Spring Concert

The Blacksburg Community Band's fourth annual spring concert wowed an audience of 150 appreciative listeners on the evening of Friday, April 2. Although the air was frigid outside, band members blew a great deal of hot air into their horns and warmed the auditorium with a diverse program beginning with a traditional Sousa march, "The Invincible Eagle." The band had to quickly switch gears to play the second piece, an arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakov's orchestral flurry "Procession of the Nobles." To no one's surprise, this piece came off without so much as a wrong note.

As no concert is complete without a solo, band member John Gregg and guest Warren Ramp performed "Sonata for Two Trumpets," with band accompaniment. The soft wind sounds enhanced the dialogue between the trumpets in this four movement, baroque style work. Jumping quickly into the era of the musical, "Selections from Oliver" was next. This piece captured all the singable melodies from the famous Broadway production.

During the concert, two band members experienced double duty by conducting in addition to performing. Baritone Bob Wall guided the band through the difficult "A Copeland Portrait," by Aaron Copeland, bringing the first half of the program to a close. A sigh of relief echoed throughout the ensemble, however it was a sigh of contented relief. The concert was going well.

The second half of the program opened with flutist Christie Alexander conducting "Liberty Fanfare," John Williams salute to the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. Keeping in step with our diverse music theme, the music of New Orleans was next with "Beale Street Blues." This jazz classic featured dialogue between the trumpets and clarinets played to a traditional bass line and that bouncy jazz beat. "Porgy and Bess Selections," featuring trumpet soloist John Gregg (although this time in his seat), was next.

The band closed the concert with "Hoagy Carmichael in Concert." As the audience applauded, (See Concert, next column)

Post Concert Bash

The success of the concert was celebrated by all at the traditional After-Concert-Party held at the Community Center immediately following the conclusion of the concert. Amid much munching of homemade cookies, bread, veggies, and chips band members and their families and friends talked and talked and talked... Band President Roger Vaughn said a brief speech of congratulations to the band, and Treasurer Kendra Kohl presented Ed with a gift from the band members, an answering machine. Had someone been having trouble getting in touch with Ed? Although most of the food was gone, much talking resumed after the speech and presentation. At the conclusion of the evening, band members departed with positive feelings about the concert and the group.

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Concert

(from previous column)

band members knew they had played well. It's that kind of feeling that makes a winter full of Wednesday rehearsals worth every one.

Cassette tapes from a digital recording of the concert are available from Kendra Kohl for $5.00.

That extra long photography session produced a band photo which is currently hanging in Ed's office. He is also selling regular sized photos for 30 cents and will loan the negative if you would like a larger copy.
Band Gives Awards

Each year the Band recognizes members of the Band who have offered their time and expertise above and beyond the call of duty. Below is a list of those individuals that have earned Appreciation Awards, and the thanks of their fellow band members. The Achievement Awards recognize those individuals that have offered a unique contribution to the Band in any number of ways. Read the list and you will understand. Congratulations to all!

Appreciation Award Recipients
Christie Alexander, Guest Conducting
Robert Wall, Guest Conducting
Warren Ramp, Solo Performance
John Gregg, Solo Performance
Pat Frey, Taking Attendance
Mary Rhoades, Social Committee
Kendra Kohl, Social Committee
Norman Brown, Participation
Michelle Homer, Program Cover Design
Jim Marchman, Band Banner Sign
Mary Keffer, Music Library
Bill Winfrey, Outstanding Support
Grace Baldwin, Music Library
Diana Love, Outstanding Support
Jim Marchman, President 1992
Mary Pennington, Vice President 1992
Russell Shock, Secretary 1992
Kendra Kohl, Treasurer 1992
Mary Rhoades, Member-at-Large 1992
Linda Vance, Member-at-Large 1992
Roger Vaughn, Member-at-Large 1992
Ed Schwartz, Conductor 1992

