15 (Tentative!) Concert Dates

1. Thursday May 21 - 6:30 p.m. at Harding Avenue School, "Spring Fling", Blacksburg.
2. Thursday May 28 - 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., Golden Olympics "Ice Cream Social", Owns Dining Hall, Virginia Tech Campus.
3. Sunday May 31 - 2:00 p.m. - Jackson Park Gazebo, Pulaski.
4. Friday June 19 - 7:00 p.m., Pearisburg "Festival Around Town", Pearisburg.
5. Thursday June 25 - 7:15 - 8:00 p.m., Bicentennial Pageant Pre-show Entertainment, Christiansburg High School, Christiansburg.
6. Saturday, July 4 - 1:00 p.m., July 4th Parade; 8:30 p.m. July 4th Concert, Blacksburg.
7. Tuesday July 7 - 6:30 p.m. between Henderson Hall and Main Street on the Virginia Tech Campus (across from the Lyric Theatre), Joint Concert with the visiting German Posanenchor.
8. 2nd week in July - No Concert Scheduled...Yet...
9. Tuesday July 21 - 7:00 p.m. at Bisset Park Gazebo in Radford.
10. Thursday July 30 - 7:00 p.m., Wolf Creek Park, Narrows.
11. 1st week in August - No Concert Scheduled...Yet...
12. Friday August 14 - 6:30 p.m., a tentative concert between Henderson Hall and Main Street (across from the Lyric Theatre) on the Virginia Tech Campus.
13. 3rd week in August - No Concert Scheduled...Yet...
14. 4th week in August - No Concert Scheduled...Yet...
15. Sunday August 30 - 1:00 p.m. Grand Opening of the new Blacksburg Pool, Patrick Henry Drive, Blacksburg.

Other Concert Dates will be announced as they become available. If you want to schedule a concert, please contact Ed Schwartz or Mary Pennington (or ask one of the band members to pass a message to them).

THE END

The Summer 'Repertoire'

At The Circus - Heywood S. Jones, arr. Roland C. Wheeler
Lady And The Tramp - arr. Wilfred Roberts
The Little Mermaid - Alan Menken & Howard Ashman, arr. Jay Bocook
Looney Tunes Overture - arr. Bill Holcombe
The Muppets' Greatest Hits - arr. Paul Jennings
Over The Rainbow - Harold Arlen & E.Y. Harburg, arr. Jerry Brubaker
Peter And The Wolf - Sergei Prokofiev, arr. Jim Curnow
Troyland Waltz - Victor Herbert, arr. Robert Norman
A Trumpeter's Lullaby - Leroy Anderson, arr. Philip J. Lang
The Wonderful World Of Disney - arr. John Edmondson

The band logo (pictured above) was developed through a joint effort by several members of the band. A special thanks goes to Norman Brown, Russell Shock, Mary Pennington, Jim Marchman and Ron Gibbs for their input to this design. Leslie Gregg donated her expertise by producing the final version that the band now uses.

Thanks to all involved!

All music comes from some place.... (heard somewhere...said by someone....)
First, The Concert...

Our annual Spring Concert was held on Saturday, April 4, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. in the Blacksburg High School Auditorium. Due to an unexpected Spring snow fall, attendance was on the light side, but we had an enthusiastic gathering of listeners. Next year, we'll try to consult the Farmers Almanac to pick our concert date!

The musical selections began with the lively march of 'Americans We' and continued with selections from Oklahoma, featuring an ending made at the request of several Band members, not written in the music, and improvised by the assistant director. Next on the hit parade was a piece entitled 'Big Band Favorites'. That was followed with a trumpet solo, 'Prayer of St. Gregory', performed by our own virtuostic John Gregg. The first half of the concert ended with 'First Suite in E-Flat', featuring sections of the entire band at different times.

The second half of the concert began with 'The Footlifter', a real toe-tapper, if you will. Solo instruments featured in 'Dixieland Jam' included the clarinet, trombone, trumpet(s), saxophone and percussion. The next piece was particularly enjoyed by those young at heart -- as we played selections from 'The Little Mermaid'. Another piece, 'Swingin' Songs of Yesterday, featured tunes from the Big Band Era. We ended the second half with selections written by John Williams, entitled 'John Williams: Evening at Pops.'

Appropriately, we ended with an encore of 'Looney Tunes', a piece seemingly hand-crafted for our fine group of musicians!

A New Profession, Ed?

Elizabeth Bowles 3 year old nephew said upon seeing Ed (at the Spring Concert): "Oh, look, the preacher's here."

