



The Score

Inside this Issue:

Director's Notes	1
From the President	2
In Memoriam	2
Concert Schedule	3
Kroger Gift Card Band Fundraiser	4
The New Website	4



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Director's Notes

I have been asked by the powers that be, to share a little bit of my background with you. All of us find it difficult to write things about ourselves, but those of you that have gotten to know me, know that I generally do not have a shortage of words! Trying to be concise, here you go:

I always look at September as the beginning of the year and the past few Septembers have offered several "new" beginnings for me. Four years ago was the first September of my "retirement" and relocation to Virginia. Three years ago was the experience of some retail work, joining the staff at Virginia Tech's Visitor Center, playing in a new band, and building a new house in the little town of Pilot. Two years ago I was working as a substitute for several music teachers in the Montgomery County Public Schools. Last September I became the band director at Floyd County High School, and this September I have been presented with the great opportunity to be the director of the Blacksburg Community Band.

I was born and raised in Allentown, PA and always lived in that general area until moving to Virginia. I started playing the trombone in 4th grade and by 7th grade knew that I wanted to be a band director. I received a BA in Music Education from Moravian College, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and started teaching at a small school in New Jersey. After five years, I had completed conducting studies and received an MA in Music from The College of New Jersey. I moved on to a college position for several years, but realized I enjoyed the high school age better and returned to that arena. I taught music at a school in western New Jersey for 24 years where I directed the Concert, Jazz and Marching Bands. All groups were fairly competitive and the marching band actually received a State Championship in 2001. Somewhere in that time period I completed another Master's Degree in Education Administration, and aspired to get into the world of administration. However, I found that I enjoyed teaching students more than working in a front office, so I stayed in the classroom.

Paralleling my public school career was my tenure with a professional community band, The Pioneer Band of Allentown. I was their music director and conductor for thirty years prior to coming to Virginia. During that time, I oversaw the production of several recordings, exchange concerts with other community bands, and performance tours of Germany.

[Director's Notes continued on page 3](#)

From the President

Hello Band,

Welcome to the start of fall rehearsals! The new Blacksburg High School is opening September 4th! While we are looking forward to practicing at the new school, they have asked that we wait until they can get everything up and running for a bit. In the meantime, Warm Hearth has graciously let the band rehearse at The Village Center. Rehearsals will be held at Warm Hearth's Village Center (2387 Warm Hearth Drive, Blacksburg) for September and October, except October 16th which will be at the Karr activity Center. The rehearsals will also be more compact, beginning at 7:30pm and ending at 9pm allowing everyone a chance to get home earlier.

A new addition to the schedule this year will be a fall concert. In the past we have only had one chance to perform the music we have rehearsed in the fall before we begin to prepare for the holiday concerts. The fall concert will allow the local community an opportunity to hear the music that we perform with the Roanoke College band.

It takes a village for the band to run smoothly and it can't be done without the help and commitment of its members. I want to thank the board for all that they do to help everything run effortlessly. And it wouldn't be possible without everyone taking time out of their busy schedules to practice, rehearse, and perform at concerts. If you have any additional time and would like to become more involved in the operations of the band there are many opportunities ranging from serving on the board, becoming the historian, or helping a committee. Several committees are available including the reception/social, fundraising, and website committees. If you are interested in any of these opportunities please don't hesitate to talk to myself or another member of the board.

Warm regards,

Jennifer



The band paid tribute and bid a fond farewell to Founding Director Ed Schwartz at the Spring Concert with moustaches of their own! Photos courtesy Terry Nicholson



IN MEMORIAM



John Howell, Virginia Tech Music Faculty member and long-time Blacksburg Community Band member, music arranger, and band supporter, passed away May 3, 2013. Many of us saw him last on April 14th when he attended our Spring Concert to hear the world premiere of his piece, *Danny Boy in the New World*, which he had rehearsed with us. We were all fortunate to know and learn from John and will miss his knowledge, humor, and friendly face.



Blacksburg Community Band, 24th Annual Spring Concert, April 14, 2013. Photo courtesy Sharon Clabaugh

CONCERT SCHEDULE

*Thursday,
October 10, 7:30pm*
Fall Concert with Roanoke
College Wind Ensemble
at Olin Hall Auditorium,
Roanoke College

*Sunday,
October 20, 3:00pm*
Fall Concert, place TBD

*Sunday,
December 8, 3:00pm*
Pulaski Theatre

*Wednesday,
December 11, 7:00pm*
Village Center at
Warm Hearth

*Sunday,
December 15, 3:00pm*
Holiday Concert, place TBD

*Sunday,
April 13, 2014, 3:00pm*
Spring Concert, place TBD

***More concert
dates to come!***



GERMAN SELECTIONS FOR OUR FALL CONCERT

*Elsa's Procession
to the Cathedral*

*Academic Festival
Overture*

Tritsch Tratsch Polka

Der Fleidermaus

Poet & Peasant Overture

Sound of Music

plus Beethoven,
Bach, and Brown
(yes, THAT Brown!)

