ITHACA COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND

STEWART PARK
JULY 4, 1976
4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

follow the crowd to
STEWART PARK
ITHACA CONCERT BAND

ITHACA CONCERT BAND

Four Decades of Music

ITHACA CONCERT BAND

ESCAPE with the WINDS

ITHACA CONCERT BAND PRESENTS:

A FATHER'S DAY CONCERT
JOIN THE ITHACA CONCERT BAND FOR A CONCERT OF HARMONY

FATHER'S DAY
2 PM Sunday, June 19
Knapp at Hewon

Celebrating 40 Years of Making Music

2016 SUMMER CONCERT SCHEDULE:
JUNE 1 - COUNTRY 7 PM at Mynderse Park
JUNE 21 - COMEDY 7 PM at the Commons
JULY 29 - POLISH 7 PM at the Commons
August 11 - LATIN 7 PM at the Commons

www.ithacacommunityband.org

ITHACA CONCERT BAND ON TOUR:
Join ICB for a concert playing music from across the globe!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
6 PM
Ithaca College, Stage and open to the public

THREE CONCERTS:

1. ITHACA CONCERT BAND PRESENTS:
IMAGINATION IN MUSIC

2. ITHACA CONCERT BAND PRESENTS:
Annual Adopt-a-Band Concert

3. ITHACA CONCERT BAND PRESENTS:
A FATHER'S DAY CONCERT

www.ithacacommunityband.org
A letter to our audience

The members of the Ithaca Concert Band are happy you are with us this evening to enjoy fine music and to celebrate our 40th year of free concerts.

To the right is a poster which started it all in 1976 — a call to musicians in the Ithaca area of all ages to play in a band.

The Band’s mission from the start has been twofold: to foster enjoyment for member-performers and their audience.

The poster to the right was answered by at least 50 people who decided to bring their cornets, flutes, and clarinets down from the attic and thereby re-ignite that thrill they remembered from being part of a mighty ensemble. Far too long before 1976, playing a musical instrument stopped upon graduation from high school or college. Interspersed in the pages ahead are the thoughts of current members on why exactly they are members.

The posters you see on the front and back covers were for concerts throughout our 40 years which re-ignited the complementary thrill of listening to live music played by a mighty ensemble.

Performers and audiences need another vital member to produce a superb sound: a conductor. The Ithaca Concert Band has been blessed over the last 40 years, and is still blessed thankfully to have incredible, accomplished conductors residing among us. The Band is honored that those who have conducted us, and are conducting us, have taken the time to write down remembrances of their times on the podium as well as giving us a taste of what our musical future holds. We are sure the reflections on the pages that follow will give you a sense of the greatness of this organization.

Performer, audience and conductor need one more participant to make live music happen: friends who give generously. In the pages that follow you will see the names of friends who provided financial support back in 1976 and those who are doing so now.

The Ithaca Concert Band has no paid overhead, no salaried executive management; never has. Your donation will go toward rehearsal room rent, timpani, sheet music, and a few other items that come in handy in making music. Please consider joining our list of supporters and keep us playing. Drop your check in the familiar donation drums at this concert or drop it in the mail at the address provided in the middle of this booklet.

As an added bonus this special year, your donation will also go toward the commission of a new piece of music, a new band piece composed expressly for the Ithaca Concert Band on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. We end this printed tribute to the Ithaca Concert Band with co-conductor Rick Elick giving us details on the composer chosen and timeline as we embark on our fifth decade.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to make music history, to make possible a new piece of music that will join the repertoire of all bands, community and school. Make a donation this summer and we will make sure that you get a special invitation to the new piece’s premier, and that you are recognized as a music producer and friend of the Ithaca Concert Band.

To all of us — performers, audience, conductors, donors — Happy 40th!

June 29, 2016
Ithaca, New York
PROGRAM - Community Concert Band --- for the Commons, June 24th

National Emblem - March - Bagley
Italian Folka - Rachmaninoff ... arr. Leidzen
Second Suite in F for Military Band - Holst
   I - March
   II - Song without Words "I'll Love my Love"
   III - Song of the Blacksmith
   IV - Fantasia on the "Dargason"
American Patrol - Meacham
Parade of the Wooden Soldiers - Jessel ... arr. Morrissey
Chorale Prelude on "Sleepers Wake" - Bach ... arr. Gordon
Athletic Festival March - Prokofiev
March, Opus 99
Funiculi, Funicula - Denza ... arr. Lang
Procession of the Sardar - Ippolitov -Ivanov ... arr. Eyman
Seventy-Six Trombones - Wilson ... arr. Lang
Sempre Fideis - Sousa

Music: Courtesy of Ithaca College Music Department
   Hickey's Music Store
   Ithaca High School

Music Folders compliments of Hickey's Music Store
Percussion Equipment courtesy of Ithaca College Music Depar
t   Groton Central School

Appreciation to Ithaca High School and Boynton Junior High
   rehearsal halls, and to the Ithaca Youth Bureau, Recreation

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First Concert
June 24, 1976
Program
Ithaca Journal review

Music
Community Concert
Band in Debut

Ithaca has an unusually fine local musical life, as recent for-
formations of the Finger Lakes Orchestra, Community Chorus,
and Community Concert Band show clearly. The band gave its
debut performance on the Commons Thursday in the early
evening. The brief concert included a variety of different
styles.

