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The Folsom Symphony

P.O. Box 794

Folsom CA 95763

916-357-6718 • [info@folsomsymphony.com](mailto:info@folsomsymphony.com)

<http://folsomsymphony.com>

Media contact: Linda Holderness (916-983-1388 or [lholderness@comcast.net](mailto:lholderness@comcast.net))

## FOLSOM SYMPHONY PRESENTS A MUSICAL EVENING OF SPORTS JUNE 6 AND 7

Batter up! You won't get peanuts and Cracker Jacks, but you will enjoy the old ball game – or whatever sport is your favorite – at the Folsom Symphony's doubleheader June 6 and 7. At "Sports Night at the Symphony," Maestro Peter Jaffe will lead the action as you've never experienced it before. Be prepared to stomp, clap and cheer, because at this event, the home team always wins.

The evening opens, as many games do, with the "Star Spangled Banner." From there, the playbill is an unusually diverse one: 15 selections ranging from all-American baseball and football to international themes, interspersed with plenty of opportunity to trumpet your team spirit. Here, not in order, are the pre-game highlights:

No matter what sports you follow, you'll get a big kick out of Peter Schickele's (a.k.a. PDQ Bach) hilarious narration of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony as a nonspecific athletic competition, complete with two announcers, a mean referee and a well-used penalty box.

No game is more All-American than baseball, and the sport is played twice during the evening's repertoire. First is a recitation of Ernest Lawrence Thayer's classic 1888 poem, "Casey at the Bat," set to music by Steven Reineke. The story may hit close to home: The fictional Casey plays for the "Mudville Nine," and some fans insist the real Casey played for Stockton's team of the same name.

You'll also "root, root, root for the home team" to Albert von Tilzer and Jack Norworth's 1908 ubiquitous Tin Pan Alley tune, "Take Me Out to the Ball Game."

American football is represented twice, too, by "Heavy Action," Johnny Pearson's Monday Night Football theme; and Michel Legrand's theme from the inspirational movie "Brian's Song."

Other sports you'll sample: Harlem Globetrotters basketball with its theme "Sweet Georgia Brown" by Maceo Pinkard and Kenneth Casey; bullfighting by the "March of the Toreadors" from Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen*; ice skating, 1882 Paris style, with Emile Waldteufel's "Skaters' Waltz"; and boxing with selections from the *Rocky* movies by Bill Conti, arranged by R. Lowden. And, if you're not a die-hard soccer

fan, you might be surprised to learn that John Philip Sousa's signature march, the "Stars and Stripes Forever," has been appropriated as "Here We Go," a soccer chant used by teams around the globe.

The Olympics gets good play, too. You'll relive the tension and rejoice in the victories of Britain's 1924 Olympics track team as you listen to Vangelis' incomparable music from the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. The evening will close with two Olympics standards: Leo Arnaud's stirring "Bugler's Dream," familiar as the theme song for the televised Olympics games – BUM-BUM ba-ba-ba BAH-BAH; and the "Olympic Fanfare and Theme," from the 1984 Olympics by one of this country's premier contemporary composers, John Williams (*Star Wars, Jaws*).

Cheering is a sport, too, and it's not neglected in this performance. You'll want to listen for your favorite college fight song in, what else, the "College Fight Song Medley" arranged by Irvin L. Wagner. And you'll get to make plenty of noise to Brian May's celebratory "We Will Rock You."

There may be no joy in Mudville after Mighty Casey strikes out, but your smiles are guaranteed after an evening of these memorable sports classics. Starting times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6, and 2 p.m., Sunday, June 7, at the Harris Center/Three Stages theater on the Folsom Lake College campus, 10 College Parkway, Folsom. Buy tickets online at [www.folsomsymphony.com](http://www.folsomsymphony.com), by calling 916-608-6888, or by visiting the ticket office at the theater.

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