

# NOTES OF INTEREST

## The Mississinewa Valley Band Newsletter

June 2015

Volume 10, Number 2

### In the Spotlight - Ronda Jones

Our spotlight for this issue is on Ronda Jones, who is one busy lady, as you will soon discover. Ronda is one of the original members of the Mississinewa Valley Band. She was born and raised in Grant County and has lived all her life within a 20-mile radius. She began her musical instruction in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, choosing the trumpet because it was the only option at the time. It was the instrument her brother played, but was now sitting in a closet, unused. She found that she loved the instrument, so she stuck with it through her years at Mississinewa High School and then Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University). In college, she was a Music Education major and a member of a 30-piece brass ensemble called Dimensions in Brass. During the summers, she made extra money by working at band camps around the state.

After her third year of college, she found that she loved numbers, so she switched her major to Accounting. It was a move that paid off well, for following her graduation, she landed the

job of comptroller of a local company. In 1999, she was able to partner in the creation of a new company, Industrial Maintenance Specialists. The business is located in Gas City and is a commercial contractor employing millwrights, ironworkers and operators who install and maintain production equipment in factories. The business has thrived and has just recently expanded to a location in Kokomo.



During the ten years after graduating from college and starting the business, Ronda was busy working at various jobs and didn't have time to play her trumpet. She was given an invitation to join the new community band that was forming in Grant County, so she decided to go. She has been an integral part of the Mississinewa Valley Band ever since, serving as board

member, treasurer, program committee member and section leader. She also organizes and leads the brass quintet and sometimes directs swing band rehearsals.

She met her husband, John, at a tractor pull in Van Buren, and they were married within a year after they started dating. They live with their two schnauzers and a boxer in the first house they bought 25 years ago. They like to travel and are actively involved as members of College Wesleyan Church. John often helps out at MVB concerts by manning the spotlight.

"The Mississinewa Valley Band reignited my love of music and performing," says Ronda. "Being part of a band is like being a part of a family. Even though you travel different journeys in life there is a commonality that brings you together. When you are at rehearsal all the social, economic, political and religious differences melt away as we work as a team towards one shared goal."

### The Mississinewa Valley Band: The First 15 Years

It's hard to believe that the Mississinewa Valley Band has been in existence for 15 years. What started out as a dream became a reality, and it continues to be a wonderful presence in the Grant County community. In celebration of its anniversary, the MVB is putting together a book to highlight the history of the band. Director John Brane felt that it was time to preserve what has happened in the last 15 years. Someone might want to know about it 15 years from now! Although a publication date has not yet been determined, information is being gathered, and the writing has begun. The MVB invites you to contribute to the book. We'd like to hear the story of your involvement with the band. Here are some of the things we can include in the book:

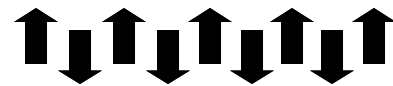
1. What is your involvement with the MVB?
2. Why do you attend MVB concerts?
3. What concert stands out the most in your memory?
4. What do you like most about the MVB?

If you have something to contribute, send your comments to Marilyn Woolard (contact information below):

Marilyn Woolard  
1015 N Walnut St Hartford City 47348  
marilyn.jamieson@yahoo.com

### Summer Schedule

- June 2—Gas City Park 7:00 p.m.
- July 2—Honeywell Center, Wabash 7:00 p.m.
- July 22—Hartford City Square 7:30 p.m.
- July 30—Matter Park 7:30 p.m.



### The King's Brass

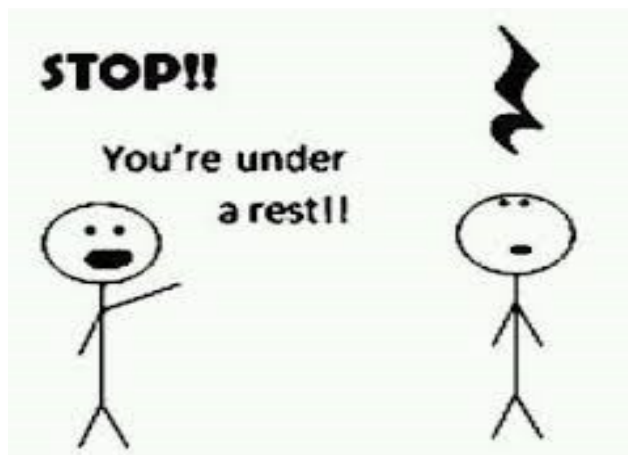
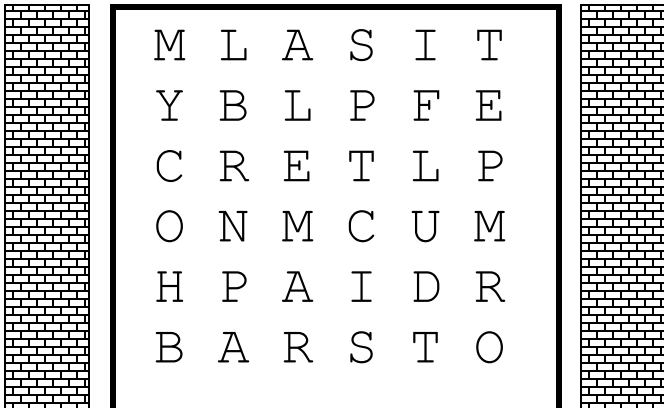
There is still time to get your tickets for The King's Brass performance on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. The concert will be held at the Phillippe Performing Arts Center on the IWU campus. The King's Brass puts on a terrific show, full of great music and light-hearted fun. Tickets are just \$10 each, or 12 for \$100. Write your check to Fred Wandrei and send it to:



Fred Wandrei  
P.O. Box 1437  
Marion IN 46952

## Musical Instruments Quiz

Beginning with any letter and moving in any direction, how many musical instruments can you find that are mentioned in the Bible?  
Answers are below.



Quiz answers: dulcimer, flute, cornet, trumpet, harp, drum, horn, lyre, lute, psaltery, cymbal

## Weird and Wacky Facts about Music

\* The longest piano piece of any kind is 'Vexations' by Erik Satie. It consists of a 180-note composition which, on the composer's orders, must be repeated 840 times so that the whole performance is 18 hours 40 minutes. Its first reported public performance in September 1963, in the Pocket Theater, New York City, required a relay team of 10 pianists. The New York Times critic fell asleep at 4 a.m. and the audience dwindled to 6 masochists. At the conclusion, one sado-masochist shouted 'Encore!'

\*American composer John Cage (1912–1992) composed a work in 1952 entitled 4' 33", which consists of four minutes and thirty-three seconds of silence.

\*A grand piano can be played faster than an upright (spinnet) piano.

\*The harmonica is the world's best-selling music instrument.

\*The longest rendering of a national anthem was 'God Save the King,' performed by a German military band on the platform of Rathenau railway station in Brandenburg, on February 9, 1909. King Edward VII was struggling inside the train to get into his German Field-Marshal uniform, so the band had to play the anthem 17 consecutive times.

\*Termites eat wood twice as fast when listening to heavy metal music.

### Connect with the MVB through Social Media

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Follow us Online: [www.mississinewavalleyband.com](http://www.mississinewavalleyband.com)

Contact the Director: [jbrane@embarqmail.com](mailto:jbrane@embarqmail.com)

Band Information: [bandmississinewavalley@gmail.com](mailto:bandmississinewavalley@gmail.com)

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