

Notes of Interest

The Mississinewa Valley Band Newsletter

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Marching to the beat of a different drum . . .

There's a new face in the MVB's percussion section. No, not a new person . . . a new instrument. After 16 years of using borrowed equipment, The Mississinewa Valley Band now owns a brand new set of timpani. This is a big step forward for the band and a huge commitment on the part of the Board of Directors. Timpani are not cheap, so this purchase – made possible by the many donations of our patrons and sponsors – speaks of the Board's commitment to quality and excellence in performance. The members of the percussion section are extremely grateful for this gift, which makes the section complete and no longer dependent upon the generosity of other bands.

Most people know that the timpani are also called kettle drums, a name that describes their shape. Here are some other interesting facts about the timpani, some of which you may have already known, and some of which may be a surprise. The Italian word *timpani* is plural for *timpano*. A person who plays the timpani is called a timpanist. The drum consists of a head (usually made of animal skin or plastic) stretched over a large bowl made of copper. The timpani evolved from

military drums that were played on horseback (those poor horses!) and are used widely today in many musical ensembles, including concert bands, marching bands, orchestras and even some rock bands.

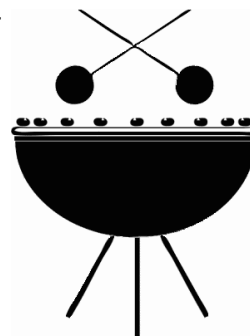
Each drum in a set of timpani is a different size, with the largest being 32 inches in diameter and the smallest measuring 20 inches. This allows them to be tuned to different pitches, unlike the bass drum which has no pitch. The timpanist can change the pitch by using a pedal mechanism to adjust the tension on the drum head. The next time you go to a concert, watch the timpanist. He often puts his ear close to the instrument, checking to see if it is in tune.

Most often, timpani are set up from largest to smallest (left to right), but some timpanists prefer to arrange them from smallest to largest. Either way, the timpanist must always know the pitch on each drumhead, for he may need to change it several times during the course of one song. To play the drum, he uses a special drumstick called a mallet, which consists of a shaft – usually made of wood – and a head – usually made of felt wrapped around a wooden core. Timpanists

often change sticks within the same piece to suit the nature of the music being played. The choice of which stick to use depends on the timpanist's own preference – and occasionally the wishes of the conductor. The weight of the stick, the size and surface area of the head, the materials used for the shaft, core and wrap, and the method used to wrap the head all contribute to the timbre the stick produces.

It can take up to one to two years to build a complete set of timpani, which can cost more than your car – between \$30,000 and \$50,000! No, the new kettledrums didn't cost us that much, but they were a sizeable investment, to be sure. And in order to protect them and give them a longer life, a few more dollars were spent for quality coverings for all four drums. The percus-

sion section is proud to own such fine instruments along with other pieces that were purchased with



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In the Good Old Summertime



What's on your summer schedule? Trips to the beach? Vacations and sight-seeing? Hiking and camping? Or perhaps you plan to stay close to home and spend time with family and friends. Summer is a great time to do all of those things. The Mississinewa Valley Band has big plans for the summer as well, and you are invited to participate in the events on the schedule. Band members are working hard to bring you quality performances, and we hope you have a chance to attend. We promise to give you an evening of quality entertainment and great music. Won't you join us?

Tuesday June 7, 7:00 p.m. Concerts in the Park series at Gas City Park. Bring a lawn chair or sit on the park benches. The MVB will be joined by the Mississinewa Valley Choir.

Thursday June 30, 7:00 p.m. Patriotic Pops at Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash. We enjoyed doing this concert so much last year, we decided to try it again. Watch out for a special trumpet number that will blow you away.

Friday, July 15, 6:00 p.m. The Brass Six plays at Matter Park Garden House. Bring a lawn chair.

Thursday July 21, 7:30 p.m. Garden House Concert Series, Matter Park. Bring a lawn chair.

Summer Reading List

Here’s another great thing to do during the summer . . . READ! Below is a list of some pun titles . . . Oops, I meant FUN titles! You won’t find these in any bookstore, but you might get a laugh just reading through the list!

Come On In, by Doris Ipen
I Didn’t Do It!, by Ivan Alibi
I Hate This Job, by Ike Witt
Irish First Aid, by R.U. O’Kaye
Stop Arguing, by Xavier Breath
Prison Security, by Barb Dwyer
I Hit the Wall, by Isadore There
I Hate the Sun, by Gladys Knight
Rapunzel, Rapunzel, by Harris Long
My Career as a Clown, by Abe Bozo
The Bruce Lee Story, by March Larts



Things to Do at a Party, by Bob Frapples
Why I Eat at McDonald’s, by Tommy Ayk
The German Bank Robbery, by Hans Zupp
The Philippine Post Office, by Imelda Letter
How I Won the Marathon, by Randy Hoelway
The World’s Deadliest Joke, by Theophilus Punoval
Songs From South Pacific, by Sam and Janet Evening



A **LEXOPHILE** is a lover of words, one who derives pleasure from various use of words, who appreciates the nuances surrounding different words, and who is alert to synonyms, antonyms, homophones, and homonyms, often using them for

- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
 - When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
 - When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
 - The batteries were given out free of charge.
 - A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
 - A will is a dead giveaway.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
 - A boiled egg is hard to beat.
 - When you’ve seen one shopping center you’ve seen a mall.
 - Police were summoned to a day-care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
 - Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He’s all right now.
- A bicycle can’t stand alone. It’s just two tired.
 - When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she’d dye.
 - The guy who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
 - Acupuncture is a jab well done. That’s the point of it.
 - Those who get too big for their pants will be totally exposed in the end.

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