

**BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND
20TH ANNIVERSARY SPRING CONCERT**

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

**DIRECTOR, ED SCHWARTZ
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, STEVEN E. BROWN**



**CELEBRATING THE TWENTY-YEAR MEMBERS OF
THE BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND**

Visit our web site at: <http://arts.bev.net/BlacksburgCommunityBand/>

THE BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND

As the Blacksburg Community Band begins its 21st year, we would like to look back and celebrate the accomplishments of the past two decades. The band is proud of its history of service to the community and looks to continue in the proud tradition that the band has created.



Our very first rehearsal was on January 18, 1989 in the Blacksburg High School band room, and the first of our fourteen concerts that year was performed on May 14, 1989 at Mountain Lake. Other concert venues that year included Warm Hearth Retirement Village, Smithfield Plantation, Jackson Park in Pulaski, the VA Hospital in Salem, Brookmead Retirement Center in Shawsville, the New River Valley Mall, and five community concerts in Blacksburg. Since that first year, the band has performed over 20 concerts per year on average.

Over the past 20 years, the Blacksburg Community Band has held 753 rehearsals and has performed in 433 concerts across the New River Valley and beyond. The majority of these concerts (248) have been in Blacksburg. These have included many of Blacksburg's large events such as performing every year at the Blacksburg Independence Day celebrations and at *Steppin' Out*. To say that we are Blacksburg's band would definitely be accurate, but it would also be appropriate to consider this the band of the New River Valley. The band has performed over 80 concerts across the New River Valley including Floyd County, Pulaski County, Giles County, Craig County, and the City of Radford.

The one thing that has kept the band together and provided the energy to move forward is the dedication of the core members of the band. There are currently over a dozen active members of the band with us today that were here 20 years ago when the band started. They have created the legacy of the Blacksburg Community Band and have helped to make this a vibrant organization that will undoubtedly be around for another 20 years!

The other critical factor in the success of the band is the wonderful community support that we have received over the years. The band started with the assistance of Dr. William Winfrey and the Blacksburg Department of Parks and Recreation. We still receive logistical support through Dean Crane and Parks and Recreation as well as financial support from the Town Manager, but more and more, we look to you for our primary source of support.

The arts are a large part of the fabric of our community and the Blacksburg Community Band is proud to play an active role with hundreds of your friends neighbors and guests that have joined our ranks over the years. We thank you for coming out to see the band today and we hope that you continue to support the band as it provides a unique service to the community and makes the Town of Blacksburg as "*a special place!*"

ED SCHWARTZ - MUSIC DIRECTOR

Ed has been active in music his entire life, and has no plans to quit any time soon. He can be seen at Mt. Lake every fall for the popular Oktoberfest with the Sauerkraut Band, and can be found performing with the Riverboat Ramblers, Big Dog and the Fat Cats, the SRO Big Band in Roanoke and the Bedford Community Orchestra. He has also been seen on stage with the Summer Musical Enterprise (SME), and many years ago with Opera Roanoke. He also continues to produce musicals for Summer Musical Enterprise. Prior to his move to the New River Valley 20 years ago, Ed was the Music Director for the Newark Community Band in Newark, Delaware. This is where he started his first community band and cemented his passion for community music. Ed currently works at Virginia Tech in Learning Technologies as the Director, Development Programs Administration and Collaboration and manages the Faculty Development Institute.



STEVEN E. BROWN - ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

A native of Seattle, Steve has been composing and arranging since high school, his first big hit being the theme from *Our Man Flint* arranged for marching band. A 21 year career in the Navy (not as a musician) allowed him to hear his music played by ensembles throughout the United States, Europe, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Following his Navy retirement, he moved to Southwest Virginia, and has been seen with the Blacksburg Community Band, the Roanoke Valley Community Band, and the Winds of the Blue Ridge. As an actor, he has appeared in many local productions (*Fiddler On The Roof*, *My Fair Lady*, *Annie*), at Mill Mountain Theater (*42nd Street*, *The Christmas Cup*, *A Wonderful Life*), and composed and arranged the music for Blacksburg's bicentennial musical *The Promise*, and was the composer, orchestrator, lyricist, author, and director for Summer Musical Enterprise's production of *The Prisoner of Zenda*. He has been on *Jeopardy!* three times, and can presently be found daily from 12 to 4 PM as host of *Afternoon Classics* on WVTF public radio.



