



Our Own Newsletter!

We thought it might be a great help to have a periodic newsletter so that band members would have a better idea of what's going on with concert schedules, rehearsals, and other tidbits of information that keep our band functioning efficiently.

Most likely the *Notes* will be published more or less on a two-month basis. This issue will probably be the only "hard copy" one as we plan to email future issues to everyone who has an email address. (Those without email will continue to get a paper copy.) We will also put the *Notes* on the band's web site where there will be an archive of all the issues.

One band member will be featured in each issue. Sy, our "founding father" and erstwhile Tuba player, is in the spotlight this month. Band members are encouraged to write and submit a biography including music background, hobbies, and other interests.

Our Director, Ann, will also have a column where she will discuss musicianship, music in our folders and other topics that might concern the band's members.

Band members may also contribute articles about their experiences playing in our band or some other band. Pictures will be welcome, also. Looking for an instrument or have one to sell? List it here.

If you have any questions or suggestions for or about our newsletter, speak to Dave Clapper who is producing and editing it.

MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Seraphino "Sy" DeLucia



"Sy" DeLucia grew up in Greenwich, N.Y., where he learned early on that music would play an important part in his life. One of nine children in an Italian American family where music was appreciated, he also attended Greenwich schools, where every student was expected to take part in some musical organization.

Because he was bigger than many boys his age, in sixth grade he was selected by the high school band director to play the tuba, since he was one of a very few beginning instrumentalists who could lift the instrument and had the lungs to play it. Because he couldn't carry the tuba home he went to school before classes to take lessons with band director/teacher Donald Willetts. He also had the privilege of instruction from some music giants of the era who would travel from their teaching positions at Middlebury College in Vermont to work with Greenwich students — such as saxophonist Sigmund Rascher and violinist Michael Lorenz.

When he reached high school age his family moved to his native city Mechanicville, where there was a strong community interest in music. Sy was asked to join both the high school band and orchestra and the city band, where he participated until graduation.

Sports vied with music for his interest during teenage years and, when Sy went to Notre Dame, he stopped playing his horn for several years. However, his interest in instrumental performance remained.

When Sy came to Coxsackie-Athens as a science teacher it wasn't long before the band director

(Continued on page 2)



Notes from our Director

Thanks to all of you for making our 2005 holiday performances successful. We had many fine compliments from our audience members. A special thanks to Shelly and Bill for all the work they did to give us fine solo performances.

I am proud to announce the acquisition of two new instruments. The band now owns a fine set of orchestra bells with stand and an eighty eight key electric piano with stand. A special thanks goes to Pat for writing the grants to fund these purchases.

Along those lines I would like to bring to your attention that the band does not charge dues. Many community bands do and I have seen fees listed from \$5. To \$25. Funding to support our band comes largely from grants written by Pat and partially from donations at concerts. We have been very fortunate that grants have been received from The Greene County Savings Bank, Athens Generating, and the Greene County Council on the Arts.

A special thanks goes to our music library committee for all of their hard work in sorting music and keeping our folders in order. They are Cliff Beede, Pat DeLucia and Sue Kipp.

A new committee will be formed for the loading & unloading of the band trailer. This group will go to Sy's house before a performance and load the trailer with the equipment needed for that day. The committee members will oversee the unloading and set up at the concert and the break down and trailer loading at the end. They will also go to Sy's house after the performance to unload. While this seems like a lot of hard work it will go easily if the responsibility is spread evenly in the group (not everyone will have to be at both ends each time). It is very important that all members of the committee understand how to properly load and care for the fine instruments the band owns. Please consider volunteering for the committee. See Sy or Ann if you are interested.

This past fall the band bid farewell to a long time faithful member Larry White. Larry and his wife Barb have moved to Florida where Larry is playing in a jazz band and is planning on auditioning for the Orlando Concert Band. His address is 508 Lake

MEMBER OF THE MONTH — Sy Delucia

(Continued from Page One)

discovered that he played a key band instrument and asked him to sit in with students at rehearsals, something he had also done in his previous teaching positions. That led to his marching with the school band in parades and, on occasion, directing the band as they marched.

