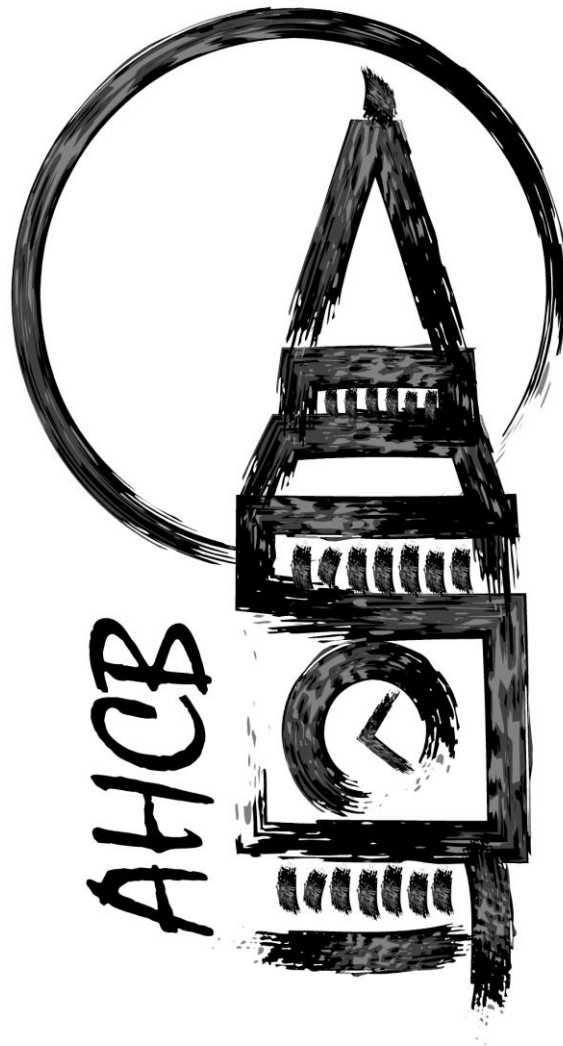


An Evening with the
After Hours Community Band



April 29, 2025
7:30 p.m.
Calvary Church-Mid Rivers Campus

After Hours Community Band, founded in 1986, provides the opportunity for amateur musicians to enjoy, once again, the pleasure of playing in a band. The membership of the Band represents a broad spectrum of backgrounds including nurses, educators, engineers, stay-at-home parents, students, and retirees. The Band has a strong sense of community purpose and provides free musical entertainment at civic, charitable, and community events. In particular, the Band performs frequently at retirement centers bringing musical entertainment to that special audience. Visit us at www.ahcb.org to see what we're up to.

New members are always welcome as openings become available. Any musician may join; there are no auditions or fees. Many members had not played their instruments in years, but through their involvement with this organization, rediscovered the enjoyment of performing in a fully instrumented concert band.

FLUTE/PICCOLO

Olivia Brown
Lily Buck
Carol Commerford
Kathleen Griswold
Virginia Hayden
Ellen Meyer
Dee Ray

OBOE/ENGLISH HORN

Samantha Craig

CLARINET

Amy Boarman
Roshanda Cade
Zachary Foulks
Penny Hawkins
Linda Herrera
Emily Henson
Karen Rieken
Ed Schmidt
Cynthia Schon
Vicky Schorr
Carol Wilke
Lauren Wood

BASS CLARINET

Ian McQuaig
Gayle Santucci

CONTRA BASS CLARINET

Lauren Wood

BASSOON

Stacey Krueger Barton

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Kim Cattoor
Mike Dreher
David Jones
Steve Lindsey
Janice Vail

TENOR SAXOPHONE

Tom McCoy
Mike Roark

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

Steve Branom
Bill Hood
Mackenzie Klekamp

TRUMPET

Nick Block
John Brooks
Jack Commerford
Chuck Kessler
Steve Platt
Cole Schlesselman
David Smith
Robert Ziegler

HORN

Beth Baldwin
John Lindley, guest
Dallas Mitchell
Mickey Olsen

TROMBONE

Lou Ciccio
Andy Kendig
David Kreipke
Bill Schryver

BASS TROMBONE

Larry Goldenberg

EUPHONIUM

Leslie Chilson
Susan Erhart
Jerry Fredgren
Scott Williams

BASS/TUBA

J.D. Perper

PERCUSSION

Karen Blanke
Kathy Kras
Angela Roark
Bill Sanders
Morgan Schneider
Mike Sommer
Gabe Valdez
TECHNICIAN
Frank Hullett
KEYBOARD
Justin Watkins, guest

