



February 2000

Downbeat Times

Dean's column

by Dean Streator

When Bill and Suzie Prunty were with CBS they took care of all kinds of important non-musical issues that bands have to deal with. They distributed, collected, sorted, and filed music; called people; planned social events; hauled the music to performances; checked attendance; kept the membership records up to date; managed our finances; fixed things that needed to be fixed; made the women's bows; and generally helped the band through rehearsals and performances by answering questions and assisting players and directors. Bill and Suzie were valuable contributors from the time that Jim and I first thought about forming CBS.

When they moved back to Morgantown, West Virginia, to be near their son and the area where they grew up, we opted to spread out those duties among CBS members and directors. **John Small** (trumpet) does our banking, **Peggy Watson** (clarinet) sorts and files the music, **Frank Aravich** (trumpet) hauls the music, I keep attendance records. But most of the other duties are left unattended.

We need another person or couple to pick up where the Pruntys left off. Bill and Suzie were ideal because Bill, a non-player, had the freedom to take care of things during rehearsal and Suzie, alto sax player, understood what the players' needs and attitudes were. It is obvious that we need to find one or two people to help us get back on track and be the efficient organization we should be. Do you know someone who could help? Would you be willing? Please talk to Jim or me about helping.

How do you fix a broken tuba?

With a "tuba glue".



Beth and Jerry share more than a music stand.

Two tubists together

Beth Yawger and Jerry O'Connor share more than you might think. They own a business together and they are husband and wife. Their business, Summit 3D, provides virtual reality and 3D animation software. Together they work to keep Dean's computer operational. (Jerry says this why Dean never picks on the tuba section.)

Jerry says Beth joined the band because she felt that she needed a break from him after working together all week long, but somehow she ended up in the tuba section right beside him.

Beth designed the CBS logo you see on this newsletter. She also designed the CBS sign and brings it to concerts. She has a Bachelor of Architecture from Penn State. While in high school and college, she played flute and piccolo in the Hackettstown Community Band in New Jersey.

Beth started with CBS in 1995 playing flute and piccolo. She switched to tuba two years later.

Jerry graduated from Penn State with a BFA in theatre lighting and scenic design. He also studied classical guitar at Penn State. His hobbies include dirt biking.

How did he move from guitar to tuba? "I used to fill in for Bill Prunty (former band manager) when he went to Florida for the winters. Dean was trying to get me to join the band but, needless to say, he didn't have any parts for a classical guitarist. Dean would occasionally try to talk me into learning one instrument or another, but I would always have an excuse. One day he said, 'Why don't you play tuba?' Figuring I would never be caught, I replied, 'I'd love to, but I don't have a tuba.' Dean quickly replied, 'But I do!' And the rest, as they say, is history."

What's a "tuba for"?

1 1/2" by 3 1/2", unless you request a "full cut".

Concert schedule

(downbeat time)

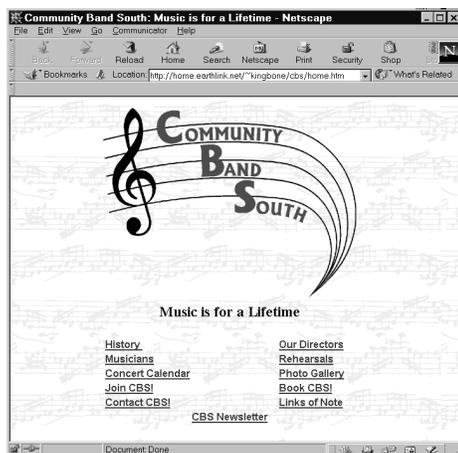
Monday, March 6 (8:00) California University joint concert in California

Monday, May 22 (7:45) Friendship Village in Upper St. Clair

Sunday, June 11 (6:30) Wallace Presbyterian Church in Green Tree

Monday, July 24 (7:30) Peters Creek Historical Society in Venetia

CBS website



Home page for the CBS website

Thanks to **Dave Molter** (trombone), our band now has a website. Shown above is the home page. Other pages have information about our rehearsals, history, concert dates, how to contact us, names of all members, back issues of our newsletter, and miscellaneous photos. There are also links to other websites of interest to band members.

