



Ringgold Band News

www.ringgoldband.com

Spring, 2007

Del Borgo Conducts Del Borgo

By Jim Seidel, Musical Director

As each year passes we try to find new and exciting features for the band to present at our annual anniversary concert. Many find it hard to believe that a band has maintained continual existence for 155 years. The Ringgold Band, along with the Berks County Historical Society, recently commemorated the 75th anniversary of the untimely death of John Philip Sousa who was in Reading in March of 1932 as the band's special guest conductor for the 80th anniversary concert of the band. Seventy-five years later, we are still bringing outstanding band music to the Berks County and surrounding areas. We've had guest soloists from the major orchestras of the United States, soloists from the military bands and featured many of the talent-laden musicians of Berks County, but this is the first time we're bringing in a composer to conduct a program of his own music.

Elliot Del Borgo is recognized by the band world as a leading composer of band music that will have its place in musical history of bands throughout the world. Mr. Del Borgo has touched the musical soul of many musicians and audiences with his music. The program for this 155th anniversary concert will be so special for our audience for this reason. When a composer creates a composition, there is an emotional attachment to the piece. It is that attachment that a conductor seeks to bring the music "alive". What a better way than to have the creator conduct the music.

As you watch the news you see mankind's destruction of its creation and human lives. We constantly hear of the injustices of one individual against another, or one belief versus conflicting beliefs. Music is there to soothe our soul against the conflict of everyday life. More than that, it reminds us that humans can create, and we are all human. As each of you sits in the audience, may you be reminded of the creative spirit that mankind possesses, and may you each enjoy the music that's brought to life by the Ringgold Band and our special guest conductor, Mr. Elliot Del Borgo.

Guest Conductor, Elliot Del Borgo

Born in Port Chester, NY, Elliot Del Borgo holds a B.S. degree from the State University of New York, an Ed.M. degree from Temple University, and an M.M. degree from the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music, where he studied theory and composition with Vincent Persichetti and trumpet with Gilbert Johnson. In 1973 he was granted the doctoral equivalency by the State University of New York and was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association in 1993.

Mr. Del Borgo taught instrumental music in the Philadelphia public schools and was professor of music at the Crane School of Music, where he held teaching and administrative posts from 1966 to 1995. An award-winning member of ASCAP, he is a frequent consultant, clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator in the United States and abroad. Mr. Del Borgo is an internationally known conductor of bands and orchestras.

In addition to his music for the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid, he has published nearly 500 compositions for a variety of media. His music reflects the aesthetics of twentieth-century musical ideals through its eclectic nature and vigorous harmonic and rhythmic style.



James S. Seidel



Elliot Del Borgo

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Spring Concert Ticket Order Form
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Ringgold Band 155th Anniversary Spring Concert

Sunday, April 15, 2007
3:00 p.m.

Scottish Rite Cathedral

West Reading, PA

\$12 per person

All seats are general admission.
Tickets will be available at Reading-area
Boscov's Department Stores beginning
March 15, or use the enclosed
ticket order form.

WARREN BARKER REMEMBERED (1923-2006)

Noted composer, conductor, and arranger Warren Barker died on August 3, 2006 at 83 years of age. Born on April 16, 1923 in Oakland, California, Barker attended the University of California at Los Angeles. He also studied composition with Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco and Henri Pensis.

At age 24, Barker was appointed chief arranger for the NBC musical program *The Railroad Hour*. He then went on to become a noted composer and conductor in television and films. A highlight of his career was his work as arranger for Acad-



emy Award winning movie *Hello Dolly*. Throughout his career he had been associated with the studios of Columbia, 20th Century Fox, and Metro-Goldwyn-May-

er. Barker also did work in approximately 32 television series. Of note was his seven-year tenure as composer and conductor for the comedy series *Bewitched*. Though he didn't compose the theme song for the show he arranged the instrumental version of it. He was also responsible for the xylophone "tinkling" sound that occurred when

Samantha twitched her nose. On working on the show, Barker had this to say: "We caught a lot of the action musically and because things happened so fast on the show, most of the music cues were very short. If we had a cue that lasted 10-15 seconds, that was a long piece of music."