Executive Committee

President, Mike Sommer
Vice President, Mike Roark
Treasurer, Ellen Meyer
Secretary, Virginia Hayden
Members-at-Large:
Lou Ciccio
Jack Commerford
Ian McQuaig

AHCB Committee Chairs

Conductors: Carol Commerford
Finance: Ellen Meyer
Music Library: Virginia Hayden
Membership: Mike Roark
Performance: Carol Commerford
Social: Kristin Brekel
Technology: Bill Sanders

PROGRAM

Co-Conductors: Carol Commerford and Morgan Schneider

Fanfare for the Common Man

Aaron Copland

Symphonic Dance #3 "Fiesta"

Clifton Williams

Goin' Home

Largo from the "New World Symphony"

Antonín Dvořák
adapted/arr. Rob Romeyn

Kirkpatrick Fanfare

Andrew Boysen, Jr.

Harry Potter Symphonic Suite

John Williams
arr. Robert W. Smith

Hall of Fame Induction

Leslie Chilson

Carol Commerford

Judy Lord

Ron Pettus

Mike Sommer
AHCB President

--Intermission--

The American Dream

From "Night Visions"

James A. Beckel, Jr.

Sea Songs

Ralph Vaughn Williams

Paradiso

From "The Divine Comedy"

Robert W. Smith

Music of the Beatles

*All My Loving, A Hard Day's Night, Ticket to Ride,
Yesterday, Norwegian Wood, Got to Get You into
My Life, Here, There and Everywhere, The Fool on
the Hill, Penny Lane, Maxwell's Silver Hammer, Lady
Madonna and Something*

arr. Michael Sweeney

AHCB Hall of Fame

Class of 2024

Our four 2024 Hall of Fame inductees continue the story of the After Hours Community Band. Leslie Chilson was an original member, holds the record for longest participation in the band (almost 40 years and counting), and set the visual style of the band. Carol Commerford has been one of our conductors since 1987, has had decades of volunteering on committees and was instrumental in some of our unique community outreach programs. Judy Lord was an original member, created our music library and served as Band Librarian for over 30 years. Ron Pettus was an original member, did important behind the scenes work to establish the band and embodied the humor of the band's culture. These four individuals helped establish the band, its community presence, and its culture. Their enthusiastic sharing of time, energy and talents ensured the band thrived.



Leslie Chilson has been with the After Hours Community Band since before it was a band, holds the record for longest participation in the band (almost 40 years and counting), and set the visual style of the band. One of the original members of the Parkway Adult Education community band class, she started as a “pre-founding” member on French horn in 1985, alongside 5 other brass players and a drummer, with Hall of Fame member Sandy Stoeckel as conductor. Leslie recruited her brother Doug Schieber to come play clarinet and convinced enough of her fellow class members to stick with it to guarantee a second semester. That second semester saw the doubling in size of the band, with addition of future AHCB Hall of Famers Bob Lord, Judy Lord, Ron Pettus, René Sanders, and others. As chronicled in our Band History, that group of folks from the Spring 1986 Parkway band class became the

After Hours Community Band.

Leslie made important contributions to that fledgling community band. She was a key part of the discussions in Bob and Judy Lord's living room about the desire to continue with an independent band. She was clear that the band should be doing free concerts in the community and particularly called out the desire to cater to some of our favorite audiences—seniors and children. She was also an early proponent of our no audition / no fee approach that has kept our band open to all. She found the “green” books of Christmas arrangements (and pointed us towards the “yellow” Soundpower books as well). These books provided simple yet decent arrangements of well-known tunes suitable for a very small band of potentially unusual instrumentation.

Leslie was the main driver behind the visual look of the band. She submitted the winning name to our “Name the Band” contest and came up with the clock logo, with the hands showing it was “after” normal business “hours.” (By the way, did you know the clock is at 7 minutes after 5 for the seven original members of the band?) She also picked the baby blue of our band shirts, figuring most folks had a light blue shirt somewhere in their closet, thereby also establishing that buying a shirt was NOT required.

In addition to lobbying Parkway band class members into a 2nd semester and recruiting her brother and René Sanders to the band, she recruited Wayne Meyers, Norm Schneider, Dee Ray and others.

Leslie first played French horn and then moved to euphonium. She holds the record for longest continuous participation in the band – it'll be 40 years in the fall of 2025. She has rarely missed a Tuesday, has played every single Memorial Day performance at St. Charles Memorial Gardens to date, and is always a steady presence in the back row. She has been an active player in our Ensemble Concerts in euphonium groups, brass choirs, etc., as well. She has been a “Section Mom” since the beginning, helping to define the role that assigns parts, and ensures section members know where to be when. She started first with the French horn section and has been the Section Mom for euphoniums/baritones and tubas for decades now.

