



Ringgold Band News

www.ringgoldband.com

Spring, 2008

156th Anniversary Concert Looks Back to History!

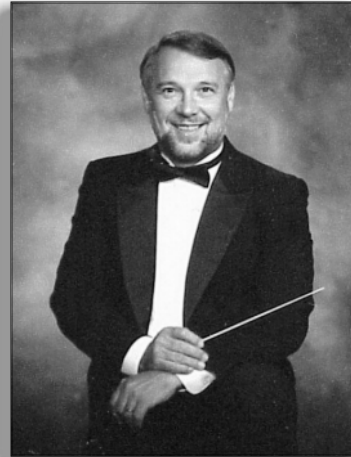
By Jim Seidel, Musical Director

Over 50 years ago there was a weekly Monday night radio broadcast that some of you may remember and others may have read about. It started like this; with band music playing the announcer begins. *"48 states, 48 stars, 48 men, marching across the nation; down Penn Street in Reading, Pennsylvania; down main Street in Kutztown, Pennsylvania; down the main street of everybody's hometown. Let the trumpets sound and the cymbals clang. Here comes the Cities Service Band of America. This is Ford Bond from the Belasco Theater in New York City where your friendly neighborhood Cities Service gas and oil dealer proudly presents the Band of America conducted by Paul Lavalle."* The music stops and the announcer continues. *"Good evening ladies and gentlemen, this is Ford Bond speaking for Cities Service from the Belasco Theater in New York City. Here is the world's most exciting music. BAND MUSIC!"*

At our upcoming concert on April 13th, the Ringgold Band will be playing some of the most exciting band music written. During the first half of this 156th anniversary concert we will feature one of the original Paul Lavalle band programs, complete with announcer and commercials. The second half will use the same format, however, with a modern day twist. This segment will feature some of the best band music written since the 1950s. This will include our 2008 Ringgold Band Young Artist Award Winner, Eric Schneiderhan, trombone soloist, along with another new work commissioned by Mr. C. Thomas Work honoring the Board of the Reading Musical

Foundation. This new work was composed by Paul Whear, who has had many works published for band throughout the last 50 years.

As the Ringgold Band entertains many communities in Berks and surrounding counties, we get so many requests for those old time chestnuts, and we do our best to honor those requests. Sunday, April 13, 2008, you will have the opportunity to hear not only those old chestnuts but new ones in the making today. So, for the price of one small admission you will get two outstanding and entertaining band programs. Not only that, but you also get to step back in time to one of the most popular programs of band music to hit the airwaves. See you at the concert!



James S. Seidel

Contents

Page 1

156th Anniversary Concert

Page 2

President's Corner

A Russian Composer's Milestone

Page 3

Treasures of American History

Heard Around the Band Hall

Page 4

Ringgold Band to Premiere Composition Commissioned to Celebrate RMF's 80th Anniversary

The Band of America

Page 5

Member Spotlight- Gregory Bitler

Page 6

In Tune With Youth

Page 7

RBVAA 2008 Winner- Eric Schneiderhan

Banding Together at Kutztown Middle School

Happenings from the Year 1908

Inserts

Spring Concert Ticket Order Form

2008 Concert Schedule



Ringgold Band 156th Anniversary Spring Concert

Sunday, April 13, 2008 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 1, from band members, or use the enclosed ticket order form.



President's Corner

by Cindy Miller-Aungst, Band President

Last night my husband and I attended the Berks County Sr. High Band, Chorus, and Orchestra concert. Our son, Drew, was one of the 400 outstanding musicians selected by audition to participate in this festival. This event, sponsored by the Music Educators of Berks County, occurs every year, and I have been to many of them over the years to support not only my children but also my school and private students. The selected students receive music to practice, and then rehearse with a guest conductor for an entire school day plus two hours on the Saturday morning of the concert. The end result is amazing. The guest conductors ALWAYS make a point to tell the audience that it is a treat to work with young Berks County musicians because the music education in the county has a tradition of being one of the strongest in the state of PA. The conductors praise the parents and educators for their support and dedication to the music programs in the local high schools.



