

The Adelphi Community Band

Adelphi, Ohio
Established 1880



Newsletter



December 2, 2021

Greetings!

If your Christmas list included another Adelphi Band newsletter, you'll be thrilled by Santa's early delivery. So much for those "supply chain" issues we've heard so much about.

Below are updates that Jeff Mathew provided concerning 2022, along with other information.

Merry Christmas!

John Mathew

THE BAND CONTINUES TO CHANGE: PLANNING FOR 2022:

1). To your credit, most of you have weathered several changes in the band during 2021. Hopefully you found many of the changes to be beneficial. However, I think that some more "official" changes are both necessary and appropriate in order for the band to be able to continue. Those of you who I have spoken informally to about these ideas have generally agreed with this idea.

2). I like to think that I have as much respect for the band's history and traditions as much as anyone. However, I have also had no reservations this year in openly expressing my thoughts that the band's previous customs in many areas are clearly unaffordable now. And many of them just don't make objective sense.

3). Further, I am totally convinced that many of the band's previous customs have actually prevented us from attracting and keeping additional musicians.

The following topics are just a discussion of what has been happening with the band anyway, but this just states it publicly as well as the reasons why these "official" changes are necessary.

IMPORTANT:

We will keep the "black/white" uniform look.

1): As of January 1, 2022, Officially Abandon the "Winter Uniform" of Striped Pants and Military-Style Dress Coat

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There really isn't even a decision to be made, here. Hardly anyone has one....or a complete one....or one that currently fits...or a coat that still buttons. All anyone has to do is to look through several years of band pics on the band web site in order to see the truth in those statements.

The cost of new uniforms is clearly too expensive for either the musicians or for the band to purchase. Further, there is very little inventory of spare uniform items that are either in good enough repair to be used, or in appropriate sizes.

2). As of January 1, 2022, Officially Abandon the White DRESS Shirt and Black Tie

We will keep the "black bottom/pants and white shirt" look, but the white shirt doesn't have to be a **dress** shirt.

At this point in my life, I want to be comfortable. And wearing a **dress** shirt and tie in the dead of summer when you are already sweating through it like a broken garden hose is one of the most uncomfortable feelings I know.

The web site pics confirm that already most of the musicians do not currently wear either **dress** shirts or ties anyway, and actually have not for many years. Further, most women I know don't want to wear what are typically male-oriented dress ties, and I don't blame them.

If you already own any, I personally find golf style shirts to be **extremely** comfortable over any style of button down dress shirt. They are generally inexpensive compared to an actual dress shirt and mine have certainly been durable. That is just my personal preference and experience. But, if you like white dress shirts, certainly go ahead and continue to wear them.

3). As of January 1, 2022, Officially Abandon the Uniform Band Hat

Many of the current musicians, including me, don't want to wear a leather and wool hat in the 90+ degree temps and high humidity in June, July, and August. And I won't lie about it...I'm not going to anymore....And many women, and certainly some men, don't like to wear any style of hat at all.

No one will want to buy a uniform hat just to play with us, and the band is not yet in a position of trying to maintain an expensive inventory of uniform hats when we don't need them. Further, a lot of us shouldn't even be wearing one in the summer heat and humidity. Just tell your family Doctor sometime that you are wearing a dark wool and leather uniform band hat in the sun, humidity, and in the 90+ degree temps in June, July, and August, and wait for the reaction.

And we shouldn't try to keep the uniform hats with the thought of only wearing them in "cooler" weather. That doesn't solve any of the problems listed above, and it even becomes more useless and wasteful of both band money and personal resources to try to maintain an expensive uniform item that is only used a very few times a year. And is still only worn by very few musicians.

4). PROJECT: Create a Unique Adelphi Band Logo Suitable for Multiple Uses

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That statement really says it all. We currently don't have one. And in all my research I have never found that the band ever had one.

This new band logo will be suitable to be used on clothing items and other objects.

Sherry and I have already been working on a unique logo design for the band that would be suitable for placement: 1). on the **front** only of a black, lined, windbreaker, 2). on a black, baseball style hat, and 3). on a white golf-style shirt.

Our personal interest in this project is that this band logo would be used on our personal clothing items, and possibly some other objects. But we recognize that the final version of the logo may be something of interest to some of the rest of you, as well.

Our plan is to find a Circleville-area vendor that can handle single orders as opposed to only wanting to process bulk orders.

