



# IN CONCERT

Community Music Groups Working Together

*A Newsletter of Southwestern Pennsylvania Band Partners*

## Tri County Band

Information provided by John McCreight, modified by Sarah McElfresh

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Summer 2006

Tri-County Band, also known by some as a Brigadoon Band started as a family event in the early 1900s. It is a unique band that meets once a year where musicians from all over are welcome to play the music that is in the folders and put on a concert for all those who have come to listen. The concert typically lasts about 2 hours - but it depends on the chops of the players involved. Afterwards, everyone enjoys a picnic together. Musicians are primarily from Fayette, Greene, or Washington Counties hence the Tri-County name. The concert - or jam session for community band musicians - typically occurs the last Sunday in August. This year the concert will take place on Sunday August 27th at 1:30 pm a gazebo near St. Paul's United Methodist Church in the Village of Denbo, Centerville Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania, on the Monongahela River about four miles south of U.S. Route 40. (See next page for driving directions)

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Charles Battaglini, an Italian immigrant who arrived here in the 1890s settled in the community of LaBelle in Fayette County, near the Monongahela River. He had a great love of music that he wanted his family to share in. It is believed that he had no formal music training. Three of his sons became music teachers: Emerin, Arnold, and Reynato (known as Ray). Charles would have summer family picnics, during which his children would play music. As they developed, Charles would include musician friends from the Mon Valley area and friends of his children. The children were into adulthood by the 1930s, and the picnic gatherings became popular for attendance by many musicians. In 1939, the event became a community affair dubbed Tri-County Band, and from then on once each summer community musicians from the area would gather.

High school students were brought in, and recognition was given for the school with the most participants. Also, recognition was given to the oldest and youngest players, those coming the farthest distance. It was a reunion for many musicians.

For a number of years the event was linked to the King Coal Festival of Carmichaels, PA (Greene Co), and was held on the concluding weekend of that event at Joyland Park, in Carmichaels. The number of musicians participating in the event occasionally swelled to more than 200. Around 20 years ago, Joyland Park was sold for development, and the event was moved from place to place for a number of years. It was arranged by a small group of elders associated with the VFW Band of Uniontown. During this time, practically all high school participation fell away. Participants dwindled to acquaintances of the VFW organizers.

Guido Battaglini, a grandson of Charles, housed most of the band music that had been acquired over the years - much of which was purchased by funds collected in hat passing among audiences at Joyland. When Guido passed away in the 1990s, two footlockers were donated by a member of the Ricco family of Brownsville to house the music. The music eventually found its way to John McCreight who started organizing the event at Denbo in Washington County.



## Southwestern PA Community Bands—updates from last issue

Westmoreland Symphonic Winds  
<http://www.wswinds.org>  
 Kathleen Campbell, Music Director & Conductor  
 Aimee (Cheers) McCullen, Manager  
 724-838-4280  
[mccullen@setonhill.edu](mailto:mccullen@setonhill.edu)  
 Concert band in residence at Seton Hill Univ.

- See the complete list of Southwestern PA Community Bands at:  
<http://swpabandpartners.pghfree.net/bands.html>
- To be added to the online directory, send email to [newsletter@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net](mailto:newsletter@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net)

## South Hills Community Concert Band Information provided by George Shuff

The South Hills Community Concert Band has been playing music in the South Hills off and on since 1939. They took some breaks due to war, but have been playing continuously since September of 1970. It was started in Dormont when a young music teacher, Jack Rumbarger (who later became band director at Brentwood High School), said the community needed a band - and they were born. The first years the band rehearsed in the boiler room at the old Dormont High School. These days, they consist of approximately 40 musicians who play a diversified program for all ages. From September to June, the band plays around 20 concerts a year in primarily Assisted Living, Nursing Homes, Churches with a few concerts in the park as well.

The Band has been under the baton of Jack Rumbarger (1939-late 1970s). Robert L Arthur directed through the 80s. Then Jack Anderson who now works with the University of Pittsburgh Bands. They are now we are under the baton of Ken Slish who is a retired music director from Stowe Rocks. Janet Branch recently joined them as an Associate Director.

For more information about the South Hills Community Concert Band, contact Concert Manager George Shuff at 412-833-1330.

