Blacksburg Community Band
Jay A. Durner, Conductor

Spring Concert
Celebrating the Music of Steve Brown

Sunday, April 8, 2018
3:00 pm
Blacksburg High School

FREE Concert with refreshments to follow.
President’s Note

Welcome to the 29th Annual Spring Concert of the Blacksburg Community Band.

Live local music brings a community together, provides entertainment for people from all walks of life, and helps increase the quality of life for those who experience it. The Blacksburg Community Band has a great mission of providing a musical outlet for citizens who are interested in rekindling or continuing their interest in music. As an all-volunteer organization, the band has been fortunate to have dedicated and enthusiastic members from across the New River Valley. Since its founding in January 1989, the band has grown to an average of 80 members and performs approximately 15 concerts annually throughout the region.

Today we are pleased to present our fifth annual Founder’s Scholarship Award to a young musician who has demonstrated a passion for music and an awareness of the importance of music in community life.

The program, as is our tradition, offers a variety of musical styles and genres that celebrate the fullness of Spring. In particular we have music composed by Steve Brown, who was an active, long-term member of the band and a prolific composer and arranger. For Steve, music was everywhere in his life and that is reflected in his compositions.

We hope you will enjoy today’s music and an opportunity to celebrate Steve Brown’s passion for music and his contributions to our community.

Jennifer Hundley

President, Blacksburg Community Band
Blacksburg Community Band

2018 Spring Concert

Jay A. Durner, Music Director and Conductor
Dean Chiapetto, Associate Conductor*
Ed Schwartz, Founder, Guest Conductor**

Music for a Gala

Praeludium

Meditation on a Hymn

Road Trip – Canada!* 

Beguine for Band*

West Side Story Selection

La Paloma

Presentation of Founder’s Scholarship

Rio Chama**

Fallon’s Daughter**

A Slavic Farewell

Nimrod

Steven E. Brown

Armas Jarnefelt arr. A. Glover

Steven E. Brown

Steven E. Brown

Steven E. Brown

Leonard Bernstein arr. Duthoit

Sebastian Yradier arr. J. Nowak

Steven E. Brown

Steven E. Brown

Vasilij Agapkin arr. John Bourgeois

Edward Elgar arr. Alfred Reed
Program Notes

Steve Brown (1949-2017) was most widely known as the Classical Music Director for WVTF, the local NPR station. He was also Music Director at his church, active in local theatre, and a long-term member and Associate Conductor of our band. Steve was also an active music composer and arranger. We have almost 50 of Steve's compositions in our music library, many of which he conducted in our spring or fall concerts. Steve must have had music in his head all the time, and almost any event or inspiration, big or small, musical or not, could start Steve creating and composing music. Our program includes six pieces requested by his family or members of the band. We have music by other composers as well. Steve would be pleased to share the bill with Edward Elgar, Alfred Reed, and Leonard Bernstein, among others.

Music for a Gala, with its celebratory fanfares and flourishes opens our program. This piece was written by Steve to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Blacksburg Community Band.

Meditation on a Hymn. Steve wrote this piece and dedicated it to fellow band member Jim Marchman. Jim recalls “...one evening after practice a number of years ago I told Steve that there was an old Welsh hymn tune I couldn’t get out of my mind. He asked me to hum a few bars and said he would find out something about it. The next week he handed me the full band score for this composition.”

Road Trip – Canada! How do you pass the time on a long road trip? For Steve, of course, it was an opportunity to conceive and compose another piece of music. Follow the themes through Canada and back to the US.

Beguine for Band. The beguine is a Latin dance and music form, similar to a slow rhumba. Steve knew this popular form is fun to play and hear. Listen for it in the West Side Story Selection as well.
**Rio Chama.** Another of Steve’s family road trips took him west to the Rio Chama, a major tributary of the Rio Grande in northern New Mexico. It flows through a multi-colored sandstone canyon, which is, at times, 1,500 feet deep. In this dramatic western landscape Steve probably thought of the music typical of western movies he enjoyed. You can hear those themes and harmonies in this piece.

**Fallon’s Daughter: Dedicated to Maureen.** Steve wrote this piece soon after he met Maureen Fallon who became his wife of 22 years.

**Praeludium.** This jaunty prelude was written in 1900 by Finnish conductor and composer Armas Jarnefelt. Andrew Glover arranged this version for concert band.

**West Side Story Selection.** From Leonard Bernstein’s famous Broadway play score, this arrangement by W. J. Duthoit includes: I Feel Pretty; Something’s Coming; Tonight (note the *beguine* theme); One Hand, One Heart; Cool; America. Steve, of course, enjoyed acting locally as well.

**La Paloma.** Written in the 1850’s by Sebastian Yradier, this popular piece belongs to a genre of songs called *habaneras*, which combines Cuban rhythms with Spanish flamenco rhythms.