Why am I talking about this event in the Ringgold Band Newsletter? The guest conductor of the orchestra was John Bailey, a member of our tuba section. The County Band Vice-President who is in charge of organizing the band auditions and selecting the guest conductor is Cathy Barra, a member of our clarinet section. Our band librarian, Gene Umbenhouer, is also the band librarian for the county library. He is responsible for gathering and organizing music into individual folders for all the county band musicians. There were at least 10 students on stage, including this year's Ringgold Band Young Artist Award (RBYAA) winner Eric Schneiderhan, who have rehearsed and played with us during the summer and school year. The Ringgold Band had an important "presence" in this festival.

Part of our mission statement is "to provide an opportunity for professional musicians as well as *gifted younger musicians to develop their musi-*

cal skills in an artistic environment". We are constantly working on ways to achieve this. In January we hosted a "reading session" for Berks County students who were selected to participate in the District 10 Band Festival. This gave them a chance to hear how their individual parts would fit into the entire band so that they would be better prepared for the festival. In March we will again run our "Banding Together" program at Kutztown Middle School where we sit side by side with middle school band students and encourage them to continue honing their musical skills and enjoyment of participating in band.

The Reading Musical Foundation continues to support us in these ventures to be active in music education in our community. Last night gave me a great deal of hope that we are working in the right direction. With your continued support and the Ringgold Band's participation, our future will be a shining example of how to keep the rich tradition of band music alive using the best and brightest this county has to offer.



A RUSSIAN COMPOSER'S MILESTONE

The following article 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.

The best-known Russian popular song from the post-World War II era is arguably "Moscow Nights," also known as "Midnight in Moscow." The Russian title, "Podmoskovniye Vechera," actually means "Evenings in Suburban Moscow." The composer of this song, Vasily Soloviev-Sedoy, was born one hundred and one years ago on April 25, 1907.



Vasily Soloviev-Sedoy

Soloviev-Sedoy's father was a janitor and street sweeper for a big apartment house on Nevsky Prospekt, the main street in Saint Petersburg, the capital of Russia at that time. His parents weren't musically inclined.

Soloviev-Sedoy's professional career began in 1925 as a piano player and improviser for Leningrad Hadlo. (By that time, Saint Petersburg had undergone two name changes, first Petrograd and then Leningrad.) He started writing songs in the 1930s and graduated from the Leningrad Conservatory in 1936. He got government monetary prizes in 1943 and 1947 and was named Merited Artist of the USSR in 1967. As President of the Union of Soviet Composers in Leningrad, he was a member of the Soviet government.

David Finko, a Soviet émigré composer from Leningrad now living in suburban Philadelphia, never met Soloviev-Sedoy but knew many people who were acquainted with him. Finko says he was considered to be a pleasant man. There was an interesting anecdote about him: When he was ready to compose, he would mix one hundred grams (half a glass) of vodka, one hundred grams of champagne and one hundred grams of cognac. He would drink some of it, compose for about two hours and then sleep for about three. Then he'd repeat the whole process until he completed the piece.

Lest you think this story overly fanciful, another Russian émigré in Philadelphia, Maya Aks, relates a similar eyewitness account. She lived very close to Soloviev-Sedoy in Leningrad. A restaurant was across the street from their apartments. She would be in the eatery at lunchtime and watch him come in. He'd go to the bar and order a drink that was part champagne and part cognac.

To commemorate his centennial, reporter Yelena Petrova interviewed Soloviev-Sedoy's grandson, also named Vasily, in the May 9-15, 2007 issue of the international edition of the Russian newspaper "Argumenti i Fakti" ("Arguments and Facts"). The grandson said that Soloviev-Sedoy's daughter was deaf. She married a man who later divorced her and married another deaf woman. Subsequently, the man divorced his second wife and remarried the first!

Soloviev-Sedoy once had to run away from his dacha (country house) in the artists' colony of Komorovo because the townspeople and other visitors kept gathering around his place in small groups and serenading him with "Moscow Nights." Petrova's article ended with a thought from Soloviev-Sedoy about the Russian people: When bad things happen to them, they don't cry; but when they hear a beautiful song, they do. In other words, Russians cry from sensitivity, not weakness.

