



Ophir Prison Marching Kazoo Band & Temperance Society, Lmted.



Press Kit

About the Band

The Ophir Prison Marching Kazoo Band & Temperance Society, Lmted. has been delighting audiences and packing concert venues for over 35 years.

They are a 25- to 50-piece ensemble with pep band-type instrumentation—woodwinds, brass, and percussion—and the music they play encompasses a wide variety of genres. Members' ages range from early 20's to late 70's.

Outfitted in highly personalized "prison blues" and with tongues firmly in cheek, band members will tell you they're from Ophir Prison, an historic minimum-security facility tucked away in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. Whatever their true origins, though, they share a love of music, fun, and showing audiences a great time.

And *that* is something at which the Ophir Prison Band truly excels.

Just a few recent examples:

- The band filled nearly 10,000 seats over the course of seven performances at the 2009 Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, bringing overflow crowds into the festival's largest venues nightly. This marked the band's 14th consecutive year as a Jubilee favorite.
- Following in the footsteps of Johnny Cash, B.B. King, and other musical heavyweights, the band entertained *real* inmates at San Quentin State Prison in 2008.
- Radio station 93.7 Jack-FM hired the band to warm up the crowd before a rock concert featuring ZZ Top, the Pretenders, and the Stray Cats at Sacramento's ARCO Arena in 2007. (The band prefers to think of it as, "We *opened* for ZZ Top, the Pretenders, and the Stray Cats.")
- The band was repeatedly featured on KMAX Channel 31's *Good Day Sacramento* morning television show in 2004 and 2005.



Booking & Info

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About the Band *(continued)*

Since 1973, the Ophir Prison Band has logged more than 400 performances throughout California and Nevada. In addition to the highlights listed earlier, the band's legacy includes the following:

- The band has performed at professional sporting events such as San Francisco Giants baseball games and Golden State Warriors and Sacramento Kings NBA games, as well as at several other professional and amateur sporting events.
- In 2007, the HBO television series *The Sopranos* used the Ophir Prison Band's recording of *Livin' La Vida Loca* in the Season 6 episode "Chasing It."
- The band has entertained guests at Six Flags Magic Mountain theme park, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the California State Fair, and numerous county fairs.
- Images of the band have appeared on the front page of newspapers both big and small, from *USA TODAY* to the *Sacramento Bee* to Woodland's *Daily Democrat*.
- Since the band's inception, it has appeared in more than 50 parades celebrating Independence Day, often doing multiple parades over holiday weekends.





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The Show

An Ophir Prison Band performance is a unique, high-energy blend of music, humor, and antics.

The band's musical repertoire includes something for almost everybody—big band, jazz, jump swing, rock, "novelty" numbers, patriotic marches, traditional band music, and odes to beer, the band's favorite libation.

(Note: While beer does figure prominently in the band's act, you don't have to be "of legal age" to enjoy the band's performance; the show can be tailored to meet an event's needs.)

One can understand how audience members might initially wonder what they've gotten themselves into when this band of "prisoners" raucously marches into view. But the Ophir Prison Band's solid musicianship and contagious joy quickly wins them over. Observe a "live" performance and it becomes obvious that both the band and the audience are having fun.

The band's playlist of more than 70 songs (available at <http://www.ophirprison.com/extra/music.pdf> and subject to change) gives one an idea of what to expect at a show.

Or does it?

Here are just a few things one might experience at an Ophir performance:

- During *Rubber Duckie/Put Down the Duckie*, rubber ducks take flight and a rubber chicken improvises on saxophone. Don't be caught looking the wrong way.
- *Do-Re-Mi*, a song about the seven-note major scale, is turned into a song about something with which the band is more familiar: beer.
- The way the Ophir Prison Band performs *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*, audiences are unable to sing along with a second chorus, even though the second chorus has the same words as the first.



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The Show (continued)

- *Basin Street Blues* is anything but blue, racing at breakneck speed until the band kicks those blues permanently... chorus line style!
- Kazoos buzz through *The Stars and Stripes Forever* while the famously difficult piccolo solo is tackled by a much more unwieldy instrument: a sousaphone.
- Frankly, there's just something inherently funny about 30 grown men singing the theme to *The Mickey Mouse Club* television show.
- And, speaking of Frank... Frank is the band's rubber chicken, capable of belief-defying tricks in addition to his aforementioned musical prowess.
- Meanwhile, trumpets dance, saxes wander into the audience, trombones rock, sousaphones bounce, drums roll—it's a dynamic show, with lots of spontaneity.



