

NOTES from the Concord Band

51st Season

Since 1959

the community band with a professional attitude

Fall, 2009

Box 302, Concord, MA 01742

(978) 897-9969

www.concordband.org

FALL CONCERT

The Concord Band Begins 51st Season on
Saturday, October 24th
with Concert Band Music from Across the Pond

The Concord Band will embark on its 51st season with its annual Fall Concert presented at the Performing Arts Center at 51 Walden Street in Concord on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at 8pm. Recently appointed Music Director and Conductor James O'Dell will assume the podium for this fall debut concert after taking over the baton from Dr. William McManus. After the extremely successful 50th anniversary celebration last year, the 2009-2010 opening concert theme of "Music from Across the Pond" will feature music from a variety of British and American composers. The concert will open with John Philip Sousa's *Hands Across the Sea*, written in 1899. The title of this march is believed to refer to the March King's and his musicians' collective ability to affect people in many lands. Sousa and his band made many European tours beginning in 1900 that included concerts in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

A cornerstone composition for band, *English Folk Song Suite* by eminent con-

temporary English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, features his distinctively individual style employing modal harmonies and rhythms derived from elements found in traditional folk songs of Norfolk and Somerset. This three-movement suite was originally written for band but later transcribed for orchestra, a diversion from the common practice of a work originally written for orchestra and later scored for wind band.

The program will continue with Sir William Walton and *Façade*, referred to by its composer as an "Entertainment", with text by Dame Edith Sitwell. David Ewen notes that the music is filled with "parody, burlesque, mock seriousness, tongue-in-cheek sentimentality, and calculated clichés". This melodrama, originally written for seven instruments and reciting voice, consists of 21 movements of which five have been arranged for band by Robert O'Brien. Our concert will present three movements—*Popular Song*, *Yodelling Song* and *Polka*—with reciter. Closing the first half of the program will be *To A New Dawn* by Philip Sparke, written to celebrate the 3rd Millennium as well as looking forward to the challenges of the new century and reflecting on the last. This work was commissioned in 2000 by the United States Continental Army Band.

Opening the second half of the concert will be the wonderful *Mannin Veen* by Haydn Wood. The title of this Tone Poem means "Dear Isle of Man" and is based on four Manx folk songs that include a typical Air, lively Reel, Summoning Song, and old Hymn. We now turn to a well-known American composer with deep Boston Roots, Leroy Anderson, whose association with the Boston Pops and Arthur Fiedler is legendary. Anderson not only directed the Harvard band as a student, but returned to Harvard after graduating to assume full leadership of the band program. Commissioned by the Erin Society of Boston for its

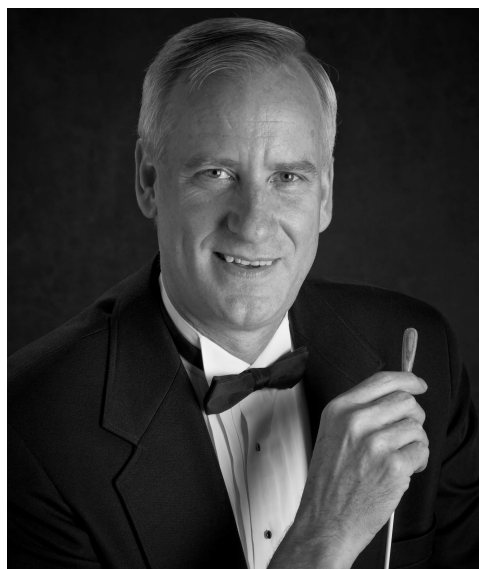
Lifetime Service Award Given to Percussionist Daniel S. Diamond



In 2002 the Concord Band Board of Trustees introduced the *Lifetime Service Award* to honor individuals whose participation, over a significant span of time, has made a fundamental difference to the Concord Band. At its 50th Anniversary Concert last March, it was given to Daniel S. Diamond.

His Award plaque reads as follows: Percussionist Dan Diamond joined the Band in 1970 and has served on its Board almost continuously since then. He has worked tirelessly as fundraiser, organizer of mailings, designer and printer of programs, posters and newsletters, mover of percussion equipment, liaison with outside organizations and on many other tasks. Along the way Dan has been responsible for many innovative improvements, such as the Band logo, the fundraising database, the production of concert and commercial CDs and videos, the Band's mission statement, percussion cabinets, the pops raffle, the newsletter and the Lifetime Service Award program. The Band truly would not be where it is today without Dan's thoughtful guidance and selfless contributions.

Past Award recipients have been Bill Burdine and William Toland (2002), Carl Getz and Robert Turkington (2003), Gene Parish and William R. Phelan (2004), Ed Richter and Bill Siebert (2005), Jerry Welts (2006), Barbara Cataldo (2007) and Dr. William G. McManus (2008). An Honor Roll is displayed prominently in the 51 Walden lobby listing all those who have received this very special award. 🎵



Concord Band Music Director James O'Dell

(continued overleaf)

Fall Concert (continued)

annual night at Pops, three of the six movements from his *Irish Suite*, which are sure to have everyone's toes tapping, will be performed by the Concord Band.

Retuning across the pond, the program continues with an arrangement by another very influential and important British composer, Gordon Jacob. The stately *Earle of Oxford's Marche* is taken from the keyboard music of William Byrd and selected from the Fitzwilliam Virginal Book. This march beautifully captures the pomp and circumstance in true "British" flair.

