

INTERLOCHEN CENTER & THE ARTS
National Music Camp
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PRESIDENT AND MRS. FORD ACCEPT INVITATION
TO VISIT NATIONAL MUSIC CAMP ON SATURDAY

For Release At Will

INTERLOCHEN, MICH.--When President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford accepted an invitation to visit the Interlochen Center for the Arts, they added another link to the chain connecting the White House and this educational institution in the Michigan woods.

While a president has never been on the 1,400-acre Interlochen campus near Traverse City, Mich., before, Lucie Baines Johnson came here to narrate a presentation of "Peter and the Wolf" when her father was chief executive and the Interlochen student symphony and ballet appeared at the White House at the invitation of Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

For the Fords' visit the National Music Camp arranged a special 9 P.M. concert by its Interlochen High School Symphonic Band at the Kresge open-air auditorium.

The program, selected by Dr. George C. Wilson, director of the camp since 1929, included "The Thunderer March" by Sousa; the "Victors March," the fight song of the University of Michigan, the President's alma mater; "Concerto for Saxophone" by Creston performed by Don Sinta, a former faculty member; Aaron Copeland's "Lincoln Portrait," narrated by George J. Worden, Interlochen's director of development; the overture to "Beatrice and Benedict" by Berlioz; the "Cockney Suite," a series of short numbers by Katelby, and "Perpetual Motion" by Paganini.

The grand finale was to be a rendition of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" featuring the 111-voice Interlochen High School Choir.

Students at the camp this year come from 45 states, the District of Columbia, the Marshall Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and 21 foreign countries.

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The National Music Camp, with its 1,500 students each summer, and the Interlochen Arts Academy, a preparatory school for highly motivated young people, have attracted artists, conductors and composers from all parts of the world to teach and perform.

The National Music Camp was founded as the pioneer of the arts camp movement in 1928 by the late Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, a Kansas-born music educator, when he was a professor of music at the University of Michigan. The camp has developed into the world's largest music school, with students coming here for eight weeks each summer to devote most of their waking hours to the pursuit of their cultural preferences.

The Academy, which was established as a college preparatory school in 1962, expects an enrollment of more than 350 this fall. Roger E. Jacoby, former associate dean of the School of Music at the University of Michigan, has been president of the Interlochen Center for the Arts since 1971. The chairman of the board of trustees is W. Clement Stone, chairman of the board of the Combined Insurance Company of America and a well-known philanthropist. It was at his invitation that President and Mrs. Ford agreed to come to Interlochen while on a visit to their home state.

During an average summer season--July and August--the National Music Camp presents 350 concerts, recitals, operettas, dance programs and little-theater productions. Its traditional major attraction is a series of Sunday-night World Youth Symphony concerts performed by the cream of the world's teen-age musical talent under the direction of some of the nation's most distinguished conductors.

The Academy provides a full college preparatory curriculum in addition to special training in music, dance, drama and the fine arts. A literary arts division is being added this fall.

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The National Music Camp has six full symphony orchestras, four bands, many ensemble groups, including a jazz combo and a 400-voice choir. Camp courses cover all areas of music and the allied arts, from ballet to electronics. There is even a course in piano tuning.

The camp and academy are situated in the Grand Traverse Bay area of northern Michigan, about 250 miles from Detroit and 15 miles from Traverse City, the nation's cherry capital.

Its 400 modern classroom buildings, dormitories, cottages and concert halls are spread over a campus nestled between two lakes near the tiny village of Interlochen, which once was the site of a bustling lumber camp.

A nonprofit educational institution, it is supported entirely by tuition and private funds and donations.

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