An open-air concert in pleasant surroundings by a capable
group is a very charming thing, and the delight of those who
sat, stood, or strolled through the concert — a good-sized
audience — was obvious. Conductor Joan Beeher (whose name
somehow missed getting on the program) did a fine job leading
the group through works ranging from serious concert music to
the jolliest sort of froth.

The band seemed at home in any style, playing with ac-
curacy, spirit, grace and musicality throughout. Beeher, with
fairly little rehearsal time, has done an excellent job at putting
together performances which are beautifully balanced,
musically and dramatically controlled, and deft in their hand-
ling of melody.

Band music, of course, is somewhat different from other
concert music. The mainstream of art music holds our attention
partly by playing with our expectations — that is, it
doesn't always do what we think it will. Band music, created
for a different purpose, is quite likely to do just what we think
it's going to do. But knowing what's coming can be a pleasant
feeling too, and perhaps is much better suited to an hour-long
open-air concert.

The more highfalutin' works of yesterday's concert — two
marches by Prokofiev, Holst's Second Suite in F for Military
Band — are interesting for the play between the serious com-
poser's concern with variety and surprise and their con-
sciousness of the conventions of band music. The Prokofiev
pieces are particularly successful in their fusion of conven-
tional march rhythms and melodic contours with startling
chromatic lurches from key to key. Also deserving mention is
the attractive arrangement of Bach's "Sleepers Wake", given
a fine performance.

The band did a terrific job on the traditional pieces —
National Emblem March, American Patrol — as well as the
various weights of light classic. They are a fine addition to
local music, and I look forward to hearing them again and
again. Congratulations to the band and conductor for a top-
notch job, and congratulations to Ithaca on being an extraor-
dinary healthy place for home-grown musical life.

Fred Maus
Mark Fonder on Ithaca's town bands and the founding of the Ithaca Concert Band

Forty years ago, in the summer of 1976, our country was celebrating its bicentennial, Jimmy Carter was president, and the Ithaca Concert Band began its first concert series. A community band in Ithaca was hardly a new phenomenon however. Ithaca, like many cities, boasted a long and thriving relationship with its band for a century before that.

In Post-Civil War America, town bands were a part of the social fabric of our country. Inspired by the professional touring bands of Patrick Gilmore and John Philip Sousa, it was common for a town of any size to sponsor a band, often by public subscription, and usually there was more than one.

The decade of the 1890s surely represented the peak of enthusiasm for the American community band. By 1889, over 10,000 bands existed in the United States. It was thought there were more bands than towns in Illinois! In Central New York in 1895, a virtuoso cornetist by the name of Patrick Conway was lured to Ithaca from Cortland to lead the Ithaca Band. Sponsored by a wealthy businessman, Ebenezer Treman, the Ithaca Band engaged local bandsman and soon augmented the band with professional musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia and Cleveland Orchestras during its summer seasons.

The Ithaca Band under Patrick Conway won contests and accolades across the country in its national tours and recorded over 250 sides on the Edison and Victor labels. Weekly concerts were held at Renwick (now Stewart) Park and throngs of people attended to the extent that the Ithaca Journal exclaimed that there were so many boats filled with attendees that one could traverse Cayuga Lake without getting one's feet wet.

During the heyday of community bands, two other bands, the Colored Band of Ithaca and Fisher's Band also performed summer concerts in Ithaca filling the warm summer nights with rousing marches and dulcet songs. Conway later started the Conway Military Band School in Ithaca. It affiliated with the Ithaca Conservatory and later became the Ithaca College School of Music. Into the Great Depression and World War II, the town band gradually lost its following nationally and many including Ithaca's fell victim to the popularity of the automobile, jazz, and radio.

Fast forward to 1976 and there was a revival of community bands nationally due in part to the patriotic fervor of the bicentennial. Joan Beeler, wife of Walter Beeler who was a member of Conway's original band, became the first leader of the new Ithaca Concert Band. The purpose of the band was to give area musicians the opportunity to perform together as an ensemble.

By 1977, Henry Neubert, an Ithaca College professor of music and veteran of the municipal bands of Allenstown, PA, took over leadership and led the band until the end of the century; an amazing 22 years.