Soloviev-Sedoy died in Leningrad on December 2, 1979. In addition to "Moscow Nights," there are Russian band arrangements of many other works of his, including:

March-Song: Ballad about a Soldier, from the film "Outside Moscow"

Light Snowstorm, dance from the ballet "Taras Bulba"

March from the film "First Glove," i.e. "Boxing Champion"

Song about Spring

Nakhimov March, from the film "Happy Sea Voyage"

On the March, from the film "Maxim Perepelitsa" (1954)

Song: If Young Men Around the World Would...

At this writer's request, the Nakhimov March was arranged for American band instrumentation from a Russian piano reduction by the noted band historian, composer and arranger Loren Geiger in 2006.



TREASURES OF AMERICAN HISTORY

by Maria C. Reichenbach, Ringgold Band Historian

Who would have thought that walking into the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. would lead one to an encounter with John Philip Sousa? Strange as it may seem it happened to me and my husband recently on a trip to the Capital City. The National Air and Space Museum opened in 1976 and has become the most visited museum in the world. Housing only 10 percent of the Smithsonian's aviation and space collection there are still plenty of exhibits to keep one occupied.

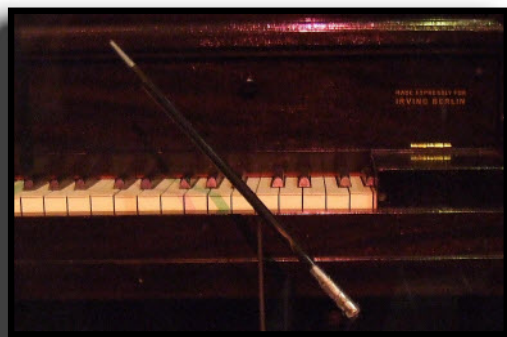


National Air and Space Museum

But what became a pleasant surprise was the special exhibit on the second floor of the sprawling museum – Treasures of American History. This temporary exhibit is sponsored by the National Museum of American History which is closed for renovations until the fall of 2008. Along with architectural improvements, the Museum of American History is building a new gallery to house the Star Spangled Banner.

The National Museum of American History, in their own words, “collects, preserves and displays American heritage in the areas of social, political, cultural, scientific and military history. Documenting the American experience from Colonial times to present, the museum looks at growth and change in the United States.” The 150 items selected for this temporary exhibit at the Air and Space Museum represent the most famous, popular, and familiar items from the 3 million piece collection. The exhibit is broken down into four areas of the American experience: Creativity & Innovation, American Biography, National Challenges, and American Identity. Items on display include Kermit the Frog, Lincoln's top hat, Thomas Jefferson's Bible, Dorothy's ruby slippers, Thomas Edison's light bulb, and a host of other items.

So it was with interest that a section was devoted to American music under the American Identity category. On display is Dizzy Gillespie's trumpet from the 1970s, Irving Berlin's piano from the 1940s, and John Philip Sousa's silver-tipped baton he used with his band in the early 1900s. How fitting that America's March King be chosen as a representative of an American treasure.



“Sousa baton on display in front of Irving Berlin's piano at the National Air and Space Museum.”

For those not able to see this exhibit, go to the Smithsonian website at www.americanhistory.si.edu to view all the objects in this exhibit. However, nothing compares to seeing it in person in Washington, D.C. where history comes alive.

Heard Around the Band Hall...

Tom Shade and his friend Rise' spent two weeks in Europe to celebrate Tom's retirement. In Vienna, they attended performances of *Tosca* at the Staatoper and the Vienna Symphony in the Golden Hall of the Musikverein. They were also able to visit the graves and monuments to many of the major Austrian composers, including Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart and von Suppe and jazz artist Josef Zawinul (*Mercy, Mercy, Mercy* and *Birdland*).

