



The Definitive Ear

The Official Newsletter of the Spartanburg Community Band – A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization
Edited by: Sharon Laye
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Letter from the Editor

By: Sharon Laye

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We have a great year ahead of us and I am so excited for our next Spring concert and our Ice Cream Sunday Series this summer. I hope everyone has come back after your holiday ready to be committed to playing your best and being your best during rehearsals and our concerts.

I think everyone will agree that our Fall "Halloween" Concert was a great success! A great time was had by all who enjoyed the costumes and wonderful music. Not to be outdone, our Christmas concert was "spot on".

We had a great audience as well as sounding fabulous! Thank you to everyone for practicing and playing your best.

A big thanks for all who were able to attend "A Dickens of Christmas" this year! December is a very busy time for some of our musicians and families. You are greatly appreciated for taking time out of your busy schedules and braving the weather to support our community.

I want to give a shout out to our conductor and fearless leader John Holloway for pushing through the pain of shoulder surgery and not missing a beat!!!

And lastly, just a reminder that some rehearsals simply have to be hammering out parts rather than running them through. These are very important rehearsals and are imperative to making great music. I want to stress that each of us must push our envelope as hard as we can. You can't have success unless you try to push yourself beyond your comfort zone.

Here's to a great 2017!

Fall Concert



Christmas Concert



World's Second Largest Free On-line Sheet Music Catalog Supported by Spartanburg Community Band Member

By: Sharon Free

As you know, the Spartanburg Community Band is composed of volunteer musicians who practice and perform with the band for fun. Our members are more than musicians though. In our ranks we have architects, accountants, chemists, nurses, students, retirees and many other career representatives. Not only do our members have professional lives, but they also have secret lives such as working as photographers (Liz Crawley) and tea consultants (Samantha Lee). And I am sure there are many others sitting next to us who are also involved in interesting and surprising activities.

Dan Steadman, French horn player and our band librarian, is one of these people. Dan devotes a portion of his spare time scanning music for BandmusicPDF.org. This website is dedicated to building and sharing an on-line library of public domain music from the Golden Age of the American Town Band. The Golden Age started in the 1870s and lasted through 1922. The Civil War was over and various bands were forming to provide music to the public. According to Harper's Weekly, there were more than 10,000 military or military style bands in the United States in 1889. Bands, under the batons of John Philip Sousa, Patrick Gilmore, Arthur Pryor and others, toured the United States and the world, bringing patriotic music, marches, waltzes and overtures to communities of all sizes and locations. For some Americans, these bands provided the only opportunity to hear the music of Mozart, Beethoven and other classical composers. Remember, this era was before radio and television. The popularity of professional bands peaked around 1910.

BandmusicPDF got its start with a donation of "boxes and boxes" of music to the North Royalton (Ohio) Community Band. In order to preserve the music, the donation was scanned for sharing with other bands on a website created by Graham Nasby in 2006. Beginning with 50 pieces, the on-line library has been augmented by donations from other community bands and from individuals around the world. The library now contains more than 3000 titles and is still growing. According to the BandmusicPDF.org website, this collection may be the world's largest free online sheet music catalog of band music next to the Library of Congress. The BandmusicPDF.org collection includes marches by Sousa, Fillmore and other composers plus ragtime pieces, assorted dance music and major period concert works. Since all the music is in the public domain or made available under a Creative Commons license by its creator, the pieces in the collection can be downloaded for free in the United States.

Have you been wondering where to find the music for your favorite dance piece from 1891, *Invitation a la Valse* by Carl Maria von Weber? Or maybe you have been yearning to play Arthur Pryor's *Razzazza Mazzazza* after performing more well-known favorites such as the *1812 Overture* or the *Bacchanal from Samson and Delilah*. If so, you can find the parts at BandmusicPDF.org. Personally, I think the *Chili Sauce Rag* might be fun to check out.

Library supporters are also searching for missing parts. Would you happen to have parts to *Warm Doughnuts* by Frank Hoyt Losey? Or maybe you would like to help transpose Db piccolo parts to the key of C or Eb alto horn parts to the key of F. BandmusicPDF.org is always looking for volunteers who are willing to transpose parts, create modern editions, categorize music and donate music or funds. So if you are interested in helping or just want to look for music, check out www.bandmusicPDF.org.

CALENDAR of Events



Spring Concert



April 23rd, Sunday at 3 pm:
Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg, SC



Ice Cream Sunday Concert Series



*** Change of Venue for Ice Cream
Sunday Concert Series ***

The Ice Cream Sunday Concerts
will be held at Converse College,
Spartanburg, SC this year instead of
USC Upstate. (Downbeat is at 7 pm)



**May 28th (Memorial Day)
June 18th (Father's Day)**



**Please remember to wear our official
band uniform for the Ice Cream
Sunday Concert Series. This uniform
includes the band logo shirt and khaki shorts or long
khaki pants. If you need a shirt, please see Rick Meehan..**

DONATIONS

Friends of the bands may utilize PayPal to make donations through this button on the band website.



FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page has quickly become one of our most utilized forms of advertisement. Thank you Ben Stanfield and Samantha Lee for all your time and hard work to keep our Facebook up to date and keeping the word out about our fabulous band! Keep liking and sharing as this helps more people see our posts!

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