



Coda Connections

Columbia Bands, Inc.
Quarterly Newsletter

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Columbia Bands Website

Greetings, fans and members of the Columbia Bands!

We hope you had a fun and safe summer, and are ready to dive into the last part of 2015 with some great music. Read on to see the special sections below (one unfortunate loss and one excellent gain), plus the regular performance calendar, director notes, and trivia.

Please also remember that the members of Columbia Bands, Inc. value your feedback, so feel free to contact us any time with comments, questions, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Len Morse
Coda Connections Editor

Performance Calendar

(Local public performances only)



September:

Sun, 9/27, 2:00-2:45, Concert Band at [River Hill High School](#), Clarksville, MD

November:

Sat, 11/14, 7:00-9:00, Jazz Band at [Christ Memorial Presbyterian](#), Catonsville, MD

December:

Sun, 12/6, 3:00-5:00, all CBI ensembles at [River Hill High School](#), Clarksville, MD

CCB Sheet Music: Behind the Scenes

by Michael Blackman (Concert Band Director)

As the Columbia Concert Band prepares to move its music library, I thought I might explain a little bit about how we obtain and store the music that we perform for you.

As I look ahead to each upcoming performance, I consider not only the type of music that we need, but also how much. Our annual Children's Concert usually has a theme. Some examples have been dance music, outer space, magic, and circus music. Our formal winter concert is shared with the Columbia Jazz Band and Flute Cocktail, so I only get 40 minutes on stage. In the spring we get



to "stretch our muscles" a bit, and program a longer and more difficult concert. Outdoor concerts require lighter music—perhaps some Broadway or movie medleys, some patriotic tunes, some transcriptions of current popular music, and some marches—but lots of it! These performances are usually two hours long, with one intermission. The music can't be too challenging, or our faces will be exhausted before the concert is over!

Once I get the right combination and amount of repertoire, I order the music from a distributor - usually our local Music and Arts Center, who does a great job getting it in the mail very quickly. The price of each piece will usually be somewhere between \$50 and \$200. Sometimes I have to order from overseas, and I remember one occasion on which I didn't even know how much I was paying until the music arrived from The Netherlands! (And I'll say this - it didn't fall into that normal price range...)

The music is sent directly to our wonderful volunteer librarian, who checks it in by stamping each page, assigning the piece a number, and then making a new entry into our database. Coincidentally, she just sent me an updated file, and I see that we now own 1425 pieces of music! I suspect ours is one of the largest music libraries in the state.

Except what is currently in use, all of our music is kept in a central location. That location used to be the home of one of our band members, but a few years ago we finally moved everything to a storage facility. We have 66 boxes of music on shelves, and when I need to retrieve something, I look up its box number on the database and pull it from the library. Music is distributed first to section leaders, who in turn make sure that each section member has all of the music that he/she needs for the performance. When we are done with a selection, the process goes backward: members pass their parts in to their section leaders, who then give them to the librarian to return to the storage facility.

Our music library is constantly growing and, as I mentioned, we are preparing to move it from a 10' x 10' room to a 15' x 10' foot room. Hopefully this will be sufficient for at least a few more years!

Introducing Amazon Smile!

If you shop at Amazon, but haven't tried this program, here's a super-easy way to support Columbia Bands, Inc. simply by shopping online. Every time you buy something using AmazonSmile, 0.5% (that's half of one per cent) of the purchase price will go to CBI. As a non-profit organization, we use our income for the following expenses:

- Rehearsal space rental
- Venue performance fees
- Transportation and maintenance
- Director stipends
- Sheet music
- Program advertising and printing
- Insurance
- Music and equipment storage
- Guest artists

This allows us to continue providing you, our audience members, with the same high-quality performances you've grown to expect from each of our ensembles. Unfortunately, a direct link to Amazon from this newsletter, defining us as your recipient, is not currently possible. The "Get Started!" link below will take you to the page on our website where the "Shop at AmazonSmile" link resides.

[Get started!](#)

Learn more about the [AmazonSmile](#) program. Many thanks for your support!

