


Music bridges the generation gap

By **MELISSA BENZEL**

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HERALD STAFF WRITER

The music is what it's all about. The music is what bridges the generational gap and brings together young and old to practice most Tuesday nights for the Pumpkin Show Band.

Director Clifford Kerns said drawing new members, no matter what the age, is always a goal and seeing young people join the band is good.

"I think it's exciting," Kerns said about the new talent the band has acquired this year.

Variety is a main theme of the band.

"We have people in here from ages 12 to 83," Kerns said. "We

have all the ages in between. We have various forms of occupations — we have teachers, lawyers, retired people and students."

The young people join for a variety of reasons, but all of the reasons stem from the love of music.

Cat Brown, 11, of Mount Sterling, plays the trombone in the Pumpkin Show Band. Brown joined the band to have more practice. Kerns is her home school band director and encourages the students to have outside sources of practice.

She said she enjoys playing in the band because of the variety.

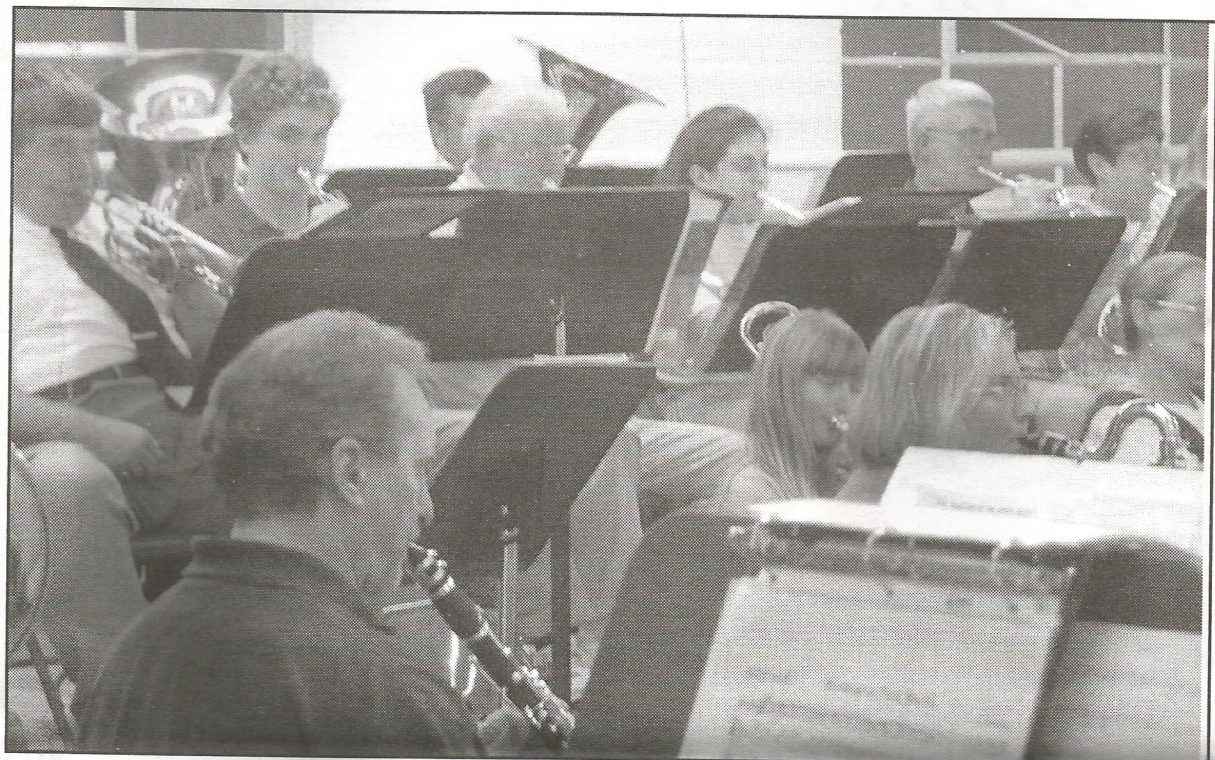
"We play different music," she said. "It's just fun in general to

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Melissa Benzel/The Herald

Above is Jim Shea, one of the oldest members of the Pumpkin Show Band. Shea said the camaraderie of the band is one of the reasons he likes it so much.



Melissa Benzel/The Herald

Members of the Pumpkin Show Band practice during its regular Tuesday night meeting. Band director Clifford Kerns said no matter what the age of the player, people join the band for the music. He said anyone who plays an instrument is welcome to the 7:30 p.m. Tuesday practice.

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play music.”

“We try to play various things,” Kerns said.

Dale DeLong has been with the Pumpkin Show Band since it’s beginning.

“I just enjoy music,” he said about why he’s been with the band so long.

DeLong said it’s nice to see new members join the band, no matter what their age is.

Dale Catron, 15, is another of Kerns’ home school band pupils and has been in the Pumpkin Show Band for nine months.

Catron also said the variety of music is what he likes about the band.

“It’s great learning experience,” said the 15 year old of being a member. “It’s a new range of music.”

“It’s a challenge because it’s different from the stuff we play and it’s something new,” Catron said.

Jim Shea is one of the oldest members of the Pumpkin Show



Melissa Benzel/The Herald

Members of the Pumpkin Show Band practice.

Band and sums up the reason anyone in the band is in the band.

“I love music,” he said. “I love the camaraderie.”

Shea’s been in the band for 15

years and even though he has some trouble getting around he doesn’t plan on leaving the band anytime soon.

Kerns hopes no one does.

