

9-11 Tribute – Simply Amazing

This year's **9-11 Tribute** *Our Community Remembers* is being described by everyone in attendance as the best ever. The annual concert was held on Friday evening September 11th at the Lake Harriet Band Shell. It's done annually in remembrance of the 2,996 victims who lost their lives on 9/11/01. It drew an estimated audience of over 2,500. The all volunteer 64-piece 9-11 Tribute Orchestra and 57-voice 9-11 Tribute chorus were comprised of members from over 90 local orchestras and vocal groups.

Linden Hills hardware store owner Bob Bayers produced the 9-11 Tribute for the 8th year in a row. Manny Laureano conducted the orchestra and John Hoffacker conducted the chorus. Both returned for their 3rd year of conducting.

More than 500 American flags were given out during the concert. An estimated 100 US service personnel stood during **Armed Forces Salute** to receive their flag and the applause of the audience. Then an estimated 400 young people participated in a parade around the bench seats as they waived their flags and stepped lively to Sousa's **Washington Post March**.

Local composer and Concordia College Grad, Joshua Clausen was commissioned by the 9-11 Tribute to orchestrate **Amazing Grace 9-11** which made it's World Premier. The piece was performed by 6-bag pipers from Zuhrah Shrine plus the entire 9-11 Tribute Orchestra and Chorus. There was a candle light vigil lit as **Amazing Grace 9-11** played.

Other highlights included: Tchaikovsky's **1812 Overture**, local composer Shelly Hanson's Groove and the **9-11 Tribute Flashback** which featured a reading of news reports from the 9/11/01 while banners listing the 2,996 names of the victims were unfurled.

This year's 9-11 Tribute has incurred added expenses of commissioning the new work **Amazing Grace 9-11** at the cost of \$1,250. In addition recording the concert and producing a compact disc of \$1,000. If you would like to contribute to help with this year's added expense and support future **9-11 Tribute** concerts please go to: <http://www.peopleforparks.net/911tribute.html>. For a \$15 minimum donation we will send you a CD of this years concert when it's finished in early October.

To listen to an audio sample of **Amazing Grace 9-11** please click here: http://www.our911tribute.com/amazing_grace_9-11_sample.mp3

To view a slide show of this year's concert please visit: <http://www.our911tribute.com/photos2009/>.

Plan to be at next year's concert on Saturday night September 11th 2010 at 7pm at the Lake Harriet Band Shell.

Written by:
9-11 Tribute Producer
Bob Bayers