



# Kirby Band Notes

July, 2020

## Notes From The President

So far 2020 has been a strange year. Big picture aside, it has been strange to not go to rehearsal every Monday night, not spend Saturdays playing parades and performing concerts. We had virtual Board of Director meetings, very strange indeed. I wasn't sure what the response would be when we started up again. Turns out I shouldn't have been concerned; we've had great turnouts for every rehearsal, and we sound pretty darn good coming off a long break.

A couple things have happened this year. For those of you who have not been able to come to rehearsals, Don Van Scoy has decided to step down as director for health reasons. This band owes so much to Don. All the work he put into the band is reflected in how far the band progressed under his leadership. Not only has the band grown, but we sound better than ever and have been able to tackle music the band never could have played before. Amanda Smith has stepped forward and taken on the role of full-time conductor. I know that the band will continue to grow and improve under her direction. Thank you so much Don, and thank you, Amanda.

I also want to thank Seth Edsell, who has been working on the Kirby building for quite a while now. He has spent hours working on the foundation of the building, first filling in the holes where loose stones had fallen out, and critters were getting in. This spring he finished the project by adding mortar and finally sealing the entire foundation. He's a great example of hard work and service to the band.

Back in February, I told the Board of Directors that due to increased time commitments at work, I would be stepping down as President this year. With all the other things that have happened, I'm not sure if the word got out to the whole band. I considered going another year since this was such a tough one, but if anything, this has meant work needs even more of my time and attention. I'll save most of my thoughts for a later time. Please be thinking about who the best person is to take my spot. There are several that I think would do a great job. Elections will be held in September. Thank you all for your continued support for the band, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the season.

Jon

## This 'n That

Congratulations to Jules Shay, who graduated in June from Sayre High School. Jules will be attending Penn State University in the fall.

Happy Retirement to Don Van Scoy! Not only did Don conduct the Kirby Band for many years, he also did many other things. These include grant writing for many years, playing the bass drum in parades, and web master of the Kirby Band website. Thank you, Don, for your many years of service to the Kirby Band!

The Kirby Band sends its sympathy to the families of Carl Larson and Rita Billings who both passed away this spring. Carl received recognition for his 50 years in Kirby Band a few years ago. Carl was a resident of Riverview Nursing Home in Owego.

Also Rita Billings passed away on May 4, 2020. She came to the parades with her husband, Ron, when he played drums on the band wagon. Rita would play the tambourine. She was also a Kirby Band Board member. Rita was a resident of Sayre Health Care Center.

## **New Member Notes**

As you remember, we took our winter break and then resumed rehearsals the end of January. We rehearsed in February and a couple weeks into March until everything shut down because of COVID 19. Some people joined the band last fall, the first of the year, or just recently. We are happy to have them! Please welcome the following new members!

### **Flute:**

Emily Chilson, Sayre, Sayre High School

Katie Felt, Sayre, Athens HS graduate 2019

Vicki Shipman, Nichols, Tioga Center HS graduate, currently attending Mansfield University

Zak Smith, Athens HS graduate Zak will graduate in October with a degree in Musical Theatre.

### **Clarinet:**

Kathy Vieldhouse

### **Alto:**

Lilly Smith, Sayre, Sayre High School

### **Tenor:**

Don Ross, Milan

Don was a member of the band several years ago. He moved back to the area and returned to the band last fall. Unfortunately, his work responsibilities have made it difficult for him to continue with the band.

### **French horn:**

Donna Frye

### **Trombone:**

Daniel Teeter, Athens High School

Welcome to the Kirby Band, one and all! We are glad to have you!

## **Musical Play Away Update**

In case you were planning to play away with another band, most conferences, etc. have been cancelled due to COVID 19.

The Association of Concert Band's national conference, planned for March 18 – 21, 2020, in Virginia Beach, VA, was cancelled two weeks before it was scheduled to begin. In March the Virginia Governor cancelled all conferences scheduled to be held in VA.

The Liberty Classic Community Band Festival, scheduled for Oct. 9 – 11 in Williamsport, PA, has also been cancelled. Editor's Note: As Jon said earlier, 2020 has been a strange year!



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## DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, Aug. 3	Concert Kirby Park Nichols, NY	7PM – 8PM Report: 6PM
Monday, Aug. 10	Concert Kirby Park Nichols, NY	7PM – 8PM Report: 6PM
Monday, Aug. 17	Concert Kirby Park Nichols, NY	7PM – 8PM Report: 6PM
Wed., Aug. 19	Howard Elmer Park Sayre, PA	6PM – 7:30PM Report: 5:30PM
Monday, Aug. 24	Ain't Misbehavin' Concert Kirby Park Nichols, NY	7PM – 8PM Report: 6PM
Monday, Sept. 21	Annual Meeting & Dinner Kinsman Hall, 915 Front St. Athens, PA	TBA
Saturday, Oct. 31 (?)	Halloween Parade Towanda, PA	7PM Report Time 6PM
Friday, Nov. 27(?)	Christmas Parade Sayre, PA	TBA

Please note: The parades for Oct., and Nov. have not been confirmed. Stay tuned for more information.