## Directions to Tri-County Band provided by John McCreight

Next to St. Paul's United Methodist Church in the Village of Denbo, Centerville Borough, Washington County

**From the west:** on Route 40 from the west, after passing through the towns Scenery Hill, Beallsville, and Richeyville (and some distance before Brownsville) look for the Dairy Queen on the south (right) side of the road. Turn onto the road immediately west of (before) the DQ (Ridge Road) and follow it all the way to the Monongahela River (you will travel several miles down to the river), and you will see Saint Paul's United Methodist Church on your left.

**From the east, north or south:** seek out Route 43 or Route 88 and turn east at the intersection with Ridge Road at the village of Low Hill. If coming north on 88, look for the intersection across which the road begins to widen (from 2 to 3 lanes, and then to 4 lanes, becoming Route 43), and simply turn east (right) there, toward the River. If coming south on Route 43, watch for the divided highway to end and the lanes to taper to 2 (from 3 etc.), and make the turn east (left), toward the River.

The key to making the turn to Denbo is the number of lanes in Route 88. The number south of the turn intersection is two, and immediately north of the turn intersection the number is three (soon becoming the full four lanes of Route 43 a short distance north).



## Combined Calendar of Events for Summer 2006 As of June 18, 2006

July 2006	Sat, 1	7pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	Kennywood	
	Sun, 2	1:30pm	Allegheny Brass Band	Christ Church at Grove Farm, Sewickley	
	Sun, 2	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Kennywood	
	Sun, 2	7pm	Scottdale Concert Band	The Diamond in Ligonier	
	Sun, 2	10am	Somerset County Concert Band	God & Country Service, Somerset Alliance Church	
	Sun, 2	7pm	Somerset County Concert Band	Meyersdale fourth of July celebration	
	Tue, 4		Pine Creek Community Band	Hampton Community Days and 4th of July Celebration	
	Sun, 9		Jeannette Community Band	Italian Festival @ Ascension Church, Jeannette	
	Sun, 9	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	The Diamond in Ligonier	
	Tue, 11	7pm	Armstrong Concert Band	West Kittanning Firehall	
	Thu, 13	8pm	The Musicians Concert Band	Miller Auditorium, Slippery Rock University	
	Thu, 13	7pm	Delmont Concert Band	Redstone, North Huntingdon	
	Sun, 16	3pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	Twin Lakes Park, Westmoreland County	
	Sun, 16	3:30pm	Community Band South	Bethel Park Community Center Tower Concert	
	Sun, 16	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Leechburg Gilpin Park	
	Sun, 16	1pm	Somerset County Concert Band	Somerfest, Laurel Arts	
	Mon, 17	6:30pm	Kittanning Firemen's Band	Apollo Moonlanding Concert, Owen's Grove	
	Tue, 18	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Apollo Moonlanding Celebration, Owen's Grove	
	Fri, 21	7pm	Blairsville Community Concert Band	Marion Center Park	
	Sun, 23	6:30pm	Scottdale Concert Band	Scottdale Gazebo	
	Sun, 23	7pm	Somerset County Concert Band	Hooversville Historical Society Concert	
	Tue, 25	7pm	Armstrong Concert Band	Crooked Creek Lake Park, Ford City	
	Thu, 27	8pm	The Musicians Concert Band	Miller Auditorium, Slippery Rock University	
	Thu, 27		Jeannette Community Band	Jeannette Community Days	
	Thu, 27	7pm	Delmont Concert Band	Redstone, GBG	
	Sat, 29	7pm	Armstrong Concert Band	Ford Cliff Boro Building	
	Sun, 30	7pm	Allegheny Brass Band	The Diamond in Ligonier	
	Sun, 30		Blairsville Community Concert Band	St. Simon & Jude Bazaar	
	August 2006	Wed, 2	5:30pm	Kittanning Firemen's Band	Kittanning Folk Festival Concert, Kittanning YMCA
		Sat, 5	8pm	Allegheny Brass Band	St. Alexis Church Festival, Wexford
Sat, 5		7pm	Somerset County Concert Band	Shanksville Community Picnic	
Sun, 6		7pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	The Diamond in Ligonier	
Sun, 6		3:30pm	Allegheny Brass Band	Bethel Park Community Center	
Sun, 6		7pm	Delmont Concert Band	Concordia, Sarver	
Thu, 10		8pm	The Musicians Concert Band	Miller Auditorium, Slippery Rock University	
Sat, 12			Pine Creek Community Band	Etna Community Days	
Sun, 13		10:30am	East Winds Symphonic Band	Bach, Beethoven, & Brunch, Mellon Park, Pittsburgh	
Sun, 13		7pm	Community Band South	The Diamond in Ligonier	
Sun, 13		1pm	Somerset County Concert Band	Central City Heritage Festival	
Sat, 19		11:30am	Blairsville Community Concert Band	Blairsville Diamond Days Fair	
Sat, 19		7pm	Somerset County Concert Band	Hidden Valley Homeowners Ice Cream Social	
Sun, 20		7pm	Delmont Concert Band	The Diamond in Ligonier	
Sun, 20		TBA	Scottdale Concert Band	Loucks Park, Scottdale	
Sun, 20		10am	Somerset County Concert Band	Trinity Lutheran Church, Somerset	
Sun, 27		1:30pm	Tri County Band	Next to St. Paul's United Methodist Church Denbo, Washington Cty	
Sun, 27		7pm	Somerset County Concert Band	The Diamond in Ligonier	
Sept 2006		Sat, 9	8pm	Allegheny Brass Band	McCandless Township Community Days
		Sat, 9	6:15pm	Kittanning Firemen's Band	West Kittanning Community Days
	Sat, 9		Delmont Concert Band	Delmont Community Days	
	Sat, 16	3pm	Scottdale Concert Band	Geyer Theater, Scottdale	
	Sat, 16		Somerset County Concert Band	Hollsopple Community Festival	
	Sun, 17	1pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Freeport	
	Sun, 24		Somerset County Concert Band	Whiskey Rebellion, Berlin	



