



The Definitive Ear

The Official Newsletter of the Spartanburg Community Band – A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization
Edited by: Sharon Laye
January 19, 2018

Letter from our President By: Trace Miller

As I begin my service to the band, I want to send a heartfelt thanks to Coleen Felty for her many years of service as president. She took the position on short notice when Arnie Diaz was called away to be with an ailing brother. Coleen did a great job keeping the band going, from overseeing the board to being involved with booking venues to being active in getting directors to lead the band. We all owe a debt of gratitude for her service and look forward to having her continue with the band. One major thing that was accomplished under Coleen's watch was establishing a more active board. Rather than having to do all the work herself (as did Arnie), she and Rick Meehan directed a change to the board to give committees the responsibility for getting things done. This has created a better environment that solidifies the continuance of management of the band in a stable manner.

I look forward to serving the band and promise to do so to the best of my ability. If anyone has any concerns, please feel free to get with me at rehearsals or call me. My number is 864-978-1724.



Heroes & Villains



Dickens of a Christmas



Music is an
outburst
of the soul

A Christmas Festival



Denny's Christmas



From: Rick Meehan, VP

Coleen Felty has retired as band president after more than seven years of service. On her watch we have seen the band thrive, both externally through improved quality of performances, and internally through board activities. We have lots of new music, funding, good equipment, and a reputation within the community as a top notch concert group. Her ideas and hard work have made the band a better organization. Placing more than fifty musicians onstage to perform free symphonic band concerts multiple times each year is no small operation, and Coleen graciously shouldered the ultimate responsibility for every practice and performance. The board wishes to thank Coleen for her years of service and we highly recommend that all members give her a pat on the back for a job well done!



Proud member of the
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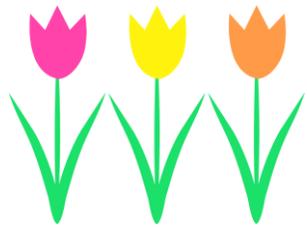
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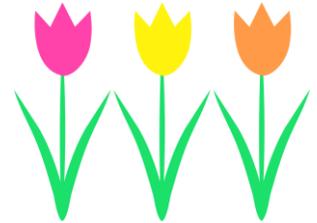
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CALENDAR *of Events*



Spring Concert



**March 25th - Sunday at 3 pm:
Chapman Cultural Center, Spartanburg, SC**

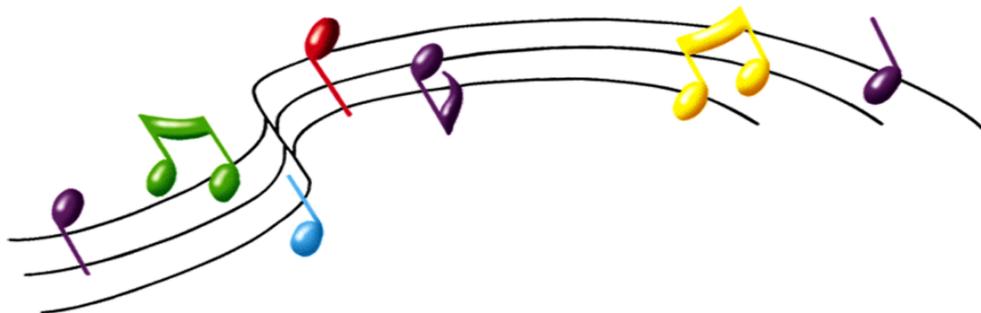
Ice Cream Sunday



Concert Series



**May 27th at 7:00 pm
June 17th at 7:00 pm
Converse College, Spartanburg, SC
Rain or Shine**



Things You Should Never Say to Your Bandmate

By Sam Freidman

Being in a band is very exciting. You're collaborating with other musicians, playing shows and becoming part of a larger musical idea. In many ways, a band is like a relationship and you need to respect it and nurture it. Not everyone is going to agree or get along, but there are diplomatic ways of dealing with band disagreements. Be respectful, and don't shoot yourself in the foot when interacting with your band. Here are four things you should never say to your bandmates – and what to say instead.

1) “You’re playing it wrong” – I know how frustrating it can be when your band member isn't getting the changes right. You have this perfect vision in your head of how the song should sound, yet someone is messing up the flow. It happens. Everyone has their moments when the song is going great, and suddenly, you're lost. There's never a time or place, however, where it's acceptable to lash out against someone for making a mistake. If someone is playing a section wrong, first ask yourself, "Is it wrong to just me?" Perhaps your bandmate honestly believes the way he or she has chosen to play that section is a better fit for the song. If it's an obvious mistake like playing in the completely wrong key, then ask yourself, "Is my bandmate aware of the mistake?" Chances are that your bandmate knows a mistake was made and feels bad about it. Don't be a jerk and rub it in.

What to say instead: "Hey, I noticed in section X that you're playing it like Y. I like what you're doing, but it sounds different than I remember. Did you change it up?"

2) “Here, let me show you” - Many of us have been guilty of doing this one before, but really, it's never a good idea. Unless your bandmate asks, "Can you show me what you're talking about?" and hands you their instrument, you shouldn't "show them" how to play a section. We understand that you have every best intention for the song, but you take the risk of belittling your bandmate. The point of a band is collaborative effort. If one person is deciding how each section sounds, then there's no co-creation. If your drummer just can't find the swing beat you have in mind, don't tell him or her to get off the kit so you can demonstrate. Ask for ideas and get a conversation rolling. In the event you're asked to show what you had in mind, respectfully let him or her know what you have in mind, but don't kick them down.

What to say instead: "Tell me about your ideas for this song. We're getting closer to the right sound, and I want to keep exploring."



3) "I can't make it to practice because" [insert lame excuse]: - Practice is an integral part of a band's growth, both musically and personally. Time invested into practice is time invested into the power of your music and the power of your relationships with each bandmate. Even if you don't have an upcoming show, it's imperative you rehearse often with your group. When one person is making lame excuses as to why they can't come, it gives the whole band the impression that they're secondary. Your bandmates want to feel confident that everyone is in it together, trying to make the best music possible, and having fun doing it.

What to say instead: "Unfortunately, I won't be able to make it to practice next week as I have another important commitment. I wanted to let you know in advance so we can hopefully reschedule another time to rehearse."

4) "I didn't rehearse" - This is equally as bad as skipping band practice. If your band's new song has an intricate 7/8 rhythm that's been tripping you up, don't wait until the next band practice to work on it again. Take it home, master it, and be ready for the next band rehearsal. It's important to practice on your own time in order to be the best musician you can be – whether it's for the current band you're in or your inevitable career as a solo musician.

What to say instead: "This was a tough section, but after rehearsing it on my own, I think I've got it up to speed. What do you think?"

Communication and respect are two of the most important keys for a band's interpersonal success. Don't let your ego or lack of dedication bring down the rest of the band. Be honest, be committed, and be respectful.

