

The Pioneer Band Newsletter

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PIONEER BAND OF ALLENTOWN

Jay A. Durner, Director

Presents

JUMP, JIVE, & WAIL!

A Spring Swing Concert



**Sunday, April 29, 2007
3 PM**

**Scottish Rite Cathedral
1533 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA**

ADMISSION: FREE
Swing Dancers Wanted
Invite your friends!

Sponsored by
**Bessie Graham / Florence Flach Foundation
and
Music Performance Fund**

PIONEER BAND ROCKS in SUMMER of 2006

Something Completely Different....

Article Contributed by Karen El-Chaar, Flutist, and President of Local 45 of the American Federation of Musicians

Well, it wasn't exactly Woodstock, but it was close. The Pioneer Band threw caution to the wind and "brought down the house" at West Park on Tuesday night, August 22, 2006. Something was definitely different, the audience arrived at the park before most of the band members. (Well, an offer of free soda and pretzels will do that.) When the kegs kicked, Allentown Mayor Ed Pawlowski kept the party going by mingling with the audience, offering pretzels as he walked around the park. Special guest emcee, Christopher Michaels (WLEV-FM), graciously provided the crowd with history and other tidbits on each song. It was a beautiful evening in the park, not too hot, not too cool...just right. You couldn't ask for a better atmosphere.



And, of course, the music was fantastic – programmed to appeal to all ages. For the more traditional-minded, we offered the patriotic opener, **“Star Spangled Banner”**, and closer, **“God Bless America”**. The rest of the concert was not exactly the usual concert band faire. We saluted the “King,” **Elvis Presley**, and moved right into the 50’s with a medley of tunes from the musical/movie **“Grease.”** After “bopping” to that one, we highlighted the jazz/mariachi sound of **Herb Alpert & the Tijuana Brass**. (Recall the **“Spanish Flea”** and **“Tijuana Taxi”**? Bring back memories, don’t they?). By that point, people started dancing in the aisles. **“The Eighties”** (a medley of songs from the 1980’s) created just the right atmosphere with **“Don’t Worry, Be Happy”** and as dusk fell one heard the familiar **“E.T.”** and the popular **“We Are the World.”** The next selections were just absolute classics.

Did you ever hear a concert band play music by **The Doors** (such as **“Riders on the Storm,” “Don’t You Love Her Madly”**) and did you ever watch those traditional concert band musicians actually play that music? It was clearly evident the Pioneer Band musicians loved the music as much as the audience did. Do you recognize those classic hits - **“Crocodile Rock,” “Candle in the Wind”** and **“Saturday Night’s All Right”**? **Elton John** would have been proud. The audience sang to the music of **Tina Turner** (of **“Proud Mary”** fame) and even **Shania Twain**. For those who enjoyed the more “symphonic” sound, our last concert selection featured **“Bohemian Rhapsody,” “We Will Rock You,” “Another One Bites the Dust,”** and **“We Are the Champions.”** If you guessed the music of **Queen**...you’re invited to our next bash – Summer 2007. Watch for local listings, swarms of people at West Park, musicians dressed in casual (but tasteful) Hawaiian garb and perhaps, an offer of free soda and pretzels.

From the Conductor’s Podium

By Jay Durner, Pioneer Band Conductor



I was thinking the other day about a commercial that I saw on television about an insurance company. The announcer is expressing the idea of longevity for the company’s service. “We were there when your grandmother did the Charleston. We were there when they were swing dancing with the big bands. We were there when your parents did the rock and roll parties. We were there for you to do the twist and disco. We are there for your kids when they break dance.” I see this relating directly to the longevity factor of the Pioneer Band.

We were organized and playing concerts when Teddy Roosevelt charged up San Juan Hill. We were there when the dough boys moved across the European theater in WWI. We never closed for a season during the lean years of the depression. We played band concerts to support our troops in WWII. Some of our recent members served in Korea. We survived the sixties and the seventies. We thrived in the eighties and nineties and here we are in

another new century. The Pioneer Band has been around for 118 years, entertaining people in the Lehigh Valley and beyond. In the last twenty years we have traveled around the East Coast including performing in Washington D.C. and Baltimore's beautiful Inner Harbor. We have traveled to Germany and have hosted bands from that country as well. We have entered the recording age and made cassette tapes and CDs for you to enjoy in your homes.

As we begin a new season, I would invite you to come out and see what makes us tick! Our concerts at West Park are enjoyable (if I do say so myself!) in that a variety of music is programmed. We are in the entertainment business and are there to create an event that you will enjoy as you escape from your day to day routine. On any given night you might hear the strains of *Mozart* or *Elton John*. You may hear a singer or two, or see a Disney character scamper across the audience inviting youngsters to join the band on stage. There may be a guest announcer from a local radio station or even the Mayor himself!

For the Pioneer Band to continue to be a part of the rich history of local music we need your support. Keep reading – ***I am not asking for money!*** We need you to come out and hear us! Bring the kids. Bring the grandchildren! Bring your friends! Pack a snack. Pack a whole dinner! Make it a party! We don't care if you talk during the concerts – just enjoy them! The concerts are free and in most cases, last a little more than an hour. Check our website at www.pioneerband.com for our updated schedule. We play so much better when you are there!

Help us keep the tradition of concert band music alive in Allentown!

Meet Our New Assistant Conductor, Brian Smith



Brian Smith is a native of Delaware, but currently resides in Hellertown, PA with his wife Jennifer Graf. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Music Education from West Chester University and has completed a Master's of Education from Wilkes University. Brian started his teaching career in Delaware, teaching instrumental music and general music at Milton Middle School in the Cape Henlopen School District. At Milton, he taught beginner band and general music to fifth and sixth graders, jazz band to seventh and eighth graders, and concert band to all levels for a total of four years.

Upon his marriage to Jennifer in 2001, he moved to Pennsylvania and began teaching at Louis E. Dieruff High School in Allentown, PA. During his three years at Dieruff, Brian was responsible for the marching band, concert band, and jazz band. In addition, he also taught piano class, voice class, general music, and music theory to students in grades nine through twelve.

Currently, Brian is the elementary instrumental music teacher at Dominick DeFranco Elementary School in the Bangor Area School District, Bangor, PA. where he teaches beginner and continuing band students in grades four through six and is also the Assistant Marching Band Director at Bangor Area High School.

Throughout his career, Brian has taught private instrument lessons out of his own home and studios including the Delaware Music School, Sine's Music Studio in Quakertown, PA and Saucon Valley Music in Hellertown, PA.. His instrumental lessons have included flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, baritone, trombone, and percussion.

Brian is a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association, Music Educator's National Conference, and Local 45 of the American Federation of Musicians. He plays the French horn and trumpet with the Pioneer Band when he is not acting as assistant conductor and also is a member of Olde Towne Carolers, a professional caroling group his wife started in the fall of 2005.

The Pioneer Band welcomes Brian as our new assistant conductor!