## IN CONCERT:

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Southwestern Pennsylvania Band Partners is dedicated to helping community music groups in the southwestern Pennsylvania Region.

Please visit us online at the address below to learn more or become involved.

<http://swpabandpartners.pghfree.net>

To be on our mailing list send email to [swpabandpartners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:swpabandpartners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### Regional Band Websites

**Aeolian Winds**

<http://www.aeolianwinds.com/>

**Allegheny Brass Band**

<http://www.alleghenybrassband.com/>

**Armstrong Concert Band**

<http://www.geocities.com/armconband>

**Blairsville Community Concert Band**

<http://www.bccband.com>

**Butler County Symphony**

<http://www.butlerarts.org/symphony/>

**Community Band South**

<http://cbs.pghfree.net/>

**East Winds Symphonic Band**

<http://www.ewsb.org/>

**Edgewood Symphony**

<http://www.edgewoodsymphony.org>

**Harrisville Community Band**

<http://www.harrisvilleband.com/>

**Jeannette Community Band**

<http://www.jcbweb.com/>

**Kiski Valley Community Band**

<http://www.kvcb.net>

**Kittanning Firemen's Band**

<http://www.kfband.com/>

**Musicians Concert Band**

<http://www.musiciansconcertband.com/>

**North Pittsburgh Philharmonic**

<http://www.northpghphilharmonic.org>

**North Suburban Symphonic Band**

<http://www.nssband.org/>

**Ohio Valley Community Band**

<http://www.geocities.com/ovcband>

**Pine Creek Community Band**

<http://www.pinecreekband.com/>

**Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra**

<http://www.artsnet.org/pco/>

**Resurrection Band**

<http://www.boro.zelienople.pa.us/band.htm>

**Scottdale Concert Band**

<http://www.scottdaleband.com/>

**Somerset County Community Band**

<http://www.somersetcounty.com/band>

**West Hills Symphonic Band**

<http://www.whsb.org/>

**Westmoreland Symphonic Winds**

<http://www.wswinds.org/>

### Contributing to the newsletter In the Next Newsletter

Everyone is welcome to contribute an article to Due out October 1st:

the newsletter. The topic is up to you—something you think your fellow musicians would be interested in. Just email your article to: [newsletter@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net](mailto:newsletter@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net)

For additions to the website email: [info@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net](mailto:info@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net)

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