



The Blacksburg Community Band

THE SCORE

The Blacksburg Community Band

January 2009

From the President

Happy New Year and all that sort of stuff.....

We had a great 2008 and I know we will have a terrific 2009.

As always I want to thank everyone who participates in the band. Thanks for everyone making it to rehearsals and all the concerts that we play in the different venues. I also want to thank the board because they always help in making the right decisions. After the elections we wound up with the same great board we already had. Remember the board does put a lot time in for the band.

We had a great holiday concert and a nice holiday season even though there was no snow. I want to thank everyone who participated in our small group appearances. All the groups of people we visited enjoy our

holiday music and even if they all don't say it they really do thank us for being there. I broke a bone in my hand and couldn't make any of the small group dates this holiday season. I did participate in the holiday concert and enjoyed playing. Again, we sounded great.

We are looking toward our 20th year in existence and I hope we can all make it a great one. I think I can ask one more time for all of our members to reconnect with former members that haven't been involved in a few years or many years. Let's get them to come back and help us make the best music we can and with the largest and strongest group we can put together. The board is trying to put together a special weekend for our 20th anniversary concert. Many items are still undecided but suggestions from the group are greatly appreciated. Sooner

than later we will be starting our annual fund raising for 2009 and we hope we will be able to reach out to more people than ever and to receive more donations than we have in the past.

We are also looking forward to our newly commissioned music from our favorite composers and also our music that you the band have picked for us to play.

I like to end by welcoming our "new" board. They are doing a great job and I'm happy to be working with them. As always please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

—Dixon



Inside this issue:

Fundraising Updates	2
Scenes from the Pops Concert	3
Meet Susan Booker-Gross	3
Band Officers Contact Information	4
Welcome New Members	4



Dixon Smiley and his contrabass clarinet—all dressed up for the holiday concert, December 14th, 2008



FUNDRAISING UPDATES by Treasurer Bill Murphy

Thanks to everyone who purchased the Kroger gift cards whether it was for your personal use or to give as a gift to other family members/neighbors. We began selling/using these cards in July and in October we received a check from Kroger in the amount of \$655.34. I just received our second rebate check today (12/09/08) for \$438.04.

The Kroger rebate system works like this: Kroger sends me a statement (via email) each month of the actual dollar amount applied to our band account cards. Once that amount reaches \$5000 Kroger issues the band a check in the amount of 5% of that total. At that time our account balance begins again

at zero dollars and we will not receive another check until our band account reaches the \$5000 threshold. This can take a couple of months to achieve. The amount included on the statements is not the amount you spend each time you visit Kroger but the amount you actually "load/add" to your card when the card balance gets low. Also included in this statement is the money spent to purchase the card originally. So if you purchased a \$50 card and put \$100 additional money on it in the same month that \$150 goes toward reaching our threshold.

At this time there are no more Kroger cards available

to sell. If there are requests for additional cards I will order them at that time. Just remember - at Kroger you can use your band account card to purchase gift cards for almost anything/anyplace (Home Depot, Lowes, etc. etc.) and don't forget to use them at the Kroger gas pump (Christiansburg only), and the Pharmacy Dept.

Thanks to Kroger - this fundraising venture has the potential to become one of the most effective & rewarding fundraising efforts for our band in some time. Should anyone have any questions/issues concerning the Kroger cards please contact any band board member/section leader.

Consider buying a Kroger Gift Card as a gift for friends, family and coworkers.

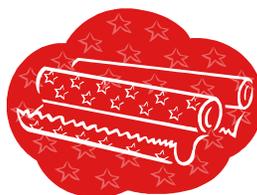


Thanks to Renee Jacobsen and Amy Hall for working at the Belk Fundraiser. They raised more than \$150.00 selling special store discount coupons to support the band

Thanks to Dixon Smiley, Renee Jacobsen, Amy Hall, Keeley Hall, Mary Walters, Debby Good Wiedmer, Rachael Tracey, Leslie Palacios, Ed Schwartz for working at our Barnes and Nobel gift wrapping fundraiser. We raised \$83 !!

Save this date!!!!

