

# THE LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY BAND, INC.

## LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY BAND (LGCB) ORIENTATION

### PREFACE

This document is intended for new members as a supplement to the band By-Laws, offering more detail in a question and answer format. Band members at one time or another have asked most of these questions. The By-Laws are the band's primary governing document. Any conflicts between the two documents must be resolved in favor of the By-Laws.

### GENERAL

How is the band organized?

- The Lake George Community Band is a Wind Ensemble.
- The administrative make up can be found in the By-Laws, which are posted to the band web site. [www.lgcb.org](http://www.lgcb.org) There are officers, a board of directors and various committees.

What kind of music does the band play?

- The band plays popular hits, marches, classical, big band, jazz, show tunes, etc.

Where do band instruments come from?

- Most instruments are the personal property of individual members.
- Some instruments, usually larger instruments like timpani or bass drum or marimba, etc, belong to Lake George High School and are available for use by the LGCB.

What is the "Festival"?

- Each July, The Lake George Community Band hosts an event where community bands can perform. Community bands from the northeast and Canada participate. The festival provides an opportunity for musicians to hear other bands and meet members of those bands.

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## JOINING

What are the requirements for joining the band?

- The band By-Laws provide that membership can be extended to qualified musicians
- You should not make any assumptions regarding your own qualifications. Because the skill level of band members has improved considerably since the band was first formed in 2003, a wide range of ability exists in the band.
- We ask a prospective member for a commitment. You should be prepared to attend all concerts and most rehearsals.
- Band members are volunteers and are not paid
- There are no dues or fees imposed on members

Are there auditions?

- Yes, the Music Director may conduct auditions.

## MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

As a member, what are my responsibilities?

- Maintain your musical skills at a level acceptable to your peers and the Music Director.
- Accept chair assignments, parts you are asked to play or NOT to play and any other direction from the Music Director (or Conductor, if different).
- Communicate all absences to the Music Director in advance.
- Serve on a committee if asked.

Are there any requirements for practicing my instrument?

- Rehearsals are for putting parts together as an ensemble, not for you to learn your part. Practicing is where this should be done. You should come prepared to play.
- You should do sufficient practicing so your efforts make a positive contribution to the band. Intonation or the ability to play in tune over the entire practical range of your instrument is important. Only practicing improves this ability. Your practicing should include more than just band music (for example, scales, etudes, etc)
- If certain parts require extra time for you to learn, you should spend that time.

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What do I wear for concerts?

- You should check the website for the latest information regarding appropriate dress.

Do I need to bring a music stand?

- We use stands that belong to the Lake George High School (LGHS) for rehearsals and summer concerts at Shepard Park
- For other concerts, you may be asked to bring your own stand. Your stand should be either black or the inexpensive chrome “wire type” variety. Other colors are not acceptable.

What is rehearsal and concert etiquette?

- Anything you do or wear that presents a distraction from what is taking place is discouraged. Such behavior shows a lack of respect for the conductor and other members of the band
- There is a proper way to hold your instrument during a concert when others are playing and you are not. Ask others in your section or the music director for the proper way.

Can I be dismissed from the band?

- The By-Laws provide for dismissal for several reasons, usually relating to conduct that is not in the best interests of the band. Poor attendance, for example, is a sign of lack of interest.
- The board of directors has the sole authority to dismiss a member

What music do I need to bring with me to rehearsal?

- The short answer is "all of it". Each week, you will get a list of pieces scheduled for rehearsal and you should have this music ready to play when you arrive at rehearsal.

What if I can't play all of the music as written and directed?

- The first rule is, don't play it. The second rule is, if you can, simplify the part to fit your abilities. Ask the conductor if you need help with this.

If I believe I have been treated unfairly, how do I seek redress for a grievance?

- Your first step is to express your situation in writing and give it to the chairperson of the membership committee. The chairperson will provide an answer for you in a timely manner.
- If the answer you receive is not satisfactory, you may then appeal to the board of directors.

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## HOW, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE,

Where does the band rehearse?

- The band rehearses at the Lake George High School in the band room, which is on the second floor. You should enter the building on the Ottawa street side. Other locations may be scheduled on an as needed basis. You will be advised accordingly.

When does the band rehearse?

- The band rehearses each Thursday, starting at 7:00 PM. You should plan to be there at 6:30 PM to unpack and warm up so as to be ready to play at 7:00 PM.

Where are concerts?

- Summer location is The Shepard Park Amphitheater in Lake George
- Indoor locations are the Glens Falls High School Auditorium and the Lake George High School Auditorium (or Lake George High School Gym -(Festival Rain location)). The music committee may schedule other locations.

Where do I park?

- For rehearsals, park on Ottawa Street near the rear entrance to the High School.
- For summer concerts in Shepard Park, you will be provided a parking permit that allows for free parking on any street north of Amherst Street.
- For other concert locations, you will be provided information regarding parking.

How do I get music?

- Our librarian maintains the band music library. She makes sure that new music is passed out at rehearsals when needed. Section leaders assist the librarian to distribute and collect music.
- Sheet music is filed in the band room in file cabinets. Only authorized people have access to these files. You should ask your section leader if you need missing parts.
- Each band member is issued a black band music folder. See the membership committee chairperson for this

How do I get information regarding changes to rehearsals and concerts, etc?

- Most general information is posted to the band website. There is a member section that is password protected. You should ask the Webmaster for the password.
- Day to day communication is by email. You should check your email daily. Also, you should provide the Webmaster your email address. He will post it to the member list on the website, and make sure you are included in email broadcast lists.

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What social activities are available to band members?

- Informal gatherings take place after rehearsals and concerts. Listen for times and places.
- Formal gatherings include a band picnic and banquet. Time and place TBA

How do I contact other members?

- In the member section of the website, there is a roster of band members. It contains their email address, telephone number and street address.

What other band activities are there? How can I take part?

- There are several standing and ad hoc committees that deal with band administration. You can help by volunteering for one or more of these committees.
- The band librarian often seeks help in distributing, collecting and filing music.
- When the band has a concert at a location other than the school, help may be needed to move needed equipment. You can volunteer for this.