

Quarter Notes

VOLUME XXV, No.4

AUGUST 2019

Come see us!

Watch our web site for late additions
of our public performances:
www.gatewaycitybigband.com

Saturday, September 7, 2019

11:00 am to 1:00 pm - We'll be playing at the 2nd annual *SunCrest Fest*, a joint festival by Sunset Hills and Crestwood that celebrates both cities. Come to this old-school carnival with festival activities designed for all ages at Kitun Park (12343 Eddie and Park Road in Sunset Hills). Enjoy quality family activities with diverse food and drink choices. Ride tickets available the day of the event or in advance at the Sunset Hills Community Center (3915 S. Lindbergh Blvd). **You can hear the band for FREE!**

Saturday, September 28, 2019

We'll be back at St. Timothy's (808 N. Mason Road in Creve Coeur) for *Friends, Families & Faves* featuring picnic food, entertainment for the kids and music across the decades. Musician Mac Connelly will begin the evening at 5:30 with a set of folk and Americana tunes, followed by Gateway at 6:45. All evening there will be an unbelievable balloon artist from *Way Cool Balloons*—the kids won't believe these amazing creations! **Tickets in advance only—\$15 General Admission, \$5 for kids 7 and under, \$40 max per family.** Email us at gcbbstl@gmail.com for tickets or call 314-542-9276.



Watch our web site for
more public performances
this fall!

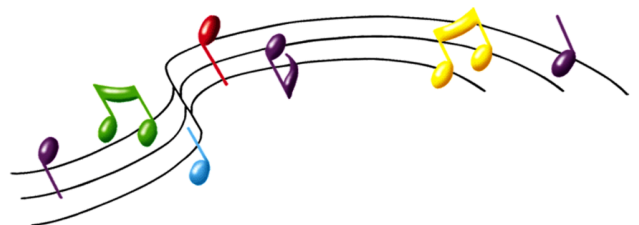
Let's Catch Up With Tom Cox!

Tom began playing trombone in 9th grade after playing trumpet for five years. As a Missouri native, he graduated from Fort Osage High School in 1976. He went on to study performance, theory and composition at the University of Missouri, Columbia. In 1993, he decided he wanted to be in a "people profession", graduated from Meramec Community College, and became a Physical Therapist. He is currently the Rehab Director at Windsor Estates of St. Charles.



He came to St. Louis and played in the Meramec CC kicks band years ago. One of the members invited him to sit in on a **Gateway City Big Band** rehearsal in 1982, and he's been with the band ever since.

Besides playing his horn, Tom's official title is "Equipment Manager" since he's handled all the band's equipment for decades. The band depends on him for every single performance we do!



Board Members

Rick Sharp - President
Paul Shanker - Vice President
John Chruma - Booking Manager
Karen Sharp - Secretary
Sandy Roll
Kevin Walsh

MISSION STATEMENT

The Gateway City Big Band, Inc., a non-profit corporation, provides advanced jazz education and performance opportunities for participating musicians. Through its performances, it strives to promote public awareness of the "big band" style of music, to encourage and support music education at the secondary school level, and to assist other non-profit groups with fundraising.

TO BOOK THE BAND:
John Chruma, Booking Manager
636-724-1606 or 636-487-7413
johnc@computerease.com

NEWSLETTER/MAILING LIST
Additions/Corrections:
Karen Sharp
314-542-9276
karendkelly@juno.com

President's Message

After a recent performance I was asked about the size of our GCBB "books", the folders of music we play from at gigs. The gentleman could clearly see they are heavy! We carry about 200 tunes with us but play only about 35 tunes on a three-hour gig. So why, he asked, do we carry so many "extra" tunes?



One reason is that our book must work for any situation. We perform for many types of dances – ballroom, swing, and general public. Our concerts may be for big band lovers, jazz fans, or folks of mixed ages and tastes. Some situations require very quiet music, others need loud party music. And, of course, we receive special requests at every performance.

Our two vocalists, Karen Sharp and John Laurenti, each require 30 to 35 tunes in their respective keys to enable them to sing at intervals through all types of performances. We also feature instrumental soloists and carry a variety of arrangements for them. Fortunately, many tunes fit multiple situations.

The GCBB's permanent library currently has 1,123 arrangements. We obtain new arrangements often, and cycle tunes between the performance book and the library on a regular basis to keep things fresh. It's common for us to rediscover a tune that has been in a file cabinet for years, and our musicians often bring in tunes they have played, or heard and liked. We are also fortunate to have talented arrangers and composers in the band!

We are always looking for ways to add interest to our performances and love to hear your suggestions. If you have a request, please let us know. There's a pretty good chance we have it!

- Rick Sharp

Newsletter

The Gateway City Big Band, Inc.
c/o Sharp
249 Brixham Dr.
Chesterfield, MO 63017-3034