

January 6, 2022

To: Musicians of the Circleville Pumpkin Show Community Band:

The Adelphi (*Ohio*) Community Band is always looking for musicians!

As any of you are personally interested, or if you know of other musicians who might be interested, The Adelphi Community Band is always looking for musicians of all ability levels who can play typical concert band instruments.

In case you are not familiar with either the organization or the activities of the band, especially in light of some of our most recent changes, you might find the following to be of interest:

We don't audition for parts.

We are happy to have you, and you are welcome to play whatever instrumental part you are most comfortable with, or that you are interested in.

We don't have quotas for instruments, or sections.

Some community bands only want so many of each instrument at a performance. We, however, will take as many musicians as we can get. With everyone's occasional personal and work schedule conflicts, it all works out in the end, anyway.

The band is NOT an all brass band!

The band welcomes all musicians who can play the instruments typically found in concert bands.

During my own history with the band, we have certainly had Clarinets, Saxophones, Flutes, and Piccolos. However, I closely follow a number of community bands throughout Ohio as well as from many other states, and community bands in general seem to always have several musicians playing brass instruments and Clarinets, but usually have very few of the other instruments. The Adelphi Community Band is no exception to that observation.

But we welcome all typical concert band instruments, and we are happy to say that we currently have some excellent musicians playing Clarinet, Flute, and Piccolo with us. But more musicians is always better.

There isn't anything to "join" in order to play with us.

No "pinkie swears", and no contracts.

We are just happy to have you play with us whenever your schedules permit.

If you think you would be more comfortable playing in public with us if you could practice with us first, then no problem. Or, if you are comfortable just going through the music on your own and then playing with us at a performance, then that's fine, too.

We have always welcomed musicians just sitting in with us, and we are happy to currently have musicians play with us who come from significant distances, to include Pigeon Forge, the Chicago

area, and from other locations where the distance restricts the musicians to only being able to perform with us sporadically throughout any given year.

About the only qualifiers are that you have to own your own instrument, and I don't carry spare music to either performances or practices. But if you let me know ahead of time when you want to come, then I can have music copied for you, and can even possibly get it to you ahead of time for you to look over before the practice or performance.

We don't require people to PAY us in order to play with us.

That sounds weird, but it isn't difficult to find community bands in Ohio who actually DO charge musicians to "join" them!

You will be given your own music to keep in order to practice from, and to make personal notes on as you need.

Based on the song structure, key changes, etc., I usually put a lot of personal notes on my own paper copies. Now you can do the same to your own copies of the music.

We have provided sound files on our web site for the songs on our current performance lists. For many of these songs, we have even included links to the individual instrumental parts.

This is for anyone who either isn't familiar with some of the songs on our concert list, someone who just needs reminded of what a specific song sounds like if we haven't played it recently, or for people like me who just like sometimes to see what the other instruments are doing during specific sections of any song. For many of the sound files, you can play along with them as you wish.

Here is the web page containing the songs currently in our main performance folder.

<https://adelphiband.weebly.com/manila-folder--1.html>

Because of the expense, starting January 2022 we have gone away from the most recent military style uniform that the band has used since the late 1950's or early 1960's.

Yes, they do look snazzy, but they are too expensive to continue with, and they frankly were never that comfortable for people like me.

Starting in 2022, we are going with the usual black/white attire like many other community bands.

Golf shirts are extremely more comfortable than dress shirts!

We don't issue any uniform items, but we also don't require that you purchase any, either.

The musicians who play with us currently range from @18-88, although in many years we have had musicians as young as 10 years of age!

The odds are that you already know many of the musicians currently playing in the band.

The neat thing about this is that the older musician are both willing and able to guide the younger ones through the music, and the experienced musicians can also help answer important questions like what the correct spelling of "trifecta" is, where the porta-potties are at every performance, who has the best fish sandwiches, and so on.

Contrary to many persistent misconceptions about the band, many of our current musicians are female.