While in Venice, they went to St. Mark's Square and Harry's Bar, where Hemingway drank! Switzerland featured the Matterhorn and Lucerne. The trip also included a 2 day stay at an Austrian spa hotel. Their "tour guides" were David Lutz (formerly of Wernersville) and his friend Anton. David is a professor at the University of Vienna for Music and Interpretive Arts.

If you're wondering why our vocalist, **Debbie Greenawald**, has been living the phrase "So many books, so little time!", it's because she is completing work on a doctorate in nursing education. A graduate student at Widener University since 2003, Debbie successfully passed Comprehensive Exams last August and is now a candidate for a PhD. For you non-academians, what that means is that she is "ABD" or "All but dissertation". Research, writing, and defending her dissertation are her goals for the next 1 ½ years, but she will continue to perform with the Ringgold Band, which she fondly calls "her therapy". Debbie's "other job" is as assistant professor of nursing at Alvernia College.



John T. Bailey

The annual Berks Senior County Music Festival was held Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at Kutztown High School. The students participating in the festival were selected by audition in November 2007. The conductor for orchestra was **John Bailey**, Ringgold Band principal tuba, retired music instructor at Exeter High School, and a member of the applied music faculty at Kutztown University.

Jim Bauer, from our percussion section, has been called to serve the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren as pastor beginning on May 1. He is currently the pastor at Richland Church of the Brethren in Lebanon County and will return to Mohrsville after being away 6 years. He previously served at Mohrsville from 1993 until 2002.

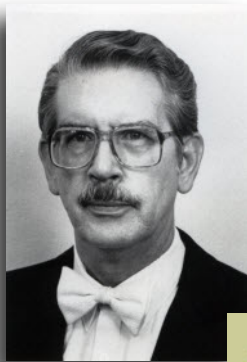


James Bauer

Ringgold Band to Premiere Composition Commissioned to Celebrate RMF's 80th Anniversary

By C. Thomas Work

At its upcoming spring concert, The Ringgold Band will help the Reading Musical Foundation ("RMF") celebrate its 80th year of funding music education, performance and advocacy in Berks County by performing a new work for concert band. Written by nationally known composer Paul W. Whear, the composition was commissioned by C. Thomas Work, RMF's former board chair, as a gift to RMF's staff, trustees and honorary trustees, to commend them for courageously innovating new programs that benefit underserved children, while at the same time increasing RMF's support of excellence in music performance.



Paul W. Whear

The recipient of a Ph.D. in music composition from Case Western Reserve University, Dr. Whear received the second of only two honorary Doctorates in Fine Arts for music composition ever awarded by Marquette University, Wisconsin's largest privately-owned university, in its 126-year history. The first was awarded in 1923 to John Philip Sousa, who died in Reading on the eve of The Ringgold Band's spring concert, for which he was to serve as guest conductor. Dr. Whear received his undergraduate degree from Marquette. He has taught composition at several colleges and universities and at Interlochen Summer Music Camp.



Dr. Whear's compositions, which include major works for concert band, chorus and orchestra, have been performed throughout the United States, Canada, Japan and Europe. He is an honorary member of the U.S. Navy Band, an Honorary Conductor of the U.S. Naval Academy Band at Annapolis, and a Navy veteran of World War II. Dr. Whear will conduct the premiere of his work by the Ringgold Band.

This is the Ringgold Band's second premiere of an RMF-related commission. On April 9, 2006, the Band premiered "*Music in the Wings*," a one-movement trumpet solo with band accompaniment commissioned by RMF to honor the Band's conductor of 25 years, James S. Seidel, who also chairs the Exeter Township School District's music department. Written by Dr. Robert Maggio of West Chester University, "*Music in the Wings*" is a series of variations on the *alma mater* tune of Exeter High School, from which Mr. Seidel graduated. The trumpet solo was performed by Ken Laudermilch, Mr. Seidel's trumpet teacher in graduate school at West Chester University. "*Music in the Wings*" was professionally recorded by the Ringgold Band in early June of this year.

The Reading Musical Foundation is an umbrella funding resource for music in Berks County. From music education programs in the county's public and parochial schools and an extensive program of scholarships on merit and financial need, to community outreach in music for the underserved and youth at risk, RMF supports the lifelong benefits of music education for all ages. To learn more about the Reading Musical Foundation, visit – www.readingmusicalfoundation.org, or call 610-376-3395.

