



# Newsletter – Fall 2023 (Volume 11, Issue #2)

[www.potsdamband.org](http://www.potsdamband.org) PotsdamCommunityBand@gmail.com, (315) 265-2883

---

## Greetings - Thank You for a Spectacular Summer!

PCB's spectacularly successful summer season simply sizzled with superb sounds! We had the largest band ever in terms of signups, held a full six rehearsals, and put on two well-performed and well-attended (and donated-to!) concerts. Thank you to EVERYONE who came to rehearsals prepared, showed up for extra volunteer duties, and did all the other little things that made the whole thing come off without a hitch! Kind of makes you want to put on a Winter concert, doesn't it? That's just what we plan to do! For details, and lots of other PCB-related news and notes, read on! We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Paul Haggett, Information Captain for the PCB Leadership Team:

Theresa Witmer, Music Director  
Tammy Madeja, Producer  
Ron Berry, Treasurer  
Jennifer Myers, Personnel/Technical Coordinator

Brianne Sterling, Program Leader  
Andy Davidson, Set-up Captain

---



## Summer 2023 Concert Recap

A wonderful Potsdam Summer Festival crowd gathered in Ives Park on Friday, July 14 to hear the first fully-rehearsed summer concert by the Potsdam Community Band since 2019. The following Wednesday, another large gathering at the St. Lawrence Power and Equipment Museum Equine Barn in Madrid enjoyed our musical lineup. Pieces performed this summer included *Selections from The Music Man*, arr. by Lang,



Goldman's famous march *On The Mall*, Longfield's arrangement of classic Italian tunes called *Italian Holiday*, *Klezmer!* by Amy Webb, *Beautiful River* by Chambers, Johann deMeij's *Lord of the Rings*, *Salute to Count Basie*, arr. by Higgins, J.P. Sousa's masterpiece *The Liberty Bell*, and an arrangement of classic songs by the band Chicago (*Pop and Rock Legends: Chicago*, arr. Wasson).

Crowds in both Potsdam and Madrid showed their appreciation for our efforts in both applause and donations. The PCB Donation Tuba collected \$430 in Potsdam and \$414 in Madrid! More on PCB's finances later on in the newsletter.

## Mark your calendars for our upcoming Winter session!

Our leadership team, particularly Music Director Theresa Witmer, is hard at work preparing for the upcoming Fall/Winter PCB session, and we KNOW that you will not want to miss it! So we'll wait while you grab a pencil and your calendar (or open your favorite scheduling app) so you can put down all the details.

REHEARSALS: Mondays November 20; December 4, 11, and 18; January 8, 15, and Dress Rehearsal Thursday, January 18. ALL rehearsals 7:00-9:00 pm at Crane (dress rehearsal ends ca. 9:30).

CONCERT: EITHER Friday, January 19, 7:30 pm OR Sunday, January 21, 3:00 pm in Hosmer Hall, Crane (dependent on survey responses).

Please watch your inbox for a link to the **Winter 2024 Sign Up Survey**. We intend to have a three-week signup window for the Winter concert between October 13 and November 4. This past summer, we had a considerable number of very late sign ups. We want EVERYONE who wants to play to have an opportunity, but when late sign ups happen, it creates problems for the Librarian Team, the Music Director, Section Leaders and setup crew. We will be unable to accept responses to the survey after November 4!

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 upcoming session with them!



## Attendance Policy

The PCB Leadership Team has been discussing a slight tweak to our policy governing minimum attendance requirements to participate in concerts. Our current practice has been that members must attend half of the rehearsals, including the dress rehearsal, to play a concert, with exceptions granted "at the discretion of the Music Director". This session, we are changing that slightly to read that members should miss "no more than two (2) rehearsals, and attendance at the dress rehearsal is mandatory, with exceptions granted at the discretion of the Music Director". We also understand that life is not always predictable, and things do pop up. If your schedule changes resulting in an unplanned absence, please email

[potsdamcommunityband@gmail.com](mailto:potsdamcommunityband@gmail.com), **AND** email, text or call your section leader. 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.