As one of our founding members, for her contributions to our name and visuals, and for all the Tuesdays and other days she has devoted to this band, we welcome Leslie to our Hall of Fame. When she was told of her selection, she commented:

“I’m pleased to be part of this band that fills a very important and specific niche – it is one of the few community bands that charge no membership fees, requires no formal audition and goes year round. It’s amazing to see how we’ve grown and thrived over the years and I hope this band provides enjoyment for both players and audiences for many more years. Play pretty and play on!”



Carol Commerford has been one of our conductors since 1987. She played a role in the band’s incorporation, has decades of volunteering on committees, and initiated some of our unique community outreach programs.

Carol joined the band in Feb 1987, after hearing about it from her college friend Sandy Stoeckel. A trained musician and music educator, she was well qualified to take on conducting duties in late 1987. She and Sandy made a dynamic team as co-conductors for over 35 years, sharing the huge responsibility of choosing the right mix of music for the band as it grew musically, and then preparing the band to play well. Carol was comically known to say in rehearsal, “Straight-through, no-stops!” only to stop anyway when something didn’t go well. The band would tease her about it, but we all understood that part of having fun is playing well. And, if you saw the Post-It notes on her scores every week marking specific spots to work on, you would start to comprehend the amount of time she spends preparing for each rehearsal, so that the band does play well at each and every concert. She continues to conduct the band today.

Carol didn’t stop her volunteering at conducting duties. She connected the band with a professional legal organization to aid in establishing the band’s non-profit status and collaborated in the writing of charter, bylaws and policies. She served on the very first Executive Board, led the Conductors Committee numerous times, revitalized the Social Committee, and currently leads the Performance Committee, which organizes the 20+ concerts the band does each year.

Carol was the lead on several of our unique community outreach activities. In 1998 and 1999, the band hosted a Community Band Weekend, open to band musicians from across the area. With nationally known clinicians, these sessions were a chance to recreate our high school band camp experiences without having to learn marching routines. Carol also led the implementation of what is now known as the René Sanders After Hours Community Band Scholarship at the Community Music School of Webster University which has funded private lessons for students of band instruments since the early 2000s. Assisting her friend Bob Meeks, she played a role in establishing the Sounds of Missouri Band and Chorus, which allowed AHCB members and others to play their way across England, Germany/Austria, and Ireland on three different trips from 1993-1997.

Carol brought her excellent musical talents to the band as well. Besides conducting, she has been a leading member of the AHCB flute section, and a key soloist on flute and piccolo. She has played in and organized many different ensembles for our Ensemble Concerts, including The Schnapps Sisters and MeMes vocal groups, flute ensembles, and clarinet/flute duets. And she recently formed the After Hours Jazz Ensemble to serve band members who craved this style of performance while also providing an option for performing at smaller venues.

For her countless hours of conducting preparation, rehearsals and committee work, and her enthusiasm, creativity and musicianship, we selected Carol for the Hall of Fame.

Carol reflected on what the band has meant to her over the 38 years (and counting) of her participation and leadership:

“In addition to a cherished musical outlet for me, the AHCB is a home where I have developed lifelong friendships with the best people on earth, some of whom essentially became part of my family.”



Judy Lord was also a founding member of the band, in the flute section, created our music library and served as Band Librarian for over 30 years. Judy was part of the Spring 1986 Parkway band class, with her husband, Bob. (Rumor was that Judy started by wanting to sign the two of them up for a dance class, and Bob talked her into band instead.) The two of them hosted several meetings at their house to discuss the forming of an independent community band.

Judy's largest contribution to the band was in her 30+ years as the Band Librarian. A librarian by training, Judy understood that if the band were to own music spread out across 60+ band members, it had to have a system to track each piece. In keeping with the egalitarian / no auditions ground rules of the band, the founders didn't want assigned "chairs", so each member of a section would have the opportunity to be able to play a variety of part levels for each concert season (for instance, a mix of 1st/2nd/3rd parts). And that meant that each individual needed a unique set of music. So, not only did the library tracking system have to track scores, but it also had to track individual parts within each score as it was assigned to an individual player. Judy created the library tracking system that the band still uses to this day. Flutes, of course, were section #1, so Judy assigned herself Folio 1A.

