

Media Advisory

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Fort Drum Public Affairs

FORT DRUM, N.Y. -- The 10th Mountain Division Band is tuning up to deliver some festive music and seasonal cheer to the community during their free holiday concert series in December.

The band will present "A North Country Carol" at 6 p.m. Dec. 5 inside Fort Drum's Multipurpose Auditorium; 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at Indian River High School; and 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at Clayton Opera House.

Warrant Officer 1 Henry Soriano, band commander, said the concert series is an annual tradition that combines holiday spirit with community spirit.

"It is both an honor and a privilege that we can do this and share the talents that this band has with the community," he said. "Since we started the holiday concert series in 2018, it has been gaining traction – to the point where all the tickets for the Clayton show are gone within hours."

This is the first time that the band will perform the holiday concert on post for the military families.

"To be able to serve the folks who serve us, by giving them a joyful and hopeful celebration for the upcoming holidays, is the biggest reward for us," Soriano said.

Throughout the year, the band conducts hundreds of performances at military and community functions, typically in smaller groups like a brass or woodwind quintet, jazz combo, rock band or the barbershop quartet.

The holiday concert is an opportunity for the entire 10th Mountain Division to assemble as a unit to plan, practice and produce a full stage performance.

"In terms of production, it's not something we get to do but once or twice a year," said First Sgt. Andrew Smicker, 10th Mountain Division Band first sergeant. "There are stage movements for the various scenes throughout the concert, there are lighting cues, audio cues and all these different things community members typically won't see us do in a regular ceremony or parade."

Smicker described the concert as a musical journey leading up to the holiday, through Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and into New Year's Day.

For tickets to the Clayton Opera House concert, visit [www.claytonoperahouse.com](http://www.claytonoperahouse.com). Seating for the other two venues is on a first-come, first-served basis.

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The band will conduct a dress rehearsal prior to the concert series on Wednesday, Dec. 3 in Fort Drum's Multipurpose Auditorium.

Media interested in attending the rehearsal must be at the Media Operations Center on NYS Route 26 no later than 12:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3. An RSVP is requested by 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

To RSVP or for further information regarding this advisory, contact MAJ Jason Elmore, [jason.c.elmore.mil@army.mil](mailto:jason.c.elmore.mil@army.mil).