New Officers and Responsibilities

The following is a list of the new officers and their respective responsibilities. Thanks to all of the outgoing officers for a job well done: Mary Keffer, Ed Turner, and Rachel Landry. Dana Spencer took the job as treasurer in August when our past treasurer, Janine Cloutier, moved to California, and will remain on the job.

PRESIDENT - Keith Fitzgerald
Town liaison; presides over the board; prepares an annual report; oversees the performance of the other officers.

VICE PRESIDENT - Amy Hall
Oversees band daily operations; oversees the following committees:
Operations Committee - Attends to details of concerts, maintains dialogue with concert contacts, arranges summer and winter schedules.
Membership Committee - Attendance, new member packets, phone tree, membership drives, band roster.
Social Committee - Arranges band social functions, advises board of special occasions to celebrate, assists membership committee with husband/wife/child listings.
Special Concert Committee - Arranges all aspects of the Spring concert and the 4th of July concert.

SECRETARY - Renee Jacobsen
Attends to all official correspondence and oversees the following committees:
Publicity Committee - Maintains current list of media contacts, submits regular press releases, develops and distributes posters for local music stores, maintains and distributes brochures, arranges for yearly formal picture.

Newsletter Committee - Compiles information, edits, publishes, and distributes a regular newsletter.
Historical Committee - Develops and maintains a running history, maintains a visual chronology of the band.
Library Committee - Maintains current concert folders and catalogs and maintains band-owned music.

TREASURER - Dana Spencer
Fiscally responsible for the treasury, oversees the following committees:
Fund Raising Committee - Develops fund raising strategies and programs, and oversees the implementation of approved programs.
Budget Development Committee - Develops a spending plan for the band, ranks the importance of music and equipment expenditures, and develops a long-term financial goal for the band.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
Generate ideas, suggestions, and complaints to and from the band; present new ideas to the board; attend and participate in board meetings.

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From the President
by Mary Keffer

It's hard to believe that 1994 is coming to a close already. It's been a terrific year for the band. By the end of the year we will have played 16 concerts in 6 communities throughout the area. Thinking back over the year there were some very memorable moments.

The year started off well with an influx of new members, especially low brass players, raising our attendance numbers to record highs. You know we are in for great things when trombones number as many as the clarinets. The Spring Concert in April was the biggest yet and everyone pitched in to help make it a success.

One of the most exciting events of the year was the Festival in the Park performance in May. It was our first performance in Roanoke. The concert was taped and portions of it were later heard on Roanoke Public Radio.

Over the summer we played many enjoyable outdoor concerts. The audiences were sometimes small, but always appreciative. In addition to our annual summer events like the Bissett Park concert in Radford and the Warm Hearth summer concert we also played at the Narrows Taste of the Arts Festival and Steppin' Out in Blacksburg. We also "blew them away"-literally, at Pulaski when we played indoors on a rainy evening in a very live meeting hall.

Of course, the big event of the summer was the 4th of July. A picnic at Nellie's Cave Park was a blast as was the parade on the 4th. Members of the clarinet section decorated the wagon and make badges with the band's logo to pass out at the parade. The band and Celebration Chorus performed on a beautiful evening to a record crowd with the fireworks display timed perfectly after America the Beautiful!

In the Fall, the band played at the Hand-in-Hand playground to a bustling crowd of children, parents and a few dogs.

It has been a year of tremendous growth for the band but I think we had better get our skates on in 1995 for our new president, Keith Fitzgerald. Thanks to everyone for all your support and hard work this year. You made it a great year for me and the band.

Franz von Suppe
by Rachel Landry

One of our new purchases, and a selection for the Spring Concert, is the popular overture Light Cavalry, by the nineteenth century German composer, Franz von Suppe. This prolific composer and career conductor almost didn't go into the music field at all, due to his father's wishes that he become a doctor. However, while studying at the University of Padua, his father died, so von Suppe moved with his mother to Vienna. While in Vienna, von Suppe gave Italian lessons for a while, before giving in to his musical instincts. He studied conducting and composing with several greats of the day, and then began to write a tremendous amount of music. Mostly, von Suppe wrote operettas and music for plays and vaudeville shows, but he also has a requiem, two serious operas, and many songs and arias credited to his name. His other still popular piece is the overture to the Poet and Peasant, of which at least 59 different arrangements have been made. Von Suppe remains popular in Germany, and little known elsewhere except for his few famous overtures.
Message from the New President
by Keith Fitzgerald

I am very excited to be the Community Band's newly elected president. After enjoying myself for a year in the trombone section, I am now able to give back and do my part. For those of you who don't know me, I'm Keith Fitzgerald. Currently I am a student at New River Community College where I am studying to transfer to Tech or Radford as a music major. I am from Fairfax, where I played in the George Mason University ensembles as well as numerous community ensembles. This is my first opportunity to work in the day to day running of the band. I have two major goals for this band; to increase regular rehearsal attendance, and to increase membership by increasing public awareness of the ensemble. The key to both of these is advertising. The more fliers, radio announcements and word-of-mouth advertising we get, the greater our concert attendance will be, plus, we will find more musicians to be in our ensemble. I also intend to recruit more heavily at Virginia Tech. I'm sure there are many quality instrumentalists in Blacksburg who are not aware of our fine ensemble. I hope to change that.