Keeping the whole lot under control (barely) is the band's Dum Major, Capt. Rufus T. Whizbang. Resplendent in multicolored coattails and a pith helmet topped by a wind-up key, Capt. Whizbang keeps the show rolling, directing the band using a plunger as his baton and cracking jokes at will (or at anyone *else* within earshot).



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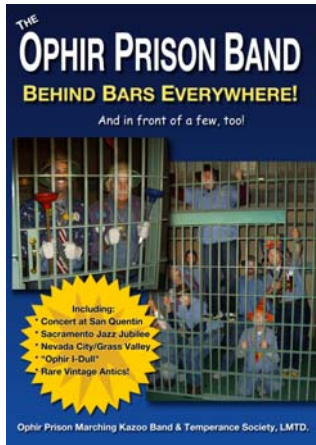




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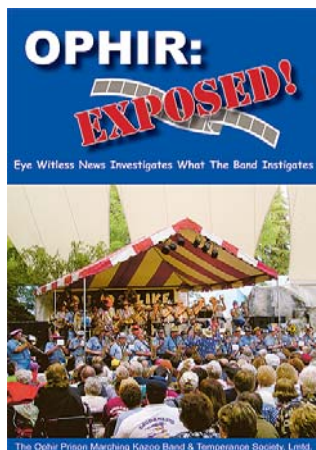


DVD and CD Releases



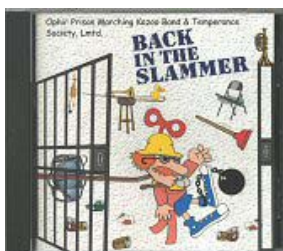
Behind Bars Everywhere

This 2010 release features a quasi-variety show of live concert favorites mixed in with TV spoofs, as well as video evidence of the band's 2008 performance at San Quentin State Prison and decades-old footage of treasured band shtick and antics. As with the previously released "Ophir: *EXPOSED!*," the disc is generously sprinkled with gags in unexpected places, including the credits, faux commercials, deleted scenes, and much more. A romping complement to the band's first DVD, and sure to be a unique and fun addition to anyone's collection.



Ophir: *EXPOSED!*

The wacky visual aspects of the band finally made it to the Digital Age with this DVD's 2006 release. The first half of the disc purports to document efforts to locate historic Ophir Prison and to trace the band's history back longer than any sensible person has a right to expect... or believe. Plenty of energetic live performance footage fills the rest of the time. Lots of funny surprises, even in such mundane DVD features as "Language Selection" and "Director's Commentary." The disc is part send-up, part concert video, and all fun.



Back in the Slammer

For this 2003 release, the band recorded in a studio environment. The improved production values allow the content—which includes several crowd favorites, improvisational solos, and comical bits—to shine. A few live performance gags also made their way onto the disc.



Jailbreak!

The band's inaugural CD, released in 2001, contains recordings of live performances at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee, the Nevada County Fairgrounds, and elsewhere. Many favorites of long-time Ophir fans are included.

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Been There, Done That

When you've been as busy for as long as the Ophir Prison Band has been, your résumé tends to get pretty long. These bullet points tell much of the story, though, and additional details are available upon request.

Music Festivals

- Sacramento Jazz Jubilee
- Lake Tahoe Jazz Festival
- Lake Tahoe Summer Music Series
- Loomis International Jazz Festival
- Yuba City Summer Concert Series

Sporting Events

- Golden State Warriors (NBA)
- Golden West Invitational Track Meet
- KNBR (AM 680) Bridge-to-Bridge Run
- March of Dimes Basketball Tournament
- Master Swimmers Folsom Lake Swim
- Sac Attack (Arena Football)
- Sacramento Kings (NBA)
- Sacramento Knights (Professional Soccer)
- Sacramento Pig Bowl (Charity Football Game)
- Sacramento Spirits (Professional Soccer)
- San Francisco Giants (MLB)
- Stockton Bacon Bash (Charity Football Game)

