

Your Vienna Band NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2021 Edition



From Left to right:
Barbara and Mayor
Colbert, Greg, Judith
and Tom.

The Band's High Notes



In the photograph, seated from left to right:

Carol Stoker, Mike Youmans, Sophia Stone, Lisa O'Donnell, Judy Buchino, Chris Stuebner,
Beth Callsen, Pamela Lew, Bob Carroll, Carrie Smith, James Waters, MaryBeth Keller

Standing from left to right:

Barbara Collins, Dan Walt, Keith Merkel, Don Hertig, Matt Dudzinski, Meredith Morris, Natalie
Dubishar, Matt Sourwine, Chelle Youmans, Brandon Stone, Greg Smith, Stan Stewart, Tom
Cooper, Tom Jozefowicz, Steve Firestone, Cornelius Young



Freeman Store. (Emily Leayman/Patch)

A Word from Our President



Hello All,



Call for Volunteers! The Annual Membership Meeting will take place on 23 January 2022 in the rehearsal room at the Vienna Community Center. Please plan to attend it, and please offer your services by volunteering to serve on the Board of Directors or on one of the committees. In particular, the Band needs an assistant secretary.

Since July, the Band has been emerging from the coronavirus epidemic by taking small steps. There were the three Summer Series Outdoor Rehearsals, the last of the Farmers' Market small ensembles, and the first indoor rehearsal on 12 September. With some trepidation, the Band played its first concert of the season on 24 October. We did not know what to expect as far as the size and co-operation of the audience. After an eighteen month recess, the Band played well at the Fall Concert.

Even now and into the foreseeable future, the members of the Band will continue to wear masks when not playing a wind instrument at rehearsals and at a concert. It is still necessary to verify that members of the Band have been vaccinated.

We are not free yet from the effects of the coronavirus. I learned the other day that a friend of mine who lives in Chicago in spite of having contracted the coronavirus in early 2021, had received both vaccinations, and received a booster shot nonetheless contracted the virus a second time in early November. The Band must continue to observe caution for a while.

The Holiday concert will take place on 12 December 2021 beginning at 5:30 p.m. Mayor Linda Colbert will join the Band by reciting "Twas the Night before Christmas". We hope that an earlier concert time than what was used in the last few years will attract more children this year to the Holiday Concert.

I am pleased with the increasing number of new members who have joined and regular members returning to the Band as they gain confidence with the safety of playing indoors.

I am encouraged by the renewed enthusiasm of the Band and of the recognition which the Band is receiving from the Town of Vienna. I am confident that these trends will continue.

I wish you well in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Fleming

president@viennaband.us

Barbara's Music Stand



Barbara conducting Brass Ensemble November 2021

Hello All,

The Concert Band and the small ensembles are continuing in full strength. The Concert Band gave a very successful fall concert and is looking forward to our concert December 12, 5:30 on the Community Center. Vienna Mayor Linda Colbert will be narrating "T'was the Night Before Christmas" with the band.

Seven of our brass players played for the Vienna Holiday Stroll on Monday, November 29, 6:00. This was holiday music and we had a visit from Santa Claus on the Town Green.

Our Woodwind Quartet and Clarinet Ensemble will play holiday music Friday, December 10. These groups are playing for the Mayor's Reception in the Town Hall.

'Tis the season to be busy with music.

Barbara

Your Tax Deductible Donation is Needed!



December 2021

A happy holiday season to everyone! I hope you are healthy and able to meet with friends and family this year. Just a gentle reminder that if you want to make a tax-deductible donation for 2021, it must be postmarked by December 31, 2021. Please make your check out to the Vienna Community Band and mail it to P.O. Box 149,

Vienna, VA 22183.

Thank you!

Pamela

Who's Playing Next to You?

In this edition, we are featuring our own **Matt Dudzinski!**

How did you start in music?



I started when I was in fifth grade in elementary school. The music teacher asked us what instrument we'd like to play, and I, just out of the blue, said, "a clarinet." My parents got me a rental, which was very heavy and seemed to be made of cast iron and virtually indestructible. It was just to see if I would want to stick with it. I did. But I was embarrassed among the other players in the class.

The other kids had nice wooden clarinets, while my instrument looked like a piece of ironmongery from the engine room of a battleship. Finally, my parents got me a real wooden clarinet! I was surprised by how light it was and how easy it was to play! In those days, they gave musical instrument training for free in public schools. I loved it, but I never took private lessons. I always

thought it was too expensive. I joined the band in junior high school, and I've played in a school band every year from then through college.

After college, I played in community bands. I worked at Goddard Space Flight Center, and every year they put on a dinner theater show. One year the show was Oklahoma, and I volunteered for the pit orchestra.

Fortunately, the first clarinet part was all clarinet, so I didn't have to have or learn another instrument. The following year the show was How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. In that show, the clarinet doubled on tenor sax.

I knew folks at the University of Maryland band who could lend me an old beater, so I went over and picked it up. I then sat in the sax section in the community band, and now and then, I would whisper to my neighbor, "How do you play this note?" By show rehearsal time, I was marginally

competent in tenor sax. Over the years, I picked up my tenor sax, alto sax, baritone sax, bass clarinet, and flute.

What is your favorite instrument you own now?