Achievement Award Recipients
Grace Baldwin, Attendance Bronze - (89%)
Mary Rhoades, Attendance Silver - (91%)
Jim Marchman, Attendance Gold - (93%)
Kitty Doss, Order of the Stork
Elizabeth Bowles, Distance Traveled - Gold
Cheryl Clark, Distance Traveled - Silver
Judy Keffer, Distance Traveled - Bronze
Mary Keffer, Distance Traveled - Bronze
Carl Epley, Most Improved
Elizabeth Bowles, Most Improved
Grace Baldwin, Order of the Stork
Russell Shock, Order of the Stork
Joe Woodward, Order of the Stork
Ed Stoddard, Most Raucous
Laura Dangerfield, Youngest Member
Tim Nelson, Youngest Member
Ed Stoddard, Oldest Member
Jim Marchman, Most Unusual Stand
Anonymous, Loudest Foot Tapper
Pat Frey, Most Unusual Neck Strap

From Your President

We’ve had a great year so far. We’ve seen the Spring Concert and the Swiss band, and we’re looking forward to many upcoming shows. So far this year we have played some very difficult music and had a great time playing it. I’m pleased to see so many new faces in the band, and so many old faces returning. This year’s band is steepled in energy, and promises to be one of the best yet!

The Spring Concert went extremely well this year – much better than I could have asked for. I believe this was the best spring concert the band has had yet. We performed some very difficult music, and pulled it off beautifully. Before the concert, there was some concern among the band members that we might not be ready for it – I think we showed that we were very ready and more! I am very impressed at all the energy everyone showed this year. Let’s keep up that energy this summer!

I would also like to thank all of the families and friends who helped make the concert such a success. We couldn’t do it without you!

Band Summer Vacation

The Band will take a few weeks rest at the end of August because of the number of us working on “Oklahoma!” The last concert will be on July 27 at the Radford Gazebo with a possible concert at Steppin’ Out on August 7. There will be no rehearsals or concerts from then until the Herb Festival on August 29. Our first normal rehearsal of the fall will be September 8 in the Blacksburg High School band room at 7:30 pm.

Please check the back page of this newsletter for the dates and times of the concerts. Remember, we will have no rehearsals between June 30 and September 8, only concerts.

From The Podium

With our Spring Concert behind us, the long summer looms out ahead of us. Several concerts are scheduled with more to come. Our ranks are growing which will allow us to do some challenging works this summer and allow us a bit more flexibility.

Thanks for your support as usual, and I know that I can count on each and every one of you for your participation in all of our spring and summer concerts. Let’s get over 50 on July 4th this year!

Ed Schwartz
International Community Band Concert
By Jim Marchman

On Monday April 5 the Blacksburg Community Band enjoyed the opportunity of performing in a joint concert with the Virginia Tech University Wind Ensemble and with Musikgesellschaft Neu- kirch-Egnach, a "community band" from two small towns in Switzerland. The Swiss band was invited to the United States by David Widder of the Tech Music Department. David had been a guest conductor of the band while in Switzerland studying the history of the clarinet. A highlight of the concert was the playing of several tunes on three Alphorns by members of the band's cornet section. The Alphorn is the long, pipe-like instrument often shown on cards and posters being played in the Swiss Alps. The Blacksburg Community Band contributed to the concert by playing a medley of Hoagy Carmichel songs to give a distinctly American flavor to the event.

The contrasts between the Swiss Band portion of the program and that of our community band included uniforms, style of music and flags. The Swiss band proudly showed off their new uniforms which resembled military style outfits popular with American college marching bands in the 1950's and 60's. To the left of the band stood the band's flag bearer who held the band's flag during their entire portion of the concert. During their entire first number he waved the full-sized flag continuously. Mrs Widder told me that the "flag person's" only job is to do just what we saw him doing. He comes to every rehearsal and holds the flag while the band practices. I still don't know why the flag was waved during only the first number. It's a nasty job but, apparently, someone has to do it!

Some of the band members stayed in the homes of Blacksburg Community Band members while here. Two of them stayed with me and, despite communication problems, it was a very good experience. As we drove to my house they expressed amazement at the above-ground power lines in Blacksburg, thinking them somewhat old fashioned. I pointed out the underground lines in my subdivision. They also asked why I lived in the forest, noting that in Switzerland people aren't allowed to build homes in the woods. When we got to the house they asked which directions were south and east and said something about being able to play the Alphorn at the house. They also asked me about our band and how many of those girls that always marched in front of American bands we had in our group.

