



THE SCORE

January

2008

The Blacksburg Community Band Newsletter

From the New President . . .

Hello Everyone and welcome to 2008. I hope all of you had a great holiday season.

This coming year, 2009 will be our 20th year as the Blacksburg Community Band. I hope with all of your help we can make this or try to make this our best year of the bands existence. We got some plans for traveling and performing that I'll let you know about as this year progresses.

If you know of any old band members that haven't been

with us in a while, please inform them of our 20th year and that we could sure use all players.

At this point I don't have much to say or many words of wisdom. I just want to say Hello and if I can ever be of assistance to anyone, please don't hesitate to contact me.

—Dixon



From the Outgoing President . . .

!!*^%#>{“}&#~! or A Bubble of Thought

Let us take the #, or sharp as you will, for example.

I will not pull punches here. I was no friend of #. I got sweaty and nervous around it. It appears angry on the staff with its eight points and parallel lines. The more there are in a key signature, the angrier it appears. My enemy, my nemesis, my scourge: the SHARP.

The fat happy flat and the benign natural hold nary a candle to the SHARP. In fact nearly all staff annotations seem sassy, curvy and inviting. The # symbol itself can be used to express not only a raised half step in pitch, but also pounds, numbers, tic-tac-toe and apparently curse words or parts thereof.

I am obviously not a serious student of music, but I am at a loss to why the # was the chosen symbol. All other staff annotation seem bendy and lyrical like the treble clef and the c clef.

Of course since I am a bit of a fence sitter I will argue for the # a little so you can see both sides of the coin. String and orchestra members adore the sharp. It makes their staff a happy place... a comfort zone. I have played in a couple orchestras and have made peace with the #. I still find it un-

quieting in my band music but then again so are accidentals...

Her it comes! Here it comes! Will I get it! Will I get it!...{>% ^!@#!*

Never say goodbye.

I want to thank the Blacksburg Community Band for allowing me to preside as president for two years. I have had a ball. I have been a member of many diverse organizations and this is by far and again my favorite. You each hold a dear place for me and over the past two years I feel I have gotten to know many of you better than if I had remained in the wings.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to step up and participate in your band outside of the rehearsals and concerts. If each of you could invest in one additional event or offer help behind the scenes just once this year we could take our band to new heights. Consider attending a music sorting or a board meeting, offer your assistance with band awards, library duties, fund raising opportunities and other administrative tasks. Ask a board member how you can help.

I am looking forward to serving as your past president and taking up the duties as librarian, but most of all I am looking forward to making music with you all!

—Leslie

MEET Marc Pezoldt

Marc is a Bb clarinet player and an exchange student from Thüringen, Germany, living with Amy Hall and her family in Christiansburg. While this is his first time living in the U.S., many of you many remember Marc's brother Jörn who stayed with Amy's family about 5 years ago and joined the trombone section of the Blacksburg Community Band.



Marc is currently a student at Christiansburg High School. Outside of high school and the band, Marc is taking Tae Kwon Do at Abbotts in Blacksburg. Back in Germany, Marc was in the German



Capella Yventa Youth Orchestra for two years, and has been playing the clarinet for 5 years. Ask him to see his clarinet sometime—it is slightly different than the “American” versions.

What does he like about the US...he says that people are very friendly here and also very welcoming to exchange students. He also likes (close your eyes VT fanatics...) West Virginia Football. The thing he misses most about Germany and finds the most different from the US is that in Germany he walked everywhere—Marc's wondering where all the sidewalks are!

Welcome to the band Marc!

Holiday Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser

Thanks to the effort of Mary Walters, Kendra Kohl, Don and Amy Hall, Ed Schwartz, Leslie Palacios, Leda Stubbs, Dixon Smiley, Debby Good and Renee Jacobsen the band has an additional **\$185.29** in its treasury. These folks once again spent many hours, just before Christmas, hiding in the cookbook section at Barnes & Noble. In this remote little corner of the store they read lots of books, chatted about anything and everything and occasionally gift wrapped a book or two or maybe an odd shaped game, toy or reading accessory in the hopes of earning a big monetary contribution for the band. They also talked to many folks about the band and encouraged them to come to a concert or join us. It is amazing how many area residents have never heard of us. So, besides earning a little cash, we were also telling folks about our great band. Ed and Leslie didn't wrap anything, but received \$20.00 when somebody found money on the floor and decided to give it to the band. How pitiful were they looking? Don Hall made and posted signs all over the store so that shoppers would be able to find our table. If you would like to know more about the exciting experiences at Barnes & Noble feel free to talk to one of these band wrappers. This December when we wrap again, we hope to have more volunteers and a better location in the store. Until then, practice your wrapping!