Since the 2000 summer season, Elizabeth Peterson and Keith Kaiser, professors at the Ithaca College School of Music succeeded Henry and I replaced Keith Kaiser in 2011. In the summer of 2015, the band welcomed co-conductors Arthur Carichner and Richard (Rick) Eleck, Jr. to the podium.

The band plays many concerts throughout the year, both inside and outside, at locations around Tompkins County and sometimes farther away. In addition to the summer concerts, the band plays at fundraisers for charitable organizations, at more formal indoor concerts, and at local events such as picnics and carnivals.

The band is the community's band and the band's Board of Directors selects concert venues that allow us to be seen and heard by many different people at a variety of locations. So the mission of the Ithaca Concert Band continues and has added the important element of musical outreach to area public schools.

The Ithaca Concert Band is a popular group, drawing crowds in excess of 300 at its performances on the Ithaca Commons and DeWitt Park during the summer. The band is also popular with the area's musicians and has had over 500 people who have played with the band over the years. Believe it or not, we still have people in the band now who were there when it all began forty years ago.

Here's to a happy fortieth anniversary to us, and many, many more!

Mark Fonder
Appleton, Wisconsin

conductor 2011 - 2015
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca has a long tradition of enjoyment and support of music performed by our local community bands,

WHEREAS, Ithaca was the home of the word famous Petez Conway Band which not only performed music but also provided the public with an uplifting cultural education,

WHEREAS, today the Ithaca Concert Band carries on this rich band tradition, preserving a link with the past and a valuable cultural institution,

WHEREAS, the Ithaca Concert Band performs to enthusiastic and appreciative audiences at formal winter concerts as well as outdoor summer performances; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the musical heritage of this community the Ithaca Concert Band is hereby designated as The Official Band of the City of Ithaca.

Dated: September 7, 1988
Henry Neubert remembers his time leading the band

Congratulations to y’all on the celebration of 40 years entertaining the residents of and visitors to Tompkins County. It has been a fun ride. A special Thank You to ICB President Dave Wohlhueter for the invitation to join you for this celebration. I am sorry that I cannot be with you.

It was probably 1978, when I was supervising student teachers at Dryden Elementary School, that Carol Lewis, the instrumental music teacher in Dryden, asked me if I would like to conduct a rehearsal of a community band that was in its fledgling years in Ithaca. I agreed, and the rest, I suppose, is history. After the rehearsal, Camille Portzline, the band’s president, asked me if I would return the next week and perhaps prepare the band for a concert. For the next 22 years I returned each Tuesday night. We never had an agreement. No contract was ever offered or signed. No money was discussed. We just made music and had fun.

Soon we established our official name, the Ithaca Concert Band, to the chagrin of at least one Ithaca College faculty member who thought we were stealing the name made famous at the College during the “Beeler years”. We ignored that faculty member. We quickly started the Thursday night Commons Concerts, alternating weeks with a number of local musical organizations. We made yearly appearances at the Ithaca Festival on the vacant lot which eventually became Center Ithaca. We also appeared at Schoellkopf Field as a warm-up to the annual July 4 Fireworks. During one Ithaca Festival at Stewart Park we did a simulcast on WHCU during that year’s fireworks. It was during these years that we were proclaimed “The Official Band of the City of Ithaca.”

Our winter concerts were initially held at the State Theater. Later we moved to Ithaca High School. The move to Ithaca College was after my time. The band was invited to perform at several prestigious gatherings of musicians including the New York State School Band Directors Association in Syracuse, the Association of Concert Bands in Rochester and the New York State Music Association Summer Conference in Rochester.

Shirley and Chas Hockett were dedicated band members. Chas was in the band playing piccolo when I came on board and shortly after that Shirley learned to play clarinet and joined the band. For many years she sat in the last seat of the third clarinet section right next to Chas, who had switched to bass clarinet. Among their numerous philanthropic efforts, they funded my studio at Ithaca College, and the plaque by the door, which will be there in perpetuity, says “In honor of Professor Henry Neubert by Shirley and Chas Hockett.”

But more importantly, they co-wrote the fantastic “Small Plum” march with very clever lyrics which I had the honor and privilege of singing each summer, much to the chagrin of many concertgoers. Phil Krasicky did an incredible job with the orchestration of the march.

My best guess is that we rehearsed about 40 Tuesdays each year. A 6 PM nap for me and I was ready to go at 7:30. Occasionally I left my sons’ baseball games and conducted the rehearsal in my coach’s uniform.

Many wonderful people made my years with the band so enjoyable. Fred Muhlsteff was a great President. John Greenley, Barry Hughes and Phil Krasicky held up the front of the band while Jim Lowe and Jeff Magacs had the lower brass covered. Liz Eleck and Jeff Abbott led the French horns. Marice Stith, Alan Tubbs and Steve Codner were three of our fine trumpet leaders. Steve Codner was also our very capable Assistant Conductor who always took the last Commons concert each summer in order that I could get away to Hilton Head with my family. Our percussion section was anchored by Herb Pizik and Steve Hand while Steve Magacs carried the tympani responsibilities.