Television Appearances

- HBO: *The Sopranos* (heard but not seen)
- KCRA Channel 3: *Geoff Wong Adventure Theater*
- KMAX Channel 31: *Good Day Sacramento*
- Numerous Sacramento-area news programs

Other Events

- Active 20/30 Club Spring Party
- Banjorama
- California State Fair
- California State Railfair
- Folsom Cattle Drive
- Frank Dill "Far Out Fantasy and Fun Time Exposition"
- Jack's Big Show (93.7 Jack-FM)
- KNBR (AM 680) Bathtub Regatta
- Lion's Club Convention
- MDA Jerry Lewis Telethon Party
- National Handcar Races
- Oktoberfest
- River City Jazz Society Jazz Sunday
- Univ. of Nevada, Reno Winter Carnival
- Waterfront New Year's Eve Sky Concert

Notable Venues

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ARCO Arena (Sacramento)• Cal Expo• Candlestick Park• California State Capitol• Fort Mason (San Francisco)• Hornet Stadium (CSU, Sacramento)• Hughes Stadium (Sacramento)• Marina Green (San Francisco) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mt. Rose Ski Resort (Nevada)• Old Sacramento State Historic Park• Oracle Arena (Oakland)• San Francisco Zoo• San Quentin State Prison• Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk• Six Flags Magic Mountain (Los Angeles)• Stagg Memorial Stadium (Univ. of the Pacific) |
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Been There, Done That *(continued)*

The Ophir Prison Band has performed in hundreds of parades through the years... and most of those listed below more than once. If one considers that the band usually goes through each parade a second time as an encore, it could be argued that they've marched *all* these parades more than once!

Parades

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- Chico State Pioneer Days Parade (Chico, CA)
 - Colmo del Rodeo Parade (Salinas, CA)
 - Coloma Gold Discovery Parade (Coloma, CA)
 - Columbus Day Parade (San Francisco, CA)
 - Constitution Day Celebration Parade (Nevada City, CA)
 - Fiesta de Moraga Parade (Moraga, CA)
 - Holiday on Parade (Chico, CA)
 - Independence Day Celebration Parade (Carmichael, CA)
 - Independence Day Celebration Parade (Grass Valley, CA)
 - Independence Day Celebration Parade (Nevada City, CA)
 - Independence Day Celebration Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - Lone Homecoming Festival Parade (Lone, CA)
 - Isleton Crawdad Festival Parade (Isleton, CA)
 - KNBR "Let the Good Times Roll, Part IV" Parade (Redwood City, CA)
 - Lake Tahoe Jazz Festival Opening Parade (Incline Village, NV)
 - Lumberjack Days Parade (West Point, CA)
 - Luther Burbank Rose Festival Parade (Santa Rosa, CA)
 - Mardi Gras Parade (Nevada City, CA)
 - Mardi Gras Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - Mohawk Valley Independence Day Celebration Parade (Graeagle, CA)
 - Moonwalk Festival Parade (North Highlands, CA)
 - Napa County Fair Parade (Napa, CA)
 - Nevada Days Parade (Carson City, NV)
 - Parade of Champions (Santa Clara, CA)
 - Plumas County Fair Parade (Quincy, CA)
 - Plumas-Sierra County Fair Parade (Quincy, CA)
 - Rocklin Jubilee Parade (Rocklin, CA)
 - Sacramento Christmas Balloon Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - Sacramento Jazz Jubilee Opening Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - Sacramento Water Festival Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - Santa Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - Sebastopol Apple Blossom Parade (Sebastopol, CA)
 - Shingle Springs Bicentennial Celebration Parade (Shingle Springs, CA)
 - Sonora Mother Lode Round-Up Parade (Sonora, CA)
 - Soquel-o-rama Parade (Soquel, CA)
 - St. Patrick's Day Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - St. Patrick's Day Parade (San Francisco, CA)
 - State of California Capitol Restoration Parade (Sacramento, CA)
 - UC Davis Picnic Day Parade (Davis, CA)
 - Veterans Day Parade (Fairfield, CA)
 - Veterans Day Parade (San Francisco, CA)
 - Wagon Train Days Parade (Placerville, CA)
 - Walnut Festival Parade (Walnut Creek, CA)
 - Western Festival Parade (Elk Grove, CA)
 - Woodland Christmas Parade (Woodland, CA)

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