
UPBEAT *FALL EDITION*

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Lafayette Citizens Band



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A Letter from our Executive Director

I want to begin by saying "Thank You" to Beth Purkhiser, the executive director for the past five years. She has done a wonderful job keeping the band going. Beth had a lot of adversity to overcome during her tenure; she was hit by a van while walking causing several injuries, she had to make sure the band continued through a global pandemic, she had to lead a committee to search for our next conductor, all the while continuing to write and submit a number of grants to help keep the band financially stable. This is not an easy task and the countless hours behind the scenes were difficult, long and challenging. I have worked closely with her the past few years and know that she has a heart of gold and a huge sense of humor. I am sure her laughter is what got her through. Thank you, Beth, for paving the way and your willingness to help with the transition as I begin my duties as the new director.



The LCB holds a special place in my heart. I began playing with the LCB as a student musician in high school, when my band director sent me to play in the side-by-side concert. I was terrified and elated at the same time but once rehearsal began, I became increasingly excited. The music was so good and I thought I was a pretty-big-deal getting to play with these musicians. I went on to play all four years at Purdue in the Symphony Orchestra. After graduating, I immediately got a job teaching visual art in the Tippecanoe School Corporation. My passion for music was put on hold for my career and family. Once my children were older, I decided it was time to get back to playing my French horn. I love to play music in an ensemble and was thrilled to return to the LCB.

The longevity and success of the band, as well as its history, enticed me to get even more involved. I started as an at-large board member and quickly took on the leadership roles of vice president and then president. Now, as the new executive director, I look forward to working with Matt Conaway and the board this winter to plan our 181st season. On behalf of the Lafayette Citizens Band, we can't wait to be back playing for you in May!

Respectfully,

Jenn Tordil, Executive Director

A Letter from our Musical Director



Sometimes, you never quite know what sparks a special long-term connection until you think about it many years later. When I was a very young child, I didn't recognize that sitting on the piano bench next to my grandmother would plant the seeds of a life-long musical career. I didn't know that an offhand comment from my middle school band director would lead me directly down the path toward becoming a band music composer. I didn't know that my arranging and publishing career really started when my college band director gave me an opportunity to hear one of my charts played by the IU Big Red Basketball Band. Perhaps most significantly to this audience, I didn't know that my 20-year association with the Lafayette Citizens Band would begin with an impromptu guest conducting appearance.

In the summer of 2003, Bill Kisinger invited euphonium virtuoso Brian Bowman to perform as a guest soloist with the LCB. Following Brian's solo performance, Bill picked up his own euphonium and joined Brian in a duet with the LCB accompanying. But how was Bill going to conduct the band while playing? Simple – he “randomly” pulled me out of the audience to conduct the band for him. At that point, I had just finished my first year of teaching at West Lafayette High School and really didn't have any business conducting a group like the LCB. But in that moment, I realized what a wealth of talent we had in our community, and what a treasure this group truly is. When I picked up the figurative baton this summer as the new musical director, I just had to smile and realize where it all started: an invitation from Bill to lead his band.

As the sun sets on our 180th season, I am reminded of so many special connections that our Lafayette Citizens Band provides each year. For many musicians new to our community, the LCB provides their first exposure to the rich musical scene in Greater Lafayette. To our area high school band students, a Citizens Band concert might be the first time they realize that there are playing opportunities beyond high school and college. My favorites, by far, are the youngest audience members who often experience their very first live music events at our performances. The joy they experience when they dance (or conduct) along with the music is shared by everyone in the audience and on the stage. We are greatly indebted to our patrons and sponsors for providing such amazing support of this group's mission. Your generosity allows our band to thrive and provide incredible opportunities to all facets of our community. We really can't do this without you, and we are grateful for your continued support of live band music in Greater Lafayette. I can't wait to welcome all of you to our 181st season, where your hometown band will continue to educate, entertain, and inspire life-long connections to the arts!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matt Conaway". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a large loop at the end.

