

Quarter Notes

Come see us!

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

Saturday, Oct 3, 2020—CANCELLED

We were hoping to be able to do our annual St. Timothy's concert in a fun and safe way but it was not to be this year. Next year will be our 30th year of concerts at St. Tim's and we look forward to celebrating with you!



The aspect that often sneaks up on us and potential clients relates to the fact that we are a **BIG** band with **wind** instruments and vocalists. Small groups, with four or five musicians are finding some opportunities for outside performance or even for inside performance in venues that have sufficient space and high enough ceilings to allow the attendees and the band to properly distance.

But we would normally show up with 19 musicians, including 17 section players, a singer, and our leader. Very few inside stages are large enough for this size group to space appropriately or have sufficient ventilation for 13 wind players to be together safely. In addition, most venues operate with rules that restrict the number of attendees and we consume a large percentage of those.

In July we were able to perform outside at Gentry Park in Bridgeton. We performed on a large stage and the crowd was spread out on a hill. We reduced the size of the band to 13 and set up in staggered rows with lots of distance. The distance made it difficult to hear and communicate with each other, but it was safe. With winter approaching, however, outside options will disappear.

But we know this will pass and there is plenty of room for optimism. We recently were able to provide college assistance to three deserving North County Big Band graduates of \$2,000 each, something we love to do. We're financially sound, our musicians are eager to resume, and we're well organized. We can't set a specific date, but we're confident we'll be out of "hibernation" sometime next year.

Perhaps our biggest asset is your ongoing support. We have almost 600 Facebook followers – I find that amazing! We hope you are all doing well. We're looking forward to staging an event next year to celebrate our return and to see all of you again!

President's Message

Big Band Life During a Pandemic

It's a strange time for all of us. For the GCBB, pandemic-related issues offer twists and challenges that had never occurred to us.



What gigs we had have been cancelled. We've rehearsed in school band rooms for decades, but it is hard to imagine that a school district will allow us to use their facility any time soon.

Board Members

Rick Sharp - President
Kevin Walsh - Vice President
Karen Sharp - Secretary
John Chruma
Tim Karth
Sandy Roll
Paul Shanker

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:
Call Rick or Karen at
314-542-9276
gcbbstl@gmail.com

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

New band members!

Time has gotten away from us and we've neglected to tell you that we have some new **Gateway** members.

With Jerry Wood's retirement earlier this year we've added Jeremy McMahon on alto sax. We've also added tenor sax player, Adam Spirk.

The trombone section needed a bass bone player and Ken Summers has filled the spot perfectly.

Zack Hall has come in on lead trumpet and an old Army band buddy of Rick Sharp's, Mark Oldroyd, is also new to the trumpet section.

Thankfully the rhythm section has been stable but vacancies are going to come up in any section from time to time. All we can hope is that with each new player, the band will continue to improve and grow.

We'll work up some stories on the new guys and put them in future issues of the **Quarter Notes!**



NON SEQUITUR • By Wiley Miller



Newsletter

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