

Lex-Ham Community Band



Member Information

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, Doug Jacox, Jeremy Carvell, and Anthony Parrish have directed the group. Austin Virasy-Ertelt became the director of the ensemble in 2014.

Membership

The Lex-Ham Community Band is open to anyone of any age who can perform high-school level band music. There are no fees to perform with the band. However, members are asked to make a donation to the band 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, 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/calendar>. While it is most desirable for band members to come to 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/lexham2021/web/MaptoCSP> 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 music folders with the music for the upcoming rehearsals and concerts. These folders are brought to every rehearsal and concert. The folders are assigned to a part, such as French Horn 2, Tenor Sax Folder 2, or Clarinet 3 Folder 2.

Band members are encouraged to practice the music between rehearsals. It is important, however, that all the music is in the folders for every rehearsal and concert so that a band member using a folder is not missing a part.

To facilitate members to practice the music between rehearsals, but to keep track of all the parts, the band allows members to check out parts provided that the members have the parts available at the next rehearsal or concert.

Thus, there are two important rules regarding taking the music home to practice:

- 1) Complete the sign-out form located in the music bin whenever you take music home to practice; and
- 2) If you check out any music and are unable to attend the next rehearsal or concert, you must 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.

The band wears a red Lex-Ham Community Band shirt at all of its concerts. The shirts cost \$12 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.