I believe that at least four marriages occurred between band members. The kindness shown to my family by Jean and Doug Payne by inviting us each year to cut a Christmas tree from their property was greatly appreciated. Doug always had these words of advice, “Remember, it grows three times: when you cut it, when you put it on your car and when you bring it into the house.” Our tree was always bigger when we got it home.

Before I left the band I wanted to be certain that the right person or persons would succeed me. I discussed the band at length with Beth Peterson and Keith Kaiser and they agreed to share the responsibilities of the band going forward. They were the perfect pair to move the band to the next level. Of course, Mark Fonder was also a fantastic choice to take the band during his time.

Now you are in a new era with Rick Eleck and Art Carichner. I wish them all the success and fun that I had during my 22 years. God bless you all and thank you for some of my happiest memories from a very happy career.

Henry Neubert
conductor 1977 - 1999
Sun City Hilton Head, South Carolina
ITHACA CONCERT BAND
Arthur Carichner, conductor

music to be selected from the repertoire

Clarinet Candy          Leroy Anderson
Three Celtic Dances     Brian Balmages
Suite of Old American Dances Robert Russell Bennett
Fiddler on the Roof     Jerry Bock
Old American Songs      Aaron Copland
Honey Boys on Parade    Edward Cupero
Shoutin' Liza Trombone  Henry Fillmore
Strike up the Band      George Gershwin
On the Commons          Chas Hockett
Small Plum              Chas and Shirley Hockett
Dean Dowdy              Cecil Karrick
Barnum and Bailey's Favorite Karl L. King
new work                Phil Krasicky
American Riversongs     Pierre LaPlanta
Big Band Polka          Jerry Nowak, arr.
Waltz No. 2             Dimitri Shostakovich
Hail to the Spirit of Liberty John Philip Sousa
Stars and Stripes Forever John Philip Sousa
Sea Songs               Ralph Vaughn Williams
Selections from Star Wars John Williams

COMMUNITY ARTS PARTNERSHIP

These concerts are made possible in part with funds from the Decentralization Grant, a grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York Legislature and administered by the Community Arts Partnership of Tompkins County.

40th Anniversary
Concert Series
Summer 2016
evenings at 7

July 7
Dewitt Park
308 North Cayuga Street

July 21
The Horizons
Horizon Drive

July 28
Dewitt Park
with Ithaca Community Chorus
also celebrating their 40th Anniversary

August 3
Danby Federated Church
1859 Danby Road/Route 96b

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right now!
with your smartphone scan

for information please visit ithacaconcertband.org and ithacaevents.com

Please join our list of supporters and keep us playing into our fifth decade

We have five levels of sponsorship

Friend $25-$99  Donor $100-$199  Benefactor $200-$499  Patron $500-$999  Podium Club $1000 +

Send your contribution to:
Ithaca Concert Band, Inc.  P.O. Box 902  Ithaca, NY 14851

Or easier yet, drop your donation in either drum up front to the right and left of the conductor
ITHACA CONCERT BAND

Arthur Carichner, co-conductor
Richard Eleck, co-conductor

Flute/Piccolo
Phil Krasicky

Flute
Kelly Craft *
Barry Hughes *
Rick Johnson
Nan Pasquarrello
Kristina Shanton
Sarah Tarrow
Brandon Wenning

Oboe
Keeley MacNell
Nancy Stenson
Ann-Marie Thayer
Ada Mueller

Eb/Bb Clarinet
Joanne Peters

Clarinet
Jim Bailey
Margaret Bracewell
Kathy Burlitch *

Susan Cook
Karen Cushman
Sean Denninger
Kathy Dimitruk *
John Greenly *
Susan Hurwitz
Mary Lucas
Kathleen Pasetty
Sandy Podulka
Wendy Shokal
Jenny Strickland
Suan Yong

