



Newsletter – Fall, 2019 (Volume 10, Issue #1)

www.potsdamband.org PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com, (315) 265-2883

Greetings - it's our TENTH year!

As I sit near an open window to write this, I'm hearing the geese on their flight north - a sure sign of autumn in the north country. Another sign of fall is that *we're back*, ready for another season of music-making.

We'll celebrate our **10 Years of Potsdam Community Band** with some pieces like R.B. Hall's *Tenth Regiment March* and Richard Rogers' music from *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*... tentatively, anyway. More titles for you in the coming weeks!

This PCB season, you can look forward to several of our members taking on a featured role:

- Jill Roberts, our principal clarinetist, will be the soloist on *Twitch* by Nathan Daughtrey, written in 2016 for solo clarinet and Band! Listen here: <http://www.nathandaughtrey.com/band/twitch>
- Paul Buell will step out of the trumpet section leadership and will split the conducting duties with me on this next concert; we're both looking forward to it.

PCB on the radio: Our very own Paul Haggett will be talking about our 10th Anniversary Season on "Community Connection" with Jody Tosti. You have two opportunities to tune in: 1) Monday, October 28th at 8:45 am on B99.3, and 2) Sunday, November 3 at noon on Star Country 100.1. Listen in!

We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Theresa Witmer, Music Director

Ron Berry, Personnel Manager

Paul Haggett, Personnel Development and Coordinator

Scott Fulton, Attendance Captain

*Note: Laurel Kuxhaus, our hard-working Leadership Team member and oboist extraordinaire, is **still away**. Following last year's stint as a Congressional Fellow in Washington, D.C., she has been appointed program director of Biomechanics & Mechanobiology within the Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation at the National Science Foundation near D.C., but we think she'll be back to play this concert with us!*

Summer 2019 Recap

This past summer we played two concerts, with great music directed by Jim Madeja. We had beautiful weather in Ives Park for the Potsdam SummerFestival concert, and our *third* year of being part of the Madrid Dam Concert Series was excellent, too. We like the acoustics in the "horse barn" so much that we're requesting that our Madrid performance always be in that venue - seriously!

Donations from our summer concerts totaled \$953, and the breakdown is:

- Ives Park Summer Festival concert: \$200 from the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and \$276 in the donation box
 - Madrid concert: \$350 from the Madrid Dam Music Series and \$127 in the donation tuba
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Winter 2019-20

Get out your calendar! Please also visit the **sign-up survey** to let us know what your plans are. Replies by October 21st are appreciated. potsdamband.org/survey

Winter Concert: Sunday, January 19th, 3pm in Hosmer Hall at SUNY-Potsdam (Crane). Please save the snow date, too: Sunday, January 26th.

Rehearsals: Mondays (7-9pm) November 4th, November 18th, December 2nd, December 16th, January 6th, January 13th, and the **dress rehearsal** on THURSDAY January 16th (7-9:30pm). We will rehearse at Potsdam High School for the first **three** rehearsals; we will be at the Crane School of Music for the December 16 rehearsal and all of the January rehearsals, as well as the concert.

Fall 2019/January 2020 Attendance Policy:

We expect members to attend as many rehearsals as possible; attendance at *all* rehearsals is ideal! To play the concert, band members **must** attend **at least** 4 rehearsals **plus** the dress rehearsal to play the concert; exceptions to this policy can be granted at the discretion of the Music Director in consideration of ensemble balance and blend. Please contact Theresa with any questions.

Remember that all are welcome at the rehearsals; the dress rehearsal is for only those who will perform. Folders will be provided to those who will play the concert.

Severe/Inclement Weather and PCB

Our next rehearsal cycle will be in the season of snow. Please keep yourself safe – with musicians traveling from across St. Lawrence County and beyond, weather conditions may impact travel for some folks more than others.

In the event of a storm on the day of a rehearsal (or concert), here is the plan:

- 1) *For rehearsals at Potsdam High School:* If Potsdam Central Schools are closed on the day of a rehearsal, rehearsal is canceled. *For rehearsals at Crane:* If SUNY-Potsdam is closed, rehearsal is canceled.
- 2) If there is severe weather that suggests rehearsal may be canceled, the Music Director will make the official decision no later than 5pm. If rehearsal is to be cancelled:
 - a) An announcement will be posted to the main page of the website, and to the PCB facebook page.
 - b) An email message will be sent to all members.

Severe and Inclement Weather, continued

- c) NCPR and WPDM will be notified, and asked to broadcast the announcement on the air.
 - d) Paul will send a text message to those who opt in for this service. *To opt in, please text Paul at (315) 250-1625 with your name and "add to band list". Even if you have previously opted in, if you want to be notified of schedule changes by text, please send your name to Paul!*
 - 3) If you are unable to make it to a rehearsal due to the weather, please notify us that you (and your folder!) are safe as soon as possible. For last-minute notifications, you may call (or text) Paul's cellphone at (315) 250-1625.
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Help the band perform at its best!

As we head into the winter, we hope that everyone will remember that it's best for the band if:

- We know when to expect you. We rely on the survey information to plan the set-up for the day, and your director relies on this information to plan the rehearsal. *If your availability changes, please remember to email PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com.*
 - Your folder of music is present and accounted for at every rehearsal. *It's really hard for the band to rehearse if there is a part missing!* This is important for everyone, even those who have duplicate folders. (We all remember the rehearsal when all of the 2nd clarinet folders were absent, it made it hard for the whole band!)
 - Everyone is prepared for rehearsals. Most PCB members practice their band music outside of rehearsal time, even those who have played the music before. There's always something new to learn!
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Help us attract new members!

The Potsdam Community Band welcomes new members. We hope you'll pass this Newsletter along to anyone who might be interested. If you'd like a recruitment flyer to post, please ask!

Volunteers always needed!

Have an idea for something that would make the band (or the band experience) better? Email PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com with your suggestions!

Member Announcements

Don't forget to check www.potsdamband.org/members for announcements from your band-mates.

If you have something to add, please send it to PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com and we will get it posted to both the Members section of the website, and to our Facebook page.