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BAND GEEKS FOLLOW THEIR PASSION INTO ADULTHOOD WESTERN RESERVE COMMUNITY BAND – BEYOND BAND CAMP

HUDSON, Ohio (Oct. 18, 2006) – Sure, we all knew a band geek in high school – wearing that ridiculous uniform with the big feather hat, toting a large instrument case from class to class or marching in the school parking lot all summer. Many of us, still in denial, partook in this socially insidious part of high school.

But others have embraced the skilled talent that was molded from childhood music teachers and groomed by Friday night football games. Truth be it, but those band “geeks” have a musical gift. And after graduation, that gifted talent simply doesn’t go away.

So don’t be surprised when 60 band members from the Western Reserve Community Band (WRCB) begin playing in your neighborhood. The band has quietly become a fixture at various community events including festivals, parades, tributes and holiday events.

“Admittedly, we’re not the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra,” John Taylor, first frenchhorn player, said. “But our group has a diverse sound and a passion to play the music that we love and we know our audience loves too.”

For the WRCB’s tenth anniversary, they have commissioned Nikola Resanovic, a world-renowned composer and music educator, to write a new, celebratory concert band work that will receive its world premiere at the band’s gala 10th anniversary concert March 2007. Resanovic will use musical themes from Hudson’s past while creating new concert band repertoire for future generations.

In addition, the WRCB approved a long-term thematic programming plan that outlines its anticipated music programming for the next five years. The program, beginning in 2007, will dedicate a year to a “Tribute to American Composers” then includes tributes to British, Italian, German, etc. composers in subsequent years.

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"At all of our performances, you're going to hear a large variety of musical selections," Taylor adds. "So be prepared to be surprised!"

What else is surprising about the WRCB? The band doesn't charge a cent. In fact, the band commits to ensuring that all members of any community can enjoy their performances by never charging admission.

And don't expect to be watching and listening to an average group of band nerds. For most of the 60 members in the band, they spend their days enjoying the ultimate paradox as big-wig marketing execs, vice presidents of banks, lawyers, doctors and perhaps even being your boss.

And though the WRCB acts as an evening diversion for most members, the band performs up to 25 times a year. There are three staple performances held in Hudson: the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert and Teddy Bear Picnic Children's Concert.

In addition to performing in the Hudson area, the WRCB has plays at summer music festivals in Aurora, Macedonia, Streetsboro, Twinsburg, Stow and Cuyahoga Falls and at venues such as Stan Hywett, Blossom Music Center, and Hale Farm and Village.

Past performances also include participation in Dick Goddard's Woolly Bear Festival in Vermillion. Others may also have spotted the WRCB during the community memorial service held after September 11 and the Harry Potter Festival during the book's explosion in 2005.

Membership in the band is offered to the community through Hudson Community Education and Recreation. There are no auditions. Adult instrumentalists who are interested in joining the WRCB for its historic 10th anniversary season should contact Band President Arno Kremer, at (330) 342-4606, for more information.

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