

TULSA, OKLAHOMA | MAY 9, 2023

56th Annual Scientific and Training Symposium

Surgeon General's Ensemble Concert

& World Premiere of
the PBS Documentary
Invisible Corps: In Officio Salutis



Invisible Corps
In Officio Salutis
In Service of Health



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5:15 p.m. Reception, Legacy Hall Atrium

6:30 p.m. Ensemble and Chorus performance: *The Surgeon General's Own*

Special Guest Conductor: George King III, MUCS, USCG (Retired)

7:45 p.m. World Premiere: *Invisible Corps, In Officio Salutis*

schedule



USPHS Music Ensemble Co-Executive Directors

- CAPT Elise Young, USPHS Commissioned Corps Music Ensemble
- CAPT Michael Ahmadi, USPHS Commissioned Corps Music Ensemble

The USPHS Commissioned Corps Music Ensemble is comprised of a Ceremonial Band and a Choral Group. The Music Ensemble, like the Honor Guard, is a valued ceremonial element of the USPHS. Known as the “Surgeon General’s Own,” it performs at about 30 events each year, including award ceremonies, promotions, retirements, and special events. Notably, the Ensemble has performed at every USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium since 2001.

In 2011, the Choral Group and Ceremonial Band performed the first of several annual concerts at the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. In 2015, the Music Ensemble performed in the presence of Vice President Joseph R. Biden during the swearing-in of Vivek H. Murthy as U.S. Surgeon General. The Music Ensemble members are a dedicated group of USPHS officers who rehearse and perform on their own time, apart from their assigned duties.

Ensemble History

The idea of creating a USPHS Commissioned Corps musical group was proposed by Scientist officer CAPT (*Ret.*) John J. Bartko. CAPT Bartko and CAPT Derek E. Dunn, the Chief Scientist Officer at the time, recognized that unlike other uniformed services, the USPHS Commissioned Corps was without a musical component for ceremonial occasions.

CAPTs Bartko and Dunn undertook a survey of Scientist Category officers, which revealed that a number of officers were interested in joining a musical group. CAPT Dunn proposed to the Office of the Surgeon General (*OSG*) and to Chief Professional Officers (*CPOs*) that a USPHS musical group be established. The OSG and CPOs embraced the idea and authorized a survey of all active duty officers to determine the USPHS-wide level of interest. About 75 officers indicated their interest in forming a musical group. The respondents were invited to participate in a July 2000 meeting where Deputy Surgeon General, RADM Kenneth P. Moritsugu, welcomed the participants. Planning ensued to establish a choral group, a wind group, and a chamber group. The initiative was subsequently formalized within OSG.

THE SURGEON GENERAL'S OWN

PHS March and Fanfare

The Public Health Service March was composed by George King III, Senior Chief Musician, USCG (*Retired*). In the 1970s, King was Conductor of the USCG Training Center Band in Cape May, New Jersey. He learned that the USPHS had no Service March when USPHS dignitaries were to visit the base. The other uniformed services have marches and official music, and King resolved to remedy the situation by composing the musical score and lyrics of the PHS March.

In 1978, King conveyed the copyright of the PHS March to Surgeon General Julius B. Richmond. And on the occasion of the USPHS Commissioned Corps Centennial in 1989, King, upon request of the USPHS, also composed the Centennial Fanfare – Anchor and Caduceus. At the Washington gala celebrating the event in January, 1989, the Coast Guard Band played and King conducted for the premiere of the Fanfare. The lyrics of the PHS March appear below. In 2020, the lyrics were modified by adding “air” to the words.

PHS March Lyrics

*The mission of our Service
is known the world around,
In research and in treatment
no equal can be found.
In the silent war against disease,
no truce is ever seen,
We serve on the land, air and
sea for humanity,
The Public Health Service team!*



George King III, MUSC, USCG
(Retired), composer of the
PHS March



PHS March

ABOUT THE FILM

In 2022, the PHS Commissioned Officers Foundation for the Advancement of Public Health (COF) partnered with Christopher Productions, LLC to produce a documentary on the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) for the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Invisible Corps: In Officio Salutis was created to help Americans and our leaders understand how the USPHS Commissioned Corps is a key answer to our nation's health and well-being.

The film covers the history and role of the USPHS, highlighting aspects of the USPHS Commissioned Corps to help educate viewers about the role that the officers play in the future health of our nation, and the world. Narrated by Ali MacGraw, *Invisible Corps: In Officio Salutis* explains the history of the U.S. Public Health Service and the importance of public health. It explores how public health has become politicized and the potential for change that will affect the nation's health for years.



Christopher Productions (CP), LLC has created over 100 television programs in the past 25 years that have garnered 26 Emmy® Awards that have been broadcast throughout the country and around the world. Focusing on educational and social issues, CP has over two decades of experience in cultural and social documentaries all geared to create "Television to Touch the Heart." CP documentaries have raised public awareness and impacted public policy nationally and internationally. Clients have included the United Nations, the National Institute of Mental Health, PBS, the CBS Foundation, as well as television networks and governments worldwide.

documentary

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In Officio Salutis
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