



IN CONCERT

Community Music Groups Working Together

A Newsletter of Southwestern Pennsylvania Band Partners

Ideas for recruitment of new musicians

Volume 6, Issue 3
Summer 2010

By Sarah McElfresh

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We all come to that time when we need more musicians to fill out the sections or we need a player of a less common instrument like French horn or bassoon. But how do we find these musicians??? Below are some suggestions that have been made by musicians from all over to help recruit new musicians. Some work better than others for a given geographic area and band philosophy.

Word of mouth

Asking your musicians to ask friends and spread the word that you are looking for new members is probably one of the best ways to find new members. People may want to join to do something fun with their friends. Maybe they've thought about dusting off that case and coming to rehearsals in the past, but now that they are needed in the group, they may be more likely to come.

Website

A web site is by far the best recruiting tool you can have. Particularly for new people moving to an area. Those that want to find a band will first turn to Google or the Community Music List and look for a band in their area. So having a web site is step 1. Having an effective web site is step 2. Refer to our article in our Winter 2007 edition for some basics on web page design and creation. The most important elements of the web site for recruitment are 1) Name and location of the band and 2) how to join including contact information and rehearsal information.

Facebook

Facebook and social networking sites are also becoming a useful way to recruit members and in many ways combines word of mouth and the web site. Many bands have facebook pages where their members are fans. Members can post in their status that their band is looking for new members, and their friends will see it and perhaps others will see it and spread the word to other friends. You can also advertise on your facebook page that you are looking for members.

Newspaper ads

An old standby is placing a Musicians Wanted ad in the local paper. This works very well in small towns that still have a local paper—be sure to include information on how to join and where you rehearse. You may also want to try to get the local paper to run an article about the band that

Recruitment (Continued on page 2)



Southwestern PA Community Bands—Updates to the Band Directory

We currently have 25 groups listed in our directory from the Southwestern Pennsylvania region.

Update: Somerset County Community Band has a new web address:
<http://www.somersetcountyband.com/>

Please check the listing of your group in the online directory to see if it is correct and let us know so we can put a “Verified” on date.

- 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

We have an announcements page for those items that come in between the monthly email postings to the mailing list. Check out it out!

<http://swpabandpartners.pghfree.net/announcements.html>

Don't forget to sign up for the monthly email.

Tell your friends so they don't miss upcoming concerts.

To be on our mailing list send email to swpabandpartners-subscribe@yahoo.com with the subject **subscribe**

(Continued from page 1) recruitment

highlights more about the group. This will give the musicians you are seeking a better idea about the band as well as remind the community about your existence and perhaps an upcoming concert season.

Craigslist

Craigslist works like an online classified ad. You can post a musicians wanted ad here as well. This seems to be most useful for the garage/rock band looking for a drummer or lead singer as there are many such ads. But there have been ads for bassoon players or piano players. Cannot speak to the effectiveness of this method, but given that it is one that comes up often in discussions it must work for some groups.

Church bulletins

Advertising in church bulletins goes a long way. You never know what members of the congregation used to play. Ask your members to see about putting a musicians wanted ad in their church bulletins—perhaps have it say contact John Smith who plays trumpet with the group who is the church member. This is another place to perhaps gain potential audience members as well.

High Schools

Many high school students would love to continue playing in the summer or have another musical



(Continued from page 2) Opportunities

outlet during the year. Sadly, most high school students do not know that community bands exist. Talk to local band directors towards the end of the school year and see about recruiting some members over the summer. You may need to worry about band camp and conflicts, so talk about those up front with the director when discussing expectations. Perhaps you only need certain instruments, you can ask the director to talk to those musicians, or perhaps you are alright with doubling the size of your band should every student want to join —then you might want to send a note home to parents. It is also common that a high school student's parents were also musicians and you may be able to recruit some of them. On a note that goes home you might want to be careful and explain what the expectations are and philosophy of your band. This may minimize students who want to show up and play a "couple times" but not be a part of the band or perform at concerts. If you are only going to be able to take a few students per instrument, you'll want to mention that up front to minimize hurt feelings. After all these students may be the people you need to draw musicians from in a few years when they have completed college.