Bass Clarinet
Cinnamon Mitten
Brian Richardson

Contrabass Clarinet
Jen Cook

Bassoon
Pamela Hayes
Julia Morris
Stephanie Roach

Alto Saxophone
Jacklyn Calady
Barry Peters

Bill Cushman
Isaia Horvatt
Katie Silverstein

Brian Koopman
Julie Waters *

Lisa Payne *
Elizabeth Bogel Ryan

Erika St Denis

French Horn
Liz Eley
Maureen Preston

Elizabeth Fuller *
Jim Singleton

Jenny Strickland
Kathleen Pasgetti

Julie Kohn
Vanessa Kern
Julie Waters *

Dave Wohlhuter *

Tenor Saxophone
Sue Silvan

Trumpet
Vince Aiota
Mark Arand

Connor Bennett
John Bracey

Eric James
Jim Lowe *

Michelle Hulke
Jody Norton

Baritone Saxophone
Beth Brunelle
Art Ostrander

Aleta Tessaglia-Hynes
Marilyn Nates

Trombone
Steve Magacs ^

Vince Aiota
Mark Arand

Connor Bennett
John Bracey

Eric James
Jim Lowe *

Michelle Hulke
Jody Norton

Ralph Jones
Nancy Krock & Anita Brenner
Ralph Jones
Jack & Janet Lowe
Jack & Janet Lowe
Steve Magacs
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Grace McMenamin
Linda Minkula
Peter Miller
Robert & June Nafis
Lucinda Nobel
Bill & Joyce Paleen
Rudy & Callista Paolangeli
Pasquarrello family
Patricia Phelps
William & Lisa Payne
Bonnie & Milo Richmond
Bud Rosevear
Beverly Schaeffer
Nancy Siemco
Mary Smith
Jim & Wanda Stouffer
Robert & Linda Syracuse
Herbert & Barbara Thomas
Marty Waters
Ben Williams
Anonymous

The Ithaca Concert Band is a non-profit volunteer organization whose members share a common interest - making music. The band is made up of adults from all walks of life. Some of the representative professions are: physicist, social worker, teacher, machinist, chiropractor, ornithologist, engineer, carpenter, homemaker, veterinarian, credit analyst, graphic artist, and accountant.

Thank you to our Supporters

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Arthur Carichner
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Hand
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Beverly Schaeffer
Nancy Siemco
Mary Smith
Jim & Wanda Stouffer
Robert & Linda Syracuse
Herbert & Barbara Thomas
Marty Waters
Ben Williams
Anonymous
MEMBERS OF THE BAND
Terry Davis, Personnel Manager
Ann Reynolds, Business Manager

PICCOLO
Burnett, Aaron
Hackett, Chas

FLUTE
LaBarbara, Sheri
Martin, Jean
Payne, Jean
Portzline, Camille*
Schwarting, Ann
Smithline, Harriet
Wilke, Pat
Wilkin, Sandy

Bb CLARINET
Beeler, Susan
Cohn, Laura
Conrad, Laurie*
Earle, Brian
Hibbard, Beth
Hotchkiss, Chuck
Hudson, Jack
Kneedler, Joan
Little, Margaret
Payne, Doug
Rogers, Tom
Snodderly, Dan
Struve, Gary

BASS CLARINET
Hibbard, Kate

EB ALTO SAXOPHONE
Davis, Terry*
Rolins, Sharon
Wilkin, Connie

TENOR SAXOPHONE
Putney, Jim

BARITONE SAXOPHONE
Kimball, Dan

BASSOON
Davis, Sally
Luppescu, Stuart

CORNET AND TRUMPET
Bryant, Nelson
Flight, Dick
Ginet, Carl
Olsefski, Stan
Phelan, Richard
Sack, Kevin
Stamboni, Joe*
Tyner, Jean

FRENCH HORN
Evans, Juanita*
Kirkwood, Patricia
McLallen, Margaret
Miller, Scott
Tyrell, Kathy

TROMBONE
Allaben, Chuck*
Hardy, Ernie
Lumbard, Miles
Lummuka, Daniel

BARITONE
Dik, David
Long, Bruce

TUBA
Ploss, Robin
Reed, Kirk

STRING BASS
Guzzetta, Sally

PERCUSSION
Hand, Steve
Wilkin, Harvey*
Zizzy, Jaime

*section leader

First Annual Holiday Concert
December 2, 1976
Members and Friends

We wish to express appreciation and thanks to the following:
Ithaca College Music Department, and Debbie Violet, Music Librarian
William Berinstein, for use of the State Theater
Boynton and Dewitt Junior High Schools, for rehearsal space and equipment use
Hickey Music Store
Groton Central School
Central Music Supply, Syracuse
Charlie Chalfeld
Frank Feocco

The Ithaca Youth Bureau, sponsor

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Mrs. Allan H. Treman
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Dr. and Mrs. Leo Wuori
Mrs. Edward Wittke

and to the following musicians who graciously agreed to perform with us for this concert:

George Carvell — trombone
Barbarn Irish — harp
Carol Lewis — french horn

Joe McConnell — trumpet
Joe Prevost — trombone
Richard Weiss — trombone

program courtesy of Arnold Printing Corporation
A few fond memories from Beth Peterson

The first involves Shirley Hockett.

Shirley Hockett (the Hockett Recital Hall at IC is named after her) was a dear, sweet clarinetist who always happily sat in the last chair of the clarinet section of the ICB. She was a major donor to Ithaca College and someone I knew to be extremely supportive of music education, the bands at Ithaca College, and me!