Again, I can't tell you how excited I am to have this opportunity to serve the band. If anyone has any comments, please don't hesitate to call me or any of the new officers. We all welcome your comments and look forward to another great year.

Grace's Party
by Members of the Clarinet Section

The band was saddened to lose one of its founding members who moved to Texas. Grace Baldwin, clarinet, was given a going away party at the home of Kendra Kohl. Eight members of the clarinet section and their families enjoyed a pot-luck dinner and a hayride. Grace was given a music stand and other musical gifts to remember the band by. The clarinet section misses this enthusiastic member.

New Band Music
by Mary Keffer

The Blacksburg Community Band is fortunate to be able to buy new music every year with funds from the Town of Blacksburg Department of Parks and Recreation. This year the band has purchased many new works including two Christmas pieces, the Hallelujah Chorus which was performed in Narrows this Christmas, and The Sounds of Christmas a medley of popular Christmas songs, which was performed at a number of seasonal (continued on page 6)
The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

Treasurer's Report
by Dana Spencer

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The Band has remained in the red for 1994, and has been able to purchase necessary items. Most of our income comes from the community concerts and the Montgomery County Department of Parks and Recreation. Future purchases will include music, some new percussion equipment, a bass drum stand, and new, leather music folders with a monogramed name on the front.

A Reminder about Folder Check-out
by Mary Keffer

If you wish to check out a folder, please put your name and telephone number on the check-out list found in the music box. Also please put the date on the list. When you return the folder to the box, put the return date in the "date-in" column on the check-out form.

Also, please-PLEASE- leave your folder in the box if you are not going to be at the next concert or rehearsal. Someone else may need your folder. You can leave it at the Recreation Center if you need to; just call Mary Keffer so it can be picked up.

One more please- Please keep Christmas music and regular folder music separate. Once the Christmas concerts are over the librarian should be able to find all the Christmas music in the Christmas box, so it can be put away.

New Band Members
by Dana Spencer

FLUTE
Emily DeBord
Penny Everett
Valerie Gardner
Michelle Romanoski

TRUMPET
Douglas Henderson

FRENCH HORN/HORN
Carla Hearl

CLARINET
Jane Law
Kelly Sabroske
Craig Turner
La Dell Wright

TROMBONE
Mark McMulkin

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Andrew McElvery
Jim Mitchell
Peter Mullen
Mickey Taylor

TUBA
Kurt Ferrari

PERCUSSION
Eric Carlson
Laine Clark
Who Took The French Out Of French Horn?
by Renee Jacobsen

During our concert for the residents of the Richfield Retirement Community, Ed Schwartz stated that players of the French horn preferred to have their instrument simply called horn. He implied that some hornists could be very offended if their instrument was called anything except a horn.

After hearing this, I wondered why the word "French" was now something one should not include with the word "horn". When I questioned Ed, he suggested that I interview hornist Wallace Easter, who could shed some light on this topic. The following are my questions and his responses.

R. J. - I understand that the "French" part of French horn is not essential in the name of the instrument. Why?

W. E. - The horn is known as "French" only in English speaking countries. The rest of the world knows the instrument as the horn. At one of the first meetings of the International Horn Society, it was decided that the official name of the instrument in the English language should be "horn". Some modern instrument makers and music publishers, however, and others continue to call it "French".

R. J. - Why was the instrument called French horn for so many years?

W. E. - The classical origin of the hunting instrument was credited to a Bohemian count whose name was Sporck. Sporck visited the court of Louis XIV (I think), heard the hunting horn and incorporated that instrument into his court orchestra.

R. J. - If you just call the instrument a horn, then when the band director says, "get out your horns" can we expect to see only one type of instrument appearing?

W. E. - The term horn has a generic side to it as well. Particularly in jazz where a horn (or ax) can be any musical instrument. Does the band director have jazz or classical leanings?

R. J. - Has any other name been considered for this instrument so that there is no confusion when people speak about it?

W. E. - No.

R. J. - Is the name French horn a pet peeve to you?

W. E. - No.

Thank you,
Share Program
by Alane Homer

Did you know that if you participate in the Blacksburg Community Band you qualify for a wonderful program to purchase food at a far reduced cost, sponsored by the New River Community Action, the state of Virginia and the Federal Government? It is called SHARE. The following information will tell you how it works.

SHARE Virginia, a private, non-profit program of New River Community Action, was established to encourage and reward volunteers and to stretch your food dollar. Everyone who volunteers two hours or more each month with a school, church, an neighbor, or anywhere in the community is eligible to participate. Just contact a host organization, pay $13.00 plus tax, serve your minimum of 2 hours of community service (band counts), and receive 25-30 pounds of food for the month.

