

## 2018 Annual Report of the St. Johnsbury Band

Submitted by David Hare, Band Manager

The Band owes many thanks to the taxpayers of the State of Vermont for their support of our rehearsal space in the Caledonia County Courthouse. The Courthouse staff has been very supportive and always maintains nicely kept grounds for the annual Memorial Day observance near the monuments in Courthouse Park and our weekly summer concert series from the bandstand. Much of their work is “behind the scenes” but very much appreciated by the band and I am sure the community as well.

Our 2018 season was a great success with increased public attendance at our weekly concerts as well as free ice cream socials sponsored by local businesses. This year marks the 188<sup>th</sup> season for the band. The band welcomed new members including several youth which filled the bandstand to capacity. (The band now has youth members in the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trombone, and percussion sections and more are welcome.) The increased instrumentation made the performance of the music more rewarding for our conductors, performers and audiences alike. Many people felt our trombone and lower brass section really shined this year and we played several pieces that featured them, like ‘Them Bases March’ by Getty H. Huffine. You can listen to this march on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngHtW3o9Sm0>

The 2018 season also marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I and we offered several original pieces which referred to this as ‘The Great War’ which we are fortunate to have in our library because they are now long out of print. In addition, our New Music Fund purchased a modern arrangement of several World War I tunes by the name of “Echoes from the Battlefield.”

The community outreach of our band concerts continues to amaze me. For example, our weekly concerts at the bandstand were quite audible at the former Sunset Home. The residents would gather, listen and appreciate every summer concert the band performed. At the home’s closing, the band was given a sum of money in appreciation in two gifts; the first will help fund the Band’s permanent exhibit at the History and Heritage Center and the second has established the Sunset Home Music Fund which will add to our annual new music acquisitions over the next decade.

We are grateful to the Town of St. Johnsbury for an annual special appropriation of \$770 but this only funds a portion of our annual budget. All band members volunteer and only the Conductor and Assistant Conductor receive an honorarium. We depend on outside performances to meet our budget and in 2018 these paid events were in Newport VT, Woodstock NH and North Woodsville NH. Please contact us for your special event in 2019 or 2020!

We appreciate local area business who sponsored free ice cream socials at all of our summer concerts: Armstrong Better Hearing and All About Flowers, the Caledonian Record, Community National Bank (2), NVRH, Passumpsic Savings Bank (2) plus a new sponsor; the St. Johnsbury office of Four Seasons Sotheby’s International Realty. Thanks also to Ridgeline Investments who sponsored an ice cream social at the band’s BBQ and to New England List Services who sponsored the BBQ.

We appreciate the staff of the Caledonia Courthouse who open the doors from the Courthouse to the bandstand for every concert as well as the State of Vermont for allowing us to rehearse inside the Courthouse.

During the year the band offered three benefit concerts: one to raise funds to support the Melissa Jenkins scholarship fund at St. Johnsbury Academy known as the Citizenship Prize which has now raised almost \$2000, a Veterans Day concert which benefited the St. Johnsbury History and Heritage Center and a Christmas/Holiday concert which raised over \$300 for the Diaper Fund at the United Community Church. We also appreciate the St. Johnsbury Academy for letting us use South Church for our annual meeting and United Community Church as a venue for band concerts.

The 2019 concert season is scheduled to start Monday June 10, 2019 at St. Johnsbury Health and Rehab at 6:30 PM and then move to the bandstand in Courthouse Park June 17th where the concerts will start at 7:30 PM. All outside concerts are subject to weather. Each concert will offer a different program of marches, show tunes and an overture. All concerts are kid friendly and we suggest you bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Residents and students with basic music reading skills and a concert band type instrument are invited to join the band. Membership is free and a limited number of instruments may be available as 'loaners' (please inquire).

Thanks also to the officers and band members who donate their time and talent to the band. At the recent annual meeting the following individuals were elected: Jim Sanders was elected to the Board of Directors, Gary Aubin, Music Director; Jim McGregor, Assistant Music Director and Music Librarian; David Hare, Manager; Rusty Speicher, Assistant Manager; David Askren, Web Manager; Susan Gallagher, Publicity; Cheryl Gove, Secretary and Treasurer; and Jean Ashley, Uniforms.

Kate Mori was honored by the band's Youth Award for her great performance on trombone and dedication to the band and Kaci Cochran received a scholarship in appreciation of her many years with the band. Mary Hinds finished her tenure on the Board and Dianne Wyllie retired as Secretary after many years of service.

We are always open to your suggestions: if there is a piece of music, or a style of music you would like to hear more of, or an ice cream flavor you would like us to add, please let me know. (Thanks to a suggestion we started offering an ice cream for those who are lactose intolerant.)

For more information about the band, please visit our website <http://stjohnsburyband.org/> and like us on Facebook. Also stop in at the History & Heritage Center to see how the band's new display is coming along! We hope to offer a special concert at History & Heritage to celebrate the official opening of the exhibit sometime in 2019.

In summary, I believe the St. Johnsbury Band is a significant resource for the citizens and the Town of St. Johnsbury and we look forward to another successful year in 2019 with your continued support. Please plan on attending a summer concert in Courthouse Park and enjoying some free ice cream.

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