

To: Jennifer Kiser
Director of Operations and Client Services,
NBC4, WCMH-TV

From: Jeff Mathew
The Adelphi (Ohio) Community Band
Member since 1967

Date: 6-16-2020

Re: 6-13-2020 Inquiry about The Adelphi (Ohio) Community Band

Thank you for your inquiry dated 6-13-2020 requiring the current activities of The Adelphi Community Band.

Our Director is John Brown, and our Business Manager is Glenn Hinton.

I have been asked by Mr. Hinton to contact you as his designee and to assist you in whatever way I can.

I was present when Mr. Bowersock met with our band years earlier, and I remember that occasion well.

I am happy to help you in whatever way you need.

I apologize for not getting back with you sooner, but I was occupied with previously scheduled projects over the entire week-end.

To maybe proactively respond to some of your interests:

BAND HISTORY:

Adelphi, Ohio is located in the northeast corner of Ross County. However, our current members come from a multi-county, and even a multi-state, area.

The 2010 Census lists the population as 380.

Yes, we have one band member who still lives in Adelphi.

The Adelphi (Ohio) Community Band was organized in 1880. Accordingly, the band recognizes 2020 as its 140th year.

We try to put this in perspective to others by acknowledging that the band was started:

- 15 years after the end of the Civil War

- Before the gunfight at the OK Corral
- Before Billy the Kid was captured by Pat Garrett
- Before the Washington Monument, Eiffel Tower, and the Statue of Liberty, and
- Before Coca Cola was invented,

just to name a few historical milestones.

The list of places the band has played at, and the types of events, during this period is naturally quite lengthy.

A partial list of these events can be found at:

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

This includes pretty much every type of event that can be organized at a local level, to include playing for:

- A Governor's Inauguration,
- A Vice-President,
- A Presidential Candidate,
- A picnic for 170 Glider Pilots from Lockbourne Air Base (1942), and
- A celebration of the band's 100th anniversary in 1980 by performing in Washington D.C.

CORRECTION TO YOUR INQUIRY:

Your inquiry asks if it is correct that we *“will have just done your first performance together since March at the Pickaway County Fair on June 20th. “*

I am unclear where the March reference comes from, as the band did not have anything scheduled for March 2020. The band has hardly ever started that early in the year.

I am unclear if you are actually partially referencing another community band in this area, as there is one who had to cancel a March 2020 concert due to the virus. However that band was not scheduled to perform at the Pickaway County Fair on June 20th.

However, June 20th has not already passed, but is this coming Saturday. Our scheduled performance for the Pickaway County Fair on June 20th was canceled, anyway, for several reasons.

THE BAND'S USUAL PERFORMANCE AND PRACTICE ACTIVITIES:

Like many community bands, the schedule of The Adelphi Community Band generally starts with practices in either April or May of each year, and concludes with our performances at the Circleville Pumpkin Show in October.

Unlike some other community bands, however, almost all of the band's performances have been for events organized by others, as opposed to the band scheduling its own concerts at gazebos, in city parks, or on street corners.

In recent years, our first performances would be for Memorial Day observances on both Sunday and Monday of that week-end.

The band almost exclusively performs outdoors for large, populated events like County Fairs and The Circleville Pumpkin Show.

The band also performs in several parades during the course of the year while using its own custom band trailer.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE BAND'S ACTIVITIES:

Quite simply, it has stopped the band's activities entirely.

The band has not been together since October 2019.

Almost every event that the band would have normally played for up to this part of any calendar year has been canceled by the event organizers.

You can find our expected list of performances for 2020 at:

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

THE FUTURE FOR THE BAND:

A. Breaking Our Personal Quarantines (When and How):

As governmental restrictions on gatherings and events have been continually loosened in recent weeks, the band members now face the same personal decisions that everyone has to now make regarding how much we should break our personal quarantines, and where, and how.

There is no secret that community bands, to include The Adelphi Community Band, are generally made up of older musicians.

Younger musicians may participate in a community band while still in school, but upon graduation from either High School or college, then their attention, finances, and available free time gets devoted to jobs, careers, a wealth of choices for leisure activities, and family responsibilities.

It is often only after many of those activities and responsibilities have started to

fade somewhat that a well of time and interest are discovered to again be able to devote to being a musician.

However, a natural and unfortunate result of this extraordinary length of service by the band members typically includes finding ourselves unwilling victims of associated medical issues.

Many of us now find ourselves falling into the category of being in the target population for which there is more concern should any of us become infected by the virus.