While I didn’t feel pressure to have Shirley in the section, I was aware of her presence and I really wanted her to have a positive experience. She, too, wanted to have a positive experience and would sometimes tell me how certain pieces were ‘too hard’ or ‘just right’ or ‘so fun to play.’

We were performing a concert at IC in Ford Hall and the concert ended with the National Emblem March - a march that does not have the traditional ‘stinger’ at the end. We got to the end of the concert and I think right before we played National Emblem I turned to the band and quietly reminded the group that ‘there is NO stinger’... The band played the march beautifully and I was sure to VERY clearly give the release for the final note - with absolutely no conducting gesture to indicate a ‘stinger.’

Well, Shirley loudly - and proudly - played the stinger. She didn’t do it on purpose - she just made a mistake - but an obvious one. Everyone knew it and everyone heard it. I had one of those conductor ‘three second moments’ when I thought, “what do I do now” so I went for it!

I took the microphone and introduced Shirley as our clarinet soloist on the last note. She stood up and took a little bow. Everyone laughed and I thought, phew, that was risky, but due to Shirley’s good humor and wonderful spirit, it was a great community band moment!

Other memories include:

- Conducting the ‘Music Man’ on the Commons from a 3rd trombone part because suddenly the score was missing.
- Watching Colonel Arnald Gabriel rehearse the band without any scores and observing how quickly he moved between sections and pieces. His pacing was amazing and the band followed!
- Dodging rain on the Commons - watching the woodwind players pack it up quickly as the rain came down.
- Children dancing - a little too energetically during my first concert - a ‘Children’s theme’ concert in the IHS auditorium.
- Children conducting the Stars and Stripes Forever at various concerts on the Commons and in Ford Hall.
- Playing trumpet in the section when Henry Neubert was the conductor.
- Wonderfully supportive audiences and amazing community band musicians who were (and are) so dedicated to music, each other, community and the arts.

I miss you all. Thanks for asking me to contribute.

Elizabeth B. Peterson  conductor 2000 - 2015
Associate Director of Bands
Clinical Professor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

I have played in bands continuously, starting in the 4th grade. I was worried that after I graduated from IC, I wouldn’t have an opportunity. I heard about ICB, and was delighted to walk into my first rehearsal to find Beth Peterson, who conducted the non-majors band at IC, on the podium! It’s been a fantastic experience that I hope to continue for a long time.

David Syracuse, percussion
Keith Kaiser reflects and recollects

On the 40th Anniversary of the Ithaca Concert Band, I am honored to provide some reflections and recollections. I am very proud of my association with this ensemble and with the many outstanding musicians and individuals who, over many years, have been a part of such a tremendous musical organization.

Interestingly, my start with this ensemble came as a member playing in the saxophone section. While I have always taken an active role in community music, just getting settled into Ithaca and my new job at Ithaca College, I probably wouldn’t have jumped in so quickly during my first months in Ithaca...........except..............being new to collegiate teaching..............I knew it wise to always do one’s best to keep senior faculty members on your good side. “That’s right,” when Henry Neubert, long-time and very successful conductor of ICB, said he needed a baritone sax player and wanted to know if I would do it, I said “of course.”

In the end, I am very grateful that he asked as it began, what has been, many years of a terrific relationship with this ensemble and its many wonderful members. I have no doubt that I would still be involved directly and in significant ways if it were not for increasing responsibilities at Ithaca College and if it were not for the three incredible children with whom I have been blessed. Someday, I hope to return to active participation with ICB.

I have so many great memories and feelings about ICB that I could write for days, so let me just share a few.

Most significantly, I want to start by stating that ICB is not the typical community “band.” While it is so much more, it certainly reflects all that is so fantastic about community ensembles:
1) the opportunity for people from all walks of life to get together to make music;
2) the opportunity for individuals to keep making music later in their lives; and
3) the opportunity for friendships, difference-making, and enriching one’s community.

That said, it is a music ensemble that has always been a notch (or several) above what one would often find in the traditional community band. I think the reasons for that are noteworthy in and of themselves and include the impact of: a core group of very committed members (many who have been with the ensemble since it was first founded), a community that is very supportive of the arts, a long history of diverse and outstanding music in the area townships and educational institutions, and a strong and committed collaboration with the area public schools and colleges. It is truly extraordinary.

My strongest memories surround the “people” of ICB. To this day, I remain in awe of their kindness, of their passion, of their commitment, and of their tremendous musicianship. This is certainly a group of individuals highly committed to each other and to the gift of music.

