



*The Naples Concert Band Newsletter*  
**Winter 2017**

---

**NEW MEMBERS**

**Greg Billings**, Percussion, also plays with the Tree of Life Worship Band. Although his principal instruments are the bass guitar and the upright base, along with timpani and other percussion instruments, Greg also finds time to sing with the BSCP, and to bike, swim and read.

**Ken Carper**, Trumpet, is a “mostly” retired music teacher in Bedford, Pennsylvania, who has been coming to Naples for the season for 17 years. He plays in a local community band in Bedford and directs the Naples New Horizons Band. He also likes to bike, hike and travel.

**Brad Cassity**, Tuba, is a computer consultant, originally from St. Louis, Missouri, who has been in Naples less than a year. He also plays percussion, base, and guitar, and when not practicing or working, enjoys reading, movies and listening to music.

**Jennifer Frost**, Bass Clarinet, has been a chiropractor in Naples for 15 years. She also plays with the Bonita Springs Concert Band and volunteers with the Kiwanis Club and the American Business Woman’s Association.

**Patrick Lewis**, Bass Trombone, has been coming to Naples seasonally for 20 years and moved here full time a year ago. Pat is a retired Band director from Grover City, Ohio, and enjoys golfing and watching college football.

**Kenneth Libby**, Trombone, who also plays the bass trombone, has lived in Lehigh Acres for the past eight years. In the past, Ken played with the Bonita Springs Concert Band. Ken is retired and also enjoys photography and golf.

**Sam Maconachy**, Trumpet, is the Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Naples. He is originally from St. Louis, Missouri, and when not working or practicing, enjoys exercising, reading, writing and playing the cornet.

**Phyllis Olex**, Percussion, is a retired band director and is proficient in trumpet, flute, clarinet and most other band instruments. She has played with the New Jersey Pops, the New Jersey Symphony and the Plainfield Symphony. Now that she is retired, she enjoys golf, personal training and sports.

**Robert Platter**, Percussion, originally from Dallas, Texas, is a retired band director who has lived in Naples for five years. Rob also plays with the orchestra for the First Baptist Church of Naples, and in his spare time, enjoys woodworking and music composition.

**Robert Smith**, Tenor Saxophone, is a retired mental retardation administrator, who has been here about a year. Bob also plays the clarinet and enjoys fishing, bicycling, yoga, hiking, bird watching, and working with stained glass.

## WELCOME

### JIM DICKEY, ANNOUNCER

Jim was born and raised in Ohio, and graduated from Boston University and the Ecumenical Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. Jim and his wife of 58 years, Sally, served churches in Columbus, Wilmington and Springfield, before retiring to Indian Lake, Ohio. Jim was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International, with 40 years of perfect attendance. He is the author of three books and now calls Naples his full-time home.

### FRED BURNS, TREASURER

We owe a big “thank you” to Fred, who has stepped in to become the Band’s Treasurer. Fred does not play with the Band, so you won’t see him at rehearsals, but you will most likely see him at the concerts.

## MEMBER NEWS

### GEORGE AND ANN BROWN, CLARINET

Our May and June news is two grandchildren graduating from high school and one from seminary. When not playing in the NCB, we play in bands and chamber music in Rochester, New York, and have been invited to perform with the Eastman Rochester clarinet choir in the International Clarinet Association Clarinetfest in Orlando in July. We also performed in the ICA Clarinetfests in Austin, Texas, in 2010, and in Baton Rouge in 2014. We would love to hear what others do when not playing in the NCB.

### JENNIFER FROST, BASS CLARINET

The American Business Woman’s Association recently awarded Jennifer’s business, Naples Family Chiropractic, their business of the month and, in addition, presented Jennifer their Woman of the Year award.

### CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ, CLARINET

One of last year’s scholarship recipients, Claudia Hernandez, is currently attending Interlochen, with the intention of being accepted into a major university program soon.

### JOE BERGER, BASS CLARINET

Perdue University honored Joe Berger as “Most Advanced Alumni” for 2017. His name will appear, along with Neil Armstrong, on a placard at the University. Joe graduated in 1953, with a degree in mechanical engineering.

### RUTH CONROY, ALTO SAX, PERCUSSION

Since I am now in “assisted living” I can’t attend the concerts (which I miss), so the *Tutti* keeps me informed. As of March 24, I am living in Brookdale ...Love to hear from any of you.

(Editor’s note: You can contact Ruth by telephone at 239-597-8954 or by e-mail at [bailcon822@gmail.com](mailto:bailcon822@gmail.com) ).

## BRASS MUSIC ELEMENTS

Brass Music Elements, a Brass Quintet, plays a variety of music appropriate for weddings, church services, and patriotic ceremonies, with an extensive song list that includes popular songs, oldies, Broadway musical selections, jazz, Dixieland, and classical music. Brass Music Elements has performed at many venues including Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Center. The group is composed of talented players, including NCB members: **Tom Hessney** and **Richard Miller**, Trumpet; **David Drewek** and **Janice Hessney**, French Horn; and **Howard Hawkins** and **Joe Choomack**, Tuba.



