



# The Blawenburg Band Newsletter

Number 2  
March , 2008



## From the Podium By Music Director Jerry Rife

The spring season of the Blawenburg Band is perhaps the most intense and fruitful period of the year musically for the health of the band as it is the time we tweak and polish the music for the annual event, our anniversary concert. My responsibilities include writing a program that will be entertaining to play and listen to and bringing the music up to performance quality.

Of course the music should challenge the band members and help move the band forward musically, and engage our audiences in the process. I continue to believe in the rules of contrast, education, history and quality when picking out the selections. I

believe that contrast in the style of music, tempi, volume, and weight of short numbers helps to keep the audience interested during the concert. This allows everyone to have a good time celebrating our existence. I also believe in educating the musicians and listeners with music that is stylistically important and less well known. Hence the Leroy Anderson set of pieces, an overture that is not a warhorse, Eric Coates, the Nestico Apotheosis and some interesting marches. The wind band has a long and checkered history of music, and we deserve to bring some of it back to life in our anniversary concerts. I always try to pick music that is worth playing, although it may not seem so with every selection. Tastes vary and your perception of a piece of music is heavily contingent on how your part is to play. It is tricky to program the perfect concert. I appreciate your trust in me to find music that works, and I always value your thoughts on music we should play. In fact, a good number of these pieces were requested by band members.

A second responsibility for me is to get the ensemble and music in shape for concert performance. I'm thinking long term in some cases. For example, we were ready with Das Pensionat Overture last fall and could concentrate on March Slav and other pieces. This is also not an exact science, but our concerts over the years have gotten better and served us well. I do need your help with this step of the preparation, however. Now that you have the program, I encourage you to take the music home and woodshed the difficult parts. If you are ready to play all of the music, we can focus in our rehearsals on intonation, balance, and ensemble issues rather than just rhythm and notes. Thanks for your dedication to the band and to your interest in making the best music possible at every performance. I think we have a super program for our 118<sup>th</sup> and know that once again we'll turn in a winning performance.

Jerry Rife  
March 18, 2008

## Sectional

### The Euphonium Section By Carolyn Auerbach

The Section: Steve Allen, Tom DeFalco, Charlie Howard, Carolyn Auerbach, Jennifer Wilson

#### ***When and why did you join the Blawenburg Band?***

Steve: To get into playing again for the first time in a decade

Tom: I joined because I enjoy playing in a band and wanted to try a different group than the one with which I was playing. I had heard the Blawenburg Band several times, including the second Hopewell Concert last summer and liked the quality and style of the music I heard...

Charlie: I had attended Blawenburg Concerts from time to time and thought the level of play was superior and I would probably not be able to play with the group. I eventually called Jerry Rife and asked if Edie and I could play with the Band. After a bit of hesitation, he said yes. We joined the Band because we like to play and it's an activity we like to do together.

Carolyn: A former member of the Blawenburg Band, Lois McMullen, invited Marge Holmquest and me to join the band in 1982, as we both wanted an opportunity to play with a larger group than the Flemington Band.

Jennifer: We moved to Bordentown a few years ago and were commuting a long distance to the shore area to play in two bands. We also wanted more of a challenge musically.



*Euphonium section, Caroline and Charlie, Hopewell Parade 2007(Photo Steve Mekler)*

***What other instruments do you play?***

Steve: None as well!

Tom: I also play trumpet occasionally. I played it for many (1964-1983) years before starting baritone. I don't play trumpet often enough now to do it very well. I can also play easy things on the piano.

Charlie: In 1964, as I was preparing to attend medical school, I stopped playing musical instruments. At that time I played three – the cornet/trumpet, tuba, and string bass. After the usual 40 year hiatus, and with prodding from family members and especially my father who wanted me to play again, I relearned the bass clef and began to play the tuba. As you know, I play the Euph and the baritone as well as the B-flat tuba.

Carolyn: I started on clarinet in fourth grade, learned trombone in seventh grade for the high school marching band, but switched to euphonium in my freshman year. I recently learned to read treble clef and play a baritone. I was a fair clarinet player and a horrible trombonist.

Jennifer: I also played trumpet and trombone.

***What has been the most unusual experience you've had when playing the euphonium?***

Steve: When I stood up during a brass ensemble tour of France as our instruments were being introduced to the audience, and, instead of playing the customary tune, I imitated the sound of a motorbike on the euphonium and rushed off stage. The conductor nearly fell over!

Charlie: I don't recall any particularly unusual experiences with the Band, aside from the bus getting lost on the way to Vineland...

Tom: Most unusual experience is band-related, it could happen with any instrument. In the other band I was in, the player next to me died very suddenly just before our spring concert. The conductor decided to dedicate the concert to his memory, which was fine, but also to place his horn in his seat, and his music on his stand, which made me feel strange sitting next to it. He has done the same thing twice since, when other members of the band died relatively shortly before the concert.