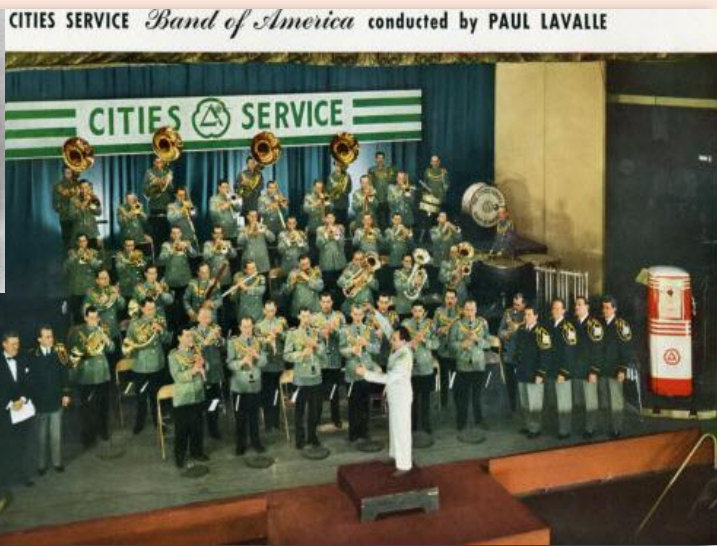
The Band of America

Paul Lavalle was a conductor, composer, arranger, and performer on clarinet and saxophone. He was born Joseph Usifer on September 6, 1908 in Beacon, New York and died in Harrisonburg, Virginia on June 24, 1997. Lavalle worked on several radio programs including *The Dinah Shore Show* (1939-1940), *The Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street* (1940-1944), *Plays for Americans* (1942), and *Highway of Melody* with the *Band of America* (1944-1956). On his radio shows he collaborated with Victor Borge, Mario Lanza, Robert Merrill and Dinah Shore. In November 1944, his jazz composition *Always* made it to number 29 on the top 40 charts.



Lavalle was selected over several applicants to become the conductor of the *Band of America* in 1948. They performed a weekly radio program on NBC Radio for eight years and almost 400 programs. Each program began with the introduction: "Forty-eight states... forty-eight stars... forty-eight men marching down the main street of everybody's hometown! Here comes the Cities Service Band of America, conducted by Paul Lavalle!" In 1949, Lavalle and the band became one of the first musical groups to appear weekly on television. Beginning in 1964 the Band of America toured extensively, and also became the official band of the 1964 New York World's Fair, an engagement that lasted into 1965.

In 2004, a group of original Band of America members, proposed the resurrection of the Band of America. Originally the home for the "new" Band of America was Houston, Texas; however, after one season, it was decided that Atlanta, Georgia would offer more opportunities for growth, and the band was relocated. The band began rehearsing at North Atlanta High School in the spring of 2007. Their first concert was in November of 2007. More information about the new Band of America can be found at www.bandofamerica.org.



Member Spotlight

Greg Bitler

Instruments: Clarinet and Bassoon

Member Since: 1995

Greg comes to us from Danville, Pennsylvania, and has lived in the Berks County area for eleven years. He began clarinet lessons in fourth grade (November, 1962) with Richard Klinedinst. He continued lessons with Richard Lantzur, and then Danville High School Band Director, Ken Warmkessel. One day, when Greg was in 10th grade, Ken Warmkessel approached Greg, and said, "I have this instrument that I have no one to play. Would you be interested?" It happened to be a bassoon – thus began his affiliation with the bassoon, which he played during high school and college (at Bloomsburg State College). Because he didn't have access to a bassoon, he got away from bassoon playing after graduating college. Because he missed playing the bassoon and reading bass clef, while studying for his nursing degree at Bloomsburg University in 1988, he approached University band director Dr. Terry Oxley to see if could borrow one of the school bassoons. He has been playing ever since.