Submitted by **Angela Stathatos**

## COLONEL ARNALD D. GABRIEL

Thanks to **Gale Scott**, Conductor Emeritus, who told us about a great book: "The Force of Destiny: the Life and Times of Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel", written by his son, Michael A. Gabriel.

"The Force of Destiny" chronicles the journey of Colonel Gabriel as he navigates the challenges of war and its after effects to eventually rise to the pinnacle of his profession as the commander and conductor of the United States Air Force Band in Washington, D.C.

Many members of the NCB know Col. Gabriel as a conductor and everyone may be interested to learn how Col. Gabriel's Bronze Stars and other combat awards speak to his heroism in defense of his country and its values.

## SERVICE AWARDS

Congratulations to the following members who have completed another five years of service to the Naples Concert Band during the 2016-2017 concert season.

### Five Years

Joe Berger, Bass Clarinet  
Bob Carman, Trombone  
John Davis, Keyboard and Percussion  
Fred Eckler, Percussion  
Kevin Huelsman, Euphonium  
Marjorie Huelsman, Flute  
Richard Steinberg Clarinet/Tenor Saxophone

### Ten Years

Jim Castaldi, Trumpet  
Charlie DiGangi, Percussion  
Cindy Quehl, Flute  
Harmon Smith, Clarinet  
Frank Summers, Percussion

### Fifteen Years

Ann Brown, Clarinet  
George Brown, Clarinet/ Saxophone

### Twenty-Five Years

Tom Curcio, Trumpet  
Angela Stathatos, Clarinet

### Thirty Years

Nancy Lachance, Trumpet  
Dwight Richardson, French Horn

### Forty Years

Corbin Wyant, Trombone

### Forty-Five Years



Bob Thurston, Euphonium

## **BLAST FROM THE PAST HONORING RETIREES – PART 1**

**By: Terry Stevens**

Every year the Naples Concert Band welcomes new members. We are happy to have them join us with the new and fresh talent they bring. Unfortunately, we have to say “Goodbye” to others. Health issues, family matters, relocation, travel difficulties, along with other problems arise and long term members of the band have to retire. Whatever the reason for leaving, we miss them and it is sad to see them go. In an effort to honor many of our more recent retirees, we thought it would be nice to run some articles about them in the next several issues of TUTTI. All former members have contributed to the band’s success and were a valued part of our organization for many years.

### **Lori Beshears**

Lori was a young and energetic addition to the band when she joined in 2000. It wasn’t long before she became our principal trumpet player and was featured numerous times as a soloist. Former band President Ev Hughes commented that Lori’s clear pure tone was a perfect example of how a trumpet should sound. She also served as band president. Lori balanced her band activities with a full personal life. During her tenure with the band she pursued a successful full time career in the banking and finance industry, gave birth to her two children, and was active in sports. Lori always had a cheerful outgoing personality and was popular with everyone in the band. She left the band after the 2013-2014 season to spend more time with her family.

### **Bob Klein**

Bob is a very quiet and gentle man who joined the band in 1989. It was a time when the band was seriously in need of a bass clarinet player. Bob continued playing year in and year out for over 27 years. Clarinet section leader Angela Stathatos said, “Bob was one of the most dependable members in the band.” When Bob’s wife became ill it was difficult for him to continue in the band. In his early 90s,

Bob had his own health issues and had to resign. He told Angela that he really regretted having to leave the band.

### **Jim DeWitt**

Jim retired to Naples after a highly successful 36-year career with Kodak. Before retiring he rose to the position of regional director for the company’s motion picture division. Jim was an accomplished trumpet player and played in numerous bands. He was good at jazz improvisation as well as reading a chart. He joined the NCB in 1991 and became president in the band’s 26<sup>th</sup> year right after our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. He was tasked with guiding the band into the next quarter century. With that in mind, he brought on board the band’s first official band manager. Jim also had to deal with the period of time when the band shell was being renovated. That year we had to perform our concerts at the side of the parking lot facing south. Jim recently confided that he wasn’t up to playing the trumpet anymore, and it was time to retire from the band and so he left after the 2014-2015 season. His fondest memories of the band were the times he was featured as a soloist. He named several of those solos: “Trumpeter’s Lullaby”, “Trumpeter’s Prayer”, and “The Man With The Horn”. He also performed “La Virgin Del La Macarena” twice and had the audience shout “Olé” at the end. If you see Jim out in the audience at one of our concerts, you might want to give him a hearty, “Olé.”

