



Albert Gallatin School District

FESTIVE LIGHTS

A Holiday Concert

December 14, 2023 6 PM

The State Theater, Uniontown PA

Concert Program

Middle School Band

"Welcome Christmas" by Douglas E. Wagner

"Welcome Christmas" is a delightful and festive holiday song that has been skillfully arranged by Douglas E. Wagner. Originally composed by Albert Hague with lyrics by Dr. Seuss for the beloved animated television special "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Wagner's arrangement brings a fresh and vibrant energy to this timeless classic

"Let it Snow" Arr. by Michael Kamuf

"Let It Snow", is a song written by lyricist Sammy Cahn and composer Jule Styne in July 1945 in Hollywood, California, during a heat wave as Cahn and Styne imagined cooler conditions. The song was first recorded that fall by Vaughn Monroe, was released just after Thanksgiving, and became a hit by Christmas! Despite the lyrics making no mention of any holiday, the song has come to be regarded as a Christmas song worldwide due to its winter theme, being played on radio stations during the Christmas and holiday season, and having often been covered by various artists on Christmas-themed albums. In the Southern Hemisphere, it can be played during the winter months of June, July, and August; and in New Zealand, some play it at Matariki. Tonight we are featuring 8th grader Eli Martin on the drumset.

Concert Program Continued

High School Chorus and Choir

“All that Holiday Stuff” by Andy Beck

It's that time of year where store's are filled with toys and joy. Home's are filled with festive music, and the Christmas spirit is in the air. As the ornaments and lights twinkle on the tree, the feeling of the holiday rush surrounds us. As we sing All that Holiday stuff, listen to see just how many fun activities this special season brings.

“Carry the Light” by Andy Beck

This time of year, we see light all around us, whether passing through our neighborhood or decorating our tree, lights can symbolize the joy and positivity of the Christmas season. In this inspiring song, the use of the Latin term “Lux Aeterna”, meaning eternal light, helps us to carry the spirit of happiness throughout the entire year. Help us to “Carry the Light” by waving your glowsticks in the air as we sing this beautiful song. Here is “Carry the Light.”

Concert Program Continued

High School Concert Band

"Sparkling Lights" by Matt Conway

The traditional song "O Christmas Tree" originated in the 16th century folk song "O Tannenbaum". This theme has been used in a variety of settings both holiday-oriented and not and is notably the melody of "Maryland, My Maryland," their official state song. This setting transforms it from the typically stately presentation into an energetic, dynamic fanfare. Shifting meters, contemporary harmonies, and driving percussion all contribute to this modern take on an old, familiar piece for this season

"Greensleeves" arr. by Alfred Reed

It is generally agreed that the melody we know as "Greensleeves" is probably the second oldest piece of secular music in Western culture with its roots being traced back to 1360. Almost 700 years later, this song has been used in many other pieces, such as "Sir John in Love" and most popularly the traditional hymn, "What Child is this?"

This arrangement is a symphonic development of this classic melody adapted for the full resources of a modern concert band. For this song, Lillian Beers will be playing clarinet and Morgan Armstrong will be playing flute.

Concert Program Continued

Chorus, Choir and Colonial Youth Choir

"Adeste Fidelis" by Greg Gilpin

We welcome the Albert Gallatin Colonial Youth Choir to the stage to join the High School Choirs in singing this Latin text "Adeste Fideles" meaning "O Come All Ye Faithful". This song will have many layers as the Middle School Chorus sings the main melody followed by an echo of the High School singers. We also add an extra layer to this song with a flute duet played by Ally Chapman and Sarah Nuttall. O Come, All Ye Faithful and enjoy this song - Adeste Fideles.

Concert Program Continued

Middle School Band

"Baby it's Cold Outside" by Paul Murtha

During the 1940s, whenever Hollywood celebrities with vocal talents attended parties, they were expected to perform songs. In 1944, Loesser wrote "Baby, It's Cold Outside" to sing with his wife, Lynn Garland, at their housewarming party in New York City. They sang the song to indicate to guests that it was time to leave, and it was an instant hit! "Baby, It's Cold Outside" was later popularized in the 1949 film Neptune's Daughter. While the lyrics make no mention of a holiday, it is commonly regarded as a Christmas song for its winter theme. The song was released in eight recordings in 1949 and has been covered numerous times since. Sophia Rosie will be featured on the drumset.