SHARE believes that working with and for others serves each of us equally and makes our communities better places in which to live. It's about helping ourselves by helping others.

There are 13 host sites in Montgomery County. If you live outside and would like information about a site in your area, please call Alane Homer (clarinet) or the New River Community Action at 381-1185.

Who Put the Jingle in Jingle Bells?
by Joe Montague

A perennial favorite among the songs played and sung at Christmas time is Jingle Bells. While the song has been among the most popular seasonal songs for more than a century, its origin remained obscure for most of that time to the extent that most collections of songs either listed it's source as anonymous or failed to list a source. However, a careful reading of the Salem Massachusetts Evening News of December 24, 1964 would have dispelled that obscurity.

The news article named a little-known composer of songs, James Pierpont, son of a Massachusetts Unitarian minister, as the one who wrote both the words and music for this lively little piece. It seems that sometime during the 1850's, Mr. Pierpont arranged to perform the piece for a Mrs. Otis Waterman, an amateur singer whose opinion he valued. She was so taken with the piece that she called it "a merry little jingle," thus suggesting the title, Jingle Bells. The best known of our Christmas songs got its title and began the journey to prominence in the American holiday music repertoire.

(continued from page 3)

concerts.

New for 1995 are some pieces which we have already begun to work on; Amparito Roca, Light Cavalry Overture, Colonel Bogey March, English Folk Song Suite, Lassus Trombone, and Night on Bald Mountain.

Any band member wishing to donate a piece of music for the band is welcome to do so, or to suggest a piece for purchase. Write down the title and composer and give it to Ed.
The Sound of Music
One of our new pieces is a medley of songs from the popular show "The Sound of Music." Included in this medley are two tunes which are less famous than the others, "An Ordinary Couple" and "How Can Love Survive." Here are the words to those songs, so you too can know ALL the songs from this Rodgers and Hammerstein show.

An Ordinary Couple
(a duet by Maria and the Captain)

An ordinary couple is all we'll ever be,
For all I want of living is to keep you close to me;
To laugh and weep together while time goes on its flight,
To kiss you every morning and to kiss you every night.
We'll meet our daily problems and rest when day is done,
Our arms around each other in the fading sun.
An ordinary couple, across the years we'll ride,
Our arms around each other and our children by our side...
Our arms around each other.
An ordinary couple, that's all we'll ever be,
For all I want of living is to keep you close to me,
To laugh and weep together while time goes on its flight, to kiss you every morning and to kiss you every night.
We'll meet our daily problems, and rest when day is done, our arms around each other in the fading sun.
An ordinary couple, across the years we'll ride, our arms around each other and our children by our side...Our arms around each other.

How Can Love Survive?
(sung by Elsa and Max)

In all the famous love affairs the lovers have to struggle. In garret rooms away upstairs the lovers starve and snuggle. They're famous for misfortune which they seem to have no fear of, while lovers who are very rich you very seldom hear of.

No little shack do you share with me, we do not flee from a mortgagee, nary a care in the world have we. How can love survive? You're fond of bonds and you own a lot. I have a land and a diesel yacht, plenty of nothing you haven't got! How can love survive? No rides for us on the top of a bus in the face of the freezing breezes. You reach your goals in your comfy Rolls or in one of your Mercedes! Far, very far off the beam are we, quaint and bizarre as a team we are, two millionaires with a dream are we, we're keeping romance alive. Two millionaires with a dream are we, we'll make our love survive..

No little cold water flat have we, warmed by the glow of insolvency, up to your necks in security. How can love survive? How can I show what I feel for you? I cannot go out and steal for you, I cannot die like Camille for you. How can love survive? You millionaires with financial affairs are too busy for simple pleasure. When you are poor it is toujours l'amour, for l'amour all the poor have leisure! Caught in our gold plated chains are we, lost in our wealthy domains are we, trapped by our capital gains are we, but we'll keep romance alive. Trapped by your capital gains are you, we'll make our love survive!
Upcoming Schedule At-A-Glance

Wed., Jan. 4  Board meeting, 7:30, place TBA, everyone is invited.

Wed., Jan. 11  First Regular Rehearsal, 7:30, Blacksburg High School

Merry Christmas

Disclaimer

The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter is an occasional communication organ of the Blacksburg Community Band (sort of).

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily anyone's in particular, so they are not necessarily the views of the Blacksburg Community Band, the Town of Blacksburg, the Commonwealth of Virginia or the United States of America! Believe what you wish to believe, forget the rest.

If you have a problem with anything in this rag, contact our lawyers in Boston, the law firm of Dewey, Cheetham & Howe (firm on retainer by Click & Clack).

If you decide to litigate one of our writers, let us know so we can run the slanderous louse out of town.

The Blacksburg Community Band
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