No concert featuring British music would be complete without a nod to Andrew Lloyd Webber, undoubtedly the most successful composer of musicals in the world. Featured in *Selections from Cats* for concert band are *Overture, Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat, The Old Gumbie Cat, Macavity: The Mystery Cat, and Memory*. Concluding the program will be the brisk march *Brighton Beach* by William P. Latham, an eclectic and adventurous American composer born in Shreveport, Louisiana. This march was published in 1954 and soon became one of the most popular marches (top 100 from 1960-1976) among school band directors. *Brighton Beach*, a Concert March for band, refers to the famous English south coast resort area. ♪

Can't Attend the Fall Concert? Enjoy it on CD or DVD Video!

Available in a box in the 51 Walden lobby during the Fall Concert will be an order form for a CD or 4-camera DVD video of that evening's concert. This is the second season for which videos will be available. Those who would like a CD or DVD of the October 24th concert will be asked to complete the order form and either return it to the box in the lobby or mail it in after the concert. The prepaid price of \$15 per CD or DVD includes shipping and handling. Orders and payments must be received by November 10th. It is anticipated that the CD's and DVD's will be mailed in early December. ♪

It's Time to Make Your Concord Band Holiday Pops Reservations

Be sure to use the reservation card enclosed with this mailing to make your reservations early for the Concord Band's annual Holiday Pops concerts, to be held at 51 Walden on December 11th and 12th at 8:00 PM.

There's no better way to celebrate the holiday season than to enjoy an evening of great music and fun in the festive 51 Walden holiday atmosphere! Holiday Pops with the Concord Band has become a tradition with many area families and sells out early. Seating at tables for four is priced at \$20 per adult, \$15 per child (12 and under), including beverages and snacks. Return your reservation card today! Reservations can also be made by calling 978-897-9969. ♪

Meet the Concord Band Percussion Section—138 Years of Combined Service...and Counting

The Concord Band percussion section—and the percussion sections of large instrumental ensembles of all kinds—may be described in terms of extremes. At one time or another, percussionists are responsible for gathering hundreds of different combinations of pitched and unpitched instruments and beaters. As most drummers will tell you, the most difficult problem they usually face is not in playing their parts, but in setting up and moving between their instruments as quickly as necessary when the section has a limited number of players.

The Concord Band's five percussionists, with tenures of 39, 38, 37, 14 and 10 years, rank 3rd, 4th and 5th longest among all active Band members. They are very well educated—with two doctorates and a handful of other advanced degrees among them. Though they may wish it were otherwise, they are also probably the oldest section of the Band.

Dan Diamond joined the Band in January, 1970, a few months after completing his PhD at MIT's Sloan School of Management. Dan is primarily self-taught as a percussionist, but he was taught musicianship and to play the cymbals by Warren Myers, who played in the Boston Pops in the 1950's. He was the Mass. All-State Orchestra cymbal player twice. As an undergraduate, also at MIT, Dan was a member of the MIT Symphony under John Corley. He has been a professional manager in both the high-tech (NEC, Harvard Software, TMR Networks) and art-reproduction (Facsimilies, Ltd.) worlds and a consultant.

Ken Troup, who also sings in choruses, joined his flutist wife, Brenda, in the Band in 1971. After obtaining engineering degrees from Purdue and Northeastern and serving in the Air Force, Ken joined the percussion section because the Band needed a bass drummer. He applied his piano training to the mallet instruments, which he took over when the late Carl Getz retired from the band in 1995. During his time in the band, Ken has had dual careers in freight transportation analysis for the Federal government at the DOT Volpe Center and as a consultant, and executive leadership in town government primarily as a selectman for 26 years in Bolton.

Neil Tischler, who joined the Band in 1972, received his early percussion instruction through the public school system of Cairo, New York, 35 miles south of Albany, where he developed a particular interest in tympani. He never studied privately, having, for the most part, been self-taught. Neil has also been the set drummer in a Klezmer band. He earned degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from Union College and Penn

State and has been a self-employed consultant for more than 30 years in the mechanical design and packaging of new products. Neil's hands-on mechanical skills have also been very useful in percussion instrument repair and in the design and manufacturing of the Band's rolling crash cymbal stand.

Lloyd F. (Buck) Grace, who joined the

Band in 1995, was the second member of percussion section who had military service, whose wife, June, was a Band flutist and who came in to play bass drum, having previously played piano, but not percussion instruments.

Through substantial on-the-job training, he mastered the crash cymbals and many accessory instruments. Buck was trained as a chemical engineer at Carnegie Tech, and spent his career as a manager in steel, copper and chemicals, before retiring 15 years ago.

Steve Polit, who joined the Band in January, 1999, has had the best percussion training of the section, having studied with Vic Firth, long-time (now retired) timpanist of the Boston Symphony. He played in the Mass. All-State Band while in high school, and continued to play at Tufts and Stanford, where he earned a PhD in Math. After having been a Math professor, Steve entered the software arena, and is now with BBN Technologies. Before joining the Concord Band, he played in bands, orchestras and small ensembles, including those conducted by John Corley and Harry Ellis Dickson.

While none of the Concord Band's instrumentalists (percussionist or otherwise) is paid, it does cost about \$40,000 a year to run the Band. If you'd like to help out financially, please write a check for as much as you can afford and mail it in the enclosed envelope. If you have no return envelope, simply send your check to the address at the top of this newsletter. ♪



Name and principal instruments (l to r): Dan Diamond (snare drum), Ken Troup (mallets), Neil Tischler (drum set, tympani), Buck Grace (bass drum, cymbals), Steve Polit (tympani, mallets). Photos (at Faneuil Hall): Kaye Sherry Hirsh

The Concord Band

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HOLIDAY POPS

Friday and Saturday
December 11th and 12th
Use enclosed card for
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