## Band Finances in (some) Detail

This past summer, PCB ventured into some uncharted territory. We had always been an organization that survived exclusively on donations at concerts. However, this shoestring method became untenable this year, when we realized that many expenses over the last several years that were necessary to run the band, were being shouldered personally by Theresa Witmer. Theresa gives enough of her time just preparing (and preparing to prepare) the band. PCB should certainly not be COSTING her money! The decision was made last spring to ask band members to “pay to play” on a completely voluntary basis. YOU came through in a BIG way! Band members donated \$481.70. Additionally, an anonymous donor contributed \$1,200 to the band, and clarinetist and Librarian Team Leader Abby Decastro’s parents gave a \$200 donation.



Other revenue came from the Potsdam concert (\$430 from the donation tuba; \$250 from the Potsdam Chamber) and the Madrid concert (\$414 tuba donations and \$350 from the Madrid Dam Music Series).

That’s \$3,325.79 in summer revenue. Expense-wise, we HAD to reimburse Theresa for 7 YEARS worth of miscellaneous expenses she had personally accumulated (for full details, email [potsdamcommunityband@gmail.com](mailto:potsdamcommunityband@gmail.com)) and kept meticulous track of, to the tune of \$880.64. Other expenses paid this summer include rental of rehearsal room C-107 from SUNY (\$150), UHaul rental and fuel (\$317.36), Music purchased/borrowed (\$125.17), Liability insurance (\$207.13-good for 1 year), ASCAP music licensing fee (\$225-good for 1 year) and \$9.28 for a padlock for a percussion cabinet. Total expenses were \$1,914.58.

Our starting balance for the summer PCB season was \$276.93. Our balance after all income and expenses as of September 15 is \$1,688.14. We are again on solid footing!

Our plan going forward is to:

- Never again allow Theresa to not be reimbursed for band expenses
- Continue to solicit donations from folks who attend our concerts
- Continue to encourage and accept voluntary, anonymous donations from those who play for PCB

In return, we will be transparent in what our semi-annual income and expenses are and what we end up doing with any modest amount of funds we accumulate (purchasing music, paying for insurance, licensing, or other expenses).

## Help us attract new members

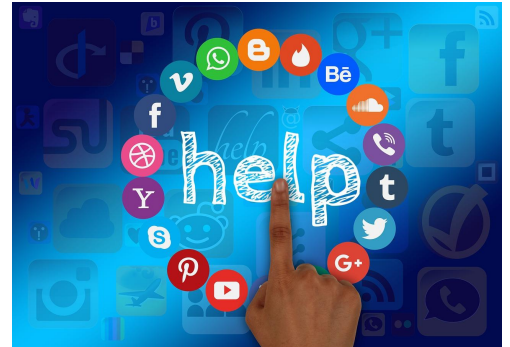
Potsdam Community Band welcomes new members. We hope you’ll pass this Newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.



## We REALLY Need Publicity/Social Media Folks!

PCB is in the market for a member or other volunteer to step into one or more publicity roles for the band. For some time, we have managed to get band publicity out to our major outside print and electronic media, but frankly, our website, and social media presence currently leaves much to be desired. If you “know” the social media game (or know someone who does), please reach out. We also need help with general publicity (think North Country Now), and poster/program creation! Please help us fill these needs by contacting [potsdamcommunityband@gmail.com](mailto:potsdamcommunityband@gmail.com).

---



## PCB Health Plan (not) Post-Covid

Covid 19 variants continue to pop up, however, Community Band has made the conscious decision to carry on while respecting individual members' decisions to take precautions that help them feel safer in our group setting. We encourage members to be fully vaccinated and boosted before taking part in PCB rehearsals, however, we will not require proof of any level of vaccination to participate. We DO expect individual members to stay away if they feel ill, or have been diagnosed with Covid-19, and to communicate with the director and section leaders if they do. We also respect any individual's decision to mask and/or socially distance from other band members if they so choose, and expect bandmates to respect those decisions.

## Inclement Weather Plan

Our often challenging weather in late fall and winter requires us to have a plan for dealing with canceling rehearsals when needed. Early in the session, all band members who are willing to share their cell phone number will be asked to do so with a designated “emergency texter”. When rehearsals (or the concert) are called off, you will receive a text. The leadership team will also communicate via email. Please keep in mind that your personal safety is of utmost importance. Weather can be drastically different in our large county, so NEVER venture out if you do not feel weather or road conditions are safe. But please DO email the band account and contact your section leader if at all possible.



## SEE YOU IN NOVEMBER 2023!!

Watch your email for your Winter 2024 Sign Up Survey in mid- October!

---

