



IN CONCERT

Community Music Groups Working Together

A Newsletter of Southwestern Pennsylvania Band Partners

West Hills Symphonic Band

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2006

Taken from the web on August 3, 2005 with permission by Tony Banks, President WHSB

The West Hills Symphony Band presented its debut concert on January 29, 1967. Under the direction of Joseph C Picchi; fifty-eight musicians, ranging from high school students to senior citizens, laid the foundation for the musical organization which continues to flourish. The goal was to develop an assemblage of professional and amateur musicians who could share their love of music with each other and the community. This goal has been met and musical enrichment has been provided for many.

No history of the band would be complete without a brief account of Joe Picchi's musical

background. A lifelong musician, a teacher, and conductor Joe began his studies at the age of 12. He attended Duquesne University, Carnegie Tech, and Biarritz University of France. An accomplished violinist, Mr. Picchi was a member of the Pittsburgh Opera Company, Wheeling Symphonic Orchestra, Butler Symphonic Orchestra, Clarion Symphony Orchestra, Pittsburgh Light Opera Company, and the Pittsburgh Chamber Orchestra. During his almost 20 years as a Montour School District music teacher, he developed an excellent program for the community's students. Under his direction, the marching and concert bands received numerous awards and recognition.

Other notable contributors consist of past presidents Robert Depp, Dr. T.T. Magel, Michael Lucente, Robert Stobbe, and Jeff Sammel. Tony Banks, the current president is assisted by Vice-President Keith Cosentino. Mary Lucenti has been a loyal supporter of West Hill for decades. She served as Secretary for many years and continues to assist in her role as hostess.

The popularity and longevity of the West Hills Symphony Band is attributed to the dedication of every musician, contributor, and fan. Some in the audience may fondly remember the Gargaro brothers, Vince and Tony. Each brought their children into the fold. Walter Vrusk, owner of Broadway Music in West Park and well-known brass instructor, was an outstanding principal trumpet player for many years. The sons of Allan Pontiere, Rusty and Ernest, both music teachers were recognizable mainstays at one time.

Only four musicians still perform with the band since its inception. Doc and Emmi Magel have been with West Hills for nearly 40 years. Their son, Robert, is also currently a member. In fact, all five of the Magel children have performed on stage with their parents in the past. Aldo Dilanni and Edgar Sims are also active founding members.

Current conductor, Anthony L. Dilanni has been leading the ensemble since the fall of 1998. Mr. Dilanni, U.S.N., Ret, has been a musician since childhood and a director of U.S. Navy bands during his long career with the military.

Members of his family, brothers Aldo and Nunzio, along with the recruitment of their children and grandchildren have played key roles in keeping this band balanced with fine musicians.

Over the years, the West Hills Symphonic Band has performed at many venues, our favorite being our home of 38 years, the Montour Senior High School. Without the gracious assistance of the Montour School District, this band could not exist. Our group has entertained audiences at the Carnegie Library of Homestead, Crafton Park, Penn State Beaver Campus, Moon Township Park, Sewickley Library, and the David E. Williams School to name a few. Many of the concerts were and are in support of programs to benefit public interests.

Today our performing members range in age from 14 to 86. It is our hope that this fine tradition of providing an outlet for musicians and music-loving audiences will grow. It is our hope that music and youth, as well as the young at heart, will serve for many decades to come. Finally, it is our hope that many of you will help us spread the love of music to others.

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Southwestern PA Community Bands—updates from last issue

Pine Creek Community Band
<http://www.pinecreekband.com/>
 Jeff Chambers, Conductor
 Ken Yarnot, President
 412-398-1158
info@pinecreekband.com

Somerset County Community Band
<http://www.somersetcounty.com/band>
 Dan Croft, director
 c/o Laurel Arts, Inc.
 214 S. Harrison Ave.
 PO Box 414
 Somerset, PA 15501
 Dave Breen, President
photo@davebreen.com

South Hills Community Concert Band
 Ken Slish, Conductor
 George A Shuff, Manager
geoashuffsr@libcom.com
 412-833-1330

- 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

Combined Calendar of Events for Winter 2006

As of January 9, 2006

Month	Date	Time	Performer	Location
January 2006	Sun, 29	2:30pm	Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh	Carnegie Music Hall lobby, Oakland
	February 2006	Sat, 11	7:30pm	Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra
March 2006	Sat, 4	8:00pm	Allegheny Brass Band	North Allegheny Intermediate High School
	Sat, 4	7pm	North Pittsburgh Philharmonic	North Hills Jr. High School Auditorium
	Sun, 5	7:30pm	North Suburban Symphonic Band	Ross Elementary School, North Hills
	Sat, 11	7:30pm	Edgewood Symphony Orchestra	First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood
	Mon, 13	7:30pm	East Winds Symphonic Band	Friendship Village, South Hills
	Mon, 13	7:30pm	South Hills Community Concert Band	Whitehall Presbyterian Church
	Sat, 25	7:30pm	Edgewood Symphony Orchestra	Rodef Shalom Levy Hall

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



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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

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.trimtree.com/family_f/BCCB.html

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://welcome.to/kvcb>

Kittanning Firemen's Band

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

Musicians Concert Band

<http://www.tmcband.com/default.htm>

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

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 website email:
info@swpabandpartners.pghfree.net

In the next newsletter

In our next newsletter due out in early April you will find:

- Profile of the Three Rivers Community Band Festival
- Profile of the Armstrong Concert Band

Editors

Sarah McElfresh, East Winds Symphonic Band

Scott McElfresh, East Winds Symphonic Band

Kathy Wikowski, Allegheny Brass Band, North Suburban Symphonic Band