



Family



A Publication of the Watsonville Community Band ~ A Charitable Trust
www.watsonvilleband.org • Follow Us on Facebook • P.O. Box 1708 Watsonville, CA. 95077

From the Prez...

Volume 5 • Issue 3 • March, 2024

Elizabeth Black ~ President, Board of Directors

Ah! Windy days with kites afloat. It moves us forward into our next steps and new adventures. We have new board members in Brenda Bayani and Barbara Smith, with returning members for a second term, John Lunden and myself. It is a privilege to serve our band with others and see it blossom in this 77th year. We are in the midst of preparing for the coming spring concert season. The buds of wonderful music from King Henry VIII to Ray Charles are developing in our midst. We cannot forget the Paso Doble and the marches to look forward to as well.

We have been blessed with new members, several of which are Pajaro Valley High School students who join our continuing three Aptos High School student members. Several new members include those in the medical profession and medical statistics. We have many talented members in such a wide variety of professions. You could be a part of our band! Can you read music and pick up your instrument? We are always looking for more musicians.



This past month has been surprising as many of you chose to help with our goal to purchase a tuba at the cost of \$4000. We are grateful for the extended efforts of Dana Sales for asking his contacts to help with the purchase. We are halfway to being able to replace the borrowed tuba from Watsonville High School. Thank you to those who have already taken part and we look forward to others who will come alongside to make the purchase possible. Winds of new and exciting changes are coming for all of us.



Happy 77th Birthday to US! A lot of music has filled the air since that first rehearsal on Feb. 23, 1947, and a lot of life-long friendships, marriages, and musical partnerships have been built along the way. Shown here are our 5 longest-serving active members being awarded pins celebrating 281 combined years in the band! Band President Elizabeth Black presented pins inscribed for 50, 55, and 60 years of service (closest we could get to the actual numbers) to **Ruth Gronroos, 51 Years; Dana Sales, 53 Years; Bill Nestler, 55 Years (not pictured); Eugene Smith, 57 Years, and Louise Viales, 65 Years.**



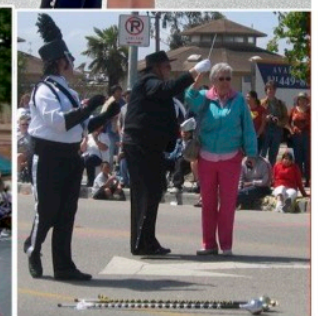
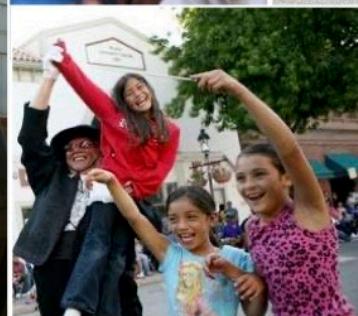
Our History

I don't know just when the band started playing *Beer Barrel Polka* in parades and stand-up performances, but my guess is sometime in the early 1950s. I also don't know just when the first "guest conductor" was unexpectedly pulled from the audience, but that's because I just don't remember. As Assistant Conductor I was tapped to lead the band in a Watsonville parade. When forward motion stopped momentarily I kicked off *Beer Barrel* for the crowd. I spied young Kenny Kelly in the audience. His parents, Ken and Deb, were playing in the band and I guess Kenny was being watched by friends. It was an impulse, but a good one, and the rest is history. Drum Major Gustavo Cisneros has continued the tradition and it's a favorite of band members and audiences. So here's a few of our forgiving and good-natured "victims."



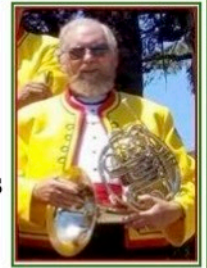
SCOTT MACDONALD/THE SALINAS CALIFORNIAN

Eugene Smith, drum major of the Watsonville Community Band, gets Melanie Ramirez, 6, of Salinas, to help with conducting during Tuesday's Kiddie Kapers parade in Oldtown Salinas.



From the Peanut Gallery...

Eugene Smith ~ Conductor Emeritus



Addressing the band at the Annual Meeting in January, I asked them to reach into the air as high as they could. Everyone did. "Now reach just a little higher." And everyone did.

