The Noank-Mystic Community Band
Susan Johnston, conductor
Presents
A Spring Concert
Friday, March 23
7:00PM
City of Groton Municipal Building
Meridian Street, Groton

The program will include:

- Star Spangled Banner
- Tenth Regiment March
- Overture: The Dragoons of Villars
- Shenandoah
- Jupiter from The Planets
- Galop from The Comedians
- Rise of the Firebird
- Choreography

----- Intermission -----

- O Magnum Mysterium
- Beyond the Horizon
- Toccata
- Fuego del Alma
- Way Down Yonder in New Orleans
- March: Them Basses

Come Join us for an Evening of Wonderful Music!

Free Refreshments at Intermission!

**Conductor’s Corner….**
Susan G. Johnston

Why play in a community band? Playing in a community band is a lot of work, and you have a conductor always telling you what to do. You have to come out at night and put a lot of effort into playing 1 part of the whole piece of music, and sometimes that part is really hard. You also need to practice your instrument, which can take a lot of time. So why do people want to play in a community band?

I'll tell you why, in this world where technology is king and face to face communication is not the norm, a group of strangers come together to create a whole and learn to share and communicate non verbally. In band our technology is old, the newest instruments in the band were invented in the 19th century. You have to really work hard and put a lot of energy into playing your instrument, you have to connect with everyone around you by listening, tuning, adjusting, using your hands, your brain, your breath, your eyes and most importantly your heart. Each one of our individual parts comes together to form a whole, one part leads into another or compliments it, or causes tension or release. Together we work to create art, each person is very important and their energy is crucial to creating the final product. There is not one person in the band that is more important than anyone else, even the conductor has their job, to keep the beat and to pull the energy from the band to help create the whole.

Playing in a community band is being a part of the community, it brings people together and makes the world a better place. When we perform for other members of the community, we are sharing a part of ourselves with the larger community and making them feel some of what's in our collective souls.

Wow, what a gift community band members give to all of us; no wonder they look like they are having so much fun. Why doesn't everyone play in the community band?

Ah, a question for another day. I hope to see you all at our concert.

Sue J.
Message from the President:

There’s an advertisement for CSX Railroad that you might have heard. It has a certain “Wow!” factor, at least to me. It goes something like “Moving a ton of freight 500 miles on a gallon of fuel.” Maybe it’s just that I like trains, but that’s stretching a lot of miles out of a gallon of fuel.

So, you ask, what does that have to do with community bands? I think we do a pretty good job of stretching a dollar, just as the railroad stretches a gallon of diesel fuel. The Noank Mystic Community Band is planning 18 concerts in 2012. An additional six concerts are sponsored by your band but performed by other community bands as part of the popular Summer Sounds series held in Mystic River Park in June through early-August. Summer Sounds was first sponsored by the Mystic Chamber of Commerce seventeen years ago, and then the Mystic River Park Commission, but probably would have ended if your band had not stepped-in to find sponsors for the series since 2005. In all, we draw a total audience of about 3400 people to our concerts over the course of a year. And no one is charged admission to attend any of those concerts.

And what about the hours that band members put in to bring you these concerts over the course of a year? Band membership has been growing steadily and is now at about 45 people. These musicians contribute an average of 125 hours a year either rehearsing or performing for the public. Although they do it because they enjoy music, these local residents, your friends and neighbors, are contributing a total of over 5535 hours a year to their community. I’d try to add-in home practice time, but our conductor, Sue Johnston, would probably argue that she needs to see the proof. Still, that’s the equivalent of nearly three full-time people! If they were paid the Connecticut minimum wage they would receive $45,700 per year. But, they do it for themselves and their audiences.

Fortunately, our expenditures each year are only about a third of that, averaging about $12,000 per year to operate the band plus another $3500 or so for Summer Sounds. All of that comes from our members in the form of annual dues, from our program sponsors, from an occasional (but very welcomed) grant, and from you, our patrons. We thank you. Your community thanks you. We’re doing all we can to stretch your dollars for everyone’s benefit.