Then, The Party!

Following our concert, Band members and guests journeyed across the street to the Blacksburg Community Center for an after the concert party. Finger foods and drinks were enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Mary Rhoades and Kendra Kohl for their fine planning and to all the food contributors.

The highlight of the party was the award of certificates of appreciation and recognition. These included:

- Appreciation to Dr. William Winfrey, Director of Parks and Recreation, Town of Blacksburg; and to Diana Love, the High School Band Director, for her support, and for letting us invade and use her domain and equipment.

- Band Members receiving appreciation awards included Kendra Kohl (treasurer), Linda Vance (librarian), Pat Furey (attendance), Mary Rhoades (social events and publicity), Graciela Baldwin (historian) and Mary Pennington (assistant director). Thanks for the help in keeping the little ends tied down and doing some of the more mundane chores required by our organization.

- Recognition awards went to: Pat Furey for having over 90% attendance at rehearsals and concerts, Elizabeth Bowles for continuing to be our longest distance commuter, John Gregg for his virtuostic talents, Joel Williams for his dedication to perfect tuning and being the best Muppet honker, and to Mike Phillips for being the youngest member of our group.

A good time was had by all!
Beat The Bass Drum
by Mary Rhoades
(to be read in a stacatto fashion)

Beat-the-bass-drum,
We-need-rhy-thm.

Loud-hard-and-strong,
Some-short-some-long.

End-of-the-day,
Take-cares-a-way.

You-too-can-play,
Just-come-this-way.

Well-show-you-how
and-help-you-now!

No-need-to-read,
Ex-cept-for-speed.

Fast-slow-slow-fast,
Al-ways-the-last.

Must-be-pa-tient,
For-en-joy-ment.

Feels-good-to-know,
Were-need-ed-though!

Beat-the-bass-drum,
Ho-hum-ho-hum.

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News and Notes....

...the French Horn Section will lose Jean Harris and Ann Hinley to graduation in May...
Jean is receiving a Masters in Industrial Engineering, while Ann is getting her B.A. in Soil Science & Technology. They have made a real contribution to the Section and will be missed...

...Brian Rhodes is in Greenville, S.C. buying his first house...

...RECENTLY RELOCATED BAND MEMBER... Mary Greenawalt (clarinet) - Community Band in Charleston, South Carolina...

...CYNTHIA MCGLONE SENDS GREETINGS... Cynthia McGlone (clarinet) moved to Ohio several years ago and has finally come forward to say hi! Her new name is Cynthia Tracy. We are glad to hear from you Cynthia and look forward to more news on what you are doing and where you are playing your clarinet...

(Editors Note: Cynthia also wishes to send her greetings to the Blacksburg German Band!)

A Closeup Look... At Ron Gibbs...
A French Horn player with the band, Ron Gibbs was a pilot with the US Air Force from 1967 to 1971, gaining 1500 hours of total flying time. From 1969 to 1970, he flew 143 combat missions in Vietnam in a F-4 Phantom II. He has also co-piloted a KC-135 jet tanker. He holds several medals, including a Distinguished Flying Cross with V for valor, an Air Medal with 6 oak leaf clusters, and an Air Force Commendation Medal. He continues to serve as a major in the Air Force Reserve. When not doing his reserve duty, Ron works at Virginia Tech.

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IN MEMORIUM
The Blacksburg Community Band mourns the loss of one of its members. French horn player Charlie Johnson passed away last summer. Charlie started playing french horn with the band after arranging our flatbed truck for our first 4th of July parade. After procuring a horn to play, he became a very consistent member of the band. He could always be counted on and was responsible for the band playing for many of the VFW ceremonies over the past few years. Charlie was extremely active in many other community projects in addition to the band.
Charlie will be greatly missed by the band and the community.
I originally wrote most of this last November so you'll see how prophetic I managed to be. These comments (in bold) were appended on March 26, 1992.

By the time you read this, 1991 will be history (in fact, the way our newsletters go, 1992 may be almost over). Nine months ago we had a good spring concert with enough new members brought into each section to make the audience think we knew what we were doing. I wonder if the same "new" members will show up for the last rehearsal and concert again this spring? What happened to that great group of trombones and other low brass who were with us for about three months?

The Fourth of July concert was another classic with a downpour followed by our program. There was an audience of hundreds and a cast of thousands of bugs! Between watching the chorus flight off and spitting out bugs and feeling bugs crawl down my back and up my legs, I was even able to play a few notes. Then, as usual, the fireworks went off in the middle of the concert instead of after. Next year we need to do the 1812 Overture so the fireworks will fit in better.

