



# THE SCORE

April 17, 2006

Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

## Thank You! Thank You!

The Blacksburg Community Band really welcomed spring this year with a beautiful concert. But that is only part of what was accomplished by the band these past few months. Our 2006 fundraising has been a great success due to the hard work of the band and our Fundraising Committee led by Harriet Cooper and Bill Murphy. The contributions have been tallied and our grand total in contributions is \$2,035.00. This plus the money donated the night of the concerts brings spring receipts to \$2,186.00. I want to thank everyone for all your effort. This has exceeded our expectations and we can all be very proud of our efforts. Thank you. It is my honor to be involved with the likes of all of you!

- Leslie

## Picture Perfect

This little cutie has been a member of the Blacksburg Community Band since the beginning. She is one of the greatest champions of the band. Do you know who she is?



This Wednesday test your knowledge during break and bring your best guess.

## I Folded My Napkin

by Betsy Bowles

This is a story of how I made my friend and fellow clarinet player, Mr M, laugh.

It had been an odd day at Mr M's. Most of the morning had been spent waking up, and drinking coffee, and once that was accomplished we indulged in one of our favorite activities; arguing with each other.

Then we played clarinets!

As happens with me way too often, I started right out letting my psyche overpower whatever I talent I may or may not have. I was holding back, my fingers were getting in their own way, I kept missing notes, then stopping. And every time I stopped, Mr M said, "Don't stop! Come on, play, don't stop!" which unnerved me even more.

"You wanna quit?" he kept asking.

"No! Yes! I don't know!"

And so we'd play again. Stop, start, miss a note, hit myself in the head, shake my hands around where they'd gone numb, and walk that fine line between helpless laughter and uncontrollable sobbing.

"You wanna quit?"

"No!"

"Well, come on, let's play, don't think about it, you're thinking about it, just play, quit stopping!" Finally my entire being became a heaping mass of jello. My spine disintegrated, my muscles packed in, my nervous system gave up, and I fell over onto my stand, face buried in the music, body heaving with the laughter of a woman who's lost the will to live.

And the reason I couldn't stop laughing was because of the image that had entered my head. Do you know the scene from the movie "The Miracle Worker" where Annie Sullivan locks the dining room and is teaching Helen Keller to eat breakfast? And there's fighting, and food-throwing, and biting, and slapping, and cold water-dousing, and screaming, and plate-breaking, and crying, and hair-pulling? And at the end of it all, out comes Annie, hair askew, clothes covered in food, scratched and bloodied, walking out of the completely wrecked dining room, announcing to Captain Keller, "She folded her napkin."

There are days when that's what practicing the clarinet is for me. *Exactly.*

### Blacksburg Community Band

The Blacksburg Community Band is an all-volunteer community organization formed in 1989 under the auspices of the Town of Blacksburg, Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Director:** Ed Schwartz ed.schwartz@vt.edu

**President:** Leslie Palacios

**Vice President:** Kendra Kohl

**Treasurer:** Bill Murphy

**Secretary:** Harriett Cooper

**Past President:** Fred Hodges

**Members at Large:** Amy Hall, Renee Jacobsen, Alan McDaniel

<http://arts.bev.net/blacksburgcommunityband/>

Only poor Mr M gets to be Annie Sullivan, all torn and bloodied, and I get to be Helen Keller, in the dark in so many more ways than one. And some days may end up total failures, and some other days there may be scrambled eggs all over the floor and broken plates, but I end up with a folded napkin.

I told this to Mr M and he got the analogy... and enjoyed it.

And that was today. We finished the piece. My napkin was folded. But I distinctly remember Mr M's hair askew and glasses sitting crooked on his face.

*Elizabeth "Betsy" Bowles is a founding member of the Blacksburg Community Band. She resides in Bluefield with Sherman and Mr. Peabody.*

## From the Podium By Ed Schwartz

"Kiss Me, Kate" is still regarded as Cole Porter's greatest musical; a charming backstage story detailing feuding ex-spouses Lilli Vanessi and Fred Graham as they star in a musical version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew". This "play-within-a-play" follows the lives of these two actors and was inspired by the on-and-off-stage battles between married theatrical stars, Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. The musical opened at the New Century Theatre on Broadway in 1949.