Matt Conaway

A Letter from our Former Executive Director

I'm happy to announce the arrival of a new and improved Executive Director in the form of one Jenn Tordil. You probably know Jenn as the LCB Board President, or one of the art teachers at Harrison HS, artist who designs our programs, or the section manager of the French Horns and Trumpets, or as one of our French Horn players, or all of the above. She has been a tremendous help over the past 5 years and is the perfect person to take over for me. I'm hoping in return that I can be at least somewhat helpful to her as she takes on this next challenge. A shout-out to Brian Dalder, our treasurer for the last 20 plus years, who had to help me with several ridiculous and pernicious computer problems, and also a big thank-you to the rest of the board members who served over the last five years. I'll still be around as a Saxophonist, and I'll still be helping to secure good groups to play our pre-concert entertainment, which is something I started 11 years ago when I came onto the LCB Board. I've enjoyed being the Executive Director, but am looking forward to spending more time on my teaching and performing. I'm also looking forward to seeing everybody again next summer for our 181st season, which will no doubt be better than ever!



Beth Parkhiser



The Lafayette Citizens Band will be moving to the Columbian Park Memorial Island Band Shell for the 181st summer concert season. The Lafayette Citizens band has played a lot of venues over its history. The band began playing in 1842 . Market Square, Tapawingo Park, Jeff High School, Riehle Plaza after the Big Four Depot moved to downtown, and once upon a time, Columbian Park were all hosts to the LCB.

The Lafayette Parks and Recreation Department have recently renovated the stage and band shelter with a slew of upgrades. The new location provides excellent acoustics for our band, a nice sound system, a restroom facility, interesting architecture, and a beautiful setting among the lagoon. Best of all, the renovations include built in seating. We cannot wait to perform for you on Memorial Day to kick off our 181st season in our new home!

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Notable Bill

By Beth Purkhiser, Steve Bell and Paul Addison.

As everyone knows, we had to say goodbye to our conductor of 32 years at the end of our last season - a season during which we celebrated his 80th birthday, so I suppose none of us should have been too surprised. He and his wife, Susan, were kind enough to meet with me for a little interview for this article. "What can I possibly write that will be new?" I had wondered to myself. As a retired Purdue Band director, and 32 years of conducting the Lafayette Citizens Band, Bill has been in the public eye for decades. But after talking with him for a couple of hours, I realized a whole book could be written about this guy.

I actually met Bill when I was still a kid. He conducted a festival of high school bands and my band director took me over to introduce us. (I remember stupidly wondering for a second if he had anything to do with national security. I guess I didn't notice the lack of a second s in his last name.) Little did I know at the time that he would later be my conductor for over 25 years. But other members of the band go back even further than I, and I reached out to ask them for any memories they wanted to share.



You'd think you'd know everything there is to know about a person after such a long association, but when I learned he was retiring, I immediately nominated him for one of the few awards he doesn't yet have from the state of Indiana. To apply for this award, I had to retype his resumé, and I learned all kinds of things. First of all, I learned that his resumé is 16 pages long. The breadth of his educational and professional life is impressive to say the least. When I interviewed Bill and his wife, Susan, for this article, I realized his resumé was only the tip of a very large iceberg. I think there is easily enough

Long time band member, board member, and euphonium player extraordinaire, Steve Bell, had this to say:

"I'll ne'er forget my William D. ...

That's a song we used to sing in the University of Michigan bands to the tune of "College Days" about the great conductor and educator, William D. Revelli, who retired while I played euphonium there as an undergrad. It continues, "That dear sincere old S.O.B.,...". William D. demanded perfection and did not tolerate mediocrity. He changed lives and we were all very fond of him for that, even if it hurt at times!

After Michigan, I went off to graduate school to study math and let my euphonium playing skills decay. After a PhD and a five year postdoctoral experience, my music skills were at an all time low when I was hired by the Purdue Math Department in 1984. The first thing I did when I got to town was buy a euphonium and look around for a place to play it. I found Bill Kisinger's Purdue summer band and my college education under a great William D. seemed to pick

SHOP _{up} & GIVEBACK



Every time you buy groceries, a portion of the profits will be donated to the LCB. This is a great and easy way to support the band. In your web browser, open the Payless or Kroger page and follow these directions:

1. Create a digital account with Payless if you do not already have one.
2. Link your Payless Rewards Card to Lafayette Citizens Band
3. Under your account, choose the "Community Rewards" tab

Search for the Lafayette Citizens Band (or use our organization ID: NN770)

Hit the ENROLL button. Now you're helping the LCB by shopping at Payless and Kroger stores!



(cont. from page 4)

Bill played euphonium in the Lafayette Citizens Band from time to time and I made it one of my goals in life to play there too. I started subbing in the band in 1986 and played under conductors Bob Schlatter and Al Jones, often sitting next to Scott Kisinger, Bill's phenomenal euphonium playing child prodigy son, and Don Isaacs, a local band director who could also play circles around me on euphonium.