We are interested in the musician, not the gender of the musician.

Starting in Fall 2021, we have scheduled practices generally once a month and have moved our practices to Circleville.

We have moved our practices to Circleville in order to be more convenient to our current musicians, and to hopefully also be more convenient for others to want to play with us. Practices are held on Monday evenings.

Our performance season currently runs from May to the end of October.

Most recently, our performance season has started with performing for Memorial Day Week-End Observances and concluding with the Circleville Pumpkin Show.

We don't travel far for our performances.

Most recently, our performances have been in the Adelphi/Laurelville/Hallsville area, Chillicothe, Lancaster, and Circleville.

Our play lists include the classic marches and serenades of Sousa, Alford, Bagley, Jewell, King, Chillicothe's own Will Huff, Fillmore, and many, many others.

We are fortunate that our music library consists of @ 1,200 songs. Plus, we have thousands more that we can access through the web as many groups nationwide are trying to save, digitize, and share the great marches, serenades, specialty numbers, etc., that have entered Public Domain.

Almost exclusively, our concert lists come from the late 1800's to the early 1900's when the great sounds of the music from composers like the ones listed above were being heard around the world.

There are thousands of great marches and serenades available to be played by community bands. We will certainly play some of the more famous ones, but we will also regularly include others not so generally well known, but which could possibly soon become some of your new favorites. That's what has happened to many of us in the band as additional songs have been introduced to our concert lists..

Starting in 2021, we initiated the process of periodically reviewing our play list in order to move out some songs and add new ones.

If we find songs that we like better than some of the ones we have been playing for awhile, or find some that we haven't played for awhile, then we have no problem rotating songs in and out of our performance folders.

The Adelphi Community Band is definitely a family environment

We have no hazing. Inappropriate jokes are not told.

The older musicians watch out and help the younger ones with playing the music, and the younger ones can be counted on to jump in when the older musicians start to realize that having someone help to carry an instrument or music gear now and then is actually pretty handy.

2022 will mark the band's 142nd year.

Yes...really. The band has a fascinating history, and a strong association with Central and Southern Ohio.

The Adelphi Community Band is not the oldest community band even in Ohio, but our lengthy research of community bands nationwide has found just a handful of bands that can claim a longer history.

Our current musicians are proud of the band's history, and in trying to help document it for others, the band web page currently has @ 3,000 pictures dating back to 1890.

The web site also contains about the same number of newspaper articles ,concert programs, band newsletters, and magazine articles, also dating back to the late 1800's. We also have many YouTube videos and just sound files of band performances dating back to 1969.

The band has been around for parts of 3 different centuries and @ 15 decades. We currently have musicians who have just 1 year or so with the band, to several members with 40, 50, 60, and even over 70 years with the band!

To put all of this into perspective, the band was started just 15 years after the end of the Civil War, and is older than:

- a). The gunfight at the OK Corral
- b). Billy the Kid being killed by Pat Garrett
- c). The Washington Monument
- d). The Eiffel Tower
- e). The Statue of Liberty.
- f). Cotton Candy
- g) The Ferris Wheel, and
- h). Basketball

to name a few anchors in time.

We are proud to be able to say that the band has been playing at many of the same area festivals and County Fairs for several decades.

In fact, we just finished our 2021 season in October with the Circleville Pumpkin Show, where our own research has confirmed that we have been playing there since at least 1925! And, except for 2020, the band has played at the Ross County Fair every year since the very FIRST Ross County Fair!

Band web site:

<https://adelphiband.weebly.com/>

Contact Info:

At whatever point you find that you are able to play with the band, just contact me.

I can share the latest schedule of practices and performances, you can let me know what instrument and part you want to play, and we can discuss how I can best get your copies of the music to you.

Or, just contact me if you have questions that I haven't answered here.

Jeff Mathew

Adelphi Community Band Member since 1967

E-Mail: adelphiband@yahoo.com

Cell (with texting): 614-519-1688

END of E-MAIL