Carolyn: There have been several, but the winner is the Titusville Fourth of July parade in the mid 1980's when Wayne Hunter conducted. We played on two flatbed trucks that were slowly driven down the main street. The conductor plus flutes, saxes and oboes were on the first truck, and the brass and percussion were on the second. We rocked!

Jennifer: Playing in the pit orchestra at the Robbinsville High School and using a plunger in the euphonium to do my best impression of a trombone.



*Howard's Christmas Party (2007)*

***What is the best part about being a member of the Blawenburg Band?***

Steve: The great friendships with everyone.

Charlie: Perhaps the best part about being in the band is the opportunity for us to do something we enjoy doing together as well as the opportunity to meet so many like-minded souls.

Tom: Hard to say what the best part is since I've only been in the Band five months. I do certainly enjoy the balance of making high quality music and having a good time doing it. Jerry's enthusiasm certainly contributes to it. I am looking forward to some of the places we will be playing in the spring.

Carolyn: The best thing that's happened to me since I joined the band is meeting Ray. The rest is history!. Seriously, I value the friends and opportunities the band has provided over the years.

Jennifer: Not driving the long distance to Spring Lake, plus the variety of music.

## Leslie Godfrey in Recital

Leslie joined the Blawenburg Band oboe section when she was a very small girl. She is now on her way to being a professional oboist. Information on her graduation recital is given below:

Sunday, April 13 at 3 pm (in Schare Recital Hall, Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University). Leslie's playing is awesome!

For information about all the musical activities happening at Rutgers's Mason Gross School of the Arts, including a lot of free musical events, visit:

[http://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/calendar/month\\_04\\_12.html](http://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/calendar/month_04_12.html)

**118<sup>th</sup>-ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**  
**BLAWENBURG BAND**

May 18, 2008

3:00 p.m.

**Program—Tentative, Subject to Change, May Be Altered**

National Anthem: <i>Star Spangled Banner</i>	*	Key/ Schissel
March: <i>Radio Waves</i>		Fred Jewell
Overture: <i>Das Pensionat</i>		Franz von Suppe
Encore March: <i>Soldiers of Fortune</i>	*	Arthur Pryor
Film Music: <i>Hymn to the Fallen</i>		John Williams
Tribute To Leroy Anderson (1908-2008)		Leroy Anderson
<i>Blue Tango</i>		
<i>The Golden Years</i>		
<i>Home Stretch</i>		
Grand Selection: <i>March Slav</i>		P. I. Tchaikowski
Encore March: <i>The Town Crier</i>	*	Leonard B. Smith

---INTERMISSION---

Concert March: <i>The Dam Busters</i>		Eric Coates
Tribute: <i>Apotheosis : The Marines Hymn</i>		Sammy Nestico
March Selection of J. P. Sousa		John Philip Sousa
<i>Minnesota</i>		
<i>Washington Post</i>		
<i>Liberty Bell</i>		
<i>Semper Fidelis</i>		
Characteristic: <i>On the Road</i>		Edwin Franko Goldman
	The Percussion Section	
Tribute: <i>Armed Forces Salute</i>		Robert Cray
Concert Encore: <i>The Stars and Stripes Forever</i>	*	John Philip Sousa

[\* Not on Printed Program]

8 Marches, 1 National Anthem, 1 Solo/Ensemble pieces, 1 Concert March, 1 Grand Selection, 1 Overture, 1 Apotheosis., 3 Tribute, 1 Armed Forces Salute, 1 Film Music.  
[10 + 9 = 19]

3/17/08

# Concerts Schedule

## Summary Concerts 2007

In 2007, the Blawenburg Band played 30 concerts. The first concert of the year was in February at Tandem Health Care in Lawrenceville and the last concert of 2007 was in December at Arcadia Nursing/Rehabilitation in Hamilton. During the year, we played at the Trenton War Memorial, Cadwalader Park, Weeden Park, Princeton Shopping Center, Hopewell Gazebo, Griggstown Harvest Home, Yardley Community Center and ten senior living facilities. There was one road trip to Vineland, NJ.

Half of the concerts occur between May and August. The busiest month was July where we played five concerts, though in December we played four concerts in just two weeks!

Here is a breakdown of concerts by days of the week:

Saturday	-	9 concerts
Sunday	-	7 concerts
Monday	-	7 concerts
Tuesday	-	1 concert
Wednesday	-	1 concert
Thursday	-	3 concerts
Friday	-	2 concerts

We play most of the concerts on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. In 2008, we expect to have exciting line of events, including a May concert at a new and improved facility closely followed by a road trip to Longwood Gardens.



