

From the Prez...

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Elizabeth Black ~ President, Board of Directors

Open all the stops! Here we come. In a few day's time we will be performing with Aptos High School, Director Finley Asmuth's junior high and high school bands in a joint concert on Thursday, May 2, 2024, 6:30pm. Come join us at Aptos High's beautiful auditorium up Mariner Way from Freedom Boulevard. We currently have several AHS band students playing with us: Sadie Maher, Samuel Waite, Sean Bhugra, and former student Hannah Osborn with at least four other alumni returning to play with the Aptos band. It will be an exciting time to encourage the Aptos student musicians with some lively music.

Can you believe your ears? The Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture voted to award the Watsonville Community Band **Organization of the Year**. Amazing! Not only do we have a distinguished member, Dana Sales, realtor and percussion leader, who was voted Man of the Year for 2023 from the Chamber, we have now been recognized for our 77 years of music in our community. We have provided many concerts for the unserved families and seniors with every program performed without charge. Every member serves with donated time to make music for the many concerts, parades, and Veterans programs. Even several band members have gone above and beyond to teach our youth music these past eight years without pay. We are grateful to Conductor Brad Gronroos for his unwavering dedication to making Watsonville Band the noted Organization of the Year! And of course, we acclaim Dr. Nancy Bilicich, Director of Watsonville/Aptos/Santa Cruz Adult Education for her unyielding support of our band over so many years.

Wow! A new parade to march in: **The Good Old Days Parade** on Saturday, May 4 at 10am down Pine Street in Pacific Grove. Who can resist the rhythm and stride of our band in uniform as we come proudly down the street with our Banner Carriers and Color Guard followed by our marching musicians? We can't even get enough of the street direction of Drum Major, Gustavo Cisneros, as he interacts with the many bystanders along the parade route.

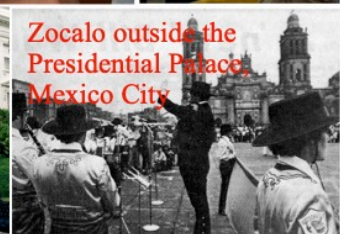


Come to Roaring Camp, Felton on Memorial Day, Monday, May 29th. Join the band in an outdoor setting of memorable music at 11am and again at 1pm. It's a picnic day to share with family and band members this coming holiday.

As supporters of Watsonville Community Band you have once again surpassed our expectations and have provided your heart felt donations following our Spring Concerts. We have seen your generosity. **We have a new tuba** to enjoy in the coming years! We have much to be thankful for. You provide our purpose so we make music to share with all of you.

Our History

Seeing the Sights ~ In the normal course of events the chances of a kid from Watsonville traveling over half the world are pretty slim. From a family where dad was a PG&E lineman and mom worked in a Watsonville cannery, I didn't envision much travel outside of family vacations. And then I joined the Watsonville Band. A few months later our trip to Chicago and Montreal was announced, and that was the beginning. Band trips were more of a sampler than a deep dive into other countries and cultures. Nevertheless we saw some sights, met some folks, played music with people with whom music was our only common language. What an education! 14 countries, 3 continents, multiple world capitals, historic sites, and scenes of historic musical importance. Handel's grave in Westminster, Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, and more. Quite a ride for a kid from Watsonville!





From the Peanut Gallery...

Eugene Smith ~ Conductor Emeritus



"In the Old Days"... Oh, no. Here he goes again. The Old Days. Well,

let me tell you what may be an unpleasant truth: Much of what happened, what worked waaay back then - still does! Do you know what the "spit" in "spit and polish" was? Yup. Spit. Just regular old spit. One would expectorate into a can of cake shoe polish, rub it around with a cloth, then apply liberally to your shoes, adding more spit as needed. By the time you finished both shoes it was time to brush,



then buff. Buffing was the least fun, let me tell you, but the results - really shiny shoes! (By the way, if your shoes are not "shine-able" you might think about getting a new pair, even if they're only for band gigs. It does make a difference.) And if you just can't bring yourself to spit on your shoes, there are several liquid polishes out there that work just fine! (Kiwi is my personal favorite.)