Our summer tour of exotic places was a success. There were even a few good crowds present. Who can forget the enthusiastic audience at the Radford Hospital concert where everyone kept asking what all that noise was at the gazebo as they hurried to their cars to leave?! We made our Floyd debut and, if you count the people who drove by on US 221 and Rt 8, we had a good turnout. I missed the "Narrars" gig (as did a lot of others) but I heard it was good. Most importantly, we had fun and I think our audiences (big or little) did too. And those of us who were there will long remember the "thunderous applause" at Radford.

Another unforgettable performance was our invited appearance in the "windy city" (New Castle). As soon as we got there we knew we would fit right into the festivities (a "Tribute to Sammy Davis, Jr" is a country and western song, isn't it?). A member of the group on before us saw us setting up and asked if this was the "Bonsak Philharmonic". It was the first concert I've ever played where I had to hold the stand and music with one hand and play with the other for the entire concert. And then there was the matter of my Coke bottle that spilled all over Russ' stuff under his chair. I wonder if they will invite us back next year?

As I write this, we are about to start our annual Christmas Rest Home Tour and a hectic weekend of after-parade tunes, rehearsal with the New Virginians and the Christmas Store concert at Burruss Hall debut! This is my favorite time of year with everyone's favorite music (there are of course a few exceptions such as "Santa Does Debbie" or Is it "Dixie"; whatever her name was?).

Saturday will be the usual Blacksburg attempt at a parade. This has got to be the only place in the world where a string of Corvettes and Model Ts, Two flatbed trailers decorated with manger scenes, a Volkswagen covered with left-wing propaganda and a bow, 16 three-year-olds with batons, eleven 8-year-old boys in karate outfits, a pseudo-military band that only knows how to play Tech Triumph, and 28 fire trucks with loud horns and sirens are said to constitute a Christmas Parade. And after all this excitement we get to sit in the Post Office parking lot in either sub-zero or sub-tropical temperatures (it's never in-between) and play, while an audience composed mostly of our spouses keeps telling our kids to just "hold on for a few more minutes until mom/dad is through and we can go home".

The Christmas Store/New Virginians concert should be the largest audience we've ever played for. I'm excited about the concert and hope that by the time you read this we can all look back to this event with pride.

Our final appearance for the year will be with our old friends at Warm Hearth. Last year's concert there was really fun, once we found the place. There was a good band turnout and a great audience. I hope this one will be as enjoyable.

As the year ends, so should my term as your president. We need to hold elections soon and let some people with new ideas take charge. As we know, Ed is the real leader of this group, but I know he would like us to do more of the concert scheduling and routine work. I challenge our next president to come up with a more exciting concert than the one I got us invited to at New Castle! Who knows, maybe next year we can be the featured band at the "Salem Civic Center Tractor-Pull and Mud-Wrestling Olympics"!
Finally, I want to thank all of you for your support of the band over the last year. Your being a part of this band has made my life a lot richer. I think many of you share my reasons for being in this group; we get a real thrill out of trying to make music with other people. We know that we are in a group where we will always be welcome, even if we miss some notes and occasionally get lost. We come on Wednesday nights for the sheer fun of playing and sharing, and on that rare occasion when everything accidently comes together and the notes, phrasing and timing all work out right, we get to experience that incredible thrill which can only come from being a part of the creation of beautiful music.

Thanks again to all of you for a very satisfying year.

Well, I wasn’t too far off in my predictions; the weather for the Christmas parade was moderate and our audience at Warm Hearth was minuscule! Here we are at Spring Concert time again and we’ve had no officer elections so it’s not only Russ that is behind schedule. Just in case this comes out before the Spring concert I will wish us a good performance. I think, for once, we are actually playing music that almost all of us like. Now, if we can only play the Looney Tunes thing with all of us going at approximately the same tempo!

A Message...

From the Podium

by Ed Schwartz...

Another year (or so) over the hill and the band is still tooting our horns. Actually, this year has been quite productive. The band has played 21 concerts in three counties since last July to a combined audience of over 8,000 people. This is a true credit to the spirit and determination of all of our members. It is also apparent that our organization has begun to be well-known throughout the valley. I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every band member for your efforts in this past year.

The coming year has a number of new and exciting opportunities for the band. The band will host a German brass band this summer and play in a joint concert with them. The band will also play in Pearisburg for the first time, is tentatively scheduled to be part of the entertainment for the Christiansburg Bicentennial in June and members of the band will play in the upcoming musical, "The Music Man". These combined with the summer concerts in the parks, the July 4th concert and the grand opening of the new Blacksburg pool, this has the makings of a busy and fun year.