**A Slavic Farewell.** Also called Farewell of Slavianka, this popular Russian march was written by Vasilij Agapkin in 1912 in honor of the Slavic women accompanying their husbands in the First Balkan War. Steve was very proud of his career in the US Navy and enjoyed conducting and composing patriotic marches such as this one.

**Nimrod** is the 9th variation of Edward Elgar’s Variations on an Original Theme, popularly known as the Enigma Variations written in 1898. This very moving variation was named for a good friend of Elgar who encouraged him to continue composing at a time when he was very discouraged. Thus, it seems an appropriate finale to a concert celebrating the compositions of our longtime band member and friend, Steve Brown.
"All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances,
And one man in his time plays many parts”

-William Shakespeare

My dad probably came into the world hearing, “Lights! Camera! Action!” He was a performer through and through. He acted, sang, danced, wrote, composed, and conducted. He was happiest when entertaining others, whether it was using his big booming voice, doing a comedic double-take, banging on the timpani, or conducting a favorite piece. He performed all over the world, and when we settled here in the NRV he was elated to find local groups to be a part of. I am grateful to these local organizations for providing my dad, and so many others, with a place to be entertainers. Thank you to The Blacksburg Community Band for being family, friends, and like-minded companions to my dad for over 20 years. Thank you to all supporters of local arts who make these groups possible. He was so honored to be a part of the band, and so proud of every performance you did. Thank you for commemorating him in such a meaningful way.

-Susan Olmstead (daughter)
Founder’s Scholarship Award Recipient

The Blacksburg Community Band Founder's Scholarship was created in 2014 to foster the desire in high school students to become lifelong musicians regardless of the profession they choose to pursue. The scholarship provides the recipient with financial support that can be used for instrument purchase or repair, music lessons, or tuition.

This year’s recipient is Allison Moody, a senior at Radford High School. Allison plays trumpet, and has participated in many admirable musical opportunities, such as: All County Band, District 6 Band, RU Tristate Chamber Winds Festival, and VT Honor Band.

Additionally, she is a soloist in her high school’s concert and marching bands. She also teaches Beginning Brass Band to younger students, and that has led to her decision to study Music Education at Radford University.

In addition to her musical achievements, Allison maintains a 4.0 GPA, and participates in several academic teams.

The scholarship committee wanted to share with you two quotes from Allison’s essay for the scholarship application:

“Before I found my passion in music, I didn’t fully grasp the colorful thread it weaves into the fabric of life. I enjoyed listening to music and singing along, but I never experienced until now the deep connection life brings through music.”

She ended her essay by saying

“I want to lead a new generation of musical explorers.”

The band is honored to award this year’s Founder’s Scholarship to Allison Moody.
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Thank you to these Donors to the Spring Fund Drive

**Conductor**

William & Marge Davis  
(In memory of Lowell and Catherine Davis)

Jay & Chris Durner

Patrick and Kim Feucht

R.M & Kylene Hilton

Derry Hutt

David Kibler  
(In memory of Susanna Kibler)

James Mitchell

Bill & Ginny Murphy  
(In memory of our parents)

Ed Schwartz and Leslie Palacios  
(In memory of Steve Brown)

Union Bank

Anonymous  
(In honor of music educators)

**Composer**

Harriet Cooper  
(In memory of Alan McDaniel and Steve Brown)

Travis & Jennifer Hundley

Ira & Joan Manross

James Marchman

Robin & Norman Olmstead  
(In memory of Steve Brown)

Ynonne Yee  
(For Steppin’ Out)

Anonymous

**Arranger**

Blue Ridge Church  
(In memory of Steve Brown)

Janice Litschert

**Benefactor**

Carol & Ron Baker

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(In memory of Mahilda Kosztarab)

William & Vicki Newton

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(In honor of James Mitchell)

Dale & Pat Oliver

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Anonymous (In memory of Steve Brown)

**Patron**

Elizabeth Davies  
(In celebration of Steve Brown’s music)

Greg Justice  
(In memory of Steve Brown. From his friends and neighbors on Adler and Spring Buck Lanes)

Alane Homer

Ms. Margaret Kates  
(In honor of Ed Schwartz)

Mary Keffer  
(In memory of Lynn McClench)

Jean Luyendijk

Christina Olmstead  
(In memory of Steve Brown – Love, Parker and Easton)

Anonymous
Congratulations to the Blacksburg Community Band on your 29th Anniversary!

Thank you for providing an opportunity for local musicians to perform and use their musical skills.

Look for our Musical Road Show programs coming in fall 2018 and our Roanoke Symphony Orchestra 2018 Holiday Pops Concert at the Moss Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech.

We sponsor SMILES concerts and provide Artists in Residence (AIRS) for week-long intensive music programs in the elementary schools of the New River Valley.

Brown Insurance

Home, Auto, Life, Health & Business Insurance
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The Blacksburg Community Band would like to thank:
The Town of Blacksburg, Warm Hearth, The Lyric, BHS Band Director Darrell Pearman, and our many members and supporters.
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Image by Richard Mallory Allnut

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