Comments from the Podium

- **Robert Russell Bennett (1894-1980)**

Suite of Old American Dances by Robert Russell Bennett is an original composition for band that was composed in 1950. The suite consists of five dances: Cake Walk, Schottische, Western One-Step, Wallflower Waltz, and Rag. Bennett tried to set the mood of a Saturday night barn dance, recalling several of the characteristic dances remembered from his childhood. Bennett has described this music as "native American dance forms ... treated in a 'riot' of instrumental colors."

Robert Russell Bennett is best known as a world-class arranger/ orchestrator of Broadway musicals, working with some of the top composers of his time. Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Frederick Lowe, Rudolph Friml, Cole Porter, Kurt Weil, and Richard Rodgers to name a few. His arrangements of the musicals of Rodgers and Hammerstein are still used today. With over 300 musical orchestrations to his credit, it is likely that one of his arrangements is being performed somewhere in the world on any given day. Several of the musicals that he orchestrated include; *The Sound Of Music*, *Camelot*, *The King and I*, *My Fair Lady*, *Show Boat*, and *Oklahoma!*

Robert Russell Bennett was born in Kansas City, Missouri on June 15, 1894. Bennett's mother was a piano teacher and his father was a band director who played the trumpet and violin. He contracted polio at an early age and his family moved to a farm in Freeman, Missouri, to speed his recovery. His aptitude for music became evident at a young age and his father used him as a substitute player in his Band in Freeman to play any instrument necessary.

After high school, he moved to Kansas City to be a freelance musician, performing throughout the city as well as with the symphony. In 1916, he moved to New York City and took a job as a copyist with G.

Schirmer while continuing to freelance and to build a network of contacts. In 1917 he volunteered for the Army and after a brief stint as the director of the 70th Infantry Band at Camp Funston, Kansas, he returned to New York to take a job with F.B. Harmjs, a prominent publishing firm for Broadway and Tin Pan Alley. In 1919, he married Louise Merrill and their daughter, Jean, was born a year later.

It was then that he began orchestrating and arranging for Broadway productions, collaborating initially with Jerome Kern. Bennett worked on *Show Boat* with Kern and went on to work with Richard Rodgers in 1927. He worked on *Oklahoma!* in 1943 and continued to collaborate with Rodgers through his Broadway career, arranging and orchestrating for his Broadway, television and film projects. During the scoring of the television series *Victory at Sea* (1952–3), Richard Rodgers contributed twelve basic themes for the series, with three earmarked for the first episode. Bennett ultimately turned them into eleven-and-a-half hours worth of music. Bennett had the ability to write parts in score order, as opposed to filling in leftover parts and doublings as he completed primary melodic lines. He nearly always scored directly in ink, rather than pencil.

His original compositions include the opera *Maria Malibran*, more than seven symphonies, a large variety of chamber works, and at least five concertos. His reputation today as a classical composer rests primarily on two frequently recorded pieces, the *Suite of Old American Dances* and *Symphonic Songs for Band*. He was nominated for two Oscars winning in 1956 for *Oklahoma!* and received a Special Tony Award in 1957, for his body of work as an orchestrator.

Bennett died of liver cancer in New York City in 1981.

—Ed.



Editor's note: Rachel Tracy (Alto Sax) has a unique connection to Robert Russell Bennett. Her brother-in law is the composer's grandson. She said when she first walked into their living room and saw the Oscar up on the mantle, she thought it was a fake one...then realized the "the little golden man" was genuine—as Ed mentioned he won two Academy Awards for his work in *Oklahoma*. Rachael has also seen some of his original handwritten scores.



New Band Fundraiser

Did you know? The band is using Kroger gift cards as a fundraising tool. This is a simple way for you to help the band raise money to support our efforts.

How? The Kroger "Gift Cards" are for non-profit organizations only - which we are. The band will initially purchase \$1000 worth of these cards and have them available for band members at practice. These cards will be in denominations of \$20, \$50, \$100. When I purchase these they will be linked to our band account & when the total used by these cards total \$5000 the band will receive a 5% credit in our account (\$250).