In 1970 he received an award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for his music in *My World and Welcome to It*. Barker retired from studio writing in the early 1980s to devote time to writing and conducting original compositions for concert bands. Among the organizations that commissioned works from him were the Royal Australian Navy Band, Norwegian Army Staff Band, Northshore Concert Band, and United States Air Force Band.



CONCERT REVIEW: THE STATE ACADEMIC WIND BAND OF UKRAINE

The following review was submitted by E. Harrington Crissey, Jr. of Elkins Park, PA. Mr. Crissey teaches English to foreign adults at English Language Services, (ELS), an adjunct program at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, and is a contributor to the Ringgold Band. We want to say "thank you" to Mr. Crissey for this interesting review.

In Kiev on November 26, 2005, I attended a concert given by the State Academic Wind Band of Ukraine, a government-funded, all-professional, civilian concert band. It was an all-Strauss program (music by Johann, Jr., Johann, Sr. and Joseph), conducted by a guest, Mikhailo Moroz.

The band played to an almost packed house in its usual venue, the Hall of Columns in the National Philharmonic, i.e., Philharmonic Hall. This hall is the size of a large chamber music performance space by American standards. With few exceptions the audience was well dressed, i.e., suits and ties for the men, dresses and pantsuits for the women. A pleasantly sizable portion of the audience was under forty years of age. I had observed the same dress and age characteristics the night before at a splendid performance of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* at the Kiev Opera. It is worth noting that the cost of a ground floor loge ticket at the opera was six dollars and a band concert ticket only three!

Except for a couple of mildly-cracked notes among the trumpets early in the performance, the technical level of the band was excellent. It plays very musically, has a good sense of ensemble and is sensitive to dynamic contrasts. There were a couple of tentative entrances, and the band had trouble following the conductor's beat at certain points. These blemishes were probably due to Mikhailo Moroz's being a guest conductor. The soprano soloist, Valentina Matyushenko, was quite competent.

Mr. Moroz didn't communicate verbally with the audience and barely cracked a smile when acknowledging applause, which was strong and rhythmic. He was very kind in his recognition of Ms. Matyushenko after her solo turn and had individual members or

whole sections of the band stand to accept plaudits after most of the numbers. Whereas all the band members were dressed in tuxedos, the conductor wore a black shirt buttoned at the neck, but no jacket.

During the concert, my wife and I saw Oleksandr Pirozhenko, administrative director of the band, sitting in the same row as we, so afterwards we went over to him, said hello and had a brief chat. He was happy to see us and invited us to his office for a longer conversation two days hence. We had met him three years earlier when he was assistant administrative director under Wolodymyr Yakovenko, who has since retired. What follows is a summary of our talks in the concert hall and his office.

The band recently got "academic" status, which is like a stamp of approval for high quality in professional artistic organizations. All the band members are conservatory graduates. Many of them, especially the woodwind players, are young. There are daily rehearsals, so it is a full-time job, but the musicians occasionally play concerts with other ensembles. Management has occasional problems with the musicians' union and its rules. The band has a loyal following of about two hundred hard-core supporters.

Pirozhenko said the band would love to travel to continents other than Europe but funding constraints make it impossible. These same constraints stymie it from replacing many instruments with excellent models from central and western Europe or North America. The old Soviet instru-

ments manufactured at the Lunacharsky factory are notorious for their intonation problems.

In 2005, the band gave an all-American program with either the U.S. ambassador or the cultural attaché (I'm not sure who) in attendance. The concert was a big success. The ensemble recently issued a compact disc and in 2004 a twenty-fifth anniversary book-let in both the Ukrainian and the English languages.

The Ukrainian government is stepping up its support for military bands, not only the major ones in Kiev, the capital, but also those in outlying areas.

The artistic outlook of the State Academic Wind Band of Ukraine is very cosmopolitan. It would love to receive gifts of sheet music from around the world and perform such music. A positive attitude characterizes Pirozhenko's view of the future.



BOOK REVIEW

The Incredible Band of John Philip Sousa

By Paul Edmund Bierley

Review by Maria C. Reichenbach, Ringgold Band Historian

This massive book published in 2006 by the University of Illinois Press as a volume in the series *Music in American Life* contains 453 pages on anything and everything connected to the band of John Philip Sousa. Written by Sousa biographer Paul Bierley, this book is the result of 40 years of research on the subject. Those of you who attended the 149th Anniversary Concert of the Ringgold Band may recall that Bierley was a guest conductor at the event and also presented a memorable lecture and slide show before the concert.

