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August 28, 2004

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Pikesville conductor set to lead 14-trumpet ensemble

08/25/04

by **Lisa Rosato**[Respond to this story](#)[Email this story to a friend](#)

Jeremy Swerling of Pikesville leads a brass ensemble with 14 trumpet players, a couple of trombones, a bass player and percussion during a rehearsal for "Let the Trumpets Swing."

Jeremy Swerling, of Pikesville, has always had his eye on what he calls "the big picture of music."

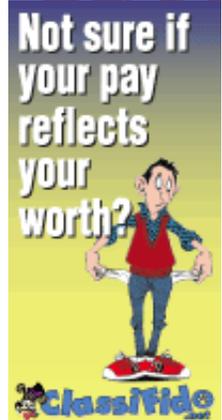
"I wanted to perform all styles," said the 43-year-old conductor. "I had the drive to lead more than the will to follow."

That drive to lead began at age 17 when he started conducting in high school. The rest is musical history.

Today, Swerling is vice president of Cala Records, a London-based record label. He is also music director of the Danville Symphony Orchestra in Illinois.

He's bringing his conducting talents home when he conducts a newly formed trumpet ensemble at 3 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 29, at the Charlestown Village Retirement Community in Catonsville. He's dubbed the performance, "Let the Trumpets Swing."

"It's an interesting mixture and union of players from both sides of the musical coin," Swerling said.



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John Blount, of Catonsville, first trumpeter in the traveling musical "The Producers" and a member of the trumpet ensemble, rounded up 13 of the best trumpet players he knew in the area for the show. He wanted to bring together musicians from different musical genres.



"We needed classical, as well as jazz and commercial" musicians, Blount said.

Many of the classical players come from the U.S. Army Field Band, headquartered at Fort Meade. They will blend with jazz-, swing-, Motown- and Latin-trained musicians to perform a variety of songs.

Rhythm accompaniment will be provided by a section of trombones, percussion, bass, drums and a piano.

Swerling called it an experiment.

"It's very different," he said. "If you like the sound of the brass section and you like lots of different styles of music, then this is the thing for you."

And the musicians couldn't be more enthusiastic about the opportunity to work under Swerling's direction.

Ginger Turner, of Lutherville, who plays principal cornet for the Army Field Band, said this concert offers musicians a rare opportunity.

"The music is versatile," she said, so each performer can do what they do well. "We're allowed to be ourselves."

Blount is confident that with Swerling as their leader, the concert will be an instant success.

"He knows exactly what he wants out of this group," Blount said. "And has the expertise of knowing how to pull it all together."

Tickets for "Let the Trumpets Swing" are \$2 per person. For ticket information, call Jennifer Tillett at 410-737-8838, ext. 8577.

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