These cards can be used to purchase virtually anything at Krogers (with the exception of money orders & Western Union transactions).

Example: I purchase a gift card for \$50. The next time at Krogers I buy \$30 worth of groceries & \$20 in gas. At this point (or any time prior) you can "reload" your card by telling the cashier to put another \$50 or whatever amount you wish back on the card. You can do this with cash or by using a credit/debit card. Your choice, and for every dollar you spend using your card the band will receive a 5% distribution.

This has the potential to be a significant fundraiser for the Blacksburg Community Band because other than the individual effort to "reload" your card there is no work involved. You're going to spend a certain amount of money at the market anyway so you might as well do so in a manner that has the potential to make a significant positive impact on our band.

Another way to expand this effort beyond band members is to sell these cards to other members of your family or friends. If you want to do this then see me for additional cards as only the cards the band purchases count towards our 5% distribution. Gift Cards can be purchased by individuals at Krogers, but the band will not be eligible for any credits. Only the cards purchased from the band with our account number are entitled for such credit.

Please get a Kroger gift card today and help support the band!



Dates to remember

Wednesdays 7:30 PM —rehearsals

Sectionals 7 PM—each section TBA, stay tuned!

Sunday March 2, 1 PM—music sorting potluck

Sunday April 6th, 4 PM, Spring Concert



The Flute Choir Performs selections from The Nutcracker Suite during the 2007 Holiday Concert

Carol Baker's Dirty Dancing Reality Show

Editor's note: This year is the 20th anniversary of "Dirty Dancing"—a good portion of the movie was filmed at Mountain Lake. Here is Alto Clarinet Carol Baker's account of what occurred during the filming of "The Dirty Dancing Reality Show" which aired on British TV in December.

Ron and I were contacted in early July by a British production crew for "The Dirty Dancing Reality Show." They were searching for a suitable creek location to film the "log scene" from the original movie. They just happened upon Sinking Creek here at The Huffman House over by the bridge and were ecstatic at how beautiful it was.

Ron & Gorden Jones helped Ken Johnson of Blacksburg pick out a suitably-sized

tree for the log. Ken & his crew erected stands on either side of the creek so the log would stand 7 ½ feet above the creek. It took Lonnie Oliver and two tractors to hoist the log into position.



The Riggers and Stunt Men came in a few days before the filming to rig up the netting. The filming took place on Thursday August 23.

The contestants and production crew were delightful to work with from the beginning, as were the riggers, stunt men and Ken Johnson. Everyone was friendly, compatible and very careful not to disturb the property of the house.

We were contacted again right after Labor Day and asked if we would mind having them film a "love scene" at the house. We were honored to do it. The camera and lighting people came in several time to scope things out and the "love scene" was filmed on September 10th. They were with us from 9:30 in the morning until 7:30 in the evening.

I must say "We had 'The Time of Our Lives'!!" They were down to 4 couples at this point. We got to know them all individually by the end of the day and also got to spend quality time with Miranda Garrison (one of the "bungalow bunnies" in the original movie), as well as all of the production crew. They seemed like family by that evening!

It was fascinating to watch all that goes into filming a program such as this. Everyone worked extremely hard. We were amazed at how well the contestants tackled their "challenges" (the log dance and the acting out of a love scene) in the short time they were given.

We are very happy that they 'found' us and filmed here at the Huffman House. They added something to our lives and I'm sure to the lives of everyone involved in Craig and Giles County.

The Huffman House at Creekside Farm was purchased in 2003 by Ron & Carol Baker of Houston, TX. Ron & Carol were high school sweethearts, went their separate ways in college and re-met at their 25th reunion. Ron always wanted a farm and Carol wanted to operate a B&B when they retired.

Ron and Carol, with the help of their Historic Architect, Lisa Tucker of Radford, got the property on the Virginia Registry of Historic Places as well as the National Register. At the beginning of 2005, Mike Hedlesky, a Restoration Specialist from Blacksburg started restoring the old farm house and outbuildings. It was completed at the end of 2005 and the Bed & Breakfast opened in May of 2006. Ron's farming operation has grown by leaps and bounds and the B&B is thriving. You can see the property and B&B at www.thehuffmanhousebandb.com or call and stop by for a tour.