We don't want to become infected ourselves, and we certainly do not want to unwittingly become the means by which our friends and family members become infected.

I think that it is also safe to say that our band members are generally not the type of people who will jump at the first headline saying that it is OK to now leave the house with unlimited restrictions. They will want to wait to make sure that this good news is not just a momentary blip only to be retracted within days or even hours.

Accordingly, all the band members I have been in contact with during this period have rightfully, but reluctantly, embraced the concept that staying quarantined is at least a temporary requirement in order to try to stay healthy.

As a result, in spite of any continued good news about lowering infection rates, the band membership is experienced enough to want to wait to see that this good news continues.

We recognize that either breaking or maintaining a quarantine is totally an individual decision, made by each one of us based on our own judgment and personal circumstances.

We are each responsible for our own choices regarding our health.

B. Social Distancing Affecting Practices and Performances:

Social Distancing and Practicing:

It is physically possible to perform in some bands and still respect Social Distancing.

However, since we don't own our own building, even finding any available space in which the band can practice isn't always easy. Our current practice location is in an operation that has been closed due to previous Directives.

Finding a space that would also provide for Social Distancing for the band members makes everything even more difficult.

In the last 50+ years that I have been with the band, we have had to find numerous practice locations as any current space would become unavailable for various reasons.

Social Distancing and Performing:

We do not use amplified instruments, and we are not the typical small, country/cover band utilizing a large stage that distances us from the audience.

The presence of these factors just makes it harder for us to function.

As an example, in trying to respect Social Distancing, if we have 5 Trumpet players, then the 1st Trumpet player will be distanced potentially by a minimum of 20 feet, and realistically no closer than 25 or more feet, from the 5th Trumpet player.

And that just accounts for just one section, with every instrumental section having its own space needs.

That amount of distance between musicians doesn't work well for hardly any musical group utilizing brass or woodwind instruments as each musician needs to hear all the other instruments.

This concept is made even more difficult in our typical outdoor environment where we are already competing against transient crowd noise and the cacophony of typical festival and fair activities.

Two musicians sharing music from a single music stand is no longer possible.

And, this also prohibits us from performing in parades on our band wagon.

Plus, while the band may respect Social Distancing within its own formation and activities, that certainly doesn't mean that any type of crowd the band would be performing in and around would also respect the appropriate distancing of themselves from the musicians.

We look forward to again being able to be with our band family who we may have sat beside and performed with for many decades, to again play at the many great events where we have also been invited to perform at for many decades, and to again play the classic marches, serenades, and waltzes that we all enjoy and which continues to mark the unique identity of The Adelphi Community Band to the public.

But we look forward to resuming these activities only when we have resolved to ourselves that doing so would not endanger our health or the health of those around us.

BAND WEB PAGE:

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

I assume that your initial contact with me was predicated on the listing of this e-mail address on the band's unofficial web page.

We welcome your inquiry and are always happy to discuss the band's unique history and future activities.

If you haven't taken the time to look at the web page, as the result of many, many hours of research, the band web page now contains several thousand pictures of the band. One of the pictures of the band has been dated back to 1890, which was ten years after the band started.

We have also been able to find and scan several thousand pages of documents about the band, to include newspaper and magazine articles, printed ads, concert programs, personal correspondence, and various band newsletters.

This has included newspaper articles dating back to 1890 and from over 17 newspapers around Ohio.

The web page also has information about some of the very special people who have performed with the band over the years, to include:

- **A Director who was also the first Director of the Ohio University (Athens) Marching Band:**

<https://adelphiband.weebly.com/raymond-connett-past-director.html>

- **Another Director who was an internationally known composer:**

<https://adelphiband.weebly.com/will-huff-past-director.html>

- **Circus musicians, Military musicians, and professional musicians of all levels.**
- **Inclusion by Columbus author and musician Paul E. Bierley in his research on his biography on Henry Filmore, "*Hallelujah Trombone! The***

Story of Henry Filmore”

- **A Tuba player who performs on the very same Tuba that his Grandfather played in a military band in World War I, to include while serving at Camp Sherman in Chillicothe, Ohio.**
- **A host of band stories that are probably unique to the Adelphi Community Band and that many of us still enjoy both sharing with the newer members as well as reminiscing about among ourselves.**

<https://adelphiband.weebly.com/band-stories.html>

I hope that this document assists you in your project.

Please advise me if additional information is needed

Thank you again for your inquiry about The Adelphi Community Band.

END OF DOCUMENT