### **Ruth Conroy**

Ruth’s activities during her tenure with the band could fill a book. Ruth joined the band in 1989 and jumped in with both feet. She started out playing alto saxophone. She served the band in almost every capacity except president. She was self-assured and self-confident. Ruth is a cancer survivor and when her illness prevented her from playing the saxophone, she switched to the percussion section. The Band recently performed the song “My Way”. We tend to think of it as a man’s song because it was performed by Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley but this song could also have been written for Ruth. Former

band president Ev Hughes worked closely with Ruth for many years and had this to say. "Ruth Conroy has been very faithful to the NCB as far back as I can remember. Over the many years I have known her; she always was so supportive but was quick to express her opinion in her forceful, feisty way. She did everything that was asked of her in a professional manner. I miss Ruth on the board." Ruth misses us also. At our December concert, she said, "I miss the people in the band the most." Now in her 90s she has been forced to retire from the band in 2015 due to health issues. We owe her a big thank you for all her work behind the scenes over the years.

### **Don Gall**

Don is a true mild mannered gentleman and has been held in high regard by members of the NCB. He attended the University of Wisconsin and spent two years in the army overseas during World War II. Beginning in 1946 Don started a 37-year career with General Telephone and Electronics (GTE) and was made president of the company in numerous states throughout the country. Before he retired in 1985, he worked with the company's cellular division which eventually became Verizon Wireless. Don joined the NCB in 1999 and retired in 2012 after 13 years due to health concerns. He rejoined us a few times when an extra trumpet player was needed. Like Jim DeWitt, Don was an accomplished trumpet player who was good at improvisational jazz and blues and was featured as a soloist several times with the band. Don also served as band president. When asked what he missed about no longer playing in the band, he said, "I miss the camaraderie." When he is able, Don comes to our concerts and can be seen in our audience along with Ruth and Jim.

### **DANCERS COME TO THE NCB**



Back in December, the NCB and our audience were treated to a performance by the Kellyn Celtic Arts Irish Dance Academy, under the direction of Kimberly and Jaime Knaub.

### **BUCKETEERS STILL NEED YOUR HELP**

A big thank you to **Sheila Miles** for assuming the role of Bucketeer Coordinator. Please contact Sheila at [smilesmart@aol.com](mailto:smilesmart@aol.com) if you or someone you know can help with the essential work of the NCB Bucketeers.

### **MAKING A DIFFERENCE: NAPLES CONCERT BAND TO CELEBRATE YEARS OF MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC TOGETHER**

In case you missed the *Naples Daily News* article by, Joe Landon, below is a link to the story that was published on February 25, 2017.

<http://www.naplesnews.com/story/news/local/communities/collier-citizen/2017/02/21/making-difference-naples-concert-band-celebrate-years-making-beautiful-music-together/98210804/>

## THANK YOU TO BOB TIFFANY, TRUMPET

By the time many of us arrive at the band shell on concert Sundays, we notice that the stage is set with risers, chairs, music stands, etc. How does this happen? Magic? No, the band's property crew, **Todd Hunt** and his family are out at the park early to move all our equipment out of the store rooms and on to the stage. This process is coordinated and supervised by **Bob Tiffany**. He is out there early in the day to ensure the proper number of chairs, stands and equipment are on the stage. Bob is also responsible for putting the cones in the parking spaces to the north of the park so that members with large instruments, tables for Bucketeers, etc. can have access to the stage.



Barricade Bob Tiffany

*Tutti* is written and published by and for the members of the Naples Concert Band. For comments, questions or submittals, please contact **Charlie DiGangi** at [charlieandtoni@att.net](mailto:charlieandtoni@att.net).

Visit our Website:

<http://www.naplesconcertband.org/>

Like us on **facebook**

## **PROPOSED** NAPLES CONCERT BAND SCHEDULE FOR THE 2017 – 2018 SEASON

- 1 (rehearsals – Tues. Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3 and 10)  
**Concert on Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017 (2 to 4 p.m.)**
- 2 (rehearsals – Oct. 17, 24, 31 and Nov. 7)  
**Concert on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017 (2 to 4 p.m.)**
- 3 (rehearsals – Nov. 14, 21 and 28)  
(Sat., Dec. ?, 2016 (1:30 P.M.) Naples Yacht Club Fleet Review)  
**Concert on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017 (2 to 4 p.m.)**
- (Tuba Christmas – Thurs. Dec. ? – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
- 4 (rehearsals – Dec. 5, 12, Jan. 2 and Jan. 9, 2018)  
**Concert on Sunday Jan. 14, 2018 (2 to 4 p.m.)**
- 5 (rehearsals – Jan. 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 2018)  
**Concert on Sunday Feb. 11, 2018 (2 to 4 p.m.)**  
(Super Bowl – Feb. 4, 2018)
- 6 (rehearsals – Feb. 13, 20 and 27, 2018)  
**Concert on Sunday March 4, 2018 (2 to 4)**
- 7 (rehearsals – March 6, 13, 20, 2018)  
**Concert on Saturday March 24, 2018 (2 to 4)**  
(Easter – April 1, 2018)
- 8 (rehearsals – March 27, April 3, 10, 2018)  
**Concert on Sunday, April 25, 2018 (2 to 4)**

Sight Reading sessions on April 17, 24, and May 1