20th Anniversary Spring Concert
Sunday March 29th, 4 PM



Music Sorting Potluck

Sunday February 8
1-4 PM Blacksburg Rec Center



Scenes from the Annual Holiday Pops Concert
Sunday December 14th, 2008



With the generous donations from band members, we were able to give Steve Brown, Associate Director and Ed Schwartz, Director, gift certificates to Downtown Blacksburg Merchants. Ed also received a wooden baton case and new baton

Meet Susan Booker-Gross

Susan Brooker-Gross is new to the flute section of the Blacksburg Community Band, and, unlike some of our other members who pick up their high school instrument and begin to play again, she is new to the flute as well. Susan played piano and sang in choir in her high school days, but never played with a band until now. Two years ago, at Christmas, her son and his wife bought her a flute and a lesson book. She played around with the flute for a while, but realized she needed lessons if she was really going to learn how to play. The first thing Susan learned from her flute instructor Vicki Scarratt (yes,

that's our Vicki from the flute section) was that the flute is played from the other side (i.e. pointing to the right not the left). That was an important first lesson, and Susan has been learning from Vicki ever since! Susan likes coming to band because it gives her a chance to play with an ensemble, and as she puts it "teaches me how far I have to go!"

Susan works in the Information Technology Division at Virginia Tech, as the Director of Policy and Communications (I think that means she is the person that makes geek-speak into real English).



She writes for Information Technology and translates their projects to the community. She also works with policy development and the "human or social" aspect of computer threats.

Susan and her husband (twice retired and working on his memoirs) live in Blacksburg and have a blended family that includes 6 children, 5 children-in-law, several grand-kids and some grand-puppies. She spends her free time keeping the "wild at bay" or doing landscape control in their wooded yard.

Band Officers

- **President:** : Dixon Smiley
[smileyd@vt.edu; 639-4507]
- **Vice President:** Kendra Kohl
[kendrakohl@gmail.com; 953-1271}
- **Secretary:** Debby Good Wiedmer [goodd@vt.edu;
961-0338]
- **Treasurer:** Bill Murphy [bsmurph@verizon.net; 552-
8742]
- **Members at Large:** Amy Hall
[safetycake@jetbroadband.com ; 382-1963]
Renee Jacobsen [rjac@bev.net ; 552-9120]
Alan McDaniel [alanmcd@vt.edu; 951-8677]

- **Trumpets:** Bill Murphy [bsmurph@earthlink.net; 552-
8742]
- **French Horns:** Ingrid Burbey [iburbey@vt.edu; 951-
7710]
- **Trombones:** Amy Hall
[safetycake@jetbroadband.com; 382-1963]
- **Low Brass:** David Kibler [kiblerdf@vt.edu; 951-4504]
- **Percussion:** Alan McDaniel [alanmcd@vt.edu; 951-
8677]

Section Leaders

- **Flutes:** Mary L. Walters
[marylvalt@warmhearthva.org; 951-5076]
- **Clarinets:** Kendra Kohl [kendrakohl@gmail.com ;
953-1271]
- **Saxophones:** Karl Sanzenbach [kasanz@juno.com;
961-5532]

Other Personnel

- **Music Director:** Ed Schwartz [ed.schwartz@vt.edu
382-3707]
- **Associate Director :** Steven E. Brown
[browns@vt.edu; 381-1371]
- **Music Librarian::** Leslie Palacios
[allabouttheleslie@gmail.com; 320-1390]
- **Fund Raising:** Harriett Cooper -
[chayabrona@verizon.net; 552-3446]
- **Historian:** Mary Walters
[marylvalt@warmhearthva.org; 951-5076]

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Flute
Susan Brooker-
Gross

Clarinets
Sam Aistrop
Beth Tranter

Tenor Sax
Amber Wiley-
Vawter

Trumpet
Dick Kazee**

French Horn
Seth Brown

Trombones
Andrew Milauskas
Jeremy Shorter

** returning member



A saxophone and clarinet choir performed at the Kroontje Center, Warm Hearth on Saturday December 13th. That's Dana Reynolds (Bass Clarinet), Carol Baker (Alto Clarinet), Mary Keffer (B^b Clarinet), Carl Sanzenbach (Soprano Saxophone), XX (Alto Saxophone), J.B. Jones (Tenor Saxophone), Debby Good Wiedmer (Contra Alto Clarinet), and Dixon Smiley, (Contra Bass Clarinet)

We are looking for more Returning Members

Join us as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Blacksburg Community Band. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at the Blacksburg High School.