It's amazing what one can do with just a little more effort.

And that's just what we need - a little more effort. We're always looking for new things to do, new venues or events at which we can perform, new audiences to reach. This year we're looking forward to Pacific Grove's *Good Old Days Parade* for the first time, and also returning to our long-standing practice of "school concerts" - this time playing with the Aptos High School Band.

Calendars and schedules being what they are for all of us, it may take a little extra planning to ensure our attendance at everything, so - *reach a little higher*. Make the plans, deal with conflicts well ahead of time, and be there! 'Cause as everyone knows, we simply are not our best without all of us!

Wisdom of the ages: how do you keep your canvas leggings sparkly white? Wash them, and while they're still damp rub salt into them. When it dries brush away the excess and *voila!* amazingly white leggings!.....How do you keep that long tassel on your fez out of your mouth on a windy



day? Forget it. You can't.....To keep your very cool WCB ball cap clean, run it through the dishwasher.....Have trouble holding on to the Sousaphone, trombone or euphonium in a parade? Easy. Begin the parade with wet gloves.....



Always carry a small jeweler's screwdriver in your case. Get one of those eyeglass repair kits at the checkouts in the store.....If you use a stand light always remember to point it down at your music, not tilted upwards. It blinds the conductor and is distracting to the

audience.....(Psst! Wanna know my secret for keeping the horn shiny? Lemon Pledge!)...And lastly: if there's a port-a-potty in the parade staging area, *use it!*





Watsonville Community Band Presents the 76th Annual Spring Concert Series



BRAD W. GRONROOS
CONDUCTOR

Friday April 12 ~ 7pm
Henry Mello Center
for the Performing Arts
at Watsonville High School
250 East Beach Street

Saturday April 13 ~ 2pm
Peace United Church
of Santa Cruz
900 High Street

Passing Time

WITH

Good Company

Royal Music for a Convivial Gathering



There Is No Charge For Admission



The Pageant of California Flags

The Watsonville Band's Competitive Color Guard



In the 1970s the Watsonville Band changed its uniform from the Sciots/Shriners look-alike to the costume of a Spanish Grandee to help celebrate California's history. It was quite a look - and just a tad warm on a hot day! The Color Guard uniform also changed, as did the flags they carried. Unlike most guards, they no longer carried colorful, don't-really-mean-anything banners, but the 12 historical flags that have flown over California. Along with those flags (*much* heavier than the old ones, as they were mostly national flags with the fringe and everything) we added a feature for concert performances, *The Pageant of California Flags*. Conductor Bert Viales selected short musical examples to go with each flag, often national or folk favorites, Band Manager Edward Pio authored a script describing and explaining the use of the individual flags, and so was born an informative and entertaining addition to our concerts for several years, which we performed throughout the State. [Guard members called the original Bear Flag the "Pig Flag!"]



Spanish National Flag.



Spanish Empire



Mexico



Argentina



Spanish Naval Ensign



England



Russia



Lone Star



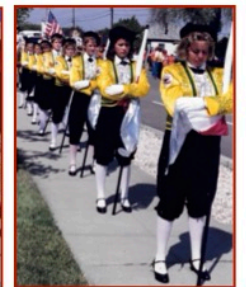
John C. Fremont Flag



Bear Flag



Current California Flag



A Kid-Friendly Adult Band

Little kids, that is. Oh, we've always welcomed high school music students, even advanced middle school students. But this being a family-oriented organization, we also welcome the young ones at rehearsals, performances, and other events. If mom and dad are both playing instruments - as frequently happens - then spouses and other family members of the performers step up to care for the little (and sometimes not so little) ones during the gig. And sometimes the younger kids are even performers! (Such as little Sophia Handley singing *Tomorrow* from the musical *Annie*, in concert and at the Golden Gate Band Festival. Or little Kenny Kelly directing *Beer Barrel Polka*, as mentioned in this issue. Or even tiny Thomas Trujillo, sleeping through the parade riding on mom Cindi-Renee's back!)



