

Greetings - 2023—NO MORE ONE-AND-DONE!

As this newsletter is being composed, it's not particularly warm yet, but there is an unmistakable sense that the worst of the winter weather is behind us. Baseball season is almost underway; we are into daylight saving time already; the Spring Equinox has passed; and there is an occasional waft of birdsong that sounds just a little unlike winter. So, feel free to go ahead and blame me for the next winter storm!

The end of the snow and cold is not the only thing we have to look forward to, of course...we also have a full-on 100% authentic and genuine PCB summer season coming up! That means a full slate of rehearsals and public performances that will be on us before we know it!

Details are still being finalized, but the Summer 2023 season gets underway in June and 6 rehearsals are planned most Mondays until mid-July when two concerts are planned in Potsdam and Madrid. So grease those slides, oil those keys, blow some long tones, play some scales, do some sight reading, and get ready for some old school PCB fun!

We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Paul Haggett, Information Captain for the PCB Leadership Team:

Theresa Witmer, Music Director
Tammy Madeja, David Katz, Producers
Ron Berry, Personnel Manager
Abby DeCastro, Music Librarian Coordinator
Jennifer Myers, Technical Coordinator
Laurel Kuxhaus, Logistics Coordinator
Brienne Sterling, Program Leader
Andy Davidson, Set-up Captain



Winter 2023 Recap

Potsdam Community Band entered its post-Covid era on Friday evening, January 20 with an outstanding and well-attended concert at Helen M. Hosmer Concert Hall. It was the first winter program produced by PCB since January of 2020. Guest conductor Dr. Jim Madeja led the band through nine works from some of the giants of wind band literature (Grundman, Reed, Williams), two wonderful marches by Pearson and Fillmore, medleys of music by Cole Porter and Rogers and Hammerstien, and a decidedly more modern work by the Chinese

WINTER RECAP (cont.)

composer Chen Yi. Despite holding only four rehearsals, most of which also faced weather challenges, the band played with both nuanced control and great power when called upon. Much thanks to Dr. Madeja for his time and effort in preparing a truly wonderful concert. The performance earned not only a standing ovation, our one-of-a-kind donation tuba collected over \$470 that evening. A double dose of appreciation!



Expanded PCB Leadership Team

You may have noticed some new names (and if you participated in the Winter 2023 session, faces) associated with helping to keep PCB organized and running smoothly. With the Covid-related hiatus of many PCB activities the past two-plus years, the “old guard” felt it was time to recruit and lean on a few extra folks to help accomplish the myriad things that need to be done for a positive band experience for all. Some of these new names and faces include:

- Jennifer Myers, saxophonist and organizational wizard who kept everyone on point
- Brianne Sterling from the flute section has been coordinating programs for several seasons, and is now helping the team make band decisions
- Abby DeCastro, our librarian coordinator, also now assisting with decision-making
- Tammy Madeja and David Katz from the flute and bassoon sections have stepped up as “co-producers” of PCB, covering any duties that need doing once rehearsals start
- Andy Davidson from the trumpet section, in charge of set up and tear down crews for rehearsals and concerts

The “old guard” of Theresa, Ron Berry, Laurel Kuxhaus and Paul Haggett sure appreciate these folks’ willingness to take a larger role in our band! Please thank them when you have a chance!

Summer 2023

Get out your calendar! Please also visit the **sign-up survey**, when that becomes active in a few weeks, to let us know if you plan to participate in the Summer 2023 session. We are delighted to announce that founding Music Director Theresa Witmer will be back on the PCB podium this summer! If you know of anyone you think would like to join the Potsdam Community Band, please forward this newsletter to them and send us their email address. We’ll be happy to share all of our plans for the summer with them!

Tentative performance schedule for Summer 2023:

- Friday, July 14 as part of the Potsdam Summer Festival. Tentative concert time 5:30 pm.
- July 19 as part of the Madrid Dam Concert Series. Concert time, 6 pm.



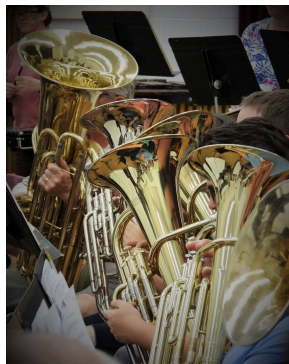
Rehearsals:

As of this writing, rehearsal space and specific rehearsal dates have not been finalized. Please plan on up to 6 rehearsals in June and July, mostly on Monday nights, 7:00-9:00 pm. We will have complete information to communicate soon (we really wanted to get this Newsletter published!).



Attendance Policy

Nothing influences the quality of a performance more than attendance at scheduled rehearsals. Minimum rehearsal attendance for this session is three rehearsals, one of which **MUST** be the dress rehearsal. 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 rehearsals, but the dress rehearsal is for only those who will perform. Folders will be provided to those who will play the concert.



Help the band perform at its best!

As we head into rehearsal season, 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. (You may 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!



Help us attract new members—

Potsdam Community Band welcomes new members. We hope you'll pass this Newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.

Help PCB grow its music Library!

As an all-volunteer band completely dependent on donations from our audience, we are truly appreciative of several band members who have made generous donations of music to PCB, so that not ALL of our music must be borrowed for each session. If you would like to consider making a donation of music to the band, or know a music lover who would buy a piece for PCB, please email Theresa Witmer at

PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com.

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! We are also actively looking for a band member interested in handling media publicity (press releases, radio announcements, etc.).

SEE YOU IN JUNE!!