

MRP QUARTER NOTES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC. JUL/AUG/SEPT 2000 VOL 1-ISSUE 3

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of my favorite events that the MRP sponsors is the musical instrument "petting zoo" at the Attleboro Wednesday Night Market. First, there is the look of cautious curiosity on the youngster's face as he eyes the display of trumpet, clarinet, flute, sax, trombone, and French horn. After careful scrutiny of the options, he gingerly picks up the trumpet and stretches his fingers on the valves. He raises it slowly to his mouth, inhales purposefully and blows.

Much to his dismay, he hears nothing but his own air! Then one of our volunteers, seeing the quizzical look on the young boy's face, walks over to him and shows him how to position his lips and blow on the mouthpiece.

Now, armed with this new bit of knowledge, he once again raises the instrument, takes in another gulp of air and blurts out his first note. It's a little flat, but after seeing the expression of joy on a youngster's face, it doesn't really matter. With renewed confidence he returns the trumpet to his lips and tries a few more notes, this time depressing the valves. Is he hooked? Maybe. Will he wake up tomorrow and forget this new experience? Perhaps. Or maybe we have simply kindled an interest that with time and reinforcement could grow into a rewarding lifetime experience.

Come share in this great opportunity to expose kids and adults alike to the wonders of musical instruments. We are looking for volunteers to help man our booth. It's a fun time and a great way to show your support for the MRP, and no experience is necessary. Give me a call at 223-5597 for dates and times. Music is in everyone's future.



Dave Rolince

Dave Rolince, President
Music Revitalization Project

PET AN INSTRUMENT?

The MRP is once again sponsoring a table at Attleboro's Wednesday Night Market, promoting music support in our community. Stop by and give yourself a treat, by test driving a musical instrument. Adults and youth will enjoy playing several instruments such as a flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, trombone and french horn.

The instrument petting zoo was a big hit last year and we are featuring this again. You can also test your musical skills and knowledge by taking a brief visual quiz on the instruments of the concert band. Correct answers receive an official MRP pencil! Keep an ear out for our purple table, and hope to see you at the fair!

MRP SCHOLARSHIP WINNER!

The MRP Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce Kevin MacKenzie Jr. of Norton as the award recipient for the year 2000. Kevin will be attending Berklee College of Music in the fall. His primary instrument is guitar and his major will be in performance and movie scoring. Congratulations Kevin!!

Scholarship committee chairperson Carol Lou Allen reports, "It is very difficult to pick one winner from all the deserving applicants. Our goal for the future is to be able to increase the amount and the number of awards."

Scholarship committee member and Providence school teacher Nancy Allen states, "In choosing a winner, it is not always the student with the highest grades. An enthusiastic, well written essay and good recommendations are major factors in the selection process."

The committee wishes all graduates the best of luck!

-Carol Lou Allen

MUSICIANS THROUGH THE CENTURIES:

FATHER OF THE MILITARY BAND,
PATRICK SARSFIELD GILMORE
(1829-1892)



When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again, Hurrah! Hurrah!

Did you know this familiar tune was introduced in the *Soldiers Return March* by Gilmore's Band after the Battle of Gettysburg? It was played again when troops returned home from battle in Desert Storm. And it was Patrick Gilmore himself who wrote the words and music under the pseudonym "Louis Lambert."

Gilmore was a talented composer/arranger and trumpet player, but most of all a leader of bands. He took the brass band (popular in the early 1800's), added reed instruments, and adapted orchestral arrangements, marches, quick-steps and dances for this "new" instrumentation. He took them to the stage and brought this music to a "dignified musical status." His impact was such that he was named the "Father of Military Bands" in 1906 during a great Gilmore Memorial Concert held in Madison Square Garden (originally Gilmore's Garden).

Patrick S. Gilmore was born on Christmas Day, 1829, in Ballygar, Co. Galway. As a young man he joined an English military band as a trumpet player. Several fine musicians took him under their wing, taught him the fundamentals of musicianship, and exposed him to classical and sacred music.

In 1848 he left Ireland to make his home in Boston. Once in Boston he joined a local band, and quickly became the leader of the Boston Brigade Band, then the Charlestown Band. He was renowned for his trumpet

playing and was sought out by many bands. The best band in America at that time was in Salem, and he took over that band. With the onset of the Civil War, they played at recruiting rallies and other military functions.

While performing for the 12th Massachusetts Regiment, he heard one recruit singing a doleful tune known as *John Brown's Body*, and set it to music. It became the greatest marching song of the war. We now know it as *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*.

Massachusetts Governor Andrews enlisted Gilmore to train bands for the Yankee war effort. He personally trained, equipped and sent out 20 bands, and was named "Bandmaster General." At the end of the war President Lincoln personally asked him to organize and perform a large celebration in New Orleans.

In celebration of the establishment of national peace, Gilmore organized and conducted two of the most gigantic popular festivals known in musical history - the National and World Peace Jubilees, held in Boston in 1869 and 1872. 30,000 singers, 2,000 instrumentalists, the most famous composers and musicians of the day, and the best military bands of Europe participated. As a result, Gilmore was recognized as the premier bandmaster of the time.

He joined the 22nd Regiment Band in New York, where he fashioned that band to become the greatest band in the United States and probably the world. On New Year's Eve in 1888, Gilmore's band went to Times Square and played a concert. At midnight Gilmore fired two pistol shots to usher in the New Year. So that's how our modern tradition got started!

In 1892, "Gilmore's Band," was celebrating

a great national festival tour, when he died suddenly of a heart attack. On the night of his funeral, a young John Philip Sousa dedicated his performance to the late Gilmore. An irony in that Sousa would go on to take his place above Gilmore, eventually rising to such heights that the Irishman would become nothing more than a footnote in the annals of musical history.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES AND LINKS:

www.psgilmore-society.org

-John Zawislak

A PICNIC DINNER CONCERT IN NORTON

Earl Raney's Epic Brass Quintet is performing "rain or shine" at the Norton Public Library's Outdoor Library Park** on Wednesday, July 19th at 6pm. Bring the entire family along with a blanket, lawn chairs and a picnic dinner for this unique brass quintet performance. These talented musicians will entertain everyone with a diverse program of marches, ballads, show tunes and an introduction to the brass family of instruments. Hold on to your hats, this concert is a guaranteed toe-tapper and hip-swayer! The concert is supported, in part, by a grant from the Norton Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council; The Norton Public Library; and the MRP.



**In case of inclement weather the concert will take place in the community room INSIDE the Norton Library.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

Help support your local music organizations by attending these live concerts performed by members of in our community.

- 7/19 Metropolitan Wind Symphony Sharon Memorial Beach Park -7pm
- 7/19 Epic Brass Outdoor Picnic Concert Norton Public Library - 6pm
- 7/27 SMARTS Summer Winds Easton 275th - 7:30 pm
- 9/23 Attleboro Millennium Celebration All Day in Attleboro
- 9/24 Boston City Band Easton Celebration - TBD

MRP WISH LIST:

- Resources for Website Creation
- Donations of Band Music for the Music Lending Library
- Woodwind, Brass or Percussion Instruments
- Volunteers
- File Cabinets

If you would like to serve on the Board or volunteer for a committee, meetings are held the 2nd Friday of every month. Call 508-226-6897 for more details.

The MRP QUARTER NOTES Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Contributions are welcome by writing to the Music Revitalization Project, Inc. P.O. Box 709, Norton, MA, 02766. All articles included are at the discretion of the editor as space allows.

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