Music Theory 109

Antonio Trujillo ~ Principal Trumpet

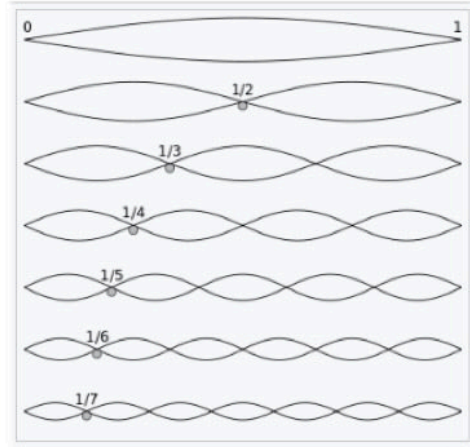


Have you ever listened to music and heard notes that weren't actually being played? I recall listening to a recording of the Pacific Brass Band playing Franz Schubert's *Sanctus*. I played the Eb soprano cornet part on the recording and I swear I could hear a soprano part being played during the first half of the song. However, I knew that there was no soprano cornet part there. In fact, I could clearly hear myself come in at the appropriate time along with the cornet choir later in the piece. No, I wasn't going crazy. What I was hearing in the recording are called overtones.

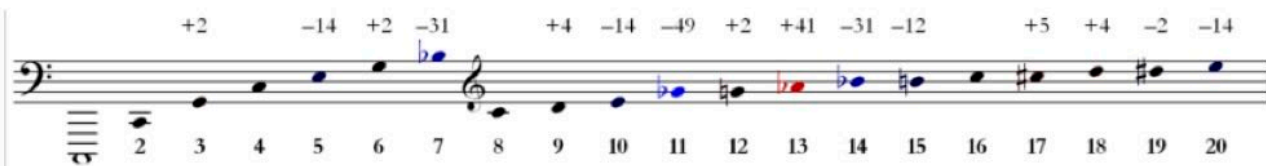
The overtone series, also known as the harmonic series, are a series of harmonics, or musical tones, that are an integer multiple of a fundamental frequency. Vibrating strings or columns of air in a pitched musical instrument produce musical notes that resonate at multiple frequencies. These frequencies are called partials. Individual partials are simple tones, represented by sine waves which combine with other partials to create the complex tones we hear as a single musical note. The primary frequency at which a note vibrates is called the fundamental frequency. The musical pitch you hear is normally perceived as the lowest partial, i.e. the one with the lowest frequency. Any partial above the lowest partial is called an overtone.

Every time you play a note you will hear the fundamental frequency along with these overtones in a simple pattern. You'll hear a series of frequencies that are 2x as fast as the fundamental, 3x as fast, 4x as fast, etc. In theory you would hear all the integer multiples of the fundamental frequency ad infinitum but in reality you only hear the first few partials.

One way to visualize the harmonic series is with a vibrating string which is attached to a fixed point at both ends. The string, when plucked, will vibrate at a specific frequency. In the diagram here, the frequency of the vibration is depicted as a sine wave stretching out the entire length of the string from 0 to 1. The 2nd sine wave shows a frequency that is twice as fast meaning the wave is $\frac{1}{2}$ as long. The third is 3x as fast so the wave is $\frac{1}{3}$ the length, the 4th is 4x as fast so the wave is $\frac{1}{4}$ the length, and so on.



What this translates to musically is the first sine wave is the fundamental. The second sine wave is the first overtone. Because this frequency is 2x as fast as the fundamental, the pitch is one full octave higher than the fundamental. The 3rd sine wave (2nd overtone) is a perfect 5th above the 1st overtone, the 3rd overtone is a perfect 4th above the 2nd overtone, and the intervals keep getting smaller as the pitches go higher.



You can also think of these frequencies as vibrating at specific ratios of each other. This second diagram shows a harmonic series with the note C1 on the piano as the fundamental. The numbers across the bottom indicate the integer multiples of the frequency from the fundamental. An octave, where the higher note is vibrating at a frequency 2x as fast as the lower note can be thought of as vibrating at a 2:1 ratio. The next interval in the harmonic series is a perfect 5th, where the top and bottom notes are vibrating at a 3:2 ratio, the next is a perfect 4th or 4:3 ratio, and so on.