The end result will be that if any of the musicians want any of these clothing items (*or other objects*) with this new band logo, then they would be able to contact the vendor themselves and both place and pay for their own orders. That way each musician can personally judge for himself/herself the appropriate sizes of any clothing items desired. Or make their own choices about other, personal purchases. I think we all know that any project that involves groups trying to blindly bulk order clothing items sized to specific people never ends well.

I have no desire to try to make any of these clothing items with any new band logo "required", but only to give the musicians personal options.

At some point over the winter break I will send our draft logo around for your thoughts and input. I do not claim to have an artistic eye, and some of you may have more imaginative thoughts as to what a good, distinctive logo for the band might look like. We will also let you know of our findings to date about possible vendors and prices of the common clothing items.

BAND WAGON DRIVER NEEDED FOR 2022:

We need to be on the lookout for another band wagon driver for 2022, just in case.

Mr. Jerry Wolford is a great guy and did a **great** job for us this year, especially since we found on very short notice at the first of 2021 year that we needed a driver for the band wagon.

However, he is turning (*or already is*) 83, and has admitted to some health issues that are bothering him. In the discussion that Jerry Voss and I had with him just a couple weeks or so ago, he seemed to leave the door open to helping out again if needed, but specifically said that he would be fine if we found someone else.

I would recommend the following criteria in looking for a band wagon driver.

1). Someone who a band member personally knows and could vouch for.

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2). Someone available to be able to commit to the dates and times where we would need a driver.

3). Someone with a vehicle strong enough to pull the trailer and that is in reasonable cosmetic shape.

4). We can offer some financial reimbursement for time and expenses.

5). Someone with an even demeanor. Parade staging and event participation can be a confusing and contradictory process, especially among festivals where the event volunteers have not had much experience. And the large band trailer can be unwieldy to maneuver in a crowded parade staging area. Being able to calmly interact with already frustrated event organizers is a must.

Sadly, many of the older band members know that years ago there was a not-so-positive experience between the band wagon driver at the time, and the event personnel for at least one specific event, which reflected badly on the band at that festival.

If any of you know someone who would work well in this position, please let me know.

MORE MUSIC:

Tell your musician friends that we can use them. We now have several practices scheduled before our next performances, which will probably be in May. That schedule will be out in a couple weeks, but practices will start in February on the second Monday of the month.

Let me know ahead of time, and I can print out and get to them the music before the next practice that they can attend (*I do NOT carry spare music with me*). Plus, as you know, we already have sound files of almost all our music for them to listen to and even play along with even BEFORE coming to a practice, if they wish.

There isn't anything to "join" in order to play with us. (*"Join" is the word that I hear the most often when someone says that he/she doesn't want to "join" another band right now.*) We don't audition for either parts or chairs, we don't require you to buy anything, we don't charge people to play with us, and we realize that not everyone can make every event, so we are just happy to see them when their schedules permit. Those qualities already separate us from a lot of community bands.

And then there is our music. Even in the many bands I've played in, I get tired of concert pieces that are so slow, boring, and not generally challenging to play. I do not find that kind of music interesting or personally fulfilling. These are certainly not statements that can generally be said about the music The Adelphi Community Band plays!

EPILOGUE:

I am excited about what 2022 may bring to the band. I really have felt new energy coming from the musicians this last year, which has included unsolicited comments from many of you that you have felt this, as well. That's great. Hopefully, that feeling continues

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as we work to try to do things that are intended to help the musicians succeed, and to attract more of them to the band.

The band has always valued the musicians over the details of what the musicians wear. For example, we have always allowed musicians to sit in with us who didn't have an "official" winter uniform, or weren't even in black/white. Allowing musicians to sit in with us is a practice that I personally encourage. We have always encouraged dress conformity, but never required it. The band has clearly and drastically changed uniform styles several times over its history, so these current changes are certainly not unprecedented.

The important point for me is that we will always be known as The Adelphi Community Band because of our music. Many of us regularly hear comments from spectators, friends, and even family members that it is easy to tell when the Adelphi Community Band is coming down the street because of the music we play. I even heard those comments as recently as the 2021 Pumpkin Show, and we saw countless people along the parade route moving to the music, clapping their hands, and tapping their feet.

THAT'S the soul of the Adelphi Community Band that makes me want to continue to play in it, and THAT is what I definitely want to preserve.

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