

St. Cloud Municipal Band 2024 Annual Report

Dec. 2, 2024

The year started off with our usual concerts at all three nursing homes...the first time in several years.

Our May concert at the Paramount was highlighted by the high school Ambassadors joining us, thanks to Andy's hard work getting that program started. Fifteen students from six schools joined us on stage. Some of the students played with us last summer, helping to fill seats in several sections. We continued to the program for area high school musicians this fall.

At the spring concert, we honored saxophone player Bob Bach for 50 continuous years with the band and recognized the 100-year contribution of the Bach family. Quite the legacy.

The city of St. Cloud offered us what we hope will be a permanent home for our music library in the basement of City Hall – actually the old girls varsity locker room.

John and I completed the Charities Review Council's accountability process. The council reviews our financial records, policies, decisions and operations to ensure that we comply with best practices. The council approved our report again this year, which means we can assure donors that we operate legally and ethically.

Summer events started with a twist. Because of construction, the Memorial Day event moved inside to the crowded VA auditorium. Some of our band members joined with musicians from the Meire Grove Band for a 10-day trip to Germany and the Czech Republic. We performed with bands in Spalt and Holdorf. We last visited Spalt in 2018. On the Fourth of July, a forecast for thunderstorms forced a change in the schedule and the cancellation of our performance.

The four Barden Park concerts went off with no weather issues this year.

In September, the band participated in two events at Stearns History Museum to mark 40 years in their building. We presented a history of the band for at a Breakfast Club event followed the next night by an outdoor concert featuring music from the 1980s. The museum would like us to continue performing there every year, probably in the last summer/early fall.

We wrapped up the fall with our Paramount Concert, joined by a new group of ambassadors.

Next week we'll perform with the Central Lake College Wind ensemble in Little Falls and then end the year with a holiday concert at Whitney on Dec. 19.

On the finance side, the band continues to receive money from the city of St. Cloud. That same level of support is in the city's 2025 budget. But with a new mayor and four new city council members, we will need to do some lobbying in 2025 to make sure that support continues.

Two large gifts helped our finances this year. We received a \$50,000 gift from the Goetten family. After Bob Bach's death in June, memorials honoring him totaled more than \$4,800.

I would like to recognize current members for their service:

Pat Lewandowski, present
Shelly Ziemer Gehrls, vice president
John Creasy, treasurer
Katie Johnson
Harvey Binder
John Plantenberg.

Let's thank our conductors, Andy and Lowell, for lending us their talent, their time and their patience.

Election

We have three open seats on the board. Board members serve two-year terms and are limited to three consecutive terms.

The board recommends this slate of three candidates:

John Plantenberg, trumpet
Austin Castro, bass clarinet
Karl Fischer, percussion

There were no nominations from the floor.

John, Austin and Karl were elected on a unanimous voice vote.

Mike Knaak, business manager