About 30 years ago, I bought an old alto sax from a man at work who had it sitting in his garage and wanted to sell it. I had it reconditioned, and now it looks brand new, and it's my favorite instrument. It's an antique Elkhart alto sax built by Buescher in Elkhart, Indiana. I looked up the serial number online, built-in 1919. It's a sweet horn, and the finger pads are genuine mother-of-pearl, not plastic.

What was your favorite concert ever?

My favorite concert was an opera. I think it was in 1998. I got a flyer in the mail about the Baltimore Opera's upcoming season, and for some reason, I wanted to see an opera. The season's theme was murder most foul, and the operas each featured somebody being murdered. That would encompass just about 90 percent of all operas written: Pagliacci, Rigoletto, Carmen, Tosca, Forza del Destino, ... I could go on.

The kickoff opera of the season was Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky, being given at the Lyric Theater in Baltimore. From the beginning of the performance, I was drawn into the action by the enchantment of Tchaikovsky's music. Sisters Olga and Tatiana live on a country estate with their mother, Larina. The peasants' chorus singing the praises of their gracious mistress touched my Slavic soul. Big sister Olga's fiancé Lensky is coming to visit this evening, and he is bringing his new friend Onegin. (Perhaps a match for young Tatiana?) The pair arrives, and Tatiana is immediately smitten by the handsome, worldly-wise, and unattached Onegin. (Think of him as being played by a young Hugh Grant.) Lensky sings of his love for Olga in a passionate aria that almost had me in tears.

After an evening of small talk, the pair then leave, but Tatiana is now hopelessly obsessed. All retire to bed, but in a tour-de-force solo scene that takes about 15 minutes, Tatiana remains awake in her room all night, agonizing over the young Onegin and the spell he has unknowingly cast over her.

As the sky lightens and the shepherds' pipes are heard over the hill, she resolutely grabs pen and paper and shamelessly pours out her heart to the young man and sends it to him by messenger. You must understand that I was on the edge of my seat sweating bullets for all the drama that was going on! It was that involved.

That morning Onegin shows up with the letter and speaks to Tatiana. Despite being a cad, he is honorable enough to let her down as gently as he can, explaining that he is not the kind for

domesticity, and after time they both would be miserable with each other. Tatiana is devastated.

Change of scene to Lensky's and Olga's engagement ball. Everybody is having a good time, especially Onegin. He shamelessly and openly flirts with the ladies, especially with his friend's fiancée Olga. Lensky can't believe what his supposed friend is doing and calls him on it. Onegin says chill, man. I was just having fun, and besides, Olga was even digging it! This is the last straw, and hot-headed Lensky challenges Onegin to a duel.

This is where the murder part comes in. The duel scene takes place on a frosty winter morning, the sun just a patch of light in a gray sky. Lensky and his second are waiting in the cold. Onegin comes strolling in fashionably late with a second, which is of questionable usefulness. He looks pretty flippant about the whole morbid business. This should have warned Lensky that Onegin has been through this and has come through as the winner.

However, Onegin tries to talk sense into his erstwhile friend, urging him to forgive and forget, but Lensky will have none of it. The duel goes on, with predictable consequences. This finally makes its way into Onegin's thick-skinned heart--he has just killed his best friend! In anguish, he drops his pistol into the snow and dashes off the scene as the curtain falls.

There is another whole act after this, but it's mostly predictable. Onegin has been traveling the world to forget and has finally come back to St. Petersburg. He has learned his lesson and realizes the thing about Tatiana was not such a bad idea after all. He looks her up and finds her in a lavish palace, married to an old and fabulously wealthy prince. (I think there's a clip on YouTube of this part being sung by a 90-year-old!) Twice Onegin gets her alone and tries to persuade her to leave her husband and go with him, but twice he fails.

Too much has happened in the intervening years. It's all pretty anticlimactic, but the impression was made on me up there on the balcony. I became an opera-goer after that.

Besides making music, what is your favorite hobby?

My wife and I like to go out in the evenings to a sort of live karaoke. We follow this guy who is a professional accompanist on the keyboard, and you can sing just about any song, and he'll accompany you in a comfortable key. I like to do songs by Sinatra, Bobby Darin, and Michael Buble because their vocal ranges are about the same as mine. He has his recording studio, and my wife and I have made recordings with him.

I also like to build scale models of airplanes and trains, and our house is full of the fruits of my labor! **Matt Dudzinski**

Around Town



Mayor Colbert while conducting the Brass Ensemble at the Vienna Holiday Stroll.



Isaac and Stan at the Vienna Holiday Stroll.



In Vienna, Matt Sourwine and Chelle Youmans of the Vienna Community Band's Brass Ensemble perform at the Church Street Holiday Stroll on Nov. 29, 2021. In the background is Jon Vrana, the event's master of ceremonies.

(Photo by Brian Trompeter) *[Click photo for the article link](#)**

*****The Band Would Like to Thank for Their Support,**

Vienna's Town Mayor - Linda Colbert

Vienna's Town Manager - Mercury Payton

Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation

American Legion Post 180

Optimist Club of Greater Vienna, VA



The Town of Vienna Community

We would also like to thank Carrie Smith for her excellent job handling the band's music.

And last but not least

You, our Band Members.