

# **Lex-Ham Community Band**



## **Member Information**

### **Welcome**

Thank you for your interest in joining the Lex-Ham Community Band. The band aims to perform well-written pieces of different musical styles that are playable by amateur musicians, possibly with some practice, but definitely with fun along the way. The fact that many band members have stayed with the Lex-Ham Community Band for many years, leads one to believe that it has found a good balance of playing good quality music and making the experience enjoyable.

### **History**

The Lex-Ham Community Band was formed in 1992 by residents of the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood in Saint Paul along with Richard Nolan, who was then the band director at Concordia College. Since then the band has played 12 months a year and has performed at concerts throughout the Twin Cities. Many of the concerts are at nursing homes, neighborhood festivals, parks, and at the annual Lex-Ham Music Festival. The band has performed at Grand Old Day, Highland Fest, and the Selby Avenue Jazz Festival.

After Richard Nolan's death in 1995, Keith Esala and then Doug Jacox directed the group. Jeremy Carvell became the director of the ensemble in 2006.

The Lex-Ham Community Band operates under the administrative structure of Lex-Ham Community Arts, a 501 ( c )(3) non-profit organization which manages a number of arts activities in and around the Lexington-Hamline neighborhood in Saint Paul.

### **Membership**

The Lex-Ham Community Band is open to musicians of any age who can perform high-school level band music. No audition is required. There are no fees to perform with the band, though members are invited to make a donation to cover the band's expenses, such as purchasing new music and paying the director's stipend. The band members are not paid.

## **Music Repertoire**

The band plays various types of concert band music, including Sousa marches, show tunes, classical concert band pieces, swing jazz and Dixieland arrangements. Most concert band music is rated on a 1 to 6 scale with 1 being very easy and 6 being very difficult. Most of the music the band performs would be rated 3 to 4.

## **Rehearsals**

For the most part, the band will either rehearse or perform a concert each weekend. The band publishes its upcoming events on-line at <http://www.lexhamarts.org/band/ScheduleBand.htm>. While it is most desirable for band members to attend all rehearsals, it is understandable that conflicts arise.

Rehearsals are from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings, normally in the band room at Concordia University-St. Paul (see <http://www.lexhamarts.org/band/CSPMap.htm> for directions)

E-mail announcements for each rehearsal and concert are sent to all band members who have an e-mail account.

## **Music Folders**

The band maintains folders, each assigned to a part, with the music for the upcoming rehearsals and concerts. The band librarian brings the folders to every rehearsal and concert.

Band members are encouraged to practice the music between rehearsals. There is a simple sign-out book to check music out so the band is able to keep track of it.

If you check out any music and are unable to attend the next rehearsal or concert, make sure to make arrangements to have the music available at that event.

## **Concerts**

Upcoming concerts will be announced to the band members along with directions as to the location for the concert.

Members are usually asked to bring their own music stand to concerts. Occasionally, members are asked to also bring their own folding chair.

The band wears a red Lex-Ham Community Band shirt at all of its concerts. Shirts cost \$11 and are available in many sizes. See the band administrative contact or the director to obtain a shirt.

Besides the red shirt, band members wear black pants and shoes at concerts. If the temperature is cool, you can wear something underneath the red shirt. Hats and sunscreen are useful on sunny days during outdoor concerts.