This book marks Bierley's eighth book on Sousa and contains meticulously researched information on the men and women of the Sousa Band. Containing more than 120 photographs and images, this book serves as the ultimate source on the Sousa Band. The idea for this book came 40 years ago when Bierley's interest in Sousa was sparked by his interest in the colorful titles of Sousa's marches. In his quest to uncover the story behind the marches this book was produced.

The book is divided into eight chapters and six appendices. The first two chapters give readers an overview of Sousa and his band and the reasons for its popularity. Chapters 3 and 4 give a more in-depth look at the inner-workings of the band and the managers and musicians that made the Sousa Band famous. Among those included are the familiar names of David Blakely, Herbert L. Clarke, Simone Mantia, Arthur Pryor, Frank Simon, and Meredith Willson.

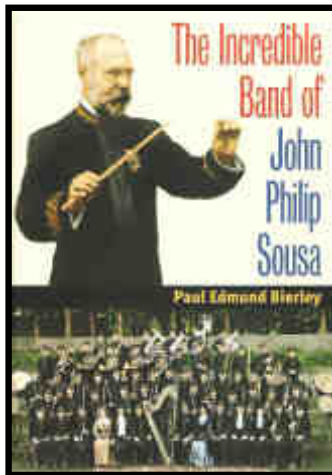
Chapters 5 and 6 present information on Sousa and the recording industry. Sousa had distaste for commercial recording, preferring live performances instead. Of interest in Chapter 5 is a picture of Sousa with Thomas Edison, inventor of the phonograph. Apparently Sousa had come to some kind of compromise with technology. Chapter 7 chronicles the 352-day world tour of the Sousa Band in 1911. The diary of Albert A. Knecht, tenor saxophonist with the band, is reproduced here. The band traveled by train and boat for a total of 47,346 miles and performed in England, Ireland, South Africa, Australia, and the United States. Chapter 8 rounds out the book by giving an intimate look into the everyday life of Sousa Band members from personal interviews with them.

The six appendices comprise over two-thirds of the book making it an excellent reference guide to all things Sousa. The appendices contain:

- Dates and locations of the 15,623 Sousa Band performances over 40 years
- All-time roster of the band including instrument, years of service, other career activities, and vital statistics
- Instrumentation of band for each tour and weekly salaries received
- Typical Sousa Band programs including his encore marches
- Repertory of the Sousa Band showcasing the musical tastes of America from 1892 to 1932
- Discography containing 170 entries of the known commercial phonograph singles recordings

Bierley used many primary resources in his research for this book including Sousa Band press books which are preserved by the United States Marine Band; papers of David Blakely, Sousa's first manager; the band office's printed itineraries; memoirs of band members; personal interviews with 64 former members of Sousa's Band; and interviews with Sousa family members, most notably his daughter Helen Sousa Abert.

This book is the ultimate research book on Sousa's Band. Bierley does an excellent job in explaining how Sousa and his band "exemplified the spirit and energy of America." Bierley's goal for this book was to make this volume the most comprehensive work ever published on an American performing arts group. With 40 years of work behind him there is no argument that he accomplished his goal.



Heard Around the Band Hall...

Brian Holt has recently been appointed percussion section leader of the Williamsburg Consort concert band. He played a concert with the band last September, under the direction of Arnold Gabriel, in Williamsburg, Virginia.



Ringgold Band student members Isabel Cylinder, Suzanne Yoder, and Amy Kleinsmith were selected to participate at the recent District 10 Band Festival held at Exeter High School. Host conductor was James Seidel, Ringgold Band Musical Director. Isabel, Suzanne, and Amy were also selected to attend the Region V Band Festival to be held March 22-24, 2007 at Wilson High School.

Katelyn Aungst sang at the Kennedy Center on Feb. 8th, 9th & 10th with her choir from The University of Maryland and the National Symphony Orch. They performed *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Op. 61* by Mendelssohn.