As Sy's five children took up instrumental instruction it led naturally to the formation of the DeLucia Family garage band. In 1973, when the high school band was unable to perform in a major parade in Coeymans, as Superintendent of Schools Sy asked his family, interested C-A band students and some friends and former students who played band instruments to join in an effort to represent the Coxsackie-Athens community and march in the parade – where the band took the award as “best band in the line of march”. Thus was born the Coxsackie-Athens Community Band.

Some thirty-three years later both the band and Sy are still active and making music. He is especially pleased with the hundreds of musicians who have taken advantage of the band to further their instrumental skills and opportunities over the years (many of whom have gone on to make music a career or a life hobby), the dozens of directors he has had the occasion to play for and the good friends he has made as a member of this organization.

Now retired from his professional responsibilities, in addition to playing in the Community Band and its brass ensemble, the Upper Hudson Lower Brass, Sy also plays in the Ghent (NY) Concert Band and sings in St. Mary's Catholic Church choir in Coxsackie.



Kerry Drive, St Cloud, FL 34769 (larrythewhip@earthlink.net). Larry plans to be back in June to spend the summer in the area. I am sure he will join us while he is here. We miss you, Larry!

2006 marks my 20th year as conductor of the band. I am so proud to be in front of such a fine group of musicians. Over the years you have helped me to grow as a conductor and I know that you have become much more sensitive musically. I will continue to strive to have the finest performances that we can produce and to give you all a rewarding musical experience.

—Ann Clapper

New Equipment Purchased Through Grants and Donations

We have been fortunate to receive grants from the Decentralization Program of the New York State Council on the Arts, administered through the Twin Counties Cultural Fund in Greene County by the Greene Council on the Arts, the Athens Generating fund, donations from our audiences and from members of the band. Some of the new equipment was put to use during the Christmas season concerts. Everyone must have noticed the new sound system which makes announcing selections and soloists so much easier. Plus, our audiences can hear the announcements more clearly. And, yes, Sy's singing!

We also have new timpani which replaced the old castoff drums that we have been using for many years. The pictures on this page show the new storage cases that have been constructed to provide a safe "home" for the drums when we aren't taking them out for concerts.

A new electronic piano has just arrived and will give us another dimension musically to our performances. That is also pictured to the right.

Another addition to our "Toy Counter" back in the drum section is a set of Orchestra Bells. No picture this time, but we will soon hear and see them during our spring concerts.



The Band's new timpani and storage cases



Our new Yamaha piano/keyboard



CONCERTS & REHEARSALS

Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

CA High School Band Room

NOTE: When the school is closed due to bad weather, etc., rehearsal is cancelled.

NO rehearsals: Feb. 22, March 29, April 5,
April 12, April 19

Parades: May 29, Memorial Day
Morning: 9:00 am — Athens
Afternoon: Coxsackie

Concert: Sunday May 20, 7:00 pm
Sleepy Hollow Lake

Concert: Saturday June 3, 2:00 p.m.,
Coxsackie Yacht Club

Community Band members active In many other music performances

Most of our band members play in other groups in addition to the Community Band. Of course, the High School instrumentalists play in the Coxsackie-Athens High School Band or the Cairo-Durham Band.

Performing at St. Mary's Church, Coxsackie this past Christmas were: Judy Donovan, Fred Klein, Adele Capuano, Larry White, Sy DeLucia, Pat DeLucia (on organ) Playing for the Coxsackie By the River celebration were: Judy Donovan, Marty Schmitt, Sy DeLucia, Shelly Evans, Adele Capuano, and Pat DeLucia at the keyboard. Our Director, Ann Clapper and Shaun Bazylewicz played in Chatham at St. James' Church at Christmas. David Clapper played the organ for services at the First Presbyterian Church, Hudson for eight weeks. Soon, several of our members will be playing for local school musical productions. No doubt about it... we're a very busy group of musicians!