The highlight of the visit for me came the morning after our concert when, at 7:30 am, Toni and Roli (the two cornet players who stayed with me) went out in my yard on the side of Brush Mountain, assembled their Alphorns and played two songs for us and all our neighbors. They were delighted when all the birds in the area seemed to join in with their tunes. I think they really enjoyed being able to play these instruments used in the mountains of Switzerland in the mountains of America. It was certainly an experience I will never forget!

Editors Note: The Swiss Band presented us with an oversized Swiss watch (SWATCH) that is now proudly hanging in our rehearsal space with Diana Love as our watch keeper.
Musicality Article
by Rachel Landry

Since I've been given the dubious position of Band Secretary, I've made a conscious effort to become as involved with BCB as my schedule allows. Not only does this encompass physical doings, such as this newsletter, but also a lot of reflection and evaluation of the group. Although previously this wasn't a great issue for me, our overwhelming lack of musicality as a group is becoming more and more obvious. This was made especially clear during my brief bout as a conductor. We need to display some dynamic contrast in our playing. How? It's really not that hard.

I assume everyone in the ensemble knows what the words piano, crescendo and forte mean. However, knowing words in your mind and translating them into music your audience will understand are two completely different processes. Great musicians are great because they've mastered this technique. Playing with dynamic contrast is not a terribly difficult thing to do, but it does require participation from everyone. This means you!

The musical language of a piece must be played correctly from the very first reading. Music is not a bunch of notes to be hammered out time and again as a mangled symbol of our playing. We could be so much better than that. Even if some of the notes are not correct, they can be piano or forte. Sensitivity is what makes music an art. Sensitivity is also part of what makes us human; we all feel sensitivity. Our music needs to reflect our sensitivity every time we play. Each person needs to be constantly thinking "How does this make me feel?" If the answer is "nothing" then a change must be played.

As an instrumentalist you will know when your playing is sensitive. You know because you don't need to ask about how you feel. When our group plays with the sensitivity it could, we won't have to ask, either.

Oklahoma!

The New River Valley Summer Musical Enterprise has announced Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma! as its production this year. Several members of the band will be playing in the orchestra and working in administrative and technical areas of the production. If you are interested in becoming a part of the production, see Ed Schwartz or Russell Shock.

Miscellaneous Music Mumbo-jumbo

Our topic this edition: Henry VIII


Henry decided that the yard measure would be the distance from the tip of his nose to the length of a bass recorder.

Henry VIII was the third child and second son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York. An accomplished scholar, linguist, musician and athlete Henry married six times. However, his passion for music did not prevent him from chopping off the heads of two of his mates: Anne Boleyn, number 2, and Catherine Howard, number 5; nor from divorcing number 1, Catherine of Aragon (his brother's widow), and number 4, Anne of Cleves. Jane Seymour, number 3, had a natural death; and number 6, Catherine Parr, survived him.
Celebration Chorus Joins Band

This July 4th, our band will once again be joined by the Celebration Chorus. This year the chorus will be directed by none other than Keitha Lucas, the director the the Meistersingers singing ensemble at Tech. The approximately 40 volunteers who make up the annual Celebration Chorus come from all over the New River Valley. The Chorus will sing six pieces with band accompaniment at the July 4th concert. The Concert has been set for Sunday, July 4, 1993 at 8:30 pm, at Lane Stadium on the Tech campus.

BBCB New Music

The following are new musical arrangements that were purchased since the last newsletter. The band will be performing most of these in upcoming concerts this year:

American Folk Rhapsody #2 - Claire Grundman
An American In Paris - George Gershwin, arr. John Moss
American Overture for Band - Clifton Williams
March of the Belgian Paratroopers - Pierre Leemans, arr. Charles A. Wiley
Bravura March - C. E. Duble
Carnival of Venice - Del Staigers
A Cole Porter Spectacular- Cole Porter, arr. Sammy Nestico
Dramatic Essay - Clifton Williams
Gershwin! - George Gershwin, arr. Warren Barker
God Bless America - Al Jacobs, arr. Ray Ringwald
Heritage of Freedom - James Curnow
Irving Berlin — A Symphonic Portrait - Irving Berlin, arr. Hawley Ades
Liberty Bell March - John Philip Sousa
Liberty March - Rosario Carcione
Mancini Magic- Henry Mancini, arr. Jerry Brubaker
Men of Ohio March - Henry Fillmore
Neal Hefti Portrait - Neal Hefti, arr. Bob Lowden
Prelude and Capriccio - Alfred Reed

Missing Music Folders

The following folders are still at-large and need to be returned. There is a bounty on these folders that can be collected from Mary or Grace.