The easy way to make those gloves very, very white is to simply throw them into the laundry, but should you forget and not have enough time - put them on and wash your hands with soap and warm water. Rinse thoroughly and dry. Even wearing them damp isn't bad, it can help to keep a firm grip on your horn.

Check your hatband. They can become discolored over time and look pretty disreputable. If it is, talk to our Uniform Guru, Barbara Smith. Ditto for the hat itself. There's still time to make sure we all look like the World Class Band that we are!

Peanut Gallery P.S.

Eugene Smith ~ Conductor Emeritus

From the beginning the City of Watsonville has been a strong supporter of first the Watsonville Sciots Band, then the Watsonville Band, and now the Watsonville Community Band. Not just in cheering us on or providing moral support, but *with money!* That first financial subsidy came in 1948 and has continued to the present day through flush times (have there ever really been any?) and tough times. Even through the stagnant times of the Covid lockdown. In addition to that huge banner that shouts "Watsonville!" to folks a block away in a parade, our Color Guard proudly carries our city's flag right there up front.

Along with everything else, the City changes. Lately I've become aware that the official logo has also changed. I'm not sure just when this happened, nor of the exact dates of previous logos, but I've marched and played under three in the last 57 years. We will proudly carry the new one, just as we have the others. So keep an eye out - it's a pretty cool logo! (Psst, Madam Mayor: we may need a new flag...)



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Heavy Metal

Eugene Smith ~ Conductor Emeritus

Everybody with a camera tries to get that perfect shot of whatever is reflected in that shiny tuba or Sousaphone bell. It's a classic. It's trite. It's annoying. And sometimes, it's very cool. In any shot there's one thing you can count on - that horn is *heavy*! A 35 lb. Sousaphone is standard, and those old silver ones are even heavier. On the Australia/New Zealand trip we played a parade and a concert (with the Auckland Brass Band - world class!) on the same day. And some foolish man (me!) thought we should have both tubas *and* Sousaphones. The green room was upstairs, narrow stairs. Foolish.





The 76th Annual Spring Concert Series is history. We'd like to thank all y'all who attended and we hope you enjoyed them as much as we did! You know, it takes much more than simply the efforts of the Conductor and musicians. Behind the scenes - actually, in front of the scenes, as you encountered them and the results of their works in the lobby before ever entering the performance area - several of our members, performers and non, distribute programs, staff our merchandise table, help setup all those wonderful display boards created by principal flutist Barbara Smith, and meet and greet folks at the door. So at the *next* concert be sure to say "Hi" and thank them - as you pick out several items from that merch table!



Continued
on Page 7



Celebrities Who Were In High School Band...

ANDY GRIFFITH - TUBA at Mount Airy, N.C. High School. He was also N.C. State Champion on the instrument. He continued to play through his lifetime, was known to sit in with local Trad Jazz/Dixieland bands wherever he happened to be filming. All that talent and he could act, too!



Music Theory 111

Antonio Trujillo ~ Principal Trumpet



In my last article I made reference to Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier* which is a collection of 24 preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys. So, what exactly is a fugue?

A fugue is a musical form which is characterized by imitative counterpoint. You may recall my discussion of imitative counterpoints and melodic inversions in Music Theory 105. Fugues were developed in the Middle Ages and Renaissance before reaching their apex in the Baroque period. They are closely related to other musical forms, namely canons and ricercares.


A canon is a counterpoint-based musical composition with an established melody and one or more imitations of the melody played after a given duration. Simple, repeating canons where all the voices are identical, either in unison or in octaves, are called rounds. Most musicians or singers are familiar with rounds such as *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* or *Frere Jacques*. While canons can be strict with their imitation, they can include variations such as contrary motion, retrograde melodies, or differences in intervals, e.g. in fifths rather than octaves.