Colleges and Universities

Many colleges have bands for music majors, and some for non-majors—but not all, so this leave some students looking for a musical outlet. Music Majors who are required to learn new instruments may benefit greatly from the performance opportunity with a full ensemble. Seek out college band directors and the Music honor society and ask about hanging a few posters in their department office, hallways, etc. To get the non music major students who would like to keep playing, but don't want to devote the time to become a music major might take more effort depending on the size of the school. The best bets are posters in university centers or where students pick up their mail or ads in the college paper. Some school's have activity fairs at the beginning of the school year intended for student groups to advertise themselves to the freshmen and other students. Some schools may allow you to set up a table there.

Graduate students are another student population that might be looking for a band to continue playing in while working on their degrees. A web site is probably the best way to attract these students. Graduate students tend not to hang out in places common for posters to be hung, and there often is not a network in place to help them find extracurricular activities.

No single method is the best method for finding new players—a 2 or 3 (or more) prong approach is probably best. Once you have your new members you need to be sure they understand the expectations and desires of the group and it is important for the group to be willing to accept the new members and welcome them into the band and the community. If a new member feels welcome, they are likely to stay and perhaps they know a few other musicians they can bring along to the next rehearsal.





Combined Calendar of Events for Summer 2010

As of June 23 , 2010

July 2010	Thu, 1	5pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	Kennywood Park, West Mifflin
	Fri, 2	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Natrona Heights Presbyterian Church
	Sat, 3	7pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	Kennywood Park, West Mifflin
	Sat, 3	7:30pm	Somerset County Community Band	Indian Lake Fireworks (rain date July 10)
	Sat, 3	8pm	Allegheny Brass Band	Brentwood High School Stadium
	Sun, 4	6:30pm	Somerset County Community Band	Meyersdale Fourth of July
	Sun, 4	7pm	Scottdale Concert Band	On the Diamond in Ligonier
	Wed, 7	6:30pm	Lawrence County Community Band	Buhl Park, Sharon
	Thu, 8	7:30pm	The Musicians Concert Band	Slippery Rock University Miller Auditorium
	Fri, 9	7pm	Kittanning Firemen's Band	Freeport Gazebo
	Sat, 10	6pm	Lawrence County Community Band	St. Mary's Hall, New Castle
	Sat, 10	7pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	Twin Lakes County Park, Greensburg
	Sun, 11	2pm	Community Band South	Bethel Park Community Center, Bethel Park
	Sun, 11	2pm	Somerset County Community Band	Music on the Square, Bedford
	Sun, 11	3pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	Twin Lakes County Park, Greensburg
	Sun, 11	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	On the Diamond in Ligonier
	Fri, 16	6pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	St. Barbara's Parish Festival, Harrison City
	Sat, 17	TBA	Blairsville Community Concert Band	St. Andrews Village
	Sun, 18	2:30pm	Somerset County Community Band	Somerfest, Laurel Arts/Dressler Center
	Sun, 18	4pm	Community Band South	CCAC Boyce Campus, Monroeville PA
	Thu, 22	7pm	Delmont Concert Band	Redstone Highlands, Greensburg
	Thu, 22	7:30pm	The Musicians Concert Band	Slippery Rock University Miller Auditorium
	Fri, 23	6pm	Lawrence County Community Band	American Legion Hall, New Castle
	Fri, 23	7:30pm	Community Band South	Greentree Park, Greentree
	Sat, 24		Jeannette Community Band	Elliott Centennial Celebration
	Sat, 24	12pm	Lawrence County Community Band	Riverwalk Memorial Park, New Castle
	Sun, 25	4pm	Delmont Concert Band	Verona
	Sun, 25	6:30pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Bayberry Court, Lower Burrell
	Sun, 25	7pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	On the Diamond in Ligonier
	Sun, 25	7:30pm	Jeannette Community Band	Rock on the Dock, Murrysville
	Sun, 25	TBA	Blairsville Community Concert Band	St's. Simon & Jude Church Bazaar Blairsville
Thu, 29	6:30pm	Kitanning Firemen's Band	Kittanning Folk Festival, Kittanning YMCA	
Thu, 29	7pm	Jeannette Community Band	McKee Parking Lot, Jeannette Community Days	
Sat, 31	7:30pm	North Suburban Big Band	St. John's Lutheran Church, McCandless	

