

## **Central Ohio Symphony Prepares For Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Concert**

As it has done every year for over a quarter of a century, the Central Ohio Symphony will take the outdoor stage for a holiday concert on Wednesday, July 4 at 7:30 p.m. This year's concert under the direction of Conductor Jaime Morales-Matos will be held on the Phillips Glen lawn located behind Gray Chapel on the Sandusky Street main campus of Ohio Wesleyan University just one block south of downtown Delaware.

This is the second consecutive year that the concert has started at 7:30 p.m. Symphony Executive Director Warren W. Hyer explained that the earlier time allows the orchestra to play its entire program without causing the City to rush the start of the fireworks display afterwards.

The concert is one of Ohio's largest free orchestra performances with attendance in recent years between 5000 and 7000. The concert will take place regardless of weather, with Branch Rickey arena as the rain location. Paul Craft, Superintendent of the Delaware City Schools, will be this year's host. Matt Miller, Director of Vocal Music at Buckeye Valley Schools, will sing the national anthem.

"We have always had tremendous support from the community," Hyer said. "This concert is our gift back to the community."

As in years past, the evening's program will be dominated by music by American composers. "We play American music because it's a good thing to do, it's music everyone recognizes," explained Hyer. "And it's great music." Among the evening's selections will be "Casey at the Bat," narrated by Symphony trustee David Hejmanowski, an arrangement of "In the Mood" by Marysville resident Matt Nelson, and several marches. The musicians will also play the popular "Armed Forces Salute," this year in a slightly different version, in recognition of veterans and active service personnel.

Lawn seating is free; the Symphony also provides limited general admission chair seating in front of the stage for \$5.00. Tickets are available at the Symphony office, located at 24 E. Winter Street in downtown Delaware, and at Buehler's Fresh Foods, as well as at the concert. Kiwanis will be selling refreshments at the concert. Immediately following the concert will be the City of Delaware's fireworks display.

The lead sponsor for this year's concert is Willow Brook Christian Communities. The corporate sponsor is FirstMerit Bank. Additional sponsors are the Ohio Arts Council, the City of Delaware, and Ohio Wesleyan University as the host. Hyer noted that the Symphony is accepting donations in any amount for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July concert and that donations could be made online at [www.centralohiosymphony.org](http://www.centralohiosymphony.org) or by contacting the Symphony at 740-362-1799.

For more information on the concert, visit [www.centralohiosymphony.org](http://www.centralohiosymphony.org) or call the Central Ohio Symphony office at (740) 362-1799.