

NOTES EXTRA! from the Concord Band

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55th Season Winter/Spring 2014

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Concord Band Wins Sudler Silver Scroll Award from John Philip Sousa Foundation

In early January the Concord Band learned that the John Philip Sousa Foundation had awarded the Band one of two *Sudler Silver Scrolls* for 2013. The purpose of the *Sudler Silver Scroll* is to identify, recognize and honor those community bands that have demonstrated particularly high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years, and which have played a significant and leading role in the cultural and musical environment in their respective communities. The total number of bands in North America so recognized since 1987 is 44.

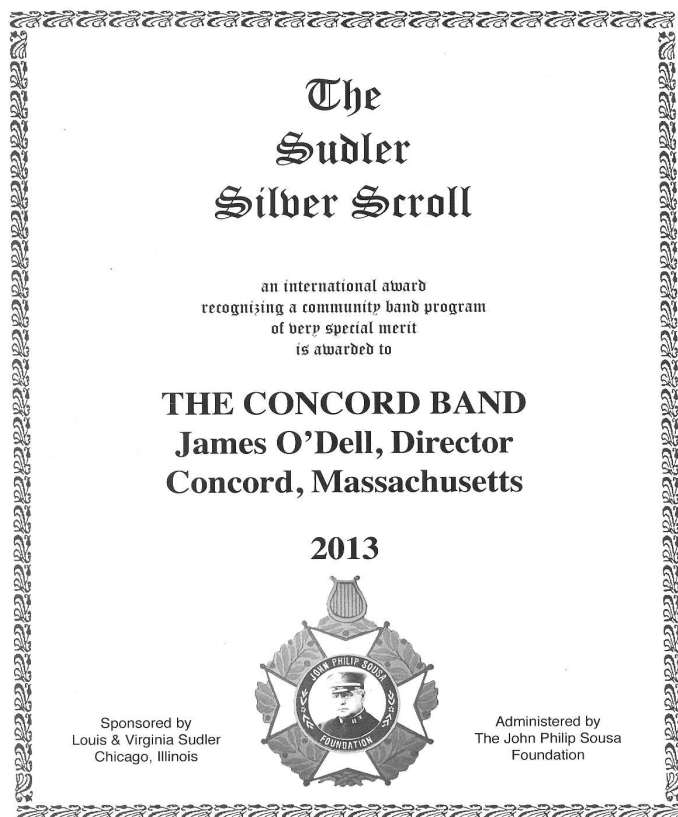
A plaque announcing the *Sudler Silver Scroll* now appears on the wall next to the Band's Honor Roll of *Lifetime Service Award* recipients in the lobby of the Concord Performing Arts Center at 51 Walden Street.

To qualify for the award, the Band had to undergo a rigorous application and review process. The music director must have tenure of at least five years, and the band repertoire had to reflect the high standards of the Foundation. The selection committee examined musical programs, press releases, and concert reviews going back three years. The Band submitted a CD consisting of highlights of live performances from the past two years, which was ranked against other applicants in a blind audition. The application material was pulled together and submitted to the Foundation by then Band treasurer David Southard, who did an outstanding job in very little time.

In support of its application, the Band received letters of endorsement from some of its most supportive guest conductors. In his letter of recommendation, Lieutenant Colonel Steven Grimo (USAF, ret.), former commander and music director of the US Air Force Academy band and now professor of music at Malone University, who has appeared as Guest Conductor for the Concord Band, said, "The Concord Band is one ensemble which has become woven into our American Band Heritage. Throughout our profession, it is safe to say the Concord Band has become a model community instrumental performing organization."

Freelance composer, clinician and conductor Roger Cichy commented, "I have become a real fan of this community band. They have the 'right stuff', from their incredible facility at 51 Walden Street, to their outstanding conductor, James O'Dell, to the large and appreciative audiences that they perform for throughout the year. Since their 50th Anniversary concert ... I have visited a few rehearsals every now and then. I am amazed to see the same faces. They love what they're doing, they play with passion, and they continually uphold high standards of performance. To me, this is what an award-winning community band is all about."

Composer, conductor and trumpeter Lewis Buckley, former director of the US Coast Guard Band and now music director of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony, noted, "Everything about this organization bespeaks quality... They are flourishing under the leadership of their current conductor, James O'Dell. He is a perfect fit for them, in that he combines a warm public personality



with the excellent musicianship Concord Band audiences have come to expect."

In his letter of support, Concord Band Music Director Emeritus Dr. William McManus wrote, "I would be remiss if I did not comment on the outstanding work done by the band members themselves over and above performing in the ensemble. The band is entirely self-governed and self-supported. The dedication of the members in maintaining the Concord Band as an important cultural resource to the community of Concord as well as an important artistic and musical outlet for its members is quite remarkable. It was indeed an honor for me to have been associated with this outstanding organization for so many years."

The Concord Band's being worthy of the *Sudler Silver Scroll* in 2013 is attributable to many individuals. First and foremost, credit must be given to the Band's three leaders: the late William M. Toland, Music Director, 1962-1995, later MD Laureate; Dr. William G. McManus, Music Director Emeritus, 1995-2009; and current Music Director James O'Dell. Substantial credit must also be given to everyone who served on the Band's Board of Trustees over the years. The Band's motto, *The Community Band with a Professional Attitude* is an accurate description of the way in which the Band's hundreds of members over its 55-year history have gone about the business of being part of a serious musical organization. They come to rehearsals prepared; they help with the many extra-musical activities necessary to run a community concert band; and they put on concerts of which they can be proud. ♪