Dave Myers performed with Keith Brion and His New Sousa Band at the dedication of the new TIB Amphitheater in Islamorada, Florida (Florida Keys), November 19, 2006. Rounding out the band's percussion section were Frank Del Piano (U. S. Marine Band, retired), and former Ringgold Band member and Boyertown native, Terry Heilman. Terry retired from the U. S. Army



Dave Myers, Frank Del Piano, John Philip Sousa, IV, and Terry Heilman in Islamorada, Florida.

Band several years ago and now lives in Virginia. Dave and Terry went to high school together in Boyertown and enjoyed the 2,800-mile road trip to and from Islamorada which gave them ample time to catch up on "old times."



BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI COMPOSER DIES AT AGE 84

By Maria C. Reichenbach, Band Historian

Noted British composer Sir Malcolm Arnold died on September 23, 2006 in Norfolk, England of complications from a chest infection. He was best known in the United States for the Academy Award he received for his musical score for the World War II movie *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. Arnold builds upon Kenneth Alford's familiar *Colonel Bogey March* to create one of the more memorable scenes in the movie when the prisoners whistle the familiar tune.



Sir Malcolm Arnold

What is remarkable about the 1957 film score is that Arnold had a total of only 10 days to compose the music. With this film he became the first British composer to win an Academy Award.

Malcolm Arnold has been described as one of the towering musical figures of the 20th century and Britain's most recorded and most prolific composer. Arnold was born in Northampton, England on October 21, 1921. His father was a shoemaker and his mother was a musician. He began an early interest in jazz and decided to play trumpet when he was 12 years old after seeing Louis Armstrong perform in Bournemouth, England.

He won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music at 17 years of age where he studied composition with Gordon Jacob and trumpet with Ernest Hall. In 1941 he joined the London Philharmonic Orchestra as second trumpet and became principal trumpet in 1943.

His tenure in the orchestra was interrupted because he wanted to serve in the armed forces in WWII. He volunteered and was accepted into the infantry in 1944. Unfortunately, it was not to his liking as he compared it to "being relegated from principal trumpeter at the London Philharmonic to performing in a bus band." So he shot himself in the foot to get back to civilian life. After two years of war service and one season with the BBC Symphony Orchestra he returned to the London Philharmonic Orchestra in 1946 and remained there until 1948.

In 1948 Arnold won the Mendelssohn Award which allowed him to spend a year in Italy and to compose full time. His compositions are numerous and include:

- 7 ballets
- 9 symphonies
- 2 operas
- 1 musical
- 20 concertos
- 2 string quartets
- Various music for brass and wind bands
- 130 scores for films, television, and documentaries

Malcolm Arnold was also the recipient of numerous awards throughout his lifetime including:

- Honorary Doctorate at the Universities of Exeter, Durham, Leicester, and Northampton, England
- Honorary Doctorate at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio
- Fellow of the Royal College of Music - 1983
- Recipient of the Ivor Novello Award for Outstanding Services to British Music - 1985
- Knighted - 1993
- President of the Victoria College of Music - 1994
- Fellow of the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters - 2001
- Recipient of the Incorporated Society of Musician's Distinguished Musician Award for "his lifetime's achievements as one of the greatest composers of the 20th century." - 2004

The personal life of Malcolm Arnold was a difficult one. He endured two failed marriages, alcoholism, and suicide attempts. In 1984 he was deemed unfit to live alone and by court order was placed in the hands of a full-time caregiver. His 9th *Symphony* which was composed in 1986 was dedicated to his caregiver, Anthony Day. Arnold ceased composing in the 1990s. He is survived by three children - Katherine, Robert, and Edward.

Arnold's music has been described as "unpretentious" and "lucid in texture and clear in draftsmanship." He would be happy to hear that because even though he wanted his music to have impact and emotion, especially in his film scores, he wanted simplicity. He wanted his music to say what he wanted to in as few words, musically, as possible. That is why he didn't compose much vocal music. He felt that once you have words, you restrict the music. He wanted to appeal to a popular audience and therefore concentrated on the lyrical quality of music. He viewed music as "a social act of communication among people, a gesture of friendship, the strongest there is." Malcolm Arnold had said he wanted to be remembered as an honest composer - and he accomplished that goal.