Unless a person is directly involved, they likely do not know the time and the commitment it takes for an ensemble like this to function. And, ICB doesn’t just function, it thrives. Credit for that must be given to the dozens (and perhaps, hundreds) of individuals who, over the years have driven moving trucks, have served in leadership, have built podiums, have organized music, have set-up for rehearsals, have secured performance opportunities, have overseen public relations, have managed budgets, and SO much more.

In addition, unless one has a broad and extensive background, they are not likely to understand how unusual it is for a community ensemble to play the type and difficulty of music ICB plays – especially at such a very high level and with very limited rehearsal time in preparation for such an extensive performance schedule. It is truly exceptional. I have always been struck by how capably this ensemble plays not only the traditional fare of marches, medleys, and standard literature but also by how skillfully and willingly they play the non-traditional, the contemporary, and the most challenging of literature from an incredibly diverse spectrum of styles and genres – music literature like Frank Ticheli’s Blue Shades, Dana Wilson’s Sang, Puccini’s La Tragedia, Cherry Poppin’ Daddies’ Zoot Suit Riot, our own commissioned piece by Gregory Rodgers – intrada, chorale, and bagatelle, and more.

Not knowing where to even begin, I would like to share some more specific poignant memories with the caveat that there are soooooooo many more. My time and relationship with ICB has been life changing and something I will forever cherish.

But, here are a few:

• I cherish fond memories of playing on the commons with audience members clapping, smiling, singing, and humming along, with children dancing enthusiastically, and with children and adults coming forward to conduct the ensemble – always a treat for all involved.

• I can’t even begin to recall all of the countless performances during which I was honored to conduct ICB, but what I do remember is how wonderfully the ensemble consistently played. These performances were always very well received by the audiences and most often ended in enthusiastic applause and standing ovations.

• I always enjoyed playing the arrangements and original works by members of ICB, like Phil Krasicky, Chas Hockett, Greg Rodgers, John Bracewell, Marice Stith and others.
• I remain in tremendous awe of the ensemble’s performances at major musical events like the New York State School Music Association Convention and the New York State Band Directors Convention. As an example, I have vivid memories of our concert at the NYSBDA convention featuring John Greenly, clarinet, on a “rip-roaring” big band tune. The ensemble and John played it lights out, and the audience erupted in a thunderous ovation followed by numerous comments about how this ensemble and soloist far exceeded what audience members were accustomed to experiencing by community bands.

I think it fair to say that the Ithaca Concert Band rightfully calls itself Concert Band instead of Community Band.

• I made many dear friends during my time with ICB, including Beth Evans with whom I still stay in touch. She and I still laugh about the first time that Henry invited me to the podium to conduct a piece. Beth tells of how surprised she was to find out that “this quiet, kind, young, baritone saxophone” player was actually a conductor and on the faculty at Ithaca College. One day Beth said she heard a piece on the radio that made her heart dance - by “some guy named von Suppe” - when we narrowed it down to being Light Cavalry Overture, I told her ICB would play it. We did. And, she loved it.

• I am touched to see that the “Adopt-a-Band” program that we started is still alive and well. I can only imagine the number of public schools students’ lives who have been bettered by the opportunity to sit side-by-side in a concert with older musicians and lifelong participants in our art. In particular, I am confident that your efforts are resulting in many more young adults continuing their pursuits of music.

• I always enjoyed our concerts during which we honored members of the community. In particular, I recall the happiness and honor you brought many individuals, including during our “Teacher Appreciation” concert, during our “Tribute to Ithaca” concert, and during our “Heroes of Ithaca” concert – in which we honored those who serve our community, including: law enforcement, medical personnel, fire responders, and community volunteers.

• I continue to be grounded in the lessons of humanity that I learned from being a part of this ensemble. Those lessons came back in a general form regarding the members’ dedication and character; but, they also came from very specific happenings:

• Like watching more experienced players welcome and patiently work with less experienced players.

• Like observing a trumpet section assist a long time member who had significant hearing loss navigate rehearsals and performances.

• Like knowing that Shirley Hackett learned clarinet, in part, so she could sit next to her husband Chas as he played bass clarinet, and

• Like seeing the ensemble members surround other members during their time of need, including my own family when my wife spent three months in a hospital 100 miles away prior to the birth of our twins, Christopher and Meghan.

• Likewise, I remember, vividly, the ensemble always welcoming my son, Andrew, with open arms, making him feel a part of the group and even inviting him to conduct on occasion.

In closing, I say thank you. Thank you to the Ithaca Concert Band, thank you to its members, and thank you to everyone who has been a part of its wonderful and esteemed history.

Congratulations on 40 years, on changing lives, and on leaving thousands and thousands of people enriched and whistling your tunes while they smile from ear to ear and tap their toes in enthusiastic response to your terrific music. Music is a cultural and communal art with the ability to transform individuals and communities, and in that respect, the Ithaca Concert Band very much embodies the power, wonder, and exquisiteness of the blessing we call “music.”

