LOS ANGELES – April 23, 2012 – It’ll be the biggest thing to hit London this summer – well, at least until Queen Elizabeth’s Diamond Jubilee in June and the Opening Ceremonies two months later. From May 14 - 21, the Trojan Marching Band will visit London for a pre-Olympic tour, representing the only university in the world to have a gold medal athlete in each Summer Olympics since 1912. The Spirit of Troy is scheduled to perform three concerts and will have private tours of Parliament and the Olympic Village.

The Trojan Marching Band’s concerts in London will feature high-energy renditions of modern hits and classic fight songs along with performances by the USC Silks, twirlers, and world-famous Song Girls. The band will perform on Thursday, May 17 at noon at Canary Wharf; on May 18 at 5:00pm at Potters Field; and on May 20 at 2:00pm in famous Trafalgar Square. Concert dates and times are subject to change. Updated information can be found at uscband.com/worldtour

This will be the Trojan Marching Band’s 13th biennial international trip and second visit to London. In 1996, the band toured Wales, England, and Scotland. The band also has a long history of collaborations with British rock bands, having recorded two platinum albums with Fleetwood Mac and backed up Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead for their acclaimed performance at the 2009 Grammys.

Dr. Arthur C. Bartner, in his 42nd year as band director, is excited to bring The Spirit of Troy to the city. “This is my fifth trip to London, one of the most vibrant cities in the world. And this is the perfect time to be here with the recent royal wedding, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the upcoming Olympics. I’m honored that the Trojan Marching Band can be part of these once-in-a-lifetime celebrations. It will be a great experience for our students.”

Along with USC’s reputation as the premier Olympic university, The Spirit of Troy can well claim to be the Olympic Movement’s top marching band, having performed at both the 1932 and 1984 Los Angeles Olympiads. Dr. Bartner served as director of the 800-piece All-American College Marching Band – 200 of which were Trojans – that performed at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies in 1984. The band also played for the 1996 and 2002 Olympic torch relays and has taken pre-Olympic tours of Spain in 1992 and Australia in 2000. Even the band’s 2004 performance in Beijing served as a test run for Olympic crowds four years later.

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