

Hagerstown Municipal Band

Winter Newsletter

Here's the latest from The HMB Board and Music Director Lynn Lerew:

First a big THANK YOU to everybody who participated in the Band and the HMB Big Band last summer. The level of individual commitment to the Band was remarkable last summer and it did not go unnoticed by Lynn and the Officers. It is outstanding players like you who help make and keep the Band a mainstay in the area music scene and all of us Officers and Board members commend every one of you hoping you will again demonstrate your commitment in the upcoming year.

Another big thanks goes to all of you who gave of your time and talent to play the Christmas concert at Clear Spring High School. Special thanks goes to Joel Guyton, The Clear Spring Blazer Band and the Clear spring High School Chorus for their participation in the evening's music. Thanks also to the school administration for their cooperation and assistance in making the concert a success.

The Board, Officers and Music Director have met several times since August. Here is an update on what has transpired.

- The Band is currently on a reasonably steady financial footing. We came out of our 2010 season within projected revenues and expenditures, this despite the possibility of a reduction in funding by the City of Hagerstown. However there is word of another round of cuts by the City this year, but nothing has been confirmed as of this writing. Officers have drawn up contingency plans should the Band's funding be reduced. At present there are no plans to reduce compensation or salaries. The Band's books will be turned over to John Winsko for an external audit in February.
- It was decided that guest soloists and conductors would henceforth be required to sign a contract. This was done to prevent misunderstanding and miscommunication between contractors and the Band. Not a big issue, to be sure, but it will eliminate the possibility of pay disputes. Soloists from within the band are exempt from this requirement.
- The question of a weather policy for excessive heat was discussed and discarded. The rain policy remains in effect.
- Another question concerning the duties of section leaders and their responsibility to monitor performance levels of players in their section was given a lot of consideration at the October meeting. A chain of command has been established for dealing with players who do not meet performance requirements and will be presented to the section leaders before the 2011 concert season begins.
- Those players who perform once with the Band will be loaned a shirt for the

performance and are required to return the shirt at the end of the performance. Those who do not return their shirt will not receive compensation for the concert. If you play two or more concerts, you will be required to “purchase” a shirt by forfeiting one week’s uniform maintenance. The HMB “player” shirts are not bought off a rack from a local vendor. The band makes the shirts available at less than cost to players who have committed to two or more concerts in a season. They are earned rather than sold. The fact that you own one is a mark of excellence on your part.

- Board members Paul Grane and Tim Gotwald have been preparing to issue a CD of the Band’s most popular overtures recorded live at our Sunday concerts. This has involved a lot of legwork getting permissions and filling other requirements in order to be able to legally sell the CDs. A limited initial printing should be available by our opening concert in June. The Band will be offering the CDs and official t-shirts in an effort to raise funds for our 100th Anniversary in 2014.

The 2011 Concert Season begins with rehearsal on June 6th, at 7:30 PM. and ends with the eleventh concert on Sunday, August 21st. There will be a twelfth concert by the HMB Big Band on August 28. Section leaders may want to start poling players soon for both the summer concerts and a paid concert on Sunday, December 18, 3:00 at the Capitol Theatre in Chambersburg plus a concert in Hagerstown, date (which will be later) and location to be announced. The Capitol Theatre engagement will be a major revenue raiser for the Band and strong participation by Band members is hoped for.

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