Dave had help and encouragement from **Gene Palowitch** (tenor sax), **Beth Yawger** (tuba), **Jerry O'Connor** (tuba), **Janis Ramey** (euphonium), **Dean Streator** (arm waving), and **Barb Kolb** (horn).

Our site is part of Three Rivers Free Net and shows up under their list of community groups. This is a free service for non-profit organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania. It is funded through the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

You may see our site at any public library in the area as well as on the world wide web. The CBS web address is <http://trfn.clpgh.org/cbs>.

Our webmaster

Dave grew up in New Brighton, PA and attended Geneva College and University of Pittsburgh as an English major. He worked as a professional bass rock player and also in music and book stores. In 1998, he went out on a limb and changed careers to writing. He started at the Washington, PA, Observer-Reporter and moved to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review where he managed their PittsburghLIVE website. He is now at the Society of Automotive Engineers as an editor/writer. He's a self-taught web designer.

Says Dave, "Stupidest decision: stopping trombone lessons when I was 15. Smartest decision (other than marrying Amy): starting to take lessons again at age 50." Dave began playing trombone again after his then-9-year-old son, Steve, began to take lessons. Finding that he still enjoyed the instrument and seeking to play with an ensemble, Dave found Dean Streator's name on the Internet and joined CBS. Dave also plays trombone with the Allegheny Brass Band.



Webmaster Dave Molter and his son Steve

Member biographies needed

One of the website pages contains band members' names listed by instrument section. We'd like to add biographical information for each member. If you'd like to be included, please give Dave either a link to a webpage you have created yourself or give him the text you'd like to have published. Dave Molter has put his biography up as an example.

Welcome Meg and Andy

Our new bell player is **Meg Havran**, a former student of Dean's from Bethel Park. Meg works at Pitt and is the Managing Editor of "Boundary 2", an international journal of literary and cultural criticism. She was an English Literature and German major at Pitt and has a German Certificate in Professional Language. Her dog pal is Melanie.

Our new tenor sax player is **Andy Kosmack**, a painting contractor with a business on the North Side.

Historical Society Concert

Peters Creek Historical Society in Venetia has booked us for a concert Monday, July 24 at 7:30. We will play in the yard behind the Society's Wright House. This house was built in 1815 and the rooms have been restored and furnished with period furniture. The concert will be part of a picnic open to band members and the public. **Gene Palowitch** (tenor sax) set up this concert for us.

JCC concert postponed

The Jewish Community Center has decided to postpone our appearance there until the fall so they can combine the band program with an outdoor barbecue. The date has not yet been set.

Mellow duo

Barbara Parker (trumpet) and **Janis Ramey** (euphonium) have developed seasonal programs they present at nursing homes. Barbara plays her flugelhorn for these events because its mellower sound better matches the euphonium.

They are currently presenting a Valentine's Day theme program (love songs). Other programs feature Christmas music, patriotic songs for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, and a hymnsing. The programs are mostly sing-alongs to keep the audience engaged. Barbara even takes along her dog for the residents to enjoy. If you know of a nursing home that would like such a program, contact either Barbara or Janis.

Community Band South

Founded 1987

Phone: (412) 833-6110

Fax: (412) 833-0670

E-mail: deanstreator@worldnet.att.net

webpage: <http://trfn.clpgh.org/cbs>

Directors:

Dean Streator and Jim Bennett

Rehearsals:

Mondays 7:30-9:30 pm
Upper St. Clair High School

Newsletter: Janis Ramey

(412) 833-5548 Fax: (412) 833-2844

E-mail: ramey@telerama.com

Webmaster: Dave Molter

kingbone@earthlink.net