Member Spotlight

Scott T. Rhoads

Instrument: Trombone

Member Since: 2003

Scott lived in Kutztown until age 6 and then moved to Robesonia where he attended grades 1 – 12 in the Conrad Weiser School District. He began playing trombone in 4th grade with the Robesonia Elementary Band under the direction of George Rubright and also began taking private lesson at Sharman's Music in Sinking Spring from Charlie Sharman. In addition to playing the trombone, he started playing folk guitar during 5th grade with his best friend Bill Master. During 6th grade, Charlie Sharman left Sharman's Music to play professionally in the New York area, and Scott was fortunate to be able to continue taking private lessons from Walter Gier in his Reading music studio above the Marvel Ranch. During 6th grade he also switched from folk music to bluegrass music and was part of a group called the Misty Valley Boys. As this group progressed through high school, they performed at many different places such as local church picnics, talent shows, Reading City Park, The Reading Fair, etc. Some highlights of the bluegrass group were winning the Dorney Park Talent Contest which resulted in a performance on the Chief Halftown show on Channel 6 in Philadelphia. The group was asked to come back and perform two more times on the same show after the initial performance. The group also performed at the Traymore Hotel in Atlantic City for the Optimist's National Convention.

Throughout high school Scott played his trombone for Bill Mills, Conrad Weiser Band Director, in many musical groups such as marching band, concert band, stage band, brass choir, pit orchestra, county band, county orchestra, district band, regional band, and he sang for Barbara Murdough Bricker, Conrad Weiser Choral Director, in the various choral groups. He also held various positions in different school organizations such as President of the Band, President of the Student Council, Vice President of the Chorus, Vice President of the Student Council and Vice President of the National Honor Society. Scott also participated in various sports such as Track and Field, Soccer, Football, Basketball, and Wrestling. Between Scott's junior and senior year, he was very fortunate to be asked to attend rehearsals of the Keystone Band of Rehrersburg by Bill Mills and also some Ringgold Band rehearsals by Walter Gier. So at age 16 Scott joined the musician's union in Reading and Lebanon and began playing summers with local concert bands.

Scott went on to college at Lehigh University where he participated in all the instrument groups conducted by Jonathan Elkus at the college such as concert band, marching band, wind ensemble, jazz band, etc. As a senior at Lehigh, Scott received the Edgar T. Shields Music Award. This award was presented to him at the Lehigh University Concert Band Spring Pops concert by guest soloist Urbie Green. Scott was also very fortunate to be able to take a few private lesson from Urbie Green whom he had met through Bob Grasso and Rube Heller of the Lehigh Valley



Scott T. Rhoads

Jazz Lab Band. Scott was also a member of the Lehigh Valley Jazz Lab Band (run by Rube Heller and Bob Grasso) that was sponsored by the Martin Guitar Company of Nazareth. He was also able to join a jazz band called the Lehigh Valley Jazz Lab Band run by Rube Heller and Bob Grasso and was sponsored by the Martin Guitar Company of Nazareth. This group performed at many different venues some of which were the "warm-up" band for Maynard Ferguson at Lehigh University, Woody Herman at the Allentown Lyric Theater (Dave Stahl was

with Woody's band at this time), and various jazz festival competitions/performances. While at Lehigh, Scott met Rob Stonebeck and played in his big band while at college. Rob's band also played at Mt. Airey Lodge in the Poconos now and then as a "house" band for names such as Jack Jones, Susan Anton, and Al Martino. During the summers, in addition to being a lifeguard at the local pool, Scott played with various bands such as the Ringgold Band, Keystone Band of Rehrersburg, Perseverance Band of Lebanon, Centerport Band, Cadet Band, Wally Perry and the Royal Pennsylvanians.

After graduating college, Scott started working for the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General in the Bureau of Municipal Pensions and moved back to the Reading area. In addition to the bands already noted Scott began playing for high school shows in some of the local school districts (which he still enjoys to this day). He has performed with the Dave Stahl Band, Reading Big Band, Bobby Mercer Big Band, Reading Pops Orchestra, Reading Neophonic Orchestra, Big Sound, Reading Civic Opera, Genesis Theater, Philharmonic Orchestra, Junior Miss State Pageant band. Currently Scott plays with the Ringgold Band, Dave Stahl's Big Band, Dave Stahl's Sacred Orchestra, Reading Pops Orchestra, and any other groups that he can fit into his schedule. He is on the Board of Trustees of the Ringgold Band and Treasurer of the Reading Pops Orchestra.