Piccolo A
Flute IA, IB, ID, IE, IIA, IIE
Oboe II
Bassoon IA
Alto Clarinet B
Alto Sax IA
Trombone IIB
Baritone BC A
Baritone TC B

Band Library Notes

The Blacksburg Community Band Music Library now has 88 works on file:

3 Broadway Shows
10 Christmas Music
5 Instrumental Solo with Band
10 Light Classical Band & Transcriptions
15 March Music
3 Novelty Music
18 Patriotic Music
24 Popular Music

Several members of the band have donated music to the band library. Anyone interested in doing this can see Ed about ordering and donations. Band scores can run anywhere from $12 to $60.

Grace Baldwin, Mary Keffer and Karen Haga have been working very hard to get the music in shape for the 1993 concert season. 8 songs have been pulled from the books and 29 new ones have been added, including the music for the 4th of July concert. Grace and Mary are trying to organize the music in such a way that it will be available and complete and hopefully prevent wasting a lot of time scrambling for parts during rehearsal and at concerts, and more importantly, so that when a new person comes to band, they can be given a complete set of music to use.

To this end, Grace and Mary ask everyone to remember the following:

1. Feel free to take a folder home to practice. If you are going to miss a concert or rehearsal, please leave your folder in the box. (Keep in mind that others may need it.) See Mary or Grace to sign out a folder.

2. If you find you are missing a part, ask Grace or Mary and they will get you one as soon as possible. Sometimes if a section gets very large, you may have to share stands and folders.

3. NEVER take home a folder which has the word "FILE" written on it (they are cursed)! The function of the File Folder is to provide a back-up set of music for concerts and rehearsals, and to give new people music to play if no regular folders are available. These folders, therefore, must be kept complete or they lose their value. Also, be sure not to put your folder in the File Folder box, or it may not make it to rehearsal on time.
1993 Spring/Summer Concert Series

The tentative concert music for the July 4th performance with the Celebration Chorus is as follows:

The Liberty Bell March - John Philip Sousa
The Star Spangled Banner (Chorus) - John Stafford Smith, arr. Luigi Zaninelli
George M. Cohan Patriotic Fantasy (Chorus) - George M. Cohan, arr. Walter Ehret, Paul Yoder
American Patrol - F. W. Meecham
Battle Hymn of the Republic (Optional SATB Chorus) - William Steffe
American Folk Rhapsody #2 - arr. Claire Grundman
Irving Berlin — A Symphonic Portrait (Chorus) - Irving Berlin, arr. Hawley Ades
Stars and Stripes Forever - John Philip Sousa
We Hold These Truths (Chorus) - Robert Washburn
Heritage of Freedom (Narration) - James Curnow
America The Beautiful (Chorus) - Samuel Augustus Ward, arr. Carmen Dragon

A “Banner” Day for the Band

Jim Marchman, our past president, has built an easy to carry and set up “banner” for our use at concerts. The “banner,” featuring the band’s logo painted in gold and red, is constructed from plastic plumbing pipe and a window shade. It can be either hung from any convenient nail or hanger or be stood on its own legs. It got its first use at our April 4th concert at the Crafts Fair. Jim hopes that this sign will end the frustration we have often experienced trying to find a place to tie our large banner at a concert.

Clarinet Choir Awakes

The clarinet choir is alive and well having enjoyed successful performances at a Methodist Church, and Warm Hearth Retirement Village. On March 28, the group played for about 70 members of the Bethel Methodist Church for their Mother & Daughter Tea. The ensemble consisted of 5 members of the clarinet section. On May 13, 7 clarinetists entertained about 30 people at Warm Hearth’s Ladies’ Circle Luncheon.

The group’s repertoire includes a variety of musical styles from popular to light classical arrangements with music from Mozart to Stephen Foster. Mary Keffer also contributed several artistic arrangements of her own. The group is open to all clarinets in the area. If you would like to have the clarinet choir perform at your event, or join the group, please call Mary Keffer.