Greg graduated in 1975 from Bloomsburg State College with a B.S. in secondary social studies. He substitute taught for 3 years in the schools in the Danville area. In 1978, he started employment at Danville State Hospital. In 1986, he decided to pursue a second career, and graduated in 1991 from Bloomsburg University with a B.S.N. in nursing. He is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, national honorary nursing society, and is certified in community health. He worked at Berwick Hospital and Sunbury Community Hospital during the next three years. Then in 1994, he decided to leave Danville, and accept a position with the PA Department of Health in Pottsville. He later moved to St. Lawrence in 1997, and took a position in the Southeast District Office



Greg Bitler

of the PA Department of Health in Reading. He has been a Community Health Nurse Supervisor since April, 2005, current supervising the Berks and Schuylkill County State Health Centers, plus the Southeast District's Chronic Disease Team.

Greg has been Ringgold Band secretary since 2002, and was a trustee for two years before that. He also does publicity for the band, and fills in for Dave Myers as business manager at a few of the band's jobs during the summer (when they don't get rained out).

In addition to Ringgold Band, he plays with the Boyertown Alumni Band, and the Rajah Temple Band. He still plays occasionally with bands in his hometown area including the Danville Community Band, Catawissa Military Band, Selinsgrove Adult Band, and Imperial Teteque Band of Williamsport.

Playing with a top notch group was something Greg had always wanted to do, so when he started working in Pottsville, he contacted John Connelly to find out about when the Ringgold Band practiced. The rest is history.

He considers being a member of the Ringgold Band one of the three accomplishments in his life he is most proud of. The other two being a member of the Masonic Lodge, and having graduated from Bloomsburg University's nursing program. He attributes his improved playing to working with Julie Hepler at the Band Camp for Adult Musicians held two weeks in June each year at Allegheny College in Meadville.



A Newsletter Note...

Did you know that the cost to print and mail this newsletter exceeds \$1,000 per issue? With rising costs for printing, paper, postage and the preparation of the newsletter for distribution, the semi-annual newsletter has become a major expense for the band.

So, how can you help? Well, naturally your donations to the band through our associate membership program, our endowment fund, and your support of our spring and fall concerts, all contribute general operating funds to the band. But, here's another idea. If you have a computer, the newsletter is available online at our website www.ringgoldband.com. And, the benefits of viewing it

this way are numerous; first, it's available online at least 3 weeks before the printed copy arrives in the mail; second, the online issue is in full color; and finally, you can save or print it any time you wish if you'd still like to have a printed copy.

So, why not "go green", help us reduce costs, and be the first to get each new edition as soon as it's available.

To "unsubscribe" from receiving the printed version of the newsletter, call us at 610-929-8525 and leave your name, address, and message to unsubscribe. Or, email us at ringgoldband@aol.com with the same information.

Thank you for your continued support of The Ringgold Band!



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.

Ringgold Reaches Out To The Youth of Berks County

By James Seidel, Musical Director

On December 1, 2007, instrumental students from all of Berks County's Sr. High Schools auditioned for the honor of participating in the 2008 PMEA District 10 honors band. After a grueling day of competition, 51 of our own students were selected over students from six additional counties to participate. The concert was held at Schuylkill Valley High School on January 9-11, 2008, with conductor Loras Schissel, no stranger to Ringgold fans, on the podium along with Ringgold Musical Director, Jim Seidel as a featured cornet soloist.

In order to help the students of Berks County better prepare their music for the festival, the members of the Ringgold Band held a special reading session at Schuylkill Valley on Tuesday, January 8. This gave an opportunity to the 32 students who took advantage of the opportunity to become acquainted with the style and interpretation of the music and just how their individual part fit into the whole composition. On the other side of the fence it opened the eyes of the Ringgold membership to the wonderfully talented and quality students representing Berks County.

At the festival I had the pleasure of talking with many of these students about the reading session, and all were very thankful and look forward to this being an annual event. They felt it really helped them get "in touch" with the music and helped them prepare for their re-audition. The great news is 19 of those students are going on to the regional level which takes in the Harrisburg, York, and Lancaster area as well as the above mentioned.