"All is Calm" by Robert W. Smith

Earlier this year, the band world lost one of its most popular composers. "All is Calm," arranged by the late Robert W. Smith, stands as a testament to the artistic brilliance and sensitivity of a composer who left an indelible mark on the world of concert music. Renowned for his ability to craft emotionally resonant compositions, Smith's arrangement of "All is Calm" exemplifies his mastery in creating musical landscapes that stir the soul. During this piece we will feature all of our 8th grade band members, as they perform the familiar melody of Silent Night

Concert Program Continued

Jazz Ensemble

"Deck The Halls" by Mike Collins-Dowden

The English-language lyrics were written by the Scottish musician Thomas Oliphant. They first appeared in 1862, in volume 2 of Welsh Melodies, a set of four volumes authored by John Thomas, including Welsh words by John Jones (Talhaiarn) and English words by Oliphant. A later variation published in 1877 in the Pennsylvania school journal exclude any references to drinking. These lyrics have, in many places, become widely accepted with the original "fill the meadcup drain the barrel" and "see the flowing bowl before us" mostly forgotten.

We won't worry about the lyrics for tonight as the jazz band performs this timeless holiday tune!

Jazz band members are:

Flute: Gretchen Jacobson

Alto Saxophone: Ed Shutz, Gabby Bonnette

Tenor Saxophone: Maci Shimko, Rylee Miller

Bari Saxophone: Riley Brebrich

Trumpet: James Shutz, Delaney Hines, Jonah David, Riley Armstrong

Trombone: Anna Loomis, Neila Donaldson, Emily Jobes, Morgan Armstrong

Piano: Paxton Kendall

Guitar and Bass: Kaden Donley, Braden Childs

Percussion: Nick Dodson, Drew Doran, Reese Springsteen

Concert Program Continued

Jazz Ensemble and Choirs

"Winter Wonderland" by Dick Smith and Felix Bernard Arr. by Kirby Shaw

While we are entering this new season we often wish for a winter wonderland, just like the song. A fun fact; the inspiration was found right here in Pennsylvania and has been covered by over 200 artists. So as the sleigh bells ring and the snow glistens may you walk into this winter wonderland with us.

"Thats Christmas to me" by Kevin Olusola and Scott Hoying Arr. by Audrey Snyder

Everybody has their own special moments at Christmas that show what it means to them. Whether it be children playing in the snow, having presents and family around the tree, or even waiting up for Santa, Christmas has a variety of meanings. For many years, since hearing a-Capella group Pentatonix sing this song, it has touched my heart and become a seasonal favorite for me. As we sing this song, I hope that you see what Christmas means to not only your families, but to you individually so that you can see how meaningful this Christmas season can be.

Concert Program Continued

HS Band

"A Mad Russians Christmas" by Bob Phillips and George Megaw

Trans-Siberian Orchestra debuted in 1996 with their album, "Christmas Eve and other Stories." The album tells the story of a young man in a bar who learns to believe in the spirit of Christmas through a story told to him by an old man. One of the most popular tracks from the album is "A Mad Russian's Christmas." Which is based on the music from what is arguably Tchaikovsky's most famous ballet- The Nutcracker. This song will feature Paxton Kendall on Violin, and Reese Springsteen on Drum set. Listen for some of your favorite themes!

"Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson

"Sleigh Ride" was originally light orchestra standard composed by Leroy Anderson. Anderson formed the original idea for the piece during a heat wave in July 1946, and he finished the work in February 1948. Although the original recordings were instrumental versions, lyrics about riding in a sleigh and other fun wintertime activities were written by Mitchell Parish in 1950. Since then, Sleigh ride has been performed by and arranged for countless ensembles. Tonight you will hear and arrangement for wind band by James Ployhar.

Concert Program Continued

Combined Bands and Choirs

"The Christmas Song" by John Higgins


"The Christmas Song" (commonly subtitled "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" or, as it was originally subtitled, "Merry Christmas to You") is a classic Christmas song written in 1945 by Robert Wells and Mel Tormé. According to Tormé, the song was written in July during a blistering hot summer. In an effort to "stay cool by thinking cool", the most-performed Christmas song was born. "I saw a spiral pad on his (Wells's) piano with four lines written in pencil", Tormé recalled. "They started, 'Chestnuts roasting..., Jack Frost nipping..., Yuletide carols..., Folks dressed up like Eskimos.' Bob didn't think he was writing a song lyric. He said he thought if he could immerse himself in winter he could cool off. Forty minutes later that song was written."

"Songs of Christmas Cheer" by James Swearingen

We will close our program tonight with a medley of three popular Carols performed by our combined High School and Middle School Bands, High School Chorus and Choir, and the Colonial Youth Choir. Although that is a lot of performers, we could use a few more! Please join us in singing O Come, All Ye Faithful; Deck the Halls and We Wish You a Merry Christmas!

About our Ensembles

High School Band



The high school band rehearses daily and performs throughout the year. In addition to performances at parades, games and band festivals by our Marching band, our students participate in concerts and small ensembles throughout the year. Many of our students have, and continue to participate in honor bands throughout the region including PMEA district Honor bands, FayWest Honor Band, and WVU Honor band.