Band Moves to Summer Colors

The Blacksburg Community Band is always trying to make a fashion statement through our insightful and current dress codes. In an attempt to keep the fashion police off of our back, we are now officially observing the spring/summer season dress code. This consists of tan (khaki) colored trousers, skirts, or shorts (of an appropriate length). The top can be a white shirt, blouse (long or short sleeve depending on conditions), or pull-over polo style shirt. Neat looking T-shirts can also be worn. Shoes, sandals, or barefoot are the feet fashion this year, with an official visor worn on the head (hair is optional).

New Band Members

The band has enjoyed editions in nearly every section. We appreciate everyone’s efforts in creating music and in making the band possible. The new members are:

Flute - Christie Alexander
Laura Dannerfield
Trumpet - Judy Wood
Lowell Dale
Clarinet - Amanda Neill
Diane Flaherty
Marshall Shuler
Kazy Keciorius
Joe Galleton
(referring member)
Baritone - Bruce Compton
Alto Sax - Janine Cloutier
Baritone - Bruce Compton
Ken Stanley
Horn - Ken Renegan
Joe Montague
Trombone - Jamie Johnson
Tuba - Pat Flaherty

Publicity Committee

With the onset of summer, the publicity committee met to chart a new course for the attraction of new band members. Rachel Landry and Christie Alexander designed and printed (on colorful paper) a poster complete with a brief flyer containing “About the Band” information. These posters are hanging in local supermarkets, music stores and any other place with public space available.

In addition to the posters, a bring-a-friend-to-rehearsal rehearsal is going to be held on Wednesday, June 2. Please ask people you come in contact with to attend. Everyone knows at least one potential band member, you just need to find out who that person is. In order for our band to grow, we need you to help! Spread your enthusiasm.

The publicity committee is looking for new ideas and folks to implement them. Get involved so we can get the community involved.
**Personals**

**Community Award**
Mary Riley (horn) was recently honored as the Small Business Person of the year by the Greater Blacksburg Chamber of Commerce. Any of you who don’t know, Mary owns and operates Main Street Bazaar. Congratulations Mary, we wish you continuing success and hope that you stop by when you get a chance!

**Campus News**
Congratulations to Kendra Kohl (clarinet) who graduated from Radford University on May 1 with a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration.
Way to go Kendra!
Neal Bataller (clarinet) has a new job with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in DC and is graduating Tech with a PHD in Veterinary Medicine. We will miss you Neal!

**Stork News**

**Meet Christie Alexander**
Christie Alexander, flute player and part time conductor, came to Blacksburg Community Band via James Madison University where she earned a BME (as in EZ2). Now a certified music teacher, Christie is working at Companion Animal Clinic as a kennel technician. Her duties there include conducting the hound choir. In addition, Christie is offering music lessons on the side. Please call her if you are interested.

**Miscellany**
Happy Birthday to Bob Wall (euphonium). Think you can blow out all those candles?
Pat Furey (tenor sax) says that she wants a nordic track. Probably to help her build up her wind for the larger horn.
Ron Gibbs (French Horn) has a used set of golf clubs for sale.

**Trivia Question**
What flute player gave up her wisdom teeth to a trumpet player?
Upcoming Schedule At-A-Glance

Current Spring and Summer Concerts:
1. May 29, Saturday, 2:00 pm
   Main Street Pulaski (by Courthouse)
2. June 11, Friday, 6:00 pm
   Virginia Tech Henderson Lawn
3. June 18, Friday, 7:00 pm
   Pearisburg, King Johnston School
4. July 3, Saturday, 1:00 pm
   Mainstreet in Blacksburg, Parade
5. July 4, Sunday, 8:30 pm
   Virginia Tech Lane Stadium Concert
6. July 15, Thursday, 7:00 pm
   Warm Hearth Retirement Village
7. July 22, Thursday, 7:00 pm
   Narrows Boom Park (Rain location, Old High School)
8. July 27, Tuesday, 7:00 pm
   Radford, Bissett Park Gazebo
9. August 7, Saturday **** Possible - Not Confirmed ****
10. August 28, Saturday, 1:00 pm
    The Plant Plant, Herb Fest, Christiansburg

All times listed are downbeat times, band members should allow about 1/2 hour to set up. No rehearsals will be held after June 30. September 8 is the first regular rehearsal of the fall season.

The Blacksburg Community Band
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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.