Scott met his wife Maxine after one of the many parades he played and they were married in March of 1985. She is the Shipping Manager at Dimensions-Perler in Reading. Scott and Max are the proud parents of one son, Andrew. He is a junior at Wilson High School and will be the Beast in the Wilson High School musical Beauty and the Beast. Andrew appears to be headed into the music education/performance field.

Scott really enjoys being part of the Ringgold Band Family as a performer as well as a board member. The musical leadership Jim Seidel and his assistant Tom Shade provide are outstanding as well as the business leadership headed by President Cindy Miller-Aungst and Business Manager/Treasurer Dave Myers.



Ringgold Band . . .

In Tune With Youth!

The Ringgold Band is committed to spreading the joy of music to young people and to encourage them to keep music in their lives.

New Student Members

Jonathan Pusztai is in the 8th grade at Wyomissing Area Junior-Senior High School. He's been playing French horn since 5th grade at Carney Elementary School in Baltimore, Maryland. In 6th grade he moved to the Reading Area. Jonathan started attending Ringgold Band rehearsals in September, 2005 with his mother, Margaret, who plays oboe in the band. He is studying privately with Sally Heist.



Jonathan Pusztai

Since 7th grade Jonathan has played the mellophone in the Wyomissing Area Marching Band. He also plays trumpet in the Wyomissing Area Jazz Band. In 7th grade he played in the high school pit orchestra for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, was in the Berks County Junior High All-County Band, and he won the 2006 WAMA (Wyomissing Area Music Association) Award. During grades 6-8 he participated in Lebanon Valley College's Middle School Band Fest. This past fall Jonathan played a solo for his church.

In the future Jonathan plans to attend Lebanon Valley College's summer camp, and he hopes to pursue a career in music technology. Jonathan states, "I feel very privileged to play in the Ringgold Band because I get to hear and play a wide variety of music." Well, Jonathan, we're feel very privileged to have you in our band, and we hope to see you for many years to come!

Isabel Cylinder, 15, is a junior at Oley Valley High School, and has been playing the clarinet for 8 years. She is a member of her high school marching, concert, and jazz bands. Currently, Isabel's private teacher is Janine Thomas. Outside of school she participates in the Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra and the Ringgold Band. In addition to clarinet, she plays the alto saxophone and the piano. She has participated in District 10 Band, Region V Band, and PMEA All-State Concert Band. She is looking into a career in either medicine or music (or both!). Isabel states, "Playing with the Ringgold Band has given me the opportunity to meet and play alongside many talented musicians. The wide variety of music and the frequent arrival of new music has given me more confidence in my sight reading and has taught me to always (ALWAYS!) look at the key signature before I play! Working with and learning from the members of the Ringgold Band has been an experience that has helped me grow as a musician. And of course, Mr. Seidel is a fantastic conductor!" Welcome, Isabel, you've become a meaningful addition to our clarinet section.



Isabel Cylinder

Brittany Grim is a junior at Oley Valley High School. She has been playing clarinet for eight years. Brittany is a member of her high school marching band and concert band. She has made the all-county band every year since 2002, and she is also a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. Brittany says she loves to play with the Ringgold Band. "The band members are amazing people, and I learn a lot from playing with them." When Brittany graduates she plans on going to college to major in the area of art. Welcome to Ringgold, Brittany!



Brittany Grim



RBYAA

2007 Winner

Michael McCloskey



2007 RBYAA winner
Michael McCloskey

Congratulations to Michael McCloskey, a senior at Wilson High School, who is our 2007 Ringgold Band Young Artist Award winner!

Michael, son of Dr. George McCloskey and Laurie McCloskey, is currently a member of Wilson's marching band, concert band, jazz band, orchestra (cello), and chorus. He has participated in county, district, and regional bands and the Berks all-county jazz band.

Michael was last year's Wilson recipient of the Penske Outstanding Student Jazz Award. Academically, he is in the top 10% of his class and is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Society of High School Scholars.

This summer, Michael will be touring in Europe with the American Music Abroad Honor Band. He is looking forward to attending West Chester University this fall, majoring in music education. As a future teacher, it is his hope to provide students with the same type of inspiration and love of music that he has received from his teachers at Wilson.