The band is under the direction of CJ Durso (2014-Present). CJ Is Assisted by:
Chaz Gibson - Assistant Director
Amber Hildock - Auxiliary Coordinator
Dylan Dubois - Percussion Instructors
Nathaniel Gibson - Visual Coordinator
Meghan Angeline - Colorguard Instructor

Performers

High School Band

Flute:

Eva Anderson
Morgan
Armstrong
River Brown
Allyson Chapman
Madison
Hawthorne
Kailie Hawthorne
Gretchen
Jacobson*
Julia Lohr
Gabby Lynn
Sarah Nuttall
Lauren Rudinsky

Clarinet:

Lillian Beers
Baili Chetosky
Veronica Conn
Felix Engle
Marley Miner
Caelyn Rugh
Donovan Smith
Rachael Smith
Shiann Sullivan
Kyra Yasko

Oboe:

Paxton Kendall

Bass Clarinet:

Hannah Everly

Alto sax:

Gabriel Bonnette*
Riley Brebrich*
Kabella Childs
Maci Shimko*
*Ed Shutz**
Payton Teets

Tenor Sax:

Rylee Miller

Trumpet:

Maddie Borsodi
Miranda
Christopher
Jonah David*
Jeffery Harden
Delaney Hines*
Benjamin Rush
*James Shutz**

Trombone:

Neila Donaldson*
*Anna Loomis**

Euphonium:

Morgan
Armstrong*
*Emily Jobes**

Horn:

Riley Armstrong

Tuba:

Lillian Beers
CJ Everly

Guitar and Bass

Kaden Donley*
Braden Childs*

Percussion:


Madalyn Dirda
Nick Dodson*
Drew Doran*
Kyle Doran
Tristan Gribble*
Luke McGaughey
Aaron Moccaldi
Ryan Moccaldi
Reese Springsteen*
Benji Welch

*Denotes Jazz Band
Italics Denote
Principal player



About our Ensembles

Middle School Band



The Middle School Band consists of students from North and South Middle Schools, Grade 6-8. The ensembles rehearse separately each day but perform together for concerts and parades throughout the year. Students begin their musical journey with elementary band lessons during the day in 5th grade and with the help of a summer band program led by our music faculty, students are prepared to make the jump to Middle school band by 6th grade!

The band is under the direction of Mrs. Mary Kendall (2010- present). Mrs. Kendall is supported by Elementary Band Directors Megan Cerullo, Brandon Gift, and Jeremy Kendall.

Performers

Middle School Band



Flutes

*Olivia Bonnette
Adrian Chapman
Madison McKnight
*Logen Miles
Hayden Minerd
*Khristyna Myers
*Elyssa Rizer
*Madison Rockwell
Jessica Shuman
Brooklyn Tingler
Madalynn White
Aubrey Wilson

Clarinets

Grace Buchanan
*Alexis Campbell
Morgan Darnell
Marley Dean
Cameron Gaylor
Leah Howell
Juliana Koon
Skylar Lawson
*Lauren Moccaldi
*Fox Odell
Samantha
Planizcka
Kaden Romesburg
Maci Siebert
*Payton Smitley
Makya Swihart
Morgan Vernon
Aliyana Wilson
Abrial Wright

Bass Clarinet

Hazelee Williams

Alto Saxophones

Blake Cobb
Desmond Evans
Kote Kennedy
Julie Lytle
*Lyla Oravets
Gabriella Reynolds
Sebastian Roderick

Tenor Saxophones

Colin Benson
Carson Pegg
Lucas Romesburg

Baritone

Saxophone

*Owen Hintz

Trumpets

Izaiah Anderson
Saradwen Burgess
*Ryan Campbell
Carson Clark
Mason Miller
*Elijah Nicholson
Karson Odell
Trenton Scandrol
*Alyxandrea
Thomas
Layne Thomas
Kayleigh Wilson

Baritones

Camdyn Holbert
Joseph Planizcka
Taeseok Stoffa

French Horns

Ezekial Mead
Brady Moore

Trombones

Owen Armstrong
*Kaiden David
Klara Guthrie
Kase Ingrahm
Sorin Koury
Payce Mesler
*Ethan Mudery
*Xavier Murphy
Owen Snyder
Taylor Thompson

Tubas


Lucas Dempsey
Hayden Stewart
*Eli Wolfe

Percussion

Wendell Davis
Avelynn Donaldson
*Drew Dougherty
Gianna Forsythe
Tyler Hawthorne
Devon Kelley
*Eli Martin
Kara Moccaldi
*Tyler Murray
Elijah Robatin
*Clara Robison
Sophia Rosie
Peyton Romesburg
*Ethan Shaffer
*Jackson Shutz
De'Andre Switch
Blake Wilhelm

About our Ensembles

Chorus, Choir and Colonial Youth Choir



The high school Chorus and Choir are ensembles that rehearse daily during the school day. Choir is an auditioned ensemble and generally performs additional repertoire while also joining the chorus for performances.