*116<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert*

## Our Concerts, 2008

Date	Concert	Time	Location
Saturday, Mar 8	<a href="#">Gardens at Monroe</a> * (*not open to the public)	2:00 p.m.	Hightstown, NJ
Sunday, April 13	<a href="#">Flemington Jewish Community Center</a>	7:00 p.m.	Flemington, NJ
Monday, April 21	<a href="#">Joint concert with Rider</a>	4:30 p.m. rehearsal 7:00 p.m. concert	Rider University
Thursday, May 8	<a href="#">Rider University Commencement</a>	5:30 p.m.	Rider University
Friday, May 9	<a href="#">Rider University Commencement</a>	9:30 a.m.	Rider University
Sunday, May 18	<a href="#">118th Anniversary Concert</a>	3:00 p.m.	Hopewell Valley High School Pennington, NJ
Saturday, May 24	<a href="#">Longwood Gardens</a>	7:30 pm	Kennett Square, PA
Monday, June 16	<a href="#">Pennswood village</a> *	7:15 p.m.	Newtown Square, PA
Sunday, June 22	<a href="#">Katrina Benefit Concert</a>	5:30 p.m.	German American Club 215 Uncle Pete's Rd Yardville, NJ
Thursday, July 3	<a href="#">Princeton Shopping Center</a>	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Princeton, NJ
Friday, July 4	<a href="#">Independence Day Concert</a>	4:00 - 6:00 p.m.	Yardley, PA, Community Centre. For tickets, call (215) 493-5014
Monday, July 7	<a href="#">Gazebo Summer Series</a>	7:30 p.m.	Hopewell Gazebo
Monday, July 21	<a href="#">Gazebo Summer Series</a>	7:30 p.m.	Hopewell Gazebo
Monday, Aug 4	<a href="#">Gazebo Summer Series</a>	7:30 p.m.	Hopewell Gazebo
Saturday, August 16	<a href="#">Harvest Home</a>	4:30 p.m.	Griggstown Reformed Church
Sunday, November 16	<a href="#">Greenwood House</a> *	2:00 p.m.	Ewing, NJ

# Treasurer's report

Lanny Hoffman



To: Blawenburg Band, Bonnie Waltz, President  
From: Lanny Hoffman, Treasurer  
Subject: Treasurer's Annual Report for 2007  
Date: Jan. 18, 2008

We had a 2007 beginning balance of \$3,695.94 in the checking account.  
The 2007 ending balance was \$4,431.11 (with \$2,000 in a CD @ 4.95 APR).  
For the period of 1/1/07 to 12/31/07, we had:

Expenses	\$14,809.41
Income	\$14,328.94 (Includes some equipment sales)

## Income

Donations	\$4,223
CD/Tapes	\$1,140
One-time job	\$ 225
Recurring jobs	\$8,000
Dixieland	\$ 350
Interest Income	\$ 26 (0.5 APR on checking) (exclusive of CD interest)

## Expenses:

Advertising	\$2,785
Music	\$1,291
CD Expense	\$ 915 (for both Anniv. and War Memorial)
Entertainment	\$ 79 (Reception, etc.)
Equipment	\$ 51
Donations	\$1,224 (\$1,000 to PJS, flowers, and wedding)
Honorariums	\$4,000
Scholarship	\$ 750
Misc.	\$ 481 (Anniv. Postage, bus driver, and NJ Registration)
Rent	\$ 2,193 (includes school, Rent-a-musician, and Bus costs)
Copies	\$ 132
Insurance	\$ 858
Postage for bills	\$ 50 (for several years)

Anniversary costs were \$3,843 (school rent, custodial services, copies, postcards, flyers, recording, and advertising).

Anniversary income was \$2,242 in donations and \$660 in CD sales.

Total CD sales for 2007 were \$1,140. We still have CDs for sale.

# Policies of the Princeton Junior School

Please familiarize yourself with the following rules of the PJS.

The PJS asks that there be:

- No duplicating on PJS machines, no use of PJS equipment
- No classroom access
- No computer access
- No library access
- Re: visiting children, family, guests: Please stay in the Commons or entry area
- If furniture is moved, replace it in its original place
- If toys or blocks in the Commons are used, please clean up and replace the toys where they were.
- No parking in front of the school front doors, this is our emergency fire truck access area and needs to be kept clear.
- Don't park in the grass if it is wet or soggy.
- No furniture or equipment should ever block the red doors accessing the courtyard as this is a fire hazard and would be blocking the fire exits.
- No blocking of the hallways or stairs: these are fire exit pathways.
- No equipment should be left in the Commons or elsewhere.
- No papers or trash should be left – please clean up everything you left – both inside and outside the School.
- If something is spilled please clean it up; write a note and leave it at the front desk describing what was spilled and when. This will help cleaning efforts.

## Editor's Note

Sheila M. MacRae

Thank you to all who have contributed to Newsletter No. 2. I have lots of ideas for future Newsletters – including interviews with members of the Band, reminiscences of how things used to be by some of our older members; what our youngest members find valuable in playing with the Band; as well as interesting music and web sites to share. This is your Newsletter; please get in touch me with – with material and ideas. I look forward to hearing from you at [s.macrae@verizon.net](mailto:s.macrae@verizon.net).

Next Editor's deadline: May 1, 2008