Michael is honored to be the recipient of the Ringgold Band Young Artist Award and Scholarship, and he truly appreciates the opportunity to perform with this prestigious organization. He feels fortunate to live in a community that encourages and supports music and the arts to such a high degree.

Michael will be featured on alto saxophone, performing "Catch Me If You Can" by John Williams, at the Ringgold Band Spring Concert on April 15th.

"Banding Together" at Oley Middle School

By James Seidel, Musical Director

Each year The Ringgold Band shares the stage with one of the county's middle schools in a program called "Banding Together." On March 13, we visited the Oley Valley Middle School and its director, Amy Powlus. The members of Ringgold sat among the middle school students of Oley and rehearsed their middle school music. Director Seidel and Ringgold players demonstrated musical techniques and ideas to the students. After a massed rehearsal, the section members of Ringgold Band conducted master classes for each of the instrument families of the band where students can ask questions and learn first hand some playing techniques that the band director has probably already mentioned, but will now be reinforced. During this time period, Mr. Seidel spent time with the parents answering questions about participation in music and discussing the value of the music program within the curriculum of the school.

The evening concluded with a brief concert in the auditorium by these combined generations of musicians. One of the compositions played was John Philip Sousa's *Liberty Bell March* where the students can watch the actual music Sousa created and how their simplified version fits with the big picture.

The greatest benefit from this program is that students learn that music can be a lifelong activity and joy for them long after their school career ends. Many students feel that to continue playing in a band like Ringgold they must major in music. Quite the opposite is true. They learn very quickly that by day a fine percussionist is an accountant, that big tuba sound is coming from a bank official, and that among the band's members are nurses, school teachers, factory workers, computer programmers and people from all walks of life who share a common love of music.

Part of the mission of the Ringgold Band is to foster the development of band music in youth. Our annual "Banding Together" program helps us achieve this goal, and we look forward to it each year. If we can inspire a young musician to keep playing his or her instrument, we're succeeding in our mission.

HAPPENINGS FROM THE YEAR 1907

- Rehearsed at 437 Penn Street, Reading
- Had \$308.89 in the treasury at the beginning of the year.
- Authorized Monroe Althouse and John Wacha, director and assistant director of the band to purchase a baritone saxophone from H. Hassler "as cheap as possible."
- Loaned Mr. Brosey, a Ringgold Band member \$47.50 to purchase a French horn. The money was to be repaid to the band in installments.
- Paid Miss Edith Kramer \$5.00 for services rendered at a concert.
- Reported of deficit of \$115.61 from the April 8 concert. Box Office receipts were \$20.50, band members receipts were \$42.00 while expenses were \$178.11.
- Seconded a motion to buy 25 uniforms from George Evans Company for \$10.75 each.
- Gave Mr. Charles Edwards a 5-year subscription to the contributing membership list for the piano that he donated.
- Appointed a committee of three to meet with a committee of the Philharmonic Band to "adjust the difficulties" existing between the two bands in regards to members playing with both groups.
- Presented Monroe Althouse with a framed testimonial received from the Elks B.P.O.E. for Second Prize at the Philadelphia Convention.
- Ended the year with \$433.07 in the treasury.



Ringgold Band News is published twice a year for members and supporters of the Ringgold Band, Inc.

Send comments and story ideas to ringgoldband@aol.com or mail to:

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Spring, 2007

www.ringgoldband.com

Ringgold Band Officers

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The Ringgold Band is a professional concert band performing throughout southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond. The objectives of this organization are to nurture band music as an important art form; to provide an opportunity for professional musicians as well as gifted younger musicians to develop their musical skills in an artistic environment; to educate the members of the organization and the general public of the need to preserve the heritage, cultivate the contemporary, and promote the future of band music; to encourage the members of the organization to accept responsibility for the improvement of the American way of life and the fellowship of humankind through music.

The band is funded by private and corporate donations; The Reading Musical Foundation, of which the Ringgold Band is an affiliate; and the Music Performance Trust Fund administered through the American Federation of Musicians, Local 135-211.

The band encourages the cultivation of music among community youth. High school and college-age musicians are invited to rehearse with the band Monday evenings at 8 p.m. For more information about the band, visit our webpage at www.ringgoldband.com, or contact dmyers92@ptd.net.