In Memoriam: Peter LePoer

CBI recently lost one of its own. Peter served our organization for many years as a musician, volunteer, donor, and board member, and generously contributed his time, talent, and knowledge. The following words are from part of the memorial service printed program:



Peter loved music, nature, and art, and he shared his enthusiasm with everyone around him. He was a skilled saxophone player, playing with the Columbia Jazz Band for many years. His love and awe of nature are vividly apparent in his beautiful nature photographs, found on every wall of his Columbia home. He loved all life on earth, doting on his pet cats and preferring to return stray bugs and mice to the outdoors.

Always inquisitive and engaged with the world, Peter was rarely content to take a shortcut if he could learn how to do it himself, a principle he applied to everything. From cooking dishes from scratch, to building custom furniture, to performing house maintenance, or installing a rudder on his kayak - if there was something new to learn, he would immerse himself into the process.

Peter was a kind, thoughtful, and grounding presence in the lives of everyone he met. We will miss him always.

Fun Stuff

Celebrity Birthday: [Antoine Joseph Adolphe Sax](#) (November 6, 1814 - February 7, 1894) was born in what would become Belgium, and at an early age became interested in the work of his father, cabinet-maker and musical instrument designer Charles-Joseph Sax. Surviving a rather unlucky childhood of numerous near-death incidents, young Sax studied clarinet and flute.



Happiness (Japan)

He later moved to Paris, where he created improved designs of many instruments, including the bass clarinet and the saxhorn, which laid the groundwork for the modern euphonium. In 1842 Sax showed his design for a brand new instrument, a [baritone saxophone](#), to composer and music critic Hector Berlioz, who gave it much praise. Sax produced seven different saxophone sizes and eventually received a patent in 1846, plus a gold medal at the 1849 Paris Industrial Exposition. He went on to teach at the Paris Conservatory in 1858, and continued to make improvements to his designs.

Quarterly Word: "[Gong](#)" - An Asian instrument, the gong (a.k.a. Tam-Tam) is a round piece of metal with a turned edge, freely suspended and struck in the center with a larger beater. Gongs come in various sizes, but must be at least 100cm / 39in to produce a deep enough sound. They are usually made of thin bronze, but can also be silver, iron, or bell material, and can be embossed or plain. Older generations may remember [Gongman](#) as part of the opening credits of films produced by certain corporations, such as Rank or Paramount. If you're old enough, you may also remember "The Gong Show," a comedy game-show which ran from 1976-1980.

Quarterly Quote: "Every composer knows the anguish and despair occasioned by forgetting ideas which one had no time to write down." ~ [Hector Berlioz](#)

Official CB Positions

Elected Officers

President - Kim Drake
Vice President - Al Ingalls
Secretary - Jackie Bryant
Treasurer - Kathy Bartolomeo

Members-at-Large

David Blackman, Arielle Miller, Tom Monroe, Chris Roscoe, Kathleen Shoemaker, Jim Wesloh, Harold West

Ex-Officio Music Directors



CCB - [Mike Blackman](#)
CJB - [Pete BarenBregge](#)
FC - [Len Morse](#)

Ex-Officio Ensemble Managers

CCB - *Vacant*
CJB - Bob Frantz
FC - Jeanette Donald

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Appointees and Volunteers

Accountant - David Weisenfreund, CPA
CBI/CCB Webmaster - Len Morse
CCB Equipment Manager - Len Morse
CCB Librarian - Karissa Strawley
CCB Personnel Manager - Michelle Sobel
CCB Program Editor - Jeanette Donald
CJB Librarian - Bob Frantz
CJB Tour Manager - Randy Malm
CJB Sound System Managers - Mark Morris, Megan Zontek
CJB Webmaster - Matt Williams
Facebook Fan Page Moderator - Katy Clemens
Fundraising Chair - Harold West
Grant Manager - Jeanette Donald
Graphic Artist - Corey Holland
HCAC Liaison - *Vacant*
Historian - *Vacant*
Insurance Liaison - Kim Drake
MASCB Manager - Jeanette Donald
Poster & Flier Manager - Jim Kaiser