Debuting last year, we now have an additional choral ensemble in the district. The Colonial Youth Choir consists of singers from grades 5-12 throughout the district who rehearse on Mondays after school

The Choral Department is under the direction of Mrs. Gail Diamond.

Mrs. Diamond is the founder of the Colonial Youth Choir and also serves as the co-teacher for band, working predominantly with Percussion and Jazz Band and wherever Mr. Durso needs her.

Performers

Chorus and Choir

CHOIR

Ally Chapman
Zeta Higby
Sarah Nuttall
Maddie Price
Logan Seese
Ashli Shaffer
Shayne Specht
Jasmine Walters

CHORUS

Jennifer Arbogast
Sydney Coleman
Carol Davis
Pretty Davis
Elizabeth Knupp
Charlee Sabo
Laney Salisbury
Savannah Sutton

COLONIAL YOUTH CHOIR

Grade 5
Annabella Shaffer
Olivia Walters

Grade 6

Sylvia Plum
Airianna Sharp

Grade 7

Wendell Davis
Marley Dean
Camdyn Holbert
Emily Haines
Hayden Miner
Kaylee Skelton

Grade 8

Annie Augustine
Khristyna Myers
Lila Wilson



Thank you from Mr Durso



Truly, there are so many people to thank for an event like this. First and foremost, you, our audience. Thank you for continuing to support the arts and our outstanding local musicians. These talented students wouldn't be able to do what they do without your love, support, encouragement, late night rides to and from rehearsals, and allowing them to practice at home over and over and over again until its right! Thank you to our outstanding boosters for all of their work! Everything non musical you see tonight is the product of countless hours on their part and we couldn't possibly function without them.

Additionally I couldn't function without my amazing staff. I am an ok music teacher, but what we do here could never be done without the talented people I am lucky enough to be surrounded by. Chaz, Amber, Dylan, Nate, and Meghan, your work is great but your friendship is better.

Thank you to my colleagues in the music department, and the fine arts department as a whole. Whether you are building the foundation of our musical learning, providing amazing student art work for display, or filming our performances via AGTV. I believe wholeheartedly that the fine arts department at AG is incomparable.

Finally I have to thank our school district. From our amazing building principals who say yes to everything I need, to our custodians and security who take care of us all year, to our Cafeteria staff who have provided countless after school meals to our students, we are lucky to be so supported from the top down.

Thank you from Mrs. Kendall



Thank you to the fantastic AG Administration!

Mr. Pegg and Dr. Hutchinson have been incredibly helpful every time we need support or busing from one school to the next. I am grateful that they answer when I call and never hesitate to help us navigate our logistical concerns.

Lisa Sumey at central always makes sure that we have transportation for every event, performance and after school practice. Thank You!!

The Administration at the middle school has been equally supportive and helpful to us. At South - Mr. Dillow and Chrisi Myers; and at North - Mr. Dunham and Mia Shaffer. We couldnt do this without you!

Our entire music department: Mr. Durso, Mrs. Diamond, Mr. Gift, Mrs. Cerullo, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Kendall. We are so blessed to have the greatest collection of music teachers who are so passionate about their work. It is an honor and a privilege to work with you all! Thank you to Emily Moccaldi for ALWAYS being there to do all things percussion whenever I need you!

Thank you to our amazing band boosters for making everything happen year after year. A special thank you to our booster officers Officers: Jason Smitley, Jamie Shutz, Marcella Bonnette, and Therese Wilson!!!

Finally, Thank you to you, our audience!!

Thank you from Mrs. Diamond



Thank you to the administration and staff of the AG High School. I consider it a privilege to come to this school every day and bring music to life. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be creative and allow my students to be creative as we make music together.

Thank you parents for encouraging your children to make music an important part of their lives. It takes many voices to make one beautiful sound. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your child's music education. I hope it is as much fun for them as it is for me.

Most of all, thank you to my students . I am so thankful to begin my day with you each and every day. Your passion for singing inspires me. I have enjoyed seeing you rise to the challenge of rehearsing new and exciting music each day. I am looking forward to even more exciting and challenging music in the Spring.

Thank you to the amazing music faculty here in the AG School District. I am truly blessed to work with such a talented and dedicated group of musicians. We are always in communication and always sharing ideas to give our students the best music experiences and opportunities that we can. Thank you for being there when I need to run an idea by you and for inspiring me.

A close-up photograph of a Christmas tree branch. The branch is covered in dark green, needle-like leaves. A silver, ribbed, spherical ornament hangs from the branch, reflecting the warm, golden light of the background. The background is filled with out-of-focus, glowing lights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall atmosphere is warm and festive.

Thank You for
Coming!!

Merry Christmas!