Calendar continued on next page



Combined Calendar of Events for Summer 2010

Continued (As of June 23, 2010)

August 2010	Sun, 2	7pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	On the Diamond in Ligonier
	Wed, 4	7pm	Lawrence County Community Band	St. Vitus Church Festival
	Thu, 5	7:30pm	The Musicians Concert Band	Slippery Rock University Miller Auditorium
	Fri, 6	7:30pm	West Hills Symphonic Band	North Fayette Community Days
	Sat, 7	7pm	Somerset County Community Band	Shanksville Community Days
	Sun, 8	6pm	Lawrence County Community Band	Darlington Park, Mahoningtown
	Sun, 8	7pm	Community Band South	On the Diamond in Ligonier
	Thu, 12	7pm	Delmont Concert Band	Redstone Highlands, North Huntingdon
	Thu, 12	7pm	Blairsville Community Concert Band	Blairsville Street Concert
	Fri, 13	7pm	Kiski Valley Community Band	Freeport Gazebo
	Sat, 14	6:30pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	Manor's Community Corn Roast, Manor
	Sun, 15	10:30am	Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra	Bach, Beethoven & Brunch, Shadyside
	Sun, 15	1pm	Somerset County Community Band	Central City Heritage Festival
	Tue, 17	TBA	Lawrence County Community Band	Lawrence County Fair
	Thu, 19	12pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	Level Green Senior Citizens meeting, Trafford
	Fri, 20	7pm	West Hills Symphonic Band	Moon Park ARL Amphitheater, Moon
	Sat, 21	5:30pm	Somerset County Community Band	Hidden Valley Homeowners' Picnic
	Sat, 21	7pm	Community Band South	John McMillan Presbyterian, Bethel Park
	Sun, 22	1pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	Westmoreland County Fair
	Sun, 22	7pm	Delmont Concert Band	On the Diamond in Ligonier
	Sat, 28	1pm	Somerset County Community Band	Community Festival, Hollsopple
Sun, 29	7pm	Somerset County Community Band	On the Diamond in Ligonier	
Tue, 31	6:30pm	Lawrence County Community Band	Shenango on the Green, New Wilmington	
Sept. 2010:	Sat, 11	3pm	West Hills Symphonic Band	Clever Park, Robinson Twp
	Sun, 12	5pm	Delmont Concert Band	Murrysville Presbyterian Church, Murrysville
	Sat, 18	12:30pm	Penn Trafford Community Band	Penn Twp. Fall Festival, Harrison City
	Sun, 26	2pm	Somerset County Community Band	Whiskey Rebellion, Berlin

Please visit <http://swpabandpartners.pghfree.net/calendar.html> for updates
 Email calendar@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net to have concerts added

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Northeast Music Festival

Lake Placid NY ~ November 19-21, 2010

Join the 25th annual Great American Concert Band under the baton of Col. Arnauld D. Gabriel, USAF Band (Ret.). Rehearsals begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday night. All Friday and Saturday rehearsals are held within the Festival headquarters (Lake Placid's High Peaks Resort). The dress rehearsal and afternoon concert on Sunday will be held at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts. Participation in the Great American Community Band is determined by application.

For more information: <http://www.northeastmusicfestival.org/> or call 802-657-4063



MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Liberty Classic Community Band Festival Hosted by the Repasz Band Williamsport, Pennsylvania ~ October 22-24, 2010

Guest Conductor, Col. Arnald D. Gabriel, USAF Band (Ret.) will be on hand to conduct individual musicians from all over the country who will travel to Williamsport, PA for this festival. Rehearsals are Friday, Saturday and Sunday with a concert on Sunday evening at The Community Arts Center.

For more information visit <http://lycoming.org/repszband/Festival/index.html>



Association of Concert Bands

<http://www.acbands.org>

★♪★♪ July Starts 1/2 price 1/2 yr memberships ~ Check out ACB for 1/2 price! ★♪★♪

The Association of Concert Bands (ACB) is a national organization dedicated to encouraging and fostering adult community, municipal and civic bands and musicians. Membership has its privileges, with different levels of membership— student (\$15/yr), individual (\$30/yr), family (\$45/yr), life (\$1000), organizational (\$50/yr or \$275/yr), and corporate (\$150/yr). The more expensive type of organizational memberships comes with the BMI/ASCAP Blanket licensing agreement that keeps community bands legal with performance fees. All types of memberships come with a subscription to the Journal, voting privileges, and participation in the annual convention and convention band. The Journal is published three times a year, and includes articles about community bands from across the country; festivals, concerts, band camps, reviews of music and CDs and other topics that would be of interest to a community band musician. For more information, visit the web site or contact Sarah McElfresh, Regional Membership Coordinator for Pennsylvania at sarahmelfresh@yahoo.com.

