



2017-18 Concert Season Membership Guide

This guide provides information and guidance to members of the Meridian Community Band (MCB). Topics include:

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1. Meridian Community Band Mission Statement - Practice, Perfect, Perform! The mission of the MCB is to provide opportunities for community musicians to come together in an enjoyable and cooperative atmosphere to practice, perfect, and perform inspiring and educational concerts in the American town band tradition for the benefit of the greater community and to promote cultural enhancement.

2. Rehearsals - The MCB generally rehearses on Tuesday evenings during the school year from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Okemos High School orchestra room or band room. Immediately prior to a concert, rehearsals may be extended to 9:15 p.m. You will be notified regarding any location or time changes. From time to time, Section Managers may call for sectional rehearsals.

11/20/2016 Addendum: To be eligible to play in a concert, a member must have attended a minimum of 60% of the rehearsals for the session inclusive of the last two regular rehearsals plus the dress rehearsal (if applicable) prior to a concert or have been granted specific exemption by their Section Manager or the Music Director.

3. Rehearsal Etiquette - Band members are expected to conduct their personal behavior in a manner that reflects a professional level of respect and consideration for the Music Director, other band members, and Okemos High School.

- Rehearsals begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. Plan to arrive sufficiently early to allow time to set up your chair, stand, music, instrument, and mutes.
- Turn off or mute cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices and do not operate devices such as Kindles or smartphones during rehearsal time.
- Do not talk during tuning.
- Do not talk or play your instrument when the conductor has stopped the band while on the podium.
- Bring a pencil for marking rehearsal and performance instructions on your music. Do not use anything other than a pencil to write on your music.
- At the conclusion of each rehearsal, ensure that your chair and music stand have been placed in their proper locations.
- Any debris in your area should be placed in trash receptacles prior to leaving.

4. Attendance - Inform your Section Manager if you are not able to attend a rehearsal or concert. You should plan to attend as many rehearsals as possible, especially those immediately prior to each concert.

5. Part Assignments - The MCB maintains a "no chair auditions" policy. The band is committed to a part rotation policy, which allows opportunity for individual growth while ensuring a consistently balanced ensemble sound. Part assignments for each session are determined by the Section Manager (with the approval of the Music Director) based on a number of factors, including a performer's experience, ability, preferences, dependability, seniority, and projected attendance at upcoming concerts.

6. Concert Season - The concert season rehearsals begin at the start of the Okemos school year and normally end in early July. The concert season is divided into five distinct sessions. Each session has its own unique performances and music.

- **Autumn Session (September – October) - Grand Sousa Concert**
Since 1994, the MCB has opened each of its concert seasons with the Grand Sousa Concert.
- **Holiday Session (November – December) – Holiday Concerts**
The MCB performs two to four concerts during this session at a variety of venues.
- **Festival Session (January – February) - Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands**
The annual Red Cedar Festival of Community Bands is hosted by the MCB. It is an all-day event that brings together adult community bands from the Great Lakes region. In addition to performing, there are multiple opportunities for volunteering at this event.
- **Spring Session (March – May) – Spring Concerts**
The Spring Concert is sometimes held jointly with another area community music ensemble. In March, the MCB performs at the annual commencement ceremonies of the Michigan State University Institute of Agricultural Technology.
- **Summer Session (June – July) – Summer Concerts**
The MCB has been providing patriotic and crowd-pleasing concerts during the summer months for many years at sites including the Meridian Historical Village and the Lake Lansing Band Shell.

7. Concert Attire

Formal Concerts Men: Formal black tuxedo, white shirt, black bow tie, black stockings and shoes. Black cummerbunds are optional.

Women: Black full-length skirt/slacks, black long-sleeved blouse, black stockings and shoes.

Holiday Concerts

Men: Formal black tuxedo, white shirt, black or red bow tie, black stockings and shoes. Black or red cummerbunds are optional.

Women: Black full-length skirt/black slacks, black or red long-sleeved blouse, black stockings and shoes.

Summer Concerts

Men & Women: Tan or khaki bottoms (shorts are acceptable), solid-color navy blue top. Hats, if worn, should be navy, tan, or white.

If you have concerns about meeting the dress code, please talk to your Section Manager.

8. Donations - A voluntary administrative donation of \$50 per season, or \$10 per session (Autumn, Holiday, Festival, Spring, and Summer), is requested of each band member. Your donation should be delivered to your Section Manager. Declining to donate will not affect your membership.

Your donation helps cover annual administrative expenses, including

- ASCAP/BMI performance licensing

- Association of Concert Band membership dues
- Arts Council of Greater Lansing dues
- liability insurance premiums
- facility charges

Other ways to support the MCB financially include monetary gifts, charitable contributions, tangible gifts, empty ink cartridges, etc. The MCB is a paragraph 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A year-end donation statement for tax preparation purposes will be provided to each donor. Only donations of \$20.00 or more above the suggested member donation of \$50.00 will be considered for acknowledgement in concert programs.