Director's Notes, continued from page 1

Each year we performed approximately 35 concerts in venues ranging from local parks and concert halls to the Ellipse at the White House in Washington D.C., and Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

I have had wonderful opportunities to study with some of the best conductors the band world has to offer, including Dr. Frederick Fennell, John Paynter, Anthony Maiello and Colonel Arnald Gabriel. I am also a member of the National Band Association, the National Association for Music Education and the Association of Concert Bands.

Now, on to Blacksburg! I feel that the time is right to make some changes with our group in the areas of repertoire, performance venues, and rehearsal practices. I have discussed some options with the board, including changing rehearsal time from 7:30 to 9:00, adding some concerts to our schedule to increase audience awareness and continuing rehearsals throughout the summer, at least up until Steppin 'Out. In order to bolster our ranks, I have been making a concerted effort to recruit some top musicians. I have also been communicating with other teachers in the area to get our name out there as a viable performing ensemble.

Do you know there are people in Blacksburg who do not know there is a community band in town? I think it is up to us to do our own marketing, self-promotion, and brand recognition, to let our friends and neighbors know about this wonderful opportunity that we call the Blacksburg Community Band.

I am looking forward to making music with all of you, and if you have a question, concern or idea, please talk to me!!!

Jay



The trumpet section hard at work at the Wheatland Hills concert. Photo courtesy Sherrie Austin



Kendra Kohl, Jay Durner, and Amy Hall visit with Wheatland Hills residents and guests after the summer concert. Photo courtesy Sherrie Austin

Kroger Gift Card Band Fundraiser

Did you know? The band is using Kroger gift cards as a fundraising tool. This is a simple way for you to help the band raise money to support our efforts.

How? The Kroger “Gift Cards” are for non-profit organizations only – which we are. The band gift cards are different than the ones you buy at the Customer Service Counter because they are linked to our band bank account. Every dollar spent using a band Kroger card is worth a 5% automatic distribution to the band. It costs you nothing extra. These cards can be used to purchase virtually anything at Kroger such as food and gas (with the exception of money orders & Western Union transactions).

What do I do to start? Just purchase a \$10 Kroger Gift Card from euphonium player Dave Kibler during band practice. Then, go to Kroger for your groceries (or some of your groceries) and/or gas. When you use up the money on your Kroger card, reload it at the register or Customer Service Counter, and keep using it. They also make good gifts for other family members/neighbors. Only the cards purchased from the band with our account number are entitled for such credit.

Impact? This is a significant fundraiser for the Blacksburg Community Band because other than the individual effort to “reload” your card there is no work involved. You’re going to spend a certain amount of money on groceries and gas so you could use that in a manner that could have a positive impact on the band.

Example? If a member spends \$5,000 on groceries and gas at Kroger in a year using the Blacksburg Community Band gift card, the band would receive \$250. That is cash into the bands operating account that can be used to purchase equipment and music, as well as help with operational expenses such as the storage unit and the trailer.

Why do we fundraise?

The band budget is over \$10,000 per year. That includes concert expenses, new music, insurance, storage spaces, equipment, website hosting, and other operating and administrative expenses. Kroger cards are our largest single fundraiser, averaging about \$300 per month. We also receive funding from the Town of Blacksburg, but that has been reduced in recent years, increasing our reliance on personal donations from members, friends, and supporters of the band.

How can you help?

Purchase a Kroger Card from the band and use it to purchase groceries, gift cards, and gas at any Kroger store.

Play 50-50 for as little as \$1 each week! Half of all profits go to the band - the other half goes to the winner.

Make a monetary donation in any amount and at any time of year. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit so all donations are tax deductible.

Ask friends, neighbors, and local businesses if they can support the band either monetarily or with an in-kind donation.

Send donations to:
David Kibler, Treasurer
Blacksburg Community Band
3627 Laurel Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Thank you for your support!

The Band Has a New Website!



Thanks to Bob Schoner, the band has purchased the domain name:

BlacksburgCommunityBand.org

and we have a basic website as a place holder for now. The website committee will continue working on the site, bringing over content from our old BEV site. We plan to take advantage of our much larger storage capacity to include more pictures and possibly even some videos and concert recordings. Your comments and suggestions are always welcomed, so check it out and let us know what you would like to see on our new web page.

FIND US ALSO ON

Facebook: BlacksburgCommunityBand

YouTube: BburgCommunityBand

Twitter: BburgCommBand



Associate Director Steve Brown leading the band at Wheatland Hills.
Photo courtesy Sherrie Austin

Thank you to the Town of Blacksburg's WTOB for getting our recent Spring Concerts onto YouTube!