PROGRAM

20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT - SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2009

The Billboard March - John N. Klohr, arr. Frederick Fennell

Carnival of Venice - Traditional, arr. Del Staigers

Dr. Mary Lazarus Woodbury - Cornet Solo

Pirates of the Caribbean - Klaus Badelt, arr. John Wasson

Steve Brown - Conductor

Gabriel's Oboe - Ennio Morricone

arr. John Raymond Howell

Meredith McCree - Oboe Solo

Holiday For Horns - John Raymond Howell

Sinfonia for Band - John Raymond Howell

John Raymond Howell - Conductor

1. Introduction and Allegretto

Solos: Meredith McCree, oboe, Karl Sanzenbach, alto saxophone,

Daniel McPherson, trumpet

2. Ed's Blues

Solos: Meredith McCree, English horn, Steve Brown, timpani, John

Gregg, trumpet, Vicki Scarratt, piccolo

3. The Marys' Go-'Round Breakdown

Solos: Mary Keffer, clarinet, Mary Rhodes, bassoon, Mary Walters,

piccolo, Mary Woodbury, cornet

INTERMISSION

Music For A Gala - Steven E. Brown

Written for the Blacksburg Community Band

10th Anniversary concert

Steve Brown - Conductor

Variations and Fandango - Steven E. Brown

Steve Brown - Conductor

Colonel Bogey - Kenneth Alford

Irish Tune from County Derry/Shepherd's Hey - Percy Grainger

West Side Story - Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim

arr. W. J. Duthoit

BLACKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND

ED SCHWARTZ (20) MUSIC DIRECTOR

STEVEN E. BROWN (14) ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR

JOHN R. HOWELL (18) GUEST CONDUCTOR

FLUTE

Bethany Conroy (1)
Sunny Crawley (1)
Susan Brooker-Gross (1)
Thomas James Godfrey (13)
Cammie Justus (1)
Allie McMillion (1)
Kaya Norton (1)
Vicki Scarratt (8)
Leda Stubbs (19)
Chrissy Vadovszki
Callie Waggaman (2)
Mary Walters (8)

CLARINET

Sam Aistrop (1)
Elizabeth Bowles (20)
Carl Derfler (8)
Terri Fisher (11)
Natalie Gibbs (2)
Karen Haga (20)
Alane Homer (17)
Renee Jacobsen (19)
Mary Keffer (20)
Kendra Kohl (20)
Bruce McGarvey (8)
Beth Tranter (1)

ALTO CLARINET

Carol Baker (5)
Barbara Self (20)

BASS CLARINET

Dana Reynolds (1)

CONTRA-ALTO CLARINET

Debby Good Wiedmer (3)

CONTRABASS CLARINET

Dixon Smiley (3)

OBOE

Meredith McCree (2)

BASSOON

MARY Rhoades (20)

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Pat Furey (20)

Steve Hulburt (14)
Karl Sanzenbach (15)
Rachel Tracy (2)
Debby Good Wiedmer (3)

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Fred Hodges (7)
J.B. Jones (10)
Amber Wiley-Vawter (1)

Joel Williams (20)

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Laura Cox (1)
Jim Mitchell (14)

TRUMPET

Matthew Clabaugh (2)
Mark Clabaugh (8)
Kristyn DeMarco (1)
Dave Fried (1)
John Gregg (20)
Dick Kazee (19)

Jim Marchman (20)

Daniel McPherson (13)
Bill Murphy (9)
Warren Ramp (17)

Russell Shock (20)

Cory Skinner (1)
Mary Woodbury (2)
Joe Woodward (17)

FRENCH HORN

Catherine Bonin (1)
Ingrid Burbey (10)

Nathaniel Frissell (1)
Shanna Hollich (1)
Jennifer Hundley (1)
Derry Hutt (11)
Carol Johnson (1)
Terry Nicholson (8)

TROMBONE

Dean Chiapetto (14)
Donald Couch (12)
Philip Dickerson (1)
Bill Finley (10)
Amy Hall (16)
Donal Hall (16)
John Howell (18)
Nellie McKinney (1)
Jefferson Ritchie (1)
Dave Roper (20)
Daniel Schoonover (8)
A. Spencer Taylor (14)
Jim Wiebe (2)

EUPHONIUM

Rebekah Conroy
Kathy Duncan (20)
David Kibler (10)
Joe Montague (16)
Gary McDaniel (1)

TUBA

Carl Epley (20)
Jude Raffeyner (20)
Bob Woodbury (2)

PERCUSSION

Steve Brown (14)
Harriett Cooper (11)
Alan McDaniel (10)
Leslie Palacios (6)
Jean Venhorst (1)

JOHN RAYMOND HOWELL - COMPOSER

John Raymond Howell is an Associate Professor of Music at Virginia Tech. Aside from his academic work, he has extensive professional experience in classical, commercial, and early music. John was a professional entertainer and musical arranger with The Four Saints. He performed on five continents and in all 50 states, appearing on the major TV variety shows of the 1960s. John was also show director at Disneyland and Walt Disney World. At Tech, John has directed The New Virginians, the Studio Singers, the John Howell Singers, the Early Music Ensemble, and the Choral Union at Virginia Tech. John's work in the community has included performing with the Roanoke Symphony, Lynchburg Symphony, Southwest Virginia Chamber Orchestra, Blacksburg Community Strings & Chamber Orchestra, and the Blacksburg Community Band. John has published many compositions and arrangements for chorus, string orchestra, and concert band. The tone poem for concert band, "Variations on a Hymn Tune: April, 1912," on the sinking of the Titanic, premiered April, 2001. Four Anthems, "Psalm 27: A Psalm of Trust," "Psalm 13: A Psalm of Lamentation," "Psalm 58: A Psalm of Vengeance," and "Psalm 146: A Psalm of Praise" commissioned by Covenant Presbyterian Church and premiered September, 2001.