Ringgold Band News

Ringgold Band, Inc.
3539-A Freemont St.
Laureldale, PA 19605

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Ringgold Band

2007 Concert Schedule



- Sun., April 15
3:00 p.m. 155th Annual Spring Concert *Guest Conductor, Elliot Del Borgo*
Scottish Rite Cathedral, West Reading, PA
- Sun., May 27
6:00-8:00 p.m. Gring's Mill Park, Wyomissing, PA
Concert in the Park
- Sat., June 9
4:30-7:30 p.m. Allegheny UCC, Alleghenyville, PA
Strawberry Festival
- Sun., June 24
7:00-8:30 p.m. Reeve's Park, Phoenixville, PA (rain or shine)
Concert in the Park
- Sun., July 1
1:30-3:30 p.m. Conrad Weiser Homestead, Womelsdorf, PA
Free outdoor concert at the historic Conrad Weiser Homestead
- Weds., July 4
7:00-10:00 p.m. Governor Mifflin High School, Shillington, PA
Greater Governor Mifflin Community Days
- Sat., July 7
6:00-9:00 p.m. Brickerville United Lutheran Church, Brickerville, PA
Church Picnic
- Sat., July 14
5:30-8:30 p.m. Hain's U.C.C., Wernersville, PA
Church Picnic
- Sat., July 21
6:30-9:30 p.m. St. Michael's Church, Hamburg, PA
Church Picnic
- Wed., Aug. 1
7:30-9:00 p.m. Wyomissing Park, Wyomissing, PA
Free outdoor Concert & Children's Lantern Parade at the Stone House
(raindate Thurs. Aug. 2)
- Sat., Aug. 11
6:00-9:00 p.m. St. John's "Hill" Church, Pikeville, PA
Church Picnic
- Sun., Aug. 12
5:00-8:00 p.m. Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Jacksonwald, PA
Church Picnic
- Tues., Aug. 14
7:00-8:30 p.m. The Highlands at Wyomissing, Wyomissing, PA (rain or shine)
Free concert for the residents, their family & friends
- Fri., Aug. 17
12:00-6:00 p.m. Bethany Childrens' Home, Womelsdorf, PA
Free outdoor concert. 144th Anniversary Day Celebration
- Sat., Sept. 22
12:00-2:00 p.m. Oley Fair, Oley, PA
Old-fashioned country fair. Come enjoy the food!
- Sun., Oct. 21
6:00 p.m. Fall Dinner Concert, Stokesay Castle, Reading, PA

For the most complete and up-to-date concert schedule and driving directions to each venue, please visit our website at

www.ringgoldband.com



155th ANNIVERSARY

Spring Concert

TICKET ORDER FORM

Please send me _____ tickets @ \$12.00 each for a total of \$_____.

Enclose check payable to “RINGGOLD BAND, INC.”

Fill out your name and address below. Mail this form along with a check payable to “RINGGOLD BAND, INC.” using the address label provided (just cut it out and tape it to an envelope). Tickets will be mailed to you promptly.

Order your Ringgold Band merchandise today!			
#	ITEM	EACH	TOTAL
	150th Anniversary Spring Concert 4/02 2 CDs <i>J. Carlton Rowe, cornet soloist</i>	\$18.00	
	153rd Anniversary Spring Concert 4/05 CD <i>Christopher Weait and Melissa Work, soloists</i>	\$10.00	
	Ringgold Plays Von Suppe and other Classics-CASSETTE	\$7.00	
	Ringgold Plays Von Suppe and other Classics-CD	\$10.00	
	An Althouse Tour of Berks County- CASSETTE	\$7.00	
	An Althouse Tour of Berks County- CD	\$10.00	
	140th Anniversary Spring concert - 1992 CASSETTE	\$7.00	
	143rd Anniversary Spring concert -1995 2 CASSETTES	\$10.00	
	2001 Fall Dinner Concert - CD - <i>Vocal music of Debbie Greenawald</i>	\$10.00	
	154th Anniversary Spring Concert 4/06 2 CDs. <i>Kenneth Lauderlmich, trumpet soloist.</i>	\$18.00	
	SHIPPING & HANDLING - \$1.50 for each item ordered		
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