A ricercare, sometimes known as a ricercar, is an early type of fugue often characterized as having more serious character, using longer note values. Ricercare is an Italian term meaning "to search or to seek". Ricercares may explore variations on a theme. They typically have a primary melody with the occasional run or passagework providing some complexity. Like fugues, they make use of imitation and counterpoint or other melodic variations though they have less refined structures than fugues.

Fugues are more fully developed in the use of imitative counterpoint than canons or ricercares. Fugues start with a short main theme, called the subject, in the tonic key. This subject is then repeated in successive voices in different pitches, usually the dominant or subdominant. This repetition of the subject in a different key is called the answer. While the second voice is stating the answer, the initial voice continues on with new musical material, either a countersubject or a counterpoint. Once all the voices have completed their imitation of the theme, the opening section of the fugue, the exposition, is complete.

The exposition is often followed by a connecting passage, or episode, leading into further entries of the subject. Episodes offer modulations on an element heard in the exposition. They help transition the fugue from one entry of the subject to subsequent entries in different keys.

These subsequent entries are called middle entries and usually state the subject or answer in its entirety. They may also include countersubjects from the exposition or new countersubjects. Middle entries typically are not in the tonic but are in another closely related key such as the relative dominant or subdominant keys or in the relative major or minor of the tonic. Within any of the entries in a fugue, the subject may be modified in a variety of ways. These include using inversions, retrograde (the melody is played backwards), diminution (the rhythmic values are reduced, e.g. in half), or augmentation (the rhythmic values are increased, e.g. doubled).

These episodes and entries then alternate until the final variation of the subject is presented before the closing which is back in the tonic key. Put it all together and you have a fugue. 



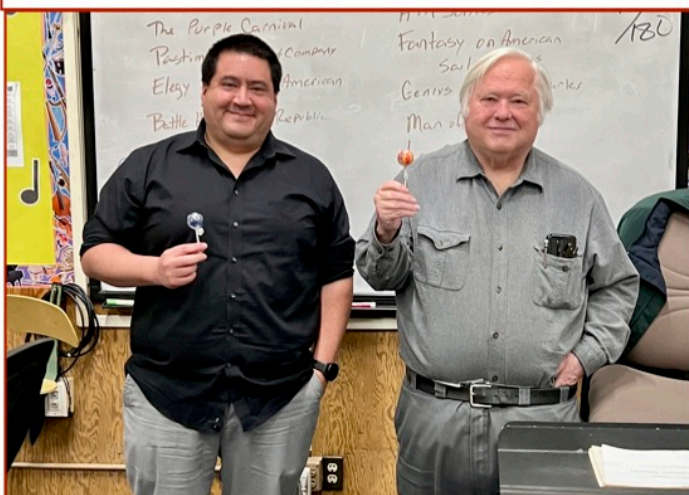
MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDAR

2024 Calendar of Performances and Activities

May 2 - Combined Concert with Aptos High School
May 4 - Pacific Grove Good Old Days Parade
May 27 - Memorial Day Concerts at Roaring Camp
June 22 - Hollister Saddle Horse Show Parade
June 23 - ComicCon/Nerdtville Concert, Watsonville HS
July 4 - Aptos & Watsonville Independence Day Parades
August 9 & 10 - 77th Anniversary Concerts
November 11 - Veterans Day Ceremonies, Watsonville
December 8 - Christmas on the Wharf, Monterey
December 13, 14, 15 - 77th Annual Winter Concert Series



Sucker Awards for April were earned by Conductor **Brad Gronroos** for his good and important work in printing and mailing this newsletter to our Boosters, and printing our concert programs! Speaking of newsletters, principal trumpet **Antonio Trujillo's** Music Theory, Appreciation, and History articles are a big hit!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to clarinetist **Enrique Rosas** and **Chris Erskine**, baritone saxophone!





And we will be doing just that, once again at Roaring Camp. Twice again, actually, with two concerts, at 11am and again at 1pm. They serve a terrific BBQ, so bring the whole family and enjoy!



Archeologists found this in a burial mound in Denmark, dated 1450 BC. They say it's a folding chair, but we know it's a bass drum stand!



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