



Newsletter – Fall, 2018 (Volume 9, Issue #1)

www.potsdamband.org

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

Greeting

Hello everyone!

As I write this, the weather in Potsdam is still very summery, we're still mowing the lawn, and many of you are still harvesting vegetables from your gardens. Carol and I are currently in southern France spending several weeks with (daughter) Julia, Olivier, and their one-year-old, Madeleine. While wandering the old streets of Toulouse pushing a stroller, I'll be thinking about our January concert, and I'll be finalizing what music we're going to play on that concert. If you have suggestions for music, please add them to the survey!

Best wishes for a good autumn. 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 on sabbatical from Clarkson University this year. She was granted a prestigious Science & Technology Fellowship from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, where she will be a Congressional Fellow for this academic year. We'll definitely miss her this year as she works in Washington, D.C. with our Congresspersons!*

Summer 2018 Recap

This past summer, we played three concerts! It was wonderful to be outdoors in Ives Park for the Potsdam SummerFest concert, and our second year of being part of the Madrid Dam Concert Series was so much fun! The concert in Lake George was quite special. Though we had smaller numbers, the performance went beautifully. Some of that can be attributed to having an enclosed performance area, which got us thinking that *we need a bandshell in Potsdam* - one large enough to hold us. Ideas for funding, anyone?

We are pleased to report that donations from our summer concerts totaled \$1100 (!!) which includes audience donations plus honoraria paid to us by the Potsdam Chamber of Commerce (for our Summer Festival concert) and the Madrid Dam concert series. This total also includes an awesome \$100 gift card to Brick and Mortar Music from Dr. and Mrs. Maresca of Potsdam. The money will be put to good use, covering the custodial fees to Crane for the use of Hosmer Hall for our summer rehearsals, and allowing us to purchase some music that we can't borrow for future concerts.



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Winter 2018

Get out your calendar! Please also visit www.potsdamband.org/survey to let us know what your plans are. Replies by October 20th are appreciated.

Winter Concert: Sunday, January 20th, 3pm in Hosmer Hall at SUNY-Potsdam (Crane).

Rehearsals: Mondays (7-9pm) November 12th, November 26th, December 10th, January 7th, January 10 (Thursday), January 14th, and the **dress rehearsal** on THURSDAY January 17th (7-9:30pm). We will rehearse at Potsdam High school in November and December; we will be at Crane for all of the January rehearsals - and the concert.

Fall 2018/Winter 2019 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 **both** a minimum of 3 rehearsals **and** 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.
 - 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!

We had some challenges this summer that made it tough for the band to prepare for the concerts. 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 Theresa relies on this information to plan the rehearsal. *If your availability changes, please remember to email PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com.*
 - We have 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.