9. Volunteer Opportunities

It takes not only practice but planning and execution behind the scenes to accomplish a successful season. With your help as a performer and volunteer, the band can plan, publicize, and perform quality concerts to growing audiences, hold outreach performances in schools and residential care facilities, and contribute music to community events.

Band members are encouraged to volunteer their time and talents as their schedules and other life obligations permit. Your skills, experience, and energy can ensure the band's success. Consider helping with one of the following committees:

- **Community Outreach Committee** - creatively promote concerts within the community; seek out service opportunities and build relationships with other organizations
- **Concert Committee** - work as a team to plan all concerts; gain expertise in certain tasks and document all procedures; coordinate facilities and equipment team
- **Fundraising - Marketing Committee** - produce promotional materials to build the band's image; raise band funds via donors, grants, and solicited paid advertising; brainstorm and implement "hooks" or "perks" for our audiences
- **Media Committee** - maintain and extend an active social media presence; ensure band website is organized, up-to-date, and has a contemporary appearance
- **Membership Committee** - attend to administrative tasks that will make band functioning more efficient (including but not limited to: member database, concert rosters, attendance, and potential members)
- **Social Committee** - build band camaraderie through planned events and activities; continue old and establish new traditions; facilitate "getting to know you" across the band

10. Problems and Concerns

The following process should be used when dealing with any problems or concerns that may arise, including issues that are relevant to your instrument, seating, part assignment, personal conflicts, or participation in rehearsals or performances:

1. Talk to your Section Manager **first**.
2. If a non-music issue has not been resolved at the Section Manager level, talk to the band's Vice-President.
3. If a music-related issue has not been resolved at the Section Manager level, talk to the Music Director, who is the ultimate authority in determining solutions.

11. Website and Social Media www.meridiancommunityband.org

The band maintains a website and Facebook page to provide band members and the general public with information regarding the band's activities. Members are encouraged to offer comments and suggestions for

improving our internet presence. Members are encouraged to share MCB information with friends and family on Facebook.

12. Recruitment of new members

In order to achieve and maintain an instrumentally balanced band, members **must consult the Music Director** prior to inviting anyone to join the MCB

13. Meetings of the MCB Board of Directors

Band members are invited to attend the monthly board meetings which are scheduled through the concert season on the second Wednesday of the month. Additional special meetings will be announced as information becomes available. See the 2017-2018 Calendar for dates, time and location.

14. Contact Information: MCB Section Managers

Section	Section Manager	Email Address	Phone
Flute	Terri Ewen	mummyewen@yahoo.com	517-580-8746
Double Reed	Janet Pendleton	doublereeds@meridiancommunityband.org	517-580-7230
Clarinet	Rachel Savage Melissa Mackey	rachelsavage18@gmail.com melissa.mackey@gmail.com	517-977-5731 (H) 517-333-3561 (C) 517-930-2381
Low Clarinet	Deb Spalding	spaldingdeb@gmail.com	517-655-8447
Saxophone	Kate Moss	katiejomoss@gmail.com	517-719-4771
French Horn	Mary Lou Gondek	gondpalm@att.net	517-487-6257
Trumpet	Carol Hamilton	carolhamilton2000@att.net	517-721-1628
Trombone	Steve Beck	stevebeck56@gmail.com	517-643-1371
Euphonium/Tuba	Joy Rimpau	jrimpau@comcast.net	517-339-3827
Percussion	Rick Thomas	thomasr5@msu.edu	517-337-9384

15. Contact Information: MCB Board of Directors and Appointed Personnel

Position	Name	Email Address	Phone
President	Bob Copeland	rbcopeland@gmail.com	517-580-7230
Vice-President	Elaine Reynolds	reynoldsgeo@sbcglobal.net	517-676-9936
Secretary	Kristi Peters	kristipeters57@yahoo.com	517-881-7523
Treasurer	Phil Wieferich	phil.wieferich@gmail.com	517-256-0814
Director	David Gillison	davegillison@hotmail.com	517-930-1931
Director	Adrienne Grunow	adrienne.grunow@yahoo.com	517-648-2566
Director	Tom McCulloch	umba70jd75@aol.com	517-374-8798
Director	Rick Thomas	thomasr5@msu.edu	517-337-9384
Director	Kristen Tranchida	kristen.tranchidacsigholding.com	248-842-2763
Director	Sierra Throop	sierrathroop@gmail.com	
Librarian	Bob Copeland	librarian@meridiancommunityband.org	517-580-7230
Music Director	Thomas Gillette	bandmastertom@gmail.com	517-798-9198