Winds was founded by the late Dr. C. Sidney Berg in 1985 and continues to perform all over the Hampton Roads area throughout the Summer Season.

"The Winds", under the direction of Maestro John H. Brewington, performs entertaining concerts in the John Philip Sousa tradition featuring a sampling of classic literature as well as pop and family favorites. All of the band's concerts are presented free of charge and open to the public.

The Tidewater Winds is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization and is supported by Fine Arts Commissions and foundations, yet the largest source of its income comes from contributions from individual benefactors, patrons, and local businesses.

Opening night, at The Harrison Opera House on July 5, 2009, is a special night for The Tidewater Winds. Peter G. Decker, Jr., a Norfolk native and well known attorney will be singing some memorable selections in honor of this 25 year anniversary. Mr. Decker has been singing since he was six -- years-old and has traveled throughout the country with Danny Thomas and served as Mr. Thomas' opening act. Each year while Mr. Thomas was alive, Mr. Decker would go to Wall Street to their fund raiser and serve as emcee and entertainer with Danny Thomas.

For over forty years Mr. Decker has been a member of the Board of Governors and Directors of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He has recorded professionally many albums which were sold for the benefit of St. Jude. His recordings have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars through the years.

Mr. Decker explains, "I keep coming back to The Tidewater Winds because of a commitment I made to Sidney Berg and although I've been supporting the band since its start, this is my fifth year singing with 'The Winds'. I believe they are right up there with the Symphony and the Opera as far as the quality of their music and they have grown through their John Philip Sousa tradition."

According to Decker one thing makes "The Winds" unique as well as educationally viable to the Hampton Roads Community and that is their commitment to children. "The Tidewater Winds provides an intern program for select high school students and this is what separates them. 'The Winds' really wants to help kids."

For the last 15 or 20 years, Mr. Decker has been fortunate



The Tidewater Winds

to have his son Paul with him singing at many special causes as well as with the Tidewater Winds. The two will be singing the "Anniversary Waltz" together and Peter Decker will reprise his hits from over the past years in a special medley. All of Mr. Decker's arrangements were scored by the late Pat Curtis who was renowned in the music field for performing in all genres

and arranging compositions for many ensembles. Mr. Decker's new arrangements are scored by Roy Muth a well known composer/arranger and trumpet performer from the Hampton Roads area.

For more information and a complete schedule for the Tidewater Winds visit their website at www.tidewaterwinds.org or just call 480-0953.

The Tidewater Winds Celebrating 25 Years! Welcome to our Silver Anniversary Season!

(All performances begin at 7:30 pm)

WEEK 1 - "A SILVER CELEBRATION"

Sunday, 5 July: Harrison Opera House, Norfolk (With Peter and Paul Decker)

Monday, 6 July: Great Bridge High School, Chesapeake

Wednesday, 8 July: 24th Street Park, Virginia Beach (lawn seating)

WEEK 2 - "ONCE IN A BLUE MOON"

Sunday, 12 July: Harrison Opera House, Norfolk

Monday, 13 July: Great Bridge High School, Chesapeake

Tuesday, 14 July: Cox High School, Virginia Beach

Wednesday, 15 July: 24th Street Park, Virginia Beach (lawn seating)

WEEK 3 - "HONORING THOSE WHO SERVE"

Sunday, 19 July: Harrison Opera House, Norfolk

Monday, 20 July: Great Bridge High School, Chesapeake

Tuesday, 21 July: Cox High School, Virginia Beach

Wednesday, 22 July: 24th Street Park, Virginia Beach (lawn seating)

WEEK 4 - "MOVIES, MUSICALS, & MARCHES"

Tuesday, 28 July: Cox High School, Virginia Beach

Wednesday, 29 July: 31st Street Park, Virginia Beach (lawn seating)

Friday, 31 July: Willett Hall, Portsmouth