The Ringgold Band has a very strong message in encouraging the youth of our area to continue to pursue band music, and this is just one more example where youth meets the mature musician.



Conductor Seidel, students and members of the Ringgold Band.



RBVAA

2008 Winner

Eric Schneiderhan

Eric Schneiderhan, son of Kurt and Carolann Schneiderhan, resides in Spring Township and is a senior at Wilson High School. Eric's school activities include marching band, concert band, jazz band, chorus, and drama club, Student Council, and the Make A Wish Foundation. He has also been actively involved with Wilson's musical productions. Eric has been a member of the Berks County Jr. High Orchestra, Chorus, and Band, the Berks Sr. County Orchestra, Chorus, and Band, the District 10 Orchestra, Chorus, and Band, Region Band and Chorus, and the PMEA All-State Band. He is also a past member of the Reading Symphony Youth Orchestra. At church, Eric is a member of the Chapel Choir and the brass ensemble.

Eric has studied private piano with Mrs. Millie Eben and trombone with Mr. Bruce Schonour and presently with Mr. Steven Shiffer. His plans are to attend either Penn State University, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, or West Chester University of Pennsylvania in the fall to pursue a career in Music Education. He extends his heartfelt thanks to the Ringgold Band for giving him this special opportunity to perform. Congratulations Eric!



2008 RBVAA winner
Eric Schneiderhan

HAPPENINGS FROM THE YEAR 1908

- Rehearsed at 437 Penn Street, Reading until April of that year then moved to 533 Penn Street. This building was known as "Eagles Hall". It cost the band \$400.00 per year to lease this building.
- Had \$433.07 in the treasury at the beginning of the year.
- Authorized the band to accept Social Members for the sum of \$1.00 per year. A Social Member was given the privilege of being admitted to the band's rooms and Hall anytime except at business meetings or entertainment where admission was charged.
- Formed a Governing Board of 6 members to have "full control of the business of the band and present their report and recommendations to the band for their approval." The committee consisted of Monroe Althouse, Daniel Guldin, John Wacha, J.B. Miesse, J. McLean, and A. Christ.
- Reported of deficit of \$152.10 from their last concert. Receipts were \$201.00 while expenses were \$353.10.
- Gave the three-man uniform committee authorization to purchase 30 uniforms from Reeds & Sons in Philadelphia.
- Carried a motion that was moved by John Wacha and seconded by Monroe Althouse that no members be allowed to display the Ringgold Band's name with other bands.
- Rented their hall to Mr. Peter Kershner for \$3.00 per night for as many nights as he wanted.
- Ended the year with \$491.79 in the treasury.

"Banding Together" at Kutztown Middle School

By James Seidel, Musical Director

On Monday, March 3, 2008, the members of the Ringgold Band once again joined forces with the youth of our county. Each year a Berks County middle school is selected to receive a free program for its middle school band students sponsored by the Ringgold Band in partnership with the Reading Musical Foundation.

This year members of the Ringgold Band sat among the students of Kutztown Middle School and their director Mr. Carl Zeplin. Ringgold players helped the students gain an understanding of the music they're working on, and offered insights into the interpretation of the parts.

The two ensembles had a one-hour rehearsal together where the students performed the music. Then, the Ringgold membership demonstrated various musical concepts to give the students a better understanding of the music. The two groups played together to encourage the students to a higher level. Following this segment, the Ringgold members provided master classes for the students to help them better understand some of the concepts of their particular instrument. During the master classes Mr. Seidel and Mrs. Miller-Aungst, Ringgold Band president, conducted a session for the Kutztown band parents on music advocacy and answered questions about being a band parent. Many parents love what their child does, but are not always sure how to get them to the next level. While we don't hold all the answers, many parents find comfort and knowledge in sharing with each other. Finally, the two bands once again took the stage together and presented a small concert for parents and friends, followed by a reception of light refreshments for all involved.

One of the most gratifying aspects of this program is that students "rub elbows" with quality players whose profession may not be music. The seed is planted that playing their instrument is a life-long activity that they can enjoy regardless of their chosen vocation.