You’ll never know the number of lives you have changed and deepened, but let my family and me be an illustration of your extraordinary contributions to humanity. I hope time will allow me to return to active participation in ICB – bringing my children to play along and learn from all of you, including the importance of community and lifelong learning and music participation.

Wishing the Ithaca Concert Band many more years of success and joy.

Keith Kaiser conductor 2000 – 2011
Professor of Music Education, Ithaca College
Taking the Ithaca Concert Band into the Fifth Decade

I am very honored to be co-conductor of the Ithaca Concert Band. The members are so welcoming and a pleasure to work with throughout the concert season.

Especially honoring is the fact that I'm following Dr. Mark Fonder and Dr. Elizabeth Peterson, who were both my teachers.

It's my goal to continue the excellence and venture into new journeys, sharing concerts, commissioning new works, and guest performers.

I look forward to the next decade with exciting new music and great concerts.

**Arthur Carichner, conductor 2015**

I am thrilled by the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the fine conductors who have led this band through the past forty years.

To help commemorate our 40th anniversary, we have commissioned a new composition for the band. Mr. Tom Davis, an Ithaca College alum and retired educator has agreed to compose a piece for the band which will be premiered in the spring of 2017. We will be working closely with the composer over the course of the next several months to bring his ideas to life.

**Richard Eleck, conductor 2015**

*For me, ICB was a way back into music performance after a hiatus that lasted nearly forty years. I'd arranged, composed, and directed, but I had not played and I missed it. I decided, in retirement, to get my chops back. ICB was my way back to the trombone. John Bracewell, trombone*

*Since my school doesn't have a typical HS concert band (they have a rock band), I love having the opportunity to continue to play classically with a large group of people who love music as much as I do. There are some songs that I really get into and I love being able to have fun and enjoy the music that we play. Aleta Tessaglia-Hymes, saxophone*

*I'm among that small group of people who both played in ICB and also conducted the group. I've always believed that one of the most civilizing things that people can do is play music together. So the meaning for me comes in the realization that our community is "note-worthy." Mark Fonder, trombone and conductor*

*To me ICB is a place to get away from my daily work life and enjoy music with others. Our section has a strong bond, and we all look out for each other. We are here to help one another and do not criticize which makes me feel very comfortable. Julie Kohn, trumpet*

*It is a great joy to play with the Ithaca Concert Band! I joined this fine group of musicians this past year and I am grateful to be tapped back into lifelong music fun! Nanette Pasquarello, flute*

*The ICB gives me a chance to continue playing my clarinet that I started back in 7th grade. I find that learning pieces and rehearsing really helps me keep my brain active. I also enjoy getting to know new people in the band. Kathy Burlitch, clarinet*

*I remember when the band used to be an integral part of the summer Ithaca Commons concert series. It was especially fun when children were invited to conduct along to the music. Sometimes those passing by would even pause for a few minutes to hear us play. Lisa Payne, saxophone*

*I have played in the Ithaca Concert Band for twenty years. It is an excellent ensemble full of dedicated local musicians who enrich their creative lives by participating in our weekly rehearsals and performing in our concerts throughout the year. The discipline that commitment requires is time and energy we all gladly invest into the group. And striving to play our instruments better and better as the weeks roll by, is something we all share as a goal and a challenge. We support and encourage each other in that pursuit. Our conductors are top notch and we play a lot of challenging and inspiring music. Being in the ICB is a very exhilarating and fulfilling chance to share good music with a great group of people. Band nerds are the best!! Marty Waters, euphonium*
Ithaca Concert Band Members:

As your president, I am extremely proud to be associated with such a wonderful, professional musical group. The rich history of this organization is the result of so many dedicated people who have much fun making music. I am sure that it certainly pleases your music teachers that you are still making music!

Forty years is a long time to continue such excellence, and of course, this has not happened by chance. The Ithaca Concert Band is so fortunate that it has been able to enrich its talents through the fantastic conductors that continue to lead us to excellence. I would also like to thank the ICB Board members and various committees over the years for all of their efforts to make sure that we remain such a vibrant group. Volunteers are so important to successful organizations.

A special salute to Jim Lowe, who joined the band in its inception and is our longest playing member. He has been a leader and dedicated musician.

Special thanks to Steve Magacs and Lisa Payne for putting together this history-making publication. It demonstrates why we are the best.

There is a reason why ICB has been proclaimed “The Official Band of the City of Ithaca.” To quote former conductor, Keith Kaiser, “ICB is not your typical community band.” It is much more than that because of you!

Thank you all for your involvement in making the Ithaca Concert Band such a prized organization; just another reason to live in the Ithaca, NY area.

Here’s to another 40+ years of community music making!

Dave Wohlhueter
President, Ithaca Concert Band
August 2016