*Another Op'nin' Another Show* welcomes you to Baltimore and to the opening of a musical version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." The cast is on stage and receiving final instructions from Fred Graham, the director. A play-within-a-play unfolds, where each of the four main cast member's on-stage performance is complicated by what is happening in his off-stage life. Fred takes the roles of director and male lead, Petruchio. His ex-wife Lilli, now a movie star with a reputation for being difficult to work with, plays Katharine, the shrew. Fred's current love interest, Lois, plays the role of Bianca, and the other man in Lois' life, Bill, plays the role of Lucentio.

Bill has a gambling problem and tells Lois that he signed a \$10,000 IOU for a debt in Fred's name. Just before curtain, two thugs show up at the theater to collect on the IOU from Fred, not knowing that it was Bill that really owes the money. Lois scolds Bill with the song *Why Can't You Behave?* Fred and Lilli reminisce nostalgically about their other performances together, and their

warm feelings for each other return in the song *Wunderbar*. When flowers sent by Fred to Lois mistakenly get delivered to Lilli, Lilli's love for Fred returns with the song *So in Love*.

Shakespeare's play opens with the song *We Open in Venice* and the stage play begins. As the story goes, Lucentio (Bill) may not marry his love Bianca (Lois), until Bianca's older sister Katharine (Lilli) the shrew is married off. Bianca flirts with her gentlemen callers in the song *Tom, Dick or Harry*. Petruchio (Fred) comes to town looking for a wealthy wife and is not scared off by Katharine, explaining that his goal in the song *I've Come to Wive It Wealthily* in Padua. Katharine stays in the shrew character as she sings *I Hate Men*. Backstage, Lilli discovers that the flowers Fred sent her were actually intended for Lois, and her shriek is heard from offstage. Petruchio sings of his strong feelings for Katharine in the song *Were Thine That Special Face*. Lilli starts to walk out of the show, but Fred convinces the two gangsters that he will repay the IOU if they can make Lilli stay with the show. The gangsters put on costumes and become part of the cast to stay close to Lilli. Lilli uses her anger toward Fred to express herself as Katharine for the rest of the show. The song *Kiss Me, Kate* closes the first act.

The second act opens with *Too Darn Hot*, which gives the cast a chance to relax outside the theatre during intermission. Back at "The Shrew" Petruchio marries Katharine, and already misses his relatively peaceful single life with the song *Where Is the Life That Late I Led?* Lois and Bill sing of their relationship in the song *Always True to You (In My Fashion)* and then Bill sings *Bianca*. When the gangsters call their boss to 'check in,' they find out that the boss has been killed. This makes Bill's IOU worthless, so the gangsters can leave. Lilli takes the opportunity to walk off the show, and leaves with her dependable fiancé Harrison, as Fred reprises the song *So in Love*. The gangsters get caught up in the limelight and pay an unusual tribute to Shakespeare as they stop the show in the witty *Brush Up Your Shakespeare*. Bianca and Lucentio are finally married. As "The Taming of the Shrew" comes to a close, Lilli unexpectedly returns to the stage, and in Katharine's words expresses her intention of returning to Fred in the song *I Am Ashamed That Women Are So Simple*. Lilli and Fred are reunited, and Lois and Bill are together for the final curtain.

### **Weekly Rehearsal**

The Blacksburg Community Band holds rehearsals every Wednesday evening, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (except for the months of July and August) in the Blacksburg High School band room on Patrick Henry Drive.

**May Concert Dates: May 20 - Claytor Lake State Park 2:00pm; May 25 - XYZ Concert, Blacksburg United Methodist Church 7:00pm; May 29 - Memorial Day Concert, Warmth Hearth Retirement Community Gazebo 11:00am**