If you haven’t been to rehearsal in a while, come on down and join us. We would love to have you or any others for our spring and summer concerts.

4th of July Concert Grows In Popularity

The 4th of July concert has become a popular event over the past few years. The Blacksburg Community Band and the Celebration Chorus have continued to offer a unique program of patriotic and popular music.

We are looking for an improved event this year and could use as much help as possible. If you would like to participate, just stop in on one of our Wednesday evening rehearsals. If you would like to sing with the Celebration Chorus, call the Blacksburg Department of Parks and Recreation at 961-1135 for more information.
The Blacksburg Community Band to Play Joint German-American Concert

The Posanenchor of St. Mauritius Lutheran Church, Altenmedingen and St. Matthaus Lutheran Church, Romstedt, Germany will be visiting the New River Valley from July 6th through the 13th. The several activities planned in the Blacksburg area include a joint concert by the Posanenchor and the Blacksburg Community Band on July 7th.

The word "Posanenchor" literally translates to "Trombone Choir", but actually is a "Brass Choir". This group consists of about 25 players from the parishes of Altenmedingen and Romstedt, two small villages near Hamburg.

The music of the Posanenchor in Germany consists mainly of music from the Renaissance to today. For technical reasons, they are usually shorter pieces, which generally are considered treasures of musical literature.

A distinction is made between the "choral-bound" compositions of Bach, Schein or Praetorius, and the so-called "free" brass music, which you find in titles like Intrade, Praedulum, Sonata and variations of the Barock dance.

Folk music in Posanenchor is coming more and more into fashion. Folk dances, marches and pieces of music from the "free" brass music section often require a high standard of playing abilities.

This group will be performing compositions by Schutz, Telemann, Bietz, Gastoldi, Praetorius, Bach, Handel and authentic German Folk music.

Band Logo On Visors...

The band has printed its logo on the new Blacksburg Community Band Visors. These visors were specially prepared with a painstaking attention to detail. These visors are available from Kendra Kohl at a cost of $5.00.

The Music Man Comes To The New River Valley...

The New River Arts Council and the Blacksburg Department of Parks and Recreation have agreed to jointly sponsor the production of a Broadway musical this summer - The Music Man! The project will offer a quality musical theatre experience to the community, with ample opportunities for participation both on and off stage. The Blacksburg Community Band will be providing musicians to play in the pit orchestra for the performances.

Performances are currently scheduled for August 27, 28, 29, 30 in the Squires Haymarket Theatre on the Virginia Tech Campus in Blacksburg; and September 3, 4, 5 in the Preston Auditorium on the Radford University Campus.

People are needed for all aspects of the production and everyone is encouraged to audition for an onstage role. Auditions will be held the week of May 11. Call the New River Arts Council at 381-1430 for more information.
Blacksburg Community Band
Year In Review...

BCB concerts from 7/1/91 - 4/20/92
2. July 4, 1991 - Concert with the 45 voice Celebration Chorus.
19. March 27, 1992 - Clarinet Choir, Wheatlands Retirement Center in Radford.

New Members...
A year is a long time and a community band sees many faces come and go over that length of time. In an effort to recognize the new faces in the band over the past year, the list below identifies the newest active members. Welcome to the Band!

Clarinet
- Neal Battaller
- Alane Homer
- Bob Langford

Alto Sax
- Steve Hall
- Pete Hastings
- Paul Miller

Bassoon
- Barbara Duke

French Horn
- Jean Harris
- Ann Hiveley
- Kevin Kochersberger
- Melissa Wall

Trumpet
- Scott West

Trombone
- Goldie Terrill

Euphonium
- Robert Wall
- Kevin Wilkes

Tuba
- Larry Lilly
- Jerry Skenderian
- Mike Stratton

Percussion
- Mike Phillips
- Bob Vadas, Jr.

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS...
The Blacksburg Community Band has had a number of international members over the past few years. The most recent international members have left for their homes abroad. Olof Staffans (trombone) and Gyou-Bong Lee (clarinet) played their last concerts last summer. Both have written to the band and sent their greetings from home and both miss playing with the band. If you wish to write to either Olof or Lee, contact the newsletter editor for their addresses.
In the NEXT issue (Teasers)....

The Band PILOTS (who they are and how to recognize them)
Other BANDS' Members (some that play with other bands)
And other items of interest, news and notes, and more...

The Blacksburg Community Band
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