In 1989, Bill took over as the conductor of the LCB and the band started to rehearse more per concert, and the rehearsals were intense! Bill can work miracles with any band. In his summer band, he'd choose music like a transcription of Tchaikovsky's 4th symphony for us to play. It went like a train wreck during the first rehearsal, but by the time we'd play it at our end of summer concert at Slayter Hill, it would be something we were all proud of. Bill could do the same with any band he worked with, especially the Future Farmers of America summer bands at Purdue. Bill brought the LCB to its pinnacle moment when we won a Sudler Scroll Award for Community Bands in 2001.

I like rehearsals more than concerts. That's where you learn and grow and experience the music without the distraction of an audience. Soon, I bought a Yamaha 321S euphonium and a gold plated Schilke 52D mouthpiece for it because that's what Bill played, and started to improve rapidly. I got euphonium lessons at the Purdue Applied Music program and began to feel like I could almost keep up with the great players in the LCB. The euphonium section was soon joined by another virtuoso, Lynn Colwell, who had played with the Marine Band, and later by another military band veteran, Butch Harding. With Bill's intense and demanding rehearsals and great players to emulate, I feel like I've extended my college music education by 36 years!

The high point of my euphonium career was the night the LCB euphoniums, Don Isaacs, Lynn Colwell, Butch Harding, Bill Kisinger, and I played a euphonium feature on the stage of Long Center with guest euphonium great, Brian Bowman, at our special Sousa Concert Centennial. Just thinking about it makes me want to break out in song...

Another long-time musician, former webmaster for the LCB and board member Paul Addison added this when we inquired about Bill stories:

I started playing with the LCB in 1974, 15 years before Bill would come to conduct. I was a member of the board who, in 1985, incorporated the band as a not-for-profit organization. The Board of Directors decided, after having several different conductors, to hire a permanent Musical Director. This was in 1988, to start in the 1989 season. We interviewed several candidates, all of them good, but Bill brought in a stack of papers consisting of notes, pictures, and articles of ideas that he would like to implement if he were chosen. They included the polo shirts that we now wear, and holding fund-raising concerts, which we did for several years, and other ideas. Bill also had been directing various bands at Purdue since 1969, and he clearly stood out as the best choice for Musical Director

My second anecdote is about something that happened during a concert at Market Square Shopping Center, where the band played its concerts before Riehle Plaza was built. Bill was conducting a number that ended very softly with a low note on the bassoon, and when he gave the cutoff, the sound continued. He gave the cutoff again, and the sound still continued. It was then that we all realized that a small plane flying overhead was making the same pitch as the bassoon, and was not cutting off. We all had a good laugh: Bill, the band members, and the audience. (continued on page 8)



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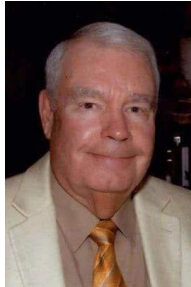
In Memoriam...



Dustin Hopkins

We were sorry to have to say goodbye to several friends this year. Dustin Hopkins was quite well known in our community. Dustin sang with several community groups and was one of our long-time soloists. Dustin had a Sinatra quality to his voice which complimented the LCB beautifully. Our thoughts are with Dustin's family.

Mike Marquess was a long time musician and music educator in our community as well as a fierce supporter of the LCB. Mike passed away in May from Parkinson's complications and cancer. His legacy leaves behind many musicians that play with the LCB, including former students, colleagues, his daughter Jenn Tordil and grandchildren Lilliana and Quincy Tordil. Our thoughts are with Mike's family.



Mike Marquess

LCB NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Serve on our board! As many members of our board have finished up their terms of service, we are looking for new members. We meet the second Monday of the month for an hour and have several different committees that you may serve on depending on your skills and interests.

Concert hosts! We would like a few concert hosts. Concert hosts will help pass out programs and greet patrons as they arrive. This requires you to attend most concerts and be willing to arrive a little early.

Digitize music library! We are looking for someone to work in the band office who is willing to scan music and work on updating the digital library. Computer skills necessary.

Grant writers! We are looking for persons who have a gift for writing and would be interested in helping to pursue local, state and federal level grants to help with our sustainability. If you enjoy writing, this would be a great fit!