You can see that the overtone series contains a lot of notes or frequencies in it. While the overtones of a fundamental do not themselves have overtones, other fundamental notes have their own associated overtone

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued from Page 6)

Music Theory 109

series. With so many frequencies there will be some overlap. As seen above, the C overtone series has several C's, of course, as well as a couple of E's and G's. The E overtone series has several E's along with a couple C's and G's. The G overtones series doesn't really have many C's or E's, at least in the range that we'd normally hear. So, if you played a C Major chord (C – E – G) you would hear a lot of overlapping C's, E's, and G's in the fundamentals and collective overtones and you stand a good chance of having those upper frequencies reinforce each other and ring out above the three fundamental notes actually being played. This is exactly what I was hearing in that Pacific Brass Band recording.

Our ears, and our brains, like to hear notes that fit together nicely like the intervals in these whole number ratios we see in the overtone series. In fact, Western music is built around these ratios, specifically the perfect 5th. Way back in Music Theory 101, I discussed the Circle of 5ths and major scales. If you start with C and continue up the scale in fifths you get the following sequence: C – G – D – A – E – B – F# – C# – G# – D# – A# – F – C. If you transpose those into scale order you get a chromatic scale covering all 12 notes within the octave. But Antonio, you may be asking yourself, why are there 12 tones between octave notes? Well, seeing as this installment of Music Theory has already gone on way too long, the answer to that question will have to wait for another article.



VERY SPECIAL Sucker Awards were given last month, to four members who stepped up when their band needed them and ran for election (or re-election) to the Board of Directors! L to R are Members-at-Large **John Lunden** and **Brenda Bayani**, Uniforms & Equipment **Barbara Smith**, and President **Elizabeth Black**.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our February crew! Celebrating with pink sparkly hearts and exceptional goodies at break were (L to R) **Gene Smith**, **Pat Mintun-Bont**, **Jerry Buchanan**, **Dana Sales**, and **Shae Maher**!



MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDAR

2024 Calendar of Performances and Activities

February 21 - 77th Anniversary Birthday Rehearsal
April 12 & 13 - 76th Annual Spring Concerts
May 2 - Combined Concert with Aptos High School
May 4 - Pacific Grove Good Old Days Parade
May 27 - Memorial Day Concert at Roaring Camp
June 22 - Hollister Saddle Horse Show Parade
June 23 - ComicCon/Nerdville 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



**MARCH IS
MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®**



Guess who stopped by our birthday rehearsal for some birthday cake? Looooon-time band supporter **Dr. Nancy Bilicich**, Director of Watsonville/Aptos/Santa Cruz Adult Education! She spoke with the band and expressed gratitude and appreciation for the band's 77 years of service to our community and presented a certificate to that effect. A classy certificate - emblazoned with a French Horn!

Smiling for the camera are, Left to right, Louise Viales, Dana Sales, Dr. Bilicich, Eugene Smith, and Ruth Gronroos. These four "Senior Active Members" represent 226 years in the Watsonville Band!



Thank You! to our SPONSORS



TO THE BUSINESS MEMBERS OF OUR BAND FAMILY

A Shear Experience • Beachnest Vacation Rentals
Cassidy's Pizza • Cowles Berry Farm
Edward & Kathleen Banks • Lawrence Lease
Ed Bogner Mechanical • Pajaro Valley Printing
Sambraio Packaging • Pacific Ag Pak
Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Market
Alladin Nursery & Gift Shop • Watsonville Ford
Santa Cruz County Bank • Chevrolet of Watsonville
Watsonville Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram

TO THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF OUR BAND FAMILY

SUPPORTERS (\$250+)

Pat Mintun-Bont • Larry Cordidon • Jeffery Collins
Roger Erickson • Grant Erickson • Leon & Janet Mayou
Tom & Thoma Mitchell • Bill & Janice Nicolosi
Marilyn Rivers • Barbara Smith • Clarice & Harry Wiggins

BENEFACTORS (\$500+)

Gail & Elizabeth Black • Bill & Allegra Bortin
William J. Codiga Family Foundation
George & Corine Cursi
Margaret Dow • Clint & Karen Miller
Rowland K. (Reb) & Pat Rebele • Frank & Merrie Ann Turner
Bob Graves and Judy Norton Charitable Family Fund
The Sons and Daughters of Italy, Watsonville Lodge