

Fan Fare

Volume XLII, No. 2
Spring, 2020

41st Pops on Apr. 4 postponed; rescheduled for Summer Season

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We regret to announce that the Symphonic Band's **41st annual Pops Concert has been postponed**, due to the current COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and the current restrictions on group gatherings.

The concert we were preparing will now take place during the summer season at Buttermilk Creek Park, on a date to be announced. It will feature guest artists, **Kyle Megna and the Monsoons**, in the premiere performance of ***I Never Can Say No***, written at the Symphonic Band's request for the Band and the Monsoons by noted Wisconsin composer John Harmon.

John Harmon was born in 1935 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He graduated from Lawrence University in 1957 with a degree in music composition, followed by a summer of study with the legendary jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. After completing a Masters in composition at the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he studied with Belgian composer Henri Pousseur, he returned to Lawrence in 1970 to direct the new jazz studies program.

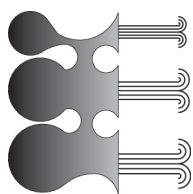
Harmon has written music for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Duluth Symphony, "The Orchestra" of Los Angeles, the Fox Valley Symphony and the Santa Fe Chamber Orchestra. His music contains elements of jazz, as well as Americana and Native American influences.

Among his many honors through the years, in 2005 Harmon was named a Fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters.



Based in the Fox Valley, **Kyle Megna and the Monsoons** were named the 2017 and 2018 Wisconsin Area Music Industry (WAMI) Alternative Rock/Rock Artist of the year and 2018 Male Vocalist of the year. An original Wisconsin band with an ever-growing local and regional audience, the band has shared the stage with acts such as Toto, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Rusted Root, Jack Russell's Great White, and Here Come The Mummies.

Through their tours in the Midwest and Southeast, the Monsoons have become a tight-knit group of accomplished, charismatic musicians with diverse backgrounds, knowing how to have fun while keeping it professional. Best seen live, they feed off the vibe of the crowd as well as each other. Their "dark-indie-blues-folk-rock feel" is a magnetic force that's ever-charged with surges of creativity and artistic experimentation. Fused with a healthy dose of spontaneity and humor, Kyle Megna and the Monsoons channel can't-get-enough energy that's good for the soul.



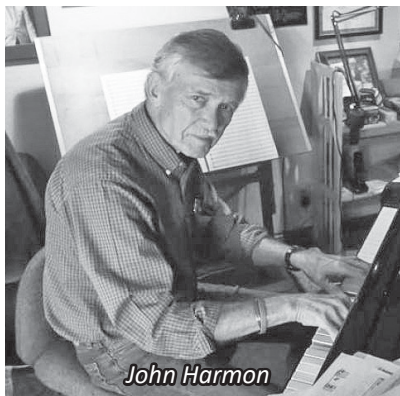
Fond du Lac Symphonic Band

P. O. Box 1483

Fond du Lac WI 54936-1483
920-907-7678

Music Director: Dale A. Shipe
shipe@charter.net

Editor: Mary Arthur
maryarthur@charter.net
www.fdlsymphonicband.com
fdlsymphonicband@gmail.com



Director's



Spring, 2020

In the previous six editions of Director's Notes, I have spent a great deal of time discussing our band's personnel and their invaluable contributions to this group, as well as some of the history which has brought our band to where it is today. As I begin the 7th edition of my Director's Notes, I would like to take a look at the decisions, thought process and musical ideas that went into programming our now-postponed pops concert.

When thinking about a guest soloist for this concert, I couldn't help but think about the talented and gifted guest soloist that have appeared with our band in the past. Twenty-one years ago the heavy metal band Metallica received critical acclaim for combining forces with the San Francisco Symphony, adding yet another layer of musical styles which can be incorporated into a single musical event. That piqued my interest in how to infuse some of today's more "popular" music with the sound of our "traditional" symphonic band.

For this concert we have engaged a group of seven young men who are very talented and gifted musicians and entertainers. What is different is that our "guest soloist" this year is actually a guest band. In today's musical world, it is hard to put labels on a group and their musical style. Kyle Megna and The Monsoons describe themselves as a "dark-indie-blues-folk-rock feel" alternative rock band. They have been the winners of the Wisconsin Area Music Industry's (WAMI) - Alternative Rock/Rock Artist of the Year awards in 2017 and 2018. Knowing the abilities of the gentlemen in The Monsoons, there was no question that they would live up to the high standards of musical excellence of previous guest soloists. But, how do we get them involved with our band?

The differences between classical music and jazz music, I believe, are apparent and obvious. At the same time, the distinct lines between those two "streams" of music are often blurred. If you listen to composers like Gershwin (think of "Rhapsody in Blue"), Copland, Stravinsky, Bernstein, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and Duke Ellington, to name a few, you know that they have been crossing between the classical and jazz genres for years. In 1957, Gunther Schuller, an American composer, coined the phrase "Third Stream" music. Schuller defined third stream as "a new genre of music located about halfway between jazz and classical music." He insisted that "by definition there is no such thing as 'third stream jazz.'" He noted that while critics on both sides of third stream objected to tainting their favorite music with the other, more strenuous objections were typically made by jazz musicians who felt such efforts were "an assault on their traditions." He wrote that "by designating the music as a 'separate, third stream', the other two mainstreams could go about their way unaffected by the attempts at fusion." Because third stream draws on classical as much as jazz, it is usually required that composers and performers be proficient in both genres. Please keep this last sentence in mind.