VARIATIONS AND FANDANGO STEVEN E. BROWN

For the 10th and 15th anniversaries of the Blacksburg Community Band, I wrote music that was loud, fast, celebratory, and a lot of fun. But this time I wanted to do something a little more "serious". The form of "Variations" has been around since music began, and you'd be hard pressed to find any composer who did not write something in the form. Instead of an original theme, I picked a very old Portuguese tune, *The Follies of Spain*, which has also been used by many other composers, such as Salieri and Vivaldi. It has the remarkable quality of sounding ancient and modern at the same time. Starting very starkly, the melody is first heard on solo clarinet, then it travels through the woodwinds, brass, and the rest of the band. For the finale, I used a lively Spanish dance rhythm called a Fandango, which almost takes over the piece until "*Follies*" makes a triumphant return. Keep in mind that I wrote most of the fandango while at home recuperating (with the aid of some heavy medication) from a total knee replacement, so any dancing I was doing was entirely in my imagination, which found its way into the music. I don't remember a whole lot of it, but I'm delighted with the way it turned out!

SINFONIA FOR BAND

JOHN RAYMOND HOWELL

I've written a stack of music for this band over the years, most of it arrangements. No surprise. I've been a commercial arranger since 9th grade, writing settings of existing music for people whose capabilities I knew well. So writing something completely original for this concert was both an opportunity and a challenge. And for over six months I was hung up on the challenge—they call it “writer's block”!—because I was trying to think of myself as a big deal composer, until I finally broke the block by remembering that I'm an arranger, so just write an arrangement of my own music! It worked.

I had the basic ideas for “Introduction and Allegretto” for months, and starts on both sections, but only moved ahead when I started thinking like an arranger. Same thing for “Ed's Blues.” I knew I wanted it to be a slow blues with interesting solos and section work, but didn't actually have any music started. And the biggest surprise came with “The Marys' Go-'Round Breakdown.” The afternoon I finished “Ed's Blues” I sat down to start it with a definite concept, but not even a single note in mind, and the thing wrote itself and was done 12 hours later—with time out for dinner!

I didn't write for just any band. I wrote it for this band—for my friends and colleagues, whose talent and musicianship I know well, and for the individual players and sections who get a chance to shine. You've never heard a jazz English Horn solo? You will tonight! Same thing with every other solo or featured section of the band. This is my band, at its very best!

“Introduction” is a fanfare, the biggest, brightest, most exciting fanfare I could create without imitating John Williams or anyone else, building up through the entire brass section. The “Allegretto” was a challenge both to myself and the band; 5/8 time isn't something you run into every day. “Ed's Blues” was a real joy to write, showing off the deep members of our fine clarinet section and a variety of sections and soloists in new and different ways. And “The Marys' Go-'Round Breakdown” is a massive musical pun. The title suggests a “Looney Tune” or “Merry Melody”—the world of cartoon music. The “Marys” are our four fine soloists, all named Mary. The “Go-'Round” is from the saying, “whatever goes around comes around,” the world of popular culture, but just happens to be a perfect description of the Rondo form that Mozart loved. “Breakdown” is a Bluegrass term for a fast-moving, exciting instrumental tune. And “Sinfonia”? That's what the earliest symphonies were called, written in three short, contrasting movements in imitation of Italian opera overtures. Just like this piece.

Enjoy!

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Vice President - Kendra Kohl
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Members at Large - Amy Hall
Rene Jacobsen, Alan McDaniel

Past President - Leslie Palacios
Librarian - Leslie Palacios
Fund Raising - Harriett Cooper
Historian - Mary Walters
Social - Amy Hall
Rehearsal Managers - Karl Sanzenbach, J.B. Jones

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Blacksburg Community Band would like to thank the following:

- Darrell Pearman for his wonderful support of the community band program. The band owes him a great debt of gratitude for his patience, assistance and cooperation.
- Blacksburg High School for the use of the rehearsal space for the past 20 years and custodial support.
- The Town of Blacksburg for the critical support that they offer, especially Dean Crane and the Town of Blacksburg Department of Parks and Recreation.
- A special thanks also goes out to Richard Cole for donating his time to record our concerts for the past seventeen years.
- The Band would like to recognize the participation of all the musicians who have played with us and contributed to the success of the band.
- The band would like to thank XYZ, Blacksburg Community Strings, John Brooker, Blair Lawton, Ginny Murphy, Michael Furey, Delta Omicron, and Amy Hall for coordinating the refreshments this evening.

Please join us for a reception in the High School Commons area directly after the concert and meet your friends and neighbors in the band.

IN MEMORIUM

We would like to dedicate this concert to the memory of those members of the Blacksburg Community Band who are no longer with us. They were our friends and the band is grateful for the time that they spent with us.

Charles Johnson 1991 + Norman Brown 1996 + Ed Stoddard 1997
Kazys Keciorius 2006 + Judy Keffer 2007