

2019 Annual Report of the St. Johnsbury Band

The Summer Concert Series is funded by the taxpayers of St. Johnsbury through a special appropriation of \$770 for 10 weekly concerts; this was the band's 189th season. The band also plays at the Festival of Bands, hosted by St. Johnsbury School, the St. Johnsbury Memorial Day Observance and contracts with other communities or organizations for paid engagements in Vermont and New Hampshire. In all, the band had an active season in 2019 with a total of 17 performances.

All of the summer concerts offered a free ice cream social sponsored by area businesses and organizations thanks to the Caledonian Record, Community National Bank, Four Seasons/ Sotheby's International Realty, NVRH, Passumpsic Savings Bank, Plain Naturepatic and Ridgeline Wealth Management. Good weather prevailed for the concerts with only one rain-out.

The venue of one concert moved from the bandstand in Courthouse Park to 421 Summer Street to celebrate the opening of the St. Johnsbury Band exhibit at the History and Heritage Center. Please be sure to see the band's exhibit there and if you have a piece of St. Johnsbury Band memorabilia, please consider donating it for the exhibit. A circa 1875 – 1880 band photo shows the conductor wearing a tall bearskin cap which may still exist somewhere!

There were three benefit concerts which supported the NEKCA Food Shelf, the Citizenship Prize at St. Johnsbury Academy in memory of Melissa Jenkins and a Veterans Day concert to benefit the St. Johnsbury History and Heritage Center.

The band performed new music thanks to the Sunset Home Music Fund as well as new music donations made by the public. We also received donations in memory of Lifetime Band Member Marjorie Brown, who had played with the Band since 1984.

Our 2020 season starts January 20th when we will review new music choices. We are hopeful that the taxpayers of St. Johnsbury will continue to support funding of the band for our next season; the 190th season playing for the residents of St. Johnsbury!

Membership in the band is free and open to all residents; all that is required is a concert band type instrument and the ability to read music. Many individuals find

that their forgotten music reading or playing skills return after a few rehearsals and a little practice. Young players are welcome too as participation in the band improves their playing skills. Our winter rehearsals will focus on next summer's concert series and are perfect time to join the band. Rehearsals are held inside the Caledonia Court House, Monday evenings at 6:30 PM. See the Calendar page on the band website, stjohnsburyband.org, for rehearsal details and directions.

Please consider joining the band in 2020! Many people find that playing and performing music is a very rewarding activity and there is no better place to experience a concert than inside the bandstand. For more information just send an e-mail to manager@stjohnsburyband.org or call 802-274-4053.

Like us on Facebook for concert updates and visit our website at stjohnsburyband.org for more interesting information about the St. Johnsbury Band, the 3rd oldest community band in the country.

Dave Hare, Band Manager