



Downbeat Times

Fall 2000

Dean's column

by Dean Streator

Actually I find it amazing that our band music is available for playing most of the time at rehearsals and concerts.

When CBS was first began, no original music was permitted to leave the rehearsal room. If a member wished to take parts home to practice copies were made. We have relaxed that procedure with the understanding that all music must be returned for every rehearsal and program. On those rare occasions when parts were not available, serious problems were created.

It is extremely important that every folder be present at every band session. Players who take music out must arrange to have it returned. If an absence is unavoidable, call a fellow player, a manager, or director.

There are copyright laws, but reproductions can be made for education and practice. Many players take it upon themselves to make copies. This guarantees that the original music is in the proper folder all the times.

Concert schedule (downbeat time)

Monday, December 11, (7:30)
Parkway Center Mall, Greentree

Monday, December 18 (7:30) The
Galeria, Mt. Lebanon

Monday, February 12 (7:30) Bethel
Park Independence Middle School

Tuesday, March 13 (7:30) Assembly
of God Church, Bethel Park

Monday, July 23 (7:30) Peters Creek
Historical Society, Venetia

Monday, August 6 (7:30) Cranmore at
Donaldsons Crossroads

Peggy Watson loves musical instruments

Peggy Watson, charter member of the band, was one of the people who dusted off an old instrument when she heard about CBS. She had to start over from the beginning, with a fingering chart. After two years of struggling with the music she asked **Patty Grden** (clarinet) for private lessons. Patty has also taught her flute and sax as well as the rudiments of oboe and all the brass instruments.

Since learning to play flute, she has joined the City Flutes flute choir at Duquesne University where she plays C flute and alto flute. She also volunteers with the Washington Corps Salvation Army. She started by volunteering as a kettle musician at Christmas. When she saw a group of musicians playing at Station Square, she thought it was a great alternative to the bell-ringing and called her local corps and volunteered to play flute. She soon expanded her involvement to teaching

young musicians and playing other instruments.

So, she plays clarinet, Bb contrabass clarinet, flute, alto flute, alto sax, tenor sax, and enough baritone and piano to get by teaching beginners.

Most of her pre-CBS experience was in choral singing — sacred music choir in college (Marquette Univ.), baroque vocal ensemble in grad school (Library Science, Case Western Reserve Univ.), and St. Paul's Cathedral Choir (Pittsburgh). Although she played in her high school band (Mt. Lebanon), she never really intended to go back to instrumental music — until she saw the ad for CBS.

She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in library science. She has worked in the Carnegie Library system in Pittsburgh and at the Canonsburg library and a variety of temporary jobs in all kinds of fields, apple packer, office temp, waitress and several more. She lives in Chartiers Township, Washington County with her husband Jim, a self-employed structural engineer. Her brother is **Jim Hewitt**, who plays percussion in CBS.

Peggy's instrument loan program

Peggy enjoys browsing in secondhand stores, and since she is interested in music, she sometimes buys used instruments. It was fun at first, but then her closet got full. So she started spreading the word that she had instruments to loan to local band directors and friends.

She now has about twenty instruments being played around the Pittsburgh area. And she has (a lot!) more instruments waiting to be loaned out. It is a free loan, She has the student and the parent sign a "contract" promising to take care of the instrument, use it to take music lessons or play in a band, and return it when they are no longer using it.



photo by strang

Peggy and her Bb contrabass clarinet

Don West and SPEBSQSA



When he's not playing trombone with CBS, Don West (front, center) sings with the Pittsburgh South Chapter SPEBSQSA—Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. This photo was taken during their annual show at Upper St. Clair auditorium.

The group has about 30 singers and is looking for more. Rehearsals are Tuesday nights at Hamilton Presbyterian Church.

Free Sheet Music

My Sheet Music is one of several websites that offer free sheet music. Find what you like and print it immediately. They also offer music for a fee. They assure us that the free music is in the public domain. The address is: www.mysheetmusic.com.

Thanks to **Rob MacLachlan** (trumpet) for this suggestion.

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

Managers:

Linda and Jim McCalmont
(412) 854-3699

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@technical-writing.net

Webmaster: Dave Molter
kingbone@earthlink.net

Bethel Park Middle School Concert

One of our goals as a community band is to show kids that there are opportunities to play their instruments well after school days. With this goal in mind, we have performed at Keystone Oaks, Finleyville, South Fayette, Upper St. Clair, Bethel Park, Carlynton, California.

On Monday, February 12, 2001 we will share the program with the Bethel Park Independence Middle School 8th grade band. Michael Petrossi is their director. They will play first and we'll play second. And then we'll combine the bands for the finale. Downbeat time is 7:30 (but since they play first, we will probably actually start at 8:00)

Welcome Linda and Jim McCalmont

Linda and Jim McCalmont have taken on the twin jobs of band manager and librarian. They sang in Dean's church choir and were active band boosters for his high school band. They are also friends of Bill and Suzi Prunty, our original managers.

Music folder cleanout

We are long overdue for cleaning out the folders. It is a time consuming job, but needs to be done. After the first of the year Jim Bennett and Dean will provide a list of the tunes to be turned in at each rehearsal. Please turn in only the original parts. Volunteers will be needed to take one or several arrangements home and put them in score order.

Membership Fee

CBS has a one-time-only membership fee of \$5. New members can pay by check (made out to Community Band South) or cash to our treasurer **John Small** (trumpet).

New photos on website

Be sure to check our website. Webmaster **Dave Molter** (trombone) has put up some new photos that were taken by **Jim Strang** (euphonium) at our summer concerts.

Al Orbel



Al Orbel, long-time member of CBS, died recently. He played trombone and baritone. Many of us remember his trombone solo "Water Witch" that he played during

several of our concerts. He had it especially arranged by a friend from Clairton, Joe Campus.

During World War II, Al gave up a football scholarship to Penn State to enlist in the Army. He was in several South Pacific campaigns where he manned a flamethrower and bazooka. His recollections of his military service are now a part of 111th Infantry Division archives. After the war he decided to major in music at Carnegie Tech. Dean and Al were together in the chorus, orchestra, music fraternity, and the Kiltie Band where Al was Student Director.

After teaching high school band and orchestra for a while, he became manager of school instrument rental programs for Petty's Music Company and later Volkweins. He traveled to schools to demonstrate instruments, test, and advise beginners. Al was personally responsible for thousands of beginning instrumentalists.

He was a member of the Shriners band for many years and sponsored Dean's membership in the Shrine. He talked Dean into becoming their band director. It was Al's idea to arrange a concert of shrine musicians—band, chorus, and pipers—to benefit the Erie Shrine Hospital for Children. Over the past five years \$50,000 has been raised and donated to that cause.

Al and his organist wife Lois were active in church music all their lives. Lois would play and Al would direct the choir. Lois was Dean's organist at John McMillian Church for several years.

Al was always an important colleague to Dean and many other band directors.