



Kirby Band Notes

March, 2018

President's Notes

Welcome back, Kirby Band! We're off to another great start on the year. We have lots of new music for the band. It's difficult sometimes to find music that we and our audiences will enjoy, but I think we've done a good job mixing up genres and keeping the show entertaining.

We have several new parades we're looking at this year. Montour Falls has a big one in June, and with a change to the schedule for Newark Valley, we're hoping to be able to go back to the Watkins Glen Italian Festival. We're also looking at refurbishing the bandwagon for this year. More information to come.

Overall it looks like another exciting and busy year!

Jon

Association of Concert Bands 2018 Conference

"Forte in Buffalo" is the theme of the 2018 Association of Concert Bands national conference which will be held in Buffalo May 2 – May 6. The host band is the Buffalo Niagara Concert Band. United States Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donna Clickner will be the Convention Band Conductor. In addition to ten amazing concerts by ACB member bands, there will be twelve unique clinics offered. Adam's Mark Hotel is the conference hotel. For further information, visit the website www.acb2018.org. Registration deadline is April 1, 2018! Hurry! You don't want to miss out on this national conference in nearby Buffalo!

Valley Community Band

If you are interested in playing in a community band this summer in the Valley (Sayre/Athens area), you might want to consider the Valley Community Band. The band which is being organized by Sayre High School Band Director Amanda Gillette and Athens High School Band Director Gabriel Wagaman will play three concerts during June and July. Players commit to one concert rotation at a time (typically Tuesday/Thursday/Tuesday rehearsal with a Thursday concert). The concert dates are June 21, 7PM at Sayre HS, July 1, 6PM at Howard Elmer Park in Sayre, and July 19, 7PM at Athens HS. Rehearsal dates are June 12, 14, and 19 from 6:30 – 8:30PM at Sayre HS Band room, June 25, 27, and July 1 from 6:30PM – 8:30PM at the Athens HS Band Room, and July 10, 12, and 17 from 6:30PM – 8:30PM at the Athens HS Band Room. If you are interested in participating in one or more of these concert rotations, please contact Amanda Gillette, Sayre Area School District, at agillett@Sayresd.org or call 570-888-6622 Ext. 2326 or 570-888-7742 Ext. 3908, or Gabriel Wagaman, Athens Area High School, at gwagaman@athensasd.org or call 570-888-7766 Ext. 2238 or Ext. 2128, or cell 610-334-7889. Sounds like fun!

This 'n That

Please welcome the following new Kirby Band members who have joined the band since Sept. Bethann Wickham, clarinet, Barton; Hanna Brown, flute, Owego; Terri Hartman, flute, Barton; Maia Dutra, saxophone, Sayre; and Gina Mazoriegos, trumpet, Sayre. Welcome!

Congratulations to Sandy Ridley, who celebrated her 50th birthday on March 10!

Several area high schools are presenting musicals this spring. Spencer-Van Etten presented "Sound of Music" with Joshua Wickham in the cast. Candor is presenting "Anything Goes." Athens High School is also presenting a musical.

Tuba Christmas

On December 17th, Linda and I boarded a bus in Endicott heading to Rockefeller Center in New York City. This bus was chartered by a group of folks that coordinate the annual Tuba Christmas at the Johnson City mall. There were about 20 folks on the bus that played, and the rest of the bus were family and friends.

You may ask, "What is Tuba Christmas?" It is an annual Christmas program put on each year at various locations across the country and is open to euphoniums and tubas. The Tuba Christmas organization sells a book of 32 Christmas Carols which we play each year. All participants are volunteers and show up the day of the event to practice and do a performance. I have played at Johnson City each year since 2012 and also played in Corning in 2016 with Matt Smith.

Back to NYC, we arrived at Rockefeller Center at 11:30 AM, walked down a ramp into the basement area to register. We then gathered at 1:30 PM to practice and lined up to go up through the passageways of the building to the ice rink for a 3:30 performance. It was very exciting as there were about 500 tubas and euphoniums and we filled up the ice rink. We played for 35 minutes to the crowd that surrounded the top of the ice rink and on the streets nearby. After our performance, we walked about 10 blocks back to the bus for our return trip. The temperature was in the mid 30's, a little windy, and clear. It was quite an experience playing with 500 people to a large crowd in a beautifully decorated section of the city. If you would like to see a Tuba Christmas performance, the Corning glass center performance is usually the first Saturday in December at 2 PM. The Johnson City Tuba Christmas is the second Saturday of December at 1 PM in front of JC Penney at the Oakdale Mall.

Dave Barton

Cruise Notes

Anytime you can get away from winter for bit, that's good, right? But if you can get away AND play your instrument with a band and a captive audience, that's GREAT! That's what Dave Barton and I, along with his wife, Linda, and my daughter, Heather, did for a week in February, cruising on the MSC Seaside via World Music Tours.

The ship did an Eastern Caribbean route, stopping in St. John, Antigua, St. Thomas, and Turks Cay -- but I didn't care where it went; I got to play! There were 26 musicians and our director was world-renowned euphonium artist Adam Frey, who led us, joked with us and, yes, taught us to be better musicians than when we boarded the ship. We got together for 4 rehearsals before putting on a concert for passengers that was standing-room only; we also got together for a couple of evening parties which helped me keep up with my bottle-a-night wine package, and during which I got to play "proud mama" while my daughter entertained the group by singing, accompanied by one of the ship's pianists. Dave will never tell you, but he was singled out by Adam several times for the great job he was doing, and I was proud to be able to say that Dave and I play together in Kirby Band. The music we played appeared at first to not be a great challenge, but playing WELL, with attention to dynamics and phrasing -- therein was the challenge, and it made all the difference.

If you have the inclination and the opportunity, consider this group for a musical vacation. The ability of ANYONE playing with the Kirby Band will enhance the cruise band's ability! And I'm told they're doing Hawaii in 2020; if that's true, I'll be there.

Sandy Carlin

Editor's Note: If you can't wait for Hawaii in 2020, you might want to consider Alaska in August/Sept. 2018! World Music Tours presents travel to Alaska via the Inside Passage aboard the Princess' Emerald Princess leaving from Seattle from August 26 – September 2, 2018. Gerald Guilbeaux will be the conductor as the band members prepare and present an interesting concert on board the Emerald Princess. Rehearsals and concert will not interfere with major shipboard activities or shore excursions. For more information about the 2018 Band at Sea cruise, visit the website www.WorldMusicTours.org or call 831-633-4847.

If you have any ideas for news articles for the newsletter, complaints, etc., please contact Sherry Spencer, Newsletter Editor, jspencer1@stny.rr.com or call 570-888-7104.

Schedule 2018

Visit the Kirby Band website www.KirbyBand.com for the upcoming events that have been scheduled. As of the newsletter deadline, a couple of concerts at nursing homes are being considered for May as well as the band's usual Memorial Day parades in Elmira, Elmira Heights, and Horseheads. Your next newsletter will include a full schedule.