Bill Gibbs
NMCB President

Member Spotlight

Bob Calabro, trumpet

When I was asked to write something for the Newsletter, I decided not to write about how long I have been in the band (a long time), or how long I have been playing the trumpet (an even longer time) or about the places where I have played over the years (a lot). I decided to write about some of the memories I have had playing in the trumpet section of the NMCB.

Over the years, the NMCB has been fortunate to have many excellent players: some retired military band players, some local professionals, and many excellent and dedicated amateur players. My trumpet playing knowledge and abilities were enhanced because of these musicians. We have also had the pleasure of having several foreign players sit in with the band, like the Russian trumpeter from their military band who played the “Summertime” solo from Porgy and Bess at our Fourth of July concert. We also had a young trumpeter from Australia play with us for a while. What a diverse group!

The literature that the band has played over the years has also been quite diverse—everything from the simplest tunes up to those with Grade 6 difficulty. The music covered a wide range of overtures, wind band music, marches, Broadway show tunes, etc., etc. All have enhanced the individual musicians, and the band’s musicality and knowledge of the literature.

This could not have been accomplished without the vision of many conductors, assistant conductors and guest conductors who have led the NMCB over the years. How could we forget the likes of guest conductors Eric Osterling, Vachlev Nehlybel, and Thomas Duffy, all Connecticut residents at the time. How could we forget “Crystals”, which was Thomas Duffy’s piece that used tuned glasses of water as musical instruments?

The Fourth of July concerts in front of Carson’s Store remain my favorites. Where else could you perform in a concert where the chair you are sitting in sinks a half inch into the street’s pavement because of the heat? And who could forget “The Duchess of Noank” Mary Virginia Goodman providing all who attended a rousing patriotic speech and reciting the Preamble to the Constitution?

All the music. All the notes. What a place to be on Wednesday nights!

Thanks Karen and Matt!!!!

(ed. note Karen Shultzman and Matt Kimball, co-founders of the NMCB)
We Need Your Support

The Noank-Mystic Community Band performs free concerts throughout Southeastern CT during the year. But in order to present these free concerts, we do have expenses—salary for our conductor and librarian, purchasing new music and equipment, insurance and other concert expenses.

We depend on the generosity of our patrons and sponsors to keep us “in business”. We are grateful for, and appreciate any donation you can make....so won’t you fill out the form and return it with your patron donation in the enclosed envelope?

THANK YOU!!

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BE A NMCB PATRON — WE NEED YOU!
CLIP AND SEND WITH TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

to: Noank Mystic Community Band, P.O. Box 9266, Noank, CT 06340

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(to receive e-mail concert notices)

Address: __________________________ __________________________________________

____ Please check here if your name/address is incorrect on your mailing label.

Amount Donated (annual donation requested - please check):

____ $10 Participating Patron  ____ $100 Benefactor Patron
____ $25 Sustaining Patron  ____ $500 Philanthropist Patron
____ $50 Associate Patron  ____ Other

Comments (are always very appreciated):

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THANK YOU!
(Note: If we inadvertently left your name off the list, please let us know!)

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2011—2012 PATRONS & SPONSORS
NOANK MYSTIC COMMUNITY BAND

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### 2012 NMCB Concert Schedule

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/12/12</td>
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<td>Stonington Harbor Yacht Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/28/12</td>
<td>Memorial Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/19/12</td>
<td>Summer Sounds</td>
<td>7:00PM</td>
<td>Mystic River Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/28/12</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Groton Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/30/12</td>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>7:00PM(TBD)</td>
<td>Bill Library, Groton</td>
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<td>July 4th Noank</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/7/12</td>
<td>Fireworks</td>
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<td>Eastern Point Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/7/12</td>
<td>Summer Sounds</td>
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<td>Mystic River Park</td>
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<td>8/8/12</td>
<td>Noank Concert</td>
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<td>Noank Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/26/12</td>
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<td>7:00PM</td>
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...Plus concerts at Senior living facilities and nursing homes during the summer and holiday season

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**We’re On the Web!**

Come visit our website:

noankmysticcommunityband.com.

Check it out for news and updates!

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**MUSICAL NOTES**

Editor: Barbara Shifer
Reporters: Bob Calabro, Bill Gibbs, Sue Johnston

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Noank, CT  06340