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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Robert Lemons, Professor of Music

Performing Arts Department

860-465-5116 lemons@easternct.edu

Brenda Sullivan, Public Relations Assistant

860-465-5735 sullivanb@easternct.edu

**ECSU Community Band Performs Music from 1860s,
Including Early Version of National Anthem,
and "The Planets" Suite on Sunday, May 4**

WILLIMANTIC -- The Eastern Connecticut State University Community Band, under the direction of Dr. Robert Lemons, will perform music from the 1860s, including an early version of the National Anthem, at its **Annual Spring Concert at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 4 in the auditorium of Shafer Hall (at the corner of Windham and Valley Streets).** Admission is free and the public is welcome.

The first half of the concert will feature compositions of both historic and musical interest, all originally conceived and scored for a wind instrument band.

The band will perform selections from a collection dating from the 1860's, found in the New Hampshire Third Regiment Band library at that time. Included is an early version of the National Anthem. Music also will be accompanied by commentary and visual images created by local early band expert Dave Yutzey.

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ECSU Community Band Concert on May 4 – Page 2

The concluding number of the first half will be the Percy Grainger “Lincolnshire Posy.” These “musical wildflowers” trace their melodies to English folk songs from the first decade of the last century.

The second half of the program will consist entirely of three movements from Gustav Holst’s suite, “The Planets.” The movements entitled *Mars*, *Uranus*, and *Jupiter* were transcribed from their original orchestral versions, into what have become standards in the band repertoire.

For more information, please call the Department of Performing Arts office at 465-5325 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Eastern Connecticut State University, located in Willimantic,
is part of the Connecticut State University System.