Note: there is a new student membership level—perhaps you know a student you'd want to give a gift membership. Gift memberships are available at all levels.

Are you interested in an Unwanted Music Swap??



The idea has been presented by the president of one of the bands that we have a music swap. A place to trade original full scores of music that are just taking up space in your music library. Swap those pieces you will never play for one reason or another for something else. Perhaps it is too easy or hard for your group—might be just right for another. Perhaps it is a piece that your band has overplayed—it may be brand new to another. Perhaps you just need to thin out your library. There are many more reasons why you may no longer need or want that piece of music, and it may be a gem for some other group. If you are interested in participating in such an event, please contact Sarah McElfresh at sarahmelfresh@yahoo.com

Date and location will be set and announced after the schedules of those most interested have been worked out.



Music Corner

This section is intended to be a place for conductors and musicians to share information on music new and old that they are playing. If you have something to contribute please email us the information at newsletter@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net with "New Music Corner" in the subject line. Please include the title, composer/arranger, publisher and a brief description of the piece.

Beyond the Horizon

Composer: Rossano Galante

Published: 2009

Grade: Medium/4

Performance time: 5:37

Publisher: Alfred Music Publishing

composer Web site: <http://rossanogalante.com/>

by Sarah McElfresh

Sources: <http://www.alfred.com/Products/Beyond-the-Horizon--00-31729.aspx>

This piece is one that caught my attention when listening to an Alfred Music promo CD of new works for 2009. The piece was commissioned by the Point Pleasant Boro High School Band from Point Pleasant, NJ.

Beyond the Horizon is described by the publisher as a dynamic composition encompassing majestic brass fanfares and sweeping melodic lines. The piece is comprised of two themes that musically paint a picture of the Earth's breathtakingly beautiful horizon.

The piece while technically on the challenging side, has high rewards for the effort and the audience is sure to enjoy the piece as they picture themselves staring off into the distance at the horizon and are captivated by its sight and sound.





IN CONCERT:

Community Music Groups working together
A Newsletters of Southwestern Pennsylvania Band Partners

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@yahoo.com with the subject subscribe

Regional Band Web sites

Aeolian Winds

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

Allegheny Brass Band

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

Armstrong Concert Band

<http://sites.google.com/site/armconband/>

Blairsville Community Concert Band

<http://www.bccb.com>

Butler County Symphony

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

Community Band South

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

East Winds Symphonic Band

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

Edgewood Symphony

<http://www.edgewoodsymphony.org>

Harmony-Zelienople Community Band

<http://www.hzcb.org>

Harrisville Community Band

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

Jeannette Community Band

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

Kiski Valley Community Band

<http://www.kvcband.net>

Kittanning Firemen's Band

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

Lawrence County Community Band

<http://sites.google.com/site/lccbandsite/>

Metropolitan Symphonic Band

<http://metrosb.org/>

Musicians Concert Band

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

North Suburban Symphonic Band

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

Penn Trafford Community Band

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

Pine Creek Community Band

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

Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra

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

Pittsburgh Philharmonic

<http://pghphil.org/>

Scottdale Concert Band

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

Somerset County Community Band

<http://www.somersetcountyband.com/index.html>

West Hills Symphonic Band

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

Westmoreland Symphonic Winds

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

Contributing to the newsletter

Everyone is welcome to contribute an article to 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

For additions to the web site email:

info@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net

In the next newsletter

- This might be the last SWPABP Newsletter. The future is uncertain at this time.
- Please send us information on new music for the new music corner.
- Please let us know the interesting things your group is doing

Editors

Sarah McElfresh, East Winds Symphonic Band, Delmont Concert Band

Scott McElfresh, East Winds Symphonic Band