

# A Gershwin Spectacular

Presented by  
Sparks Community Band  
&  
Nevada County Concert Band



Barbara & Gerhardt Suhrstedt  
4 Hand - 1 Piano Duettists

July 25, 1998  
7:30 PM  
Maytan Music Center

## Programme

Strike Up the Band (1927)      Arr. Warren Barker

Rialto Ripples (1916)      Arr. by Composer

Various Selected Songs      Arr. Henry Levine

...      Somebody Loves Me      (1924)

...      Someone to Watch Over Me      (1926)

...      O Lady, Be Good      (1924)

A Gershwin Portrait      Arr. Bruce Chase

## INTERMISSION

Impromptu Variations on "I've Got Rhythm"      (1930)

Cuban Overture      (1932)      Arr. by Composer

Rhapsody in Blue      (1924)      Arr. by Frede Grafe'

## CONDUCTOR - GERALD G. WILLIS

Coming to Reno in 1990, Mr. Willis saw the need for a music program for the community in general. Those people who hadn't played for years, because the only local outlet was professional. He said he would conduct and manage a community band. The group was a success from the start. People came to play and audiences came to listen.

Mr. Willis was also instrumental in the formation of the North Lake Tahoe Symphony, in 1992. They have presented many Summer Concerts in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

In 1995, Mr. Willis made his European conducting debut, conducting the West Bohemian Symphony in Marianske Lazne and Cheb in the Czech Republic.

As a music teacher for Washoe County, Mr. Willis has had a most successful four years at Hug High School & O'Brien Middle School. Not only has the enrollment of both bands tripled to almost 450 students, he was successful in getting the Hug Band invited to represent the State of Nevada in the 1997 Presidential Inaugural Parade in Washington, DC., playing "Silver State Fanfare" written by Gerald Willis for this occasion.

1998 saw Mr. Willis honored as Washoe County's Excellence in Education, Teacher of the Year.

## Nevada County Concert Band

The Nevada Community Concert Band is the official band of Nevada County and is made up entirely of volunteer musicians from the Nevada City/Grass Valley area. It has a rich history dating to the days of the Cornish gold miners!

Ernie Harris, who was a musician as well as a bank manager in Nevada City, formed the group now known as the Nevada County Concert Band. Ever since it's first formal concert in 1972, the band has remained very active by participating in numerous annual concerts through out the year, including the Nevada County Fair, Fourth of July and Constitution Day Celebrations, and three outdoor Picnic Pops Concerts in June, July and August.



## About the Artists

BARBARA AND GERHARDT SUHRSTEDT are one of America's few touring one-piano, four-hand teams. They presented their first duet concert in 1979. Since their 1982 New York debut, the Suhrstedts have performed in 35 states, in Canada, and in Russia. They have given recitals on many of the nation's prestigious concert series, including the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert in Chicago, the National Gallery of Art and the Phillips Collection Sunday Series in Washington, D.C., and the Temple Square Concerts in Salt Lake City. In 1986, the Suhrstedt duo became the first piano duet to perform for an American Liszt Society annual festival. The couple have been featured on the Grand Teton, Wildflower, Lakeside, Garth Newel, Castle Hill, Piccolo Spoleto, and Gina Bachauer International Festivals. Their May, 1998 concert in the Grand Palace in Peterhof (summer residence of Peter the Great) brought them a standing ovation.

BARBARA FETROW SUHRSTEDT is a native of Chillicothe, Ohio and a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music. GERHARDT SUHRSTEDT, originally from Charleston, South Carolina, is a graduate of Furman University. The Suhrstedts met and married while completing graduate study at Boston University's School for the Arts. Their teachers have included Jack Radunsky, David Gibson, Bela Boszormenyi-Nagy, Heinz Schroter, George Haddad, Richard Cass, and Theodore Lettvin.

The Suhrstedts have received wide critical acclaim for their multimedia presentations "FOUR HANDS FANTASTIQUE: French Music, Art, & Poetry, 1870-1920" and "SLAVA: THE GLORY OF THE ARTS IN TSARIST RUSSIA". In honor of the 1998 Gershwin centennial, the Suhrstedt duo is performing "FOUR HANDS, BY GEORGE!" and, in collaboration with soprano Kay Raplenovich, "FOUR HANDS AND A VOICE, BY GEORGE I", featuring music of Gershwin and his contemporaries.

Barbara and Gerhardt Suhrstedt live in Boston. They recently released a new CD "DANCES FOR DUETTISTS".

## SPARKS COMMUNITY BAND

The Sparks Community Band is an all volunteer, non - profit organization, affiliated with Washoe County Continuing Education program.

Begun in 1991, as the Truckee Meadows Community College Band, by Conductor, Gerald Willis, this ensemble offered to the people of the Reno-Sparks area, an opportunity to play their instruments for their own pleasure and the publics.

People came, from Homemaker to Educator to Lawyer, to play. As the group grew so did it's needs, so sponsorship was sought. Sparks Redevelopment saw the benefit offered to the community, both for the players and the audience . Sparks Community Band plays for many Sparks & Reno Public Events, plus they also play at a number of the Washoe County Schools. They demonstrate where students can go with their music skills. The band offers advanced music students, challenges different then they encounter in the classroom.

Any money raised by the Sparks Community Band at an event such as this goes back into other local music programs with such things as instruments and equipment for local school bands.

Sparks Community Band is always looking for new members, if you have the urge to get your instrument out of the closet, come join us at Hug High School Band Room, Monday Evenings (except Holidays) at 7:00 PM. Starting in September.

## **Flute**

Betsy Groves Albert \*  
Sarah Carr \*  
Alma Hunderman \*  
Sachiyo Ikeda +

## **Clarinet**

Jane Anderson +  
Lynn Chevillon \*  
Harold George +  
Marie Embery-Groves \*  
Chris Landers \*  
Jack Stewart +  
Vern Swartz +  
Christine Ward \*

## **Alto Clarinet**

Dorothy Lewis +

## **Bass Clarinet**

Jeanine Newman \*  
Julie Swartz +

## **Bassoon**

Bob Weaver +  
Roger West \*

## **Alto Saxophone**

Thomas Martz \*  
Mary Whitmore +  
Rhonda Serr \*

## **Baritone Saxophone**

Don Brandt +  
Stephen Tehudi \*

## **Trumpet**

Dave Corkern +  
Greg Goodknight +  
Michael Groves \*  
Lucas Koenig \*  
Lou Trevato +

## **Tuba**

Earl Crusier +  
Robert Grossman \*

## **French Horn**

Pete Hanson \*  
Jocelym Ray \*  
Fred Sutter +  
Susan Thompson \*

## **Baritone**

Ken Shelly \*

## **Trombone**

Jack Bacich +  
Karl Branch +  
Robert Henszey \*

## **Percussion**

Alex Acuba +  
Beth Bock +  
Norman Kies +  
Malia Walter \*

\* Sparks Community Band  
+ Nevada County Concert Band

We would like to thank  
**Maytan Music Center**  
for the use of the Concert Hall and the piano.

Remember Maytan Music Center  
for all of your families music needs.