Contact: band@lafayettcitizensband.org



181st Season!

2023 CONCERT DATES

Mon. May 29th
Thur. June 1st
Thur. June 8th
Thur. June 15th
Thur. June 22nd
Thur. June 29th
Tues. July 4th
Thur. July 13th
Thur. July 20th
Thur. July 27th
Thur. August 3rd
Mon. September 4th

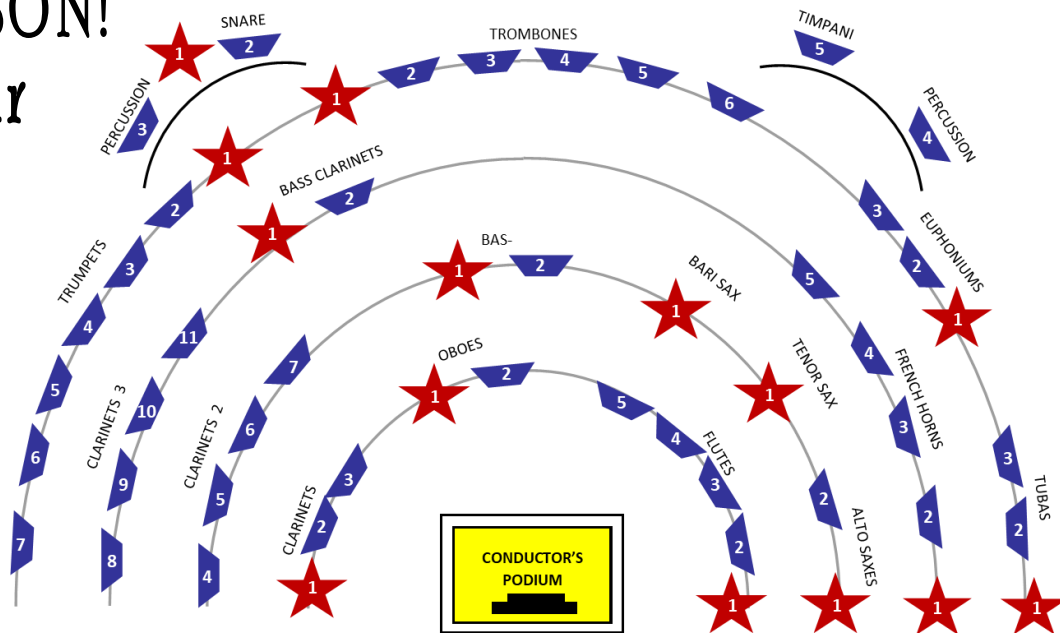


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Your tax deductible donation can support the cost of a musician for the entire season! You get to pick the specific chair you wish to sponsor. It is "first-come, first-serve" so don't delay to get your spot reserved. Once a chair is sponsored, we will change color on our map online on our Facebook and webpage. Your name will be listed in the program book for the 2023 season as that chair's sponsor. Each chair sponsorship is \$500 to cover what it costs to have a player play for the summer. The red star seats denote principle players which are \$1000



Lafayette Citizens Band

Our goal is to have every chair sponsored before April 21st, 2023! Your donation will receive a personalized thank you, an invitation to our donor appreciation night and a letter of proof for your tax purposes that we are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We can't do it without YOU!

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 Jeff Turkstra



(continued from page 5)

Bill Kisinger's 32 year reign directing the LCB is nothing but notable. He built the band from a small ensemble to a full band. Bill's legacy will continue as the LCB board voted to make Bill a conductor emeritus. Along with this rare honor, Bill received another surprise. In September, Purdue University held their new music building (Hagel Hall) dedication ceremony in which the jazz rehearsal space was opened with Bill's name on it! Former students pulled together to make that happen. Bill was surprised and humbled.

We took a moment to catch up with Bill and his wife, Susan. Bill shared he continues to teach private lessons in his downtime. The Kisingers are also traveling a lot, mostly cruises and are planning back-to-back cruises in December. They have additional cruises planned throughout next year. They often travel with their Australian Shepard, Wattie. Bill says Wattie supervises most goings on at their house. Bill and Susan enjoy taking Wattie on walks and to the dog park. Bill said that he absolutely loves college football and roots for his Boilermakers. He is looking forward to watching Purdue basketball too. We hope Bill isn't so busy that he can't stop by for a concert or two in 2023!



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