Attempting to put an Alternative Rock/Jazz ensemble together with our Symphonic Band initially seemed daunting. However, after a few discussions with some people whom I respect, the name John Harmon came to mind. Many of you know John Harmon as a wonderful jazz pianist as well as a composer and educator. Some of you might remember the group Matrix from the 70s, of which John was a member. Interestingly, when Matrix performed with the Milwaukee Symphony in 1975, the arrangements for both Matrix and the Milwaukee Symphony were written by Mr. Harmon. We met last summer and discussed the possibility of a collaboration, performance and premiere John agreed to compose a piece especially for Kyle Megna and the Monsoons and the

Symphonic Band. John's son Noah plays piano for the Monsoons and my son Kurt plays trumpet for them as well. Both Noah and Kurt, along with Kyle Megna, were part of this project from its inception. Without their input and support, none of this would have been a reality.

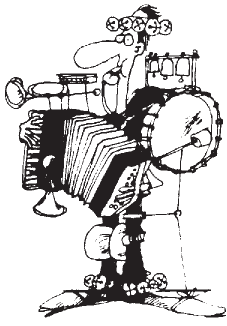
The title of John's new work is "I Can Never Say No", and it speaks volumes about John's talent and willingness to ensure that music is performed for live audiences as well as to keep adding to the musical repertoire of multiple genres. If you know John, you know that he rarely, if ever says "no" to any request to have him write or perform. Now you know how the title of this premiere work was conceived. Earlier I asked you to remember the quote of Gunther Schuller: "Because third stream draws on classical as much as jazz, it is usually required that composers and performers be proficient in both genres." When we have the belated premiere of this work at a summer concert, you will hear that both John Harmon and Kyle Megna and Monsoons fit this description without exception.

Hopefully, our musical efforts in bringing the "Third Stream" genre to the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band, with the help of Kyle Megna and the Monsoons and John Harmon, will be enjoyed by our listening audience as much as I have enjoyed the process of its development. As traditional as our band is, I believe it is necessary to explore new, quality music in order to stay current and relevant in our ever-changing society.

Finally I would like to introduce Heidi Zabel. She is writing for the "Meet a Member" portion of the Fanfare. Heidi has been a long-time and valued member of our band. In addition to playing bassoon in the band, Heidi has the thankless task every summer of being our uniform coordinator.

While it saddens us to postpone the concert originally scheduled for April 4, it was a necessary decision. We hope you will be able to enjoy our "pops" program when it takes place this summer at Buttermilk Creek Park.

- Dale Shipe, Music Director



Kleine Stücke

We welcomed three new musicians to the Band this season:

Kristie Haack (flute) grew up in Fond du Lac and lived for several years in Phoenix AZ. She returned to this area when she married Joe Haak, who has a chiropractic practice in Lomira. Kristie is self-employed occupational therapist and teaches yoga.

An Gehrman (clarinet) lives in Appleton and is retired from teaching music in the Appleton Catholic Schools. She has performed with the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra and is one of the directors of the Appleton City Band.

Charles Schleevogtand (clarinet) is a primary care physician at Sheboygan Internal Medicine. A native of Ottawa IL, he lives with his wife Linda in Sheboygan Falls. Charles' performing experience includes the St. Olaf Band and the Lakeshore Chorale.

We welcome back after several years, **Alex Chanto** (tuba). Alex is majoring in music education at UW-Milwaukee, where he performs in the Wind Ensemble and Kenwood Brass Quintet. Alex is also an officer in the Collegiate National Association for Music Education.

Congratulations to **Sr. Cyndi Nienhaus** (flute) who will celebrate her 25th anniversary this summer as a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, where she currently serves as a member of the leadership team.

Congratulations also to former band member **LTJG Leanne Matthews Reich**, who graduated from Naval Nuclear Power School in June. She is currently serving as Reactor Electrical Division Officer onboard USS Ronald Reagan in Yokosuka, Japan. Leanne is the daughter of our business manager, **Marsha Matthews**.

Tom Nachtwey (trumpet) graduated with his master's in occupational therapy this past December. He has since passed the OT board exam and landed a job in Green Bay at Bellin Health. He will be an employer clinic OT where he will provide OT services at local companies in the surrounding Green Bay area that have therapy service contracts with Bellin. His wife Mallory also secured a job at Bellin as a rehab aide just recently. They are closing on a home on the east side of Green Bay at the end of March and are excited for their new journey! Tom was also recently promoted to Staff Sergeant with the 484th Army Reserve Band in Milwaukee.

Congratulations to **Paul and Susan Thompson**, who welcomed their first child, **Michael James Thompson**, on November 30, 2019. Paul performed with our band while in college and was our tenor soloist on numerous occasions before moving out-of-state. Paul's father, **Dr. David Thompson**, has also performed with and composed for the FSB, and his stepmother, **Denise**, is a long-time member of our flute section.

