



# The Definitive Ear

The Official Newsletter of the Spartanburg Community Band – A Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization  
Edited by: Sharon Brown  
May 11, 2018

## Letter from our President By: Trace Miller

Four months have passed since I became the band president. So far, so good. We have a very strong board, which makes my job a lot easier. The March concert was well received and we are deep into preparing for our summer concerts. I wish to thank all members for your commitment to our mission—performing quality concerts. It takes time to rehearse and behind-the-scenes work to pull off such fine concerts. It also takes a topnotch conductor, like Mr. John Holloway.

Consistent attendance at rehearsals is very important. It gives Mr. Holloway a feel for the ability of the band as concerts get closer and allows him to squeeze out a bit more of that extra talent we possess to improve our performances. As players, we get the opportunity to fine-tune the music, receiving valuable insight into those harder sequences, so we may experience how they blend in with the full band.

As we carry on through the summer schedule, keep in mind that your section members rely on you to be at rehearsals. It is never any fun to have “holes” in the music where important parts are missing.

I look forward to a strong finish to the band year. And remember, we are here to enjoy the experience. Let's do everything we can to keep it that way for everyone in our band family. As always, if anyone has any concerns, please feel free to get with me at rehearsals or call me. My number is 864-978-1724.

Trace Miller



THE SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY BAND

“TUNED TO THE TOWN!”

scband.org

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# Are You a Section Leader?

BY: Trace Miller

I have been promising to inform section leaders of the duties that I would like them to perform for the band. The time has arrived to do so!

Section leader responsibilities include:

- 1: Work with section to assign parts and solos to players as needed
- 2: Maintain list of players taking music home to practice
- 3: Contact missing players
- 4: Make sure music is returned to box if player not playing, or no longer member
- 5: Help Dan Steadman pass out new music and take up old music (in order)

Each member of the band can assist their section leader by communicating their status if not playing (will they be out for a concert or are they leaving the band).



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*The International Voice of Community Bands*

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# Ice Cream

# Sundays



Spartanburg Community Band  
PO Box 162221  
Boiling Springs, SC 29316

*"Tuned to the town..."*



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## Summer Concert Series 2018 Converse College

**May 27**

Memorial Day Concert  
Blackman Patio

**June 3**

Summer Jazz Concert  
Blackman Patio

**June 10**

Wind Jammers  
Rainey Amphitheatre

**June 17**

Dad's Concert  
Blackman Patio

**June 24**

Summer Jazz  
Blackman Patio

**July 4**

Red, White and Boom Celebration  
Barnet Park

**Free Admission**  
**Starts at 7 PM**  
**Rain or Shine**

# Meet The Percussion Section

By: Joe Mullinax

Percussionists are, by definition, constantly multitasking, as they are challenged with playing many instruments and covering multiple parts. The Percussion section is filled with a variety of instruments, almost all of which are designed to be struck with a hand or a stick. It could be a triangle or a timpani. It might be a xylophone or a castanet or a gong. And then there are the accent instruments (which are a lot of fun to play) such as a bird whistle, cap gun, or slapstick. On any given piece of music, a percussionist may play one, two, three or seven instruments!

As diverse and unique as the instruments are, it is the people in the Percussion section who are the most interesting thing about the section.

**Breanna James** is just out of college and is school teacher. She told her father she was studying clarinet in high school, but was really playing in the percussion section. It was quite a shock for him at her first concert! She continued playing percussion in college and now covers a lot of the mallet parts for us.

**John Sinderman** is an owner of local technology company, Pivotal IT. He was in the percussion section at Spartanburg High School. He has played in many bands, gigging for the wedding reception to Music on Main, and is current member of the Symphony of Rutherford County. John is most often found behind the drum set or snare drum.

**Pat Dockendorf** is the band's oldest member at 91 and also our most awarded Senior Olympian (she's a swimmer). She didn't come to drums until fairly recently. She started accordion at the age of 8 and was in an all girl accordion band which auditioned for Major Bowes Amateur Hour. She played string bass in highschool and college. After moving to the area when she was in her 80's, she went to an outdoor concert at Furman and that after the show said, "I want to play the drums!" She took three years of timpani lessons and now plays with the Symphony of Rutherford County and us.

**Brenda Tanner** spends her days working for Spartanburg Medical Center as a collection specialist. She holds a music education degree from Limestone College, but didn't play from 1984 until 2017. She wanted to come play with the Community band, but was afraid. After a surgery, she said, "It's now or never!" Brenda can be found playing timpani (a new thing for her) or playing those fun accent instruments in the Percussion 2 parts.

**Joe Mullinax** (section leader) is the founder and CEO of a local marketing firm, MoreView Media. He has been playing in ensembles since he was 12. He grew up in the public school band & orchestra programs. He went on to march with the Carolina Gamecocks and perform with and Percussion Ensemble and the University Concert Band. While living in California he studied Latin & African percussion. He has performed with many of the orchestras and theaters in the area and is usually found beating on something with a stick.

SHOUT OUT: **Bobbi Albert** is a multi-instrumentalist. She plays piano, recorder, flute and sings. She has a degree in Music Education and a Masters in Music Theory. Trained a flutist since 2nd grade, she has spent many years in the Percussion section covering mallet parts and keeping the section organized. She has recently returned to flute section so as "not to lose the skills I spent 50 years developing!" Thanks, Bobbi, for all your hard work making the section better!