Since the "Banding Together" program was started several years ago by the band, it's become a favorite event that members of the band look forward to each year. Having the opportunity to reach out and hopefully inspire young people to keep playing their instrument regardless of where life takes them is rewarding for all involved.



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:

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

Editor/Designer: Dave Myers

Contributors: James Seidel, Maria Reichenbach, Harrington Crissey, Greg Bitler, Kurt and Carolann Schneiderhann, C. Thomas Work, Dave Myers, Cindy Miller-Aungst.

Spring, 2008

www.ringgoldband.com

Ringgold Band Officers

James S. Seidel, Director
Thomas Shade, Assistant Director
Cindy Miller-Aungst, President
Tom Hahn, Vice President
Greg Bitler, Secretary
Dave Myers, Treasurer/Business Mgr.
Gene Umbenhouer, Librarian

Cathy Fronheiser, Ass't. Librarian
Maria Reichenbach, Historian
Jill Scheidt, Solicitor
Lewis D. Freeman, Trustee
Scott Rhoads, Trustee
Garrett Hyneman, Trustee

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 26
LEESPORT, PA



Ringgold Band

2008 Concert Schedule



- Sun., April 13
3:00 p.m. 156th Annual Spring Concert
Scottish Rite Cathedral, West Reading, PA
- Sun., May 25
6:00-8:00 p.m. Gring's Mill Park, Wyomissing, PA
Concert in the Park
- Sat., June 14
4:30-7:30 p.m. Allegheny UCC, Alleghenyville, PA
Strawberry Festival
- Sat., June 21
7:00-9:00 p.m. Muhlenberg Twp. Middle School, Laureldale, PA (in the auditorium)
Muhlenberg's Saturday Night Concert Series
- Sun., June 29
1:30-3:30 p.m. Conrad Weiser Homestead, Womelsdorf, PA
Free outdoor concert at the historic Conrad Weiser Homestead
- Thurs., July 3
7:00-10:00 p.m. Governor Mifflin High School, Shillington, PA
Greater Governor Mifflin Community Days
- Sat., July 5
6:00-9:00 p.m. Brickerville United Lutheran Church, Brickerville, PA
Church Picnic
- Sat., July 12
5:30-8:30 p.m. Hain's U.C.C., Wernersville, PA
Church Picnic
- Sun., July 13
6:30-8:30 p.m. Quakertown Memorial Park, Quakertown, PA
Concert in the Park
- Sat., July 19
6:00-9:00 p.m. St. Michael's Church, Hamburg, PA
Church Picnic
- Sun., July 20
7:00-8:30 p.m. Coleman Park Amphitheatre, Lebanon, PA
Concert in the Park Series
- Wed., July 30
7:30-9:00 p.m.
(raindate Thurs. July 31) Wyomissing Park, Wyomissing, PA
Free outdoor Concert & Children's Lantern Parade at the Stone House
- Sat., Aug. 9
6:00-9:00 p.m. St. John's "Hill" Church, Pikeville, PA
Church Picnic
- Sun., Aug. 17
5:00-8:00 p.m. Schwarzwald Lutheran Church, Jacksonwald, PA
Church Picnic
- Thurs, Aug. 21
7:00-9:00 p.m. Willow Valley Retirement Community, Willow Street, PA (rain or shine)
Free concert for the residents, their family & friends
- Sun., Sept. 14
12:00-6:00 p.m. Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing, PA
Free concert in the church sanctuary.
- Sat., Sept. 20
12:00-2:00 p.m. Oley Fair, Oley, PA
Old-fashioned country fair. Come enjoy the food!
- Sun., Oct. 19
6:00 p.m. Fall Dinner Concert, Sheraton Reading Hotel, Wyomissing, PA

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

www.ringgolband.com



156th 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		
	TOTAL	\$	

**PLEASE MAKE CHECK OR
MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO
“RINGGOLD BAND, INC.”**

SHIP TO:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MAILING LABEL

**RINGGOLD BAND
 SPRING CONCERT TICKETS
 c/o Dave Myers
 120 Green Road
 Reading, PA 19606-3662**