Some twenty-eight Symphonic Band musicians participated in the **31st annual Chamber Concert** at Church of Our Saviour on January 26.

Participating ensembles included:

Flute Trio – Mary Arthur, Denise Goetsch, and Cyndi Nienhaus;

Clarinet Choir – Rita Lambries, Mary Liz Julka, Donna Wirth, John Hall, Chris Watters, Devin Winkel, Mary Gohl, Rich Bradley, and Kerry Winget;

Trombone Quartet – John Ahlstrom, John Gohl, Chuck Mahnke, and John Lepien;

Euphonium/Tuba Quartet: Marcie Ninneman, Marsha Matthews, John Ahlstrom and Jason Ehlert;

Bassoon Trio: Beth Mohr, Katherine Bernau, Heidi Zabel;

Brass Trio: Claire Koehler, Lisa Zemlock, John Gohl.

The program included a trumpet solo by **Patrick Disterhaft** accompanied by **Dr. David Thompson**; and two family collaborations: **Jason Ehlert**, trombone solo accompanied by his mother **Priscilla**, and a duet featuring **Erin Steward**, oboe, and her father, **Don**, on marimba.

Special thanks to **Bob Martin** of Church of Our Saviour for his organ prelude, which included a tenor solo by **Dan Fee**.

Meet a member - Heidi Zabel

Forty years ago this coming summer, I, a newly minted high school graduate, sat talking to an advisor in the crowded commons at UW-Fond du Lac on registration day. My plan was to be an education major, but I had played in concert bands since 5th grade so I had hoped to play in the band at school as an "easy A" in my first college semester. Fortunately for me, the ever-alert head of the music department and conductor of the "school band" was sitting at the next table and overheard my questions about joining the group. It was then that I first met Dr. Ray Wifler and was introduced to the (then) Fond du Lac Community Band. Little did I know at the time that both would become a wonderful source of friendship my entire adult life.

Those early days in the FCB brought some great experiences. In addition to being a student assistant, meeting many amazing people, and playing in so many concerts, I was able to attend and play at two world's fairs, in Knoxville and New Orleans. Looking back I'm especially thankful for the New Orleans trip because my (late) younger brother was a part of the band at that time and we got to experience that adventure together. It was worth every minute of the very long bus ride, and a memorable part of a much longer, ongoing journey.

A lot has happened in my life in the span of 40 years - college graduation, out of state jobs, local jobs, marriage, children born and raised, friends made and lost, family members gained and lost, joys and sorrows of all shapes and sizes. Through it all though, regardless of what was happening in the rest of the world, the band has been kind of a constant presence in my life - first as the Fond du Lac Community Band, then as the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band, sometimes with me playing first chair, sometimes with me being the 2nd second chair player, being part of music I absolutely loved and some that kind of grew on me - but always there, and a place of welcome for my bassoon and me.

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 548 Prairie Road • P O Box 1483
 Fond du Lac WI 54936-1483

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Pops Concert
postponed until
summer.
Details inside.

2020 Summer Preview

Event	Day	Date	Time	Location
Symphonic Band	Wed.	June 17	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Dorf Kapelle	Wed.	June 24	6:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
132 nd WI Natl Guard Band	Wed.	July 1	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
FSB Americana Concert	Sat.	July 4	7:30 p.m.	Lakeside Park
FSB Family Night	Wed.	July 8	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Thurs	July 9	7:30 p.m.	Firemen's Pk, Cmpblsport
FdL H S Summer Band	Wed.	July 16	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Wed.	July 22	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Thurs.	July 23	6:30 p.m.	Waupun
Kids from Wisconsin	Wed.	July 29	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Wed.	Aug. 5	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Brass Differential	Wed.	Aug. 12	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park
Symphonic Band	Thurs.	Aug. 13	7:30 p.m.	Sterr Park, Lomira
Symphonic Band	Wed.	Aug. 19	7:15 p.m.	Buttermilk Creek Park

FSB = Fond du Lac Symphonic Band

Along with returning favorites, the 32nd annual Buttermilk Festival will feature Brass Differential from Green Bay and welcome the 132nd Army Band back to the Buttermilk stage.

Debuting in 2012, **Brass Differential** features diverse setlists presented in a high energy style, sure to please the most casual or sophisticated music fan. Unique to Brass Differential is its horn-centered sound, anchored in the low end by the sousaphone. Their music is steeped in the New Orleans tradition and features a spicy gumbo of musical styles, including jazz, blues, funk, R&B, soul, and hip-hop, among others.

The **132nd Army Band** is a National Guard unit based in Madison, with some 50 part-time soldier musicians, ages late teens to fifties. Meeting one weekend per month, they tour Wisconsin for two weeks each summer. In recent years, the band has also traveled to Germany, Oklahoma, and Hawaii.

Following an audition process, members complete Army Basic Training and attend the U.S. Army School of Music before becoming members of the band. Many are professional musicians or music educators. Others are skilled avocational musicians, and some have served in prior military assignments.