Being the band librarian was a never-ending job, but Judy made it seem easy. In addition to producing a tracking system, and storing the scores not in current use, the Band Librarian touches every piece of every score we play. The job entails taking the list of music for the next season, typically 15 to 20 pieces, asking the "Section Moms" to assign individual parts to section members, then writing individual part assignments (in PENCIL of course!), in the corner of each part. The parts for each person were then collated, into a stack with a big paperclip on the corner. Judy would hand you a new stack of music as soon as you turned in your old music. Then she'd collect the turned-in music, sort each piece into score order, and store it in the file cabinets in the Lord's basement. By that time, the next season would be upon us, and she'd start over again. Now 20 pieces * 3 seasons * 60+ musicians * 30 years? That means she, as a volunteer, handled over 108,000 individual parts.

Most of the work of the librarian was behind the scenes, which suited Judy just fine. But she had a public persona as well. She was passionate about the music library of the band. When she found parts missing from last season's scores, she'd ask to check your music folder to see if it had gotten stuck behind another piece. Those checks were humorously called the "dreaded folio checks", and Ron Pettus, in his Wolfgang von Crescendo persona, started referring to Judy as "Judith the Unjust". Judy just laughed and kept going.

Judy was a quiet anchor of the flute section, usually sitting on the aisle to the conductor's right (except for during our more formal Spring Concerts, when she liked to be more in the middle of the section). She was an active participant in the Ensemble Concerts as well, as a member of the Flute ensemble. As one of our founding members, and for creating and performing the role of librarian for over 30 years, Judy was selected to join our Hall of Fame. As she reflected on her selection, she noted a sense of pride and accomplishment in her role in helping the band come into being and thrive. Judy called out the many life-long friendships that she and others made through the band. She and Bob both marvel at what came of that decision to dust off flute and drumsticks and go to an Adult Ed class together.



Ron Pettus was an important organizer for the band, especially for the legal side of things: charter, bylaws, incorporating with the state of MO and acquiring not-for-profit status. But his influence was often behind the scenes. He saw things that needed to be done and just went and did them.

Ron organized our first (and only) fund raiser, the Bob Bucks campaign, to purchase timpani. And we didn't have to sell anything or put on a bingo game! He was a key organizer and fundraiser for Community Band Weekend. He was on the board and served as Band President in 1998 and 1999.

Even with all of that, Ron's most lasting contribution to the Band is probably in our culture. Ron's sense of humor, dry and somewhat sly, was evident across multiple venues. He was the original author of the "mostly weekly" "Almost Official Band Notes" that kept the band informed of what was going on, and where to be as we started to play concerts regularly. And he did it with his trademark humor and wit, thus setting the tone of the band's culture.

Ron's humor was most evident in his creation of Wolfgang von Crescendo and our band mythology / history. Who is Wolfgang you ask? Ron introduced the character as the anonymous Editor-in-Chief of those original Band Notes as "the nefarious Wolfgang with a murky past and an even more opaque present." Wolfgang seemed to know and comment on every foible and picadillo of the band through the original run of Band Notes in 1987, as the 'author' of the Band History in our Fact & Fiction section of the website, and through the second run of Band Notes in the mid-1990s. This started our tradition of creating other mythological contributors like Ima Nosebrat and Ollie Langhorst.

Other instances of Ron using his humor to serve the band have made it into band lore, including "Almost Official" band hero awards, where he and his wife Joyce handmade individual awards to commemorate what members had done over the previous year – think a 3-D version of a high school yearbook awards section, done in foam board and pipe cleaners! And, as the emcee for numerous Ensemble Concerts and a Spring Concert or two, he kept the programs moving along while eliciting belly laughs from the audience with wry commentary about the band.

Ron was an accomplished musician. His first instrument with the band was tenor sax. But he saw a need for the low tones and switched to baritone sax. In fact, he "was" the bari sax section for a number of years. He played in many different ensembles for our annual Ensemble Concert, including the Sax Operators, Dixie Rhythm Kings and an AHCB Big Band. He was a life-long pianist and taught himself how to play trombone towards the end of his life.

As one of our founding members, for his humor and wit, and all he did behind the scenes, we welcome Ron to the 2024 class of our Hall of Fame. Ron retired from the band several years ago for health reasons. Unfortunately, he passed away in early 2025, but we were able to present his award to him in the last weeks of his life. His son Jason, who witnessed the presentation, commented:

"I believe that out of all the honors that came his way during his long life, this is the one he was proudest of."

Our thanks to Carol Wilke for writing our Hall of Fame tributes!

**Contributors to the
After Hours Community Band**

The 2024-2025 concert season contributors include the following companies, organizations, and individuals:

Emerson Corporate Charity • First St. Charles UMC • Friendship Village Sunset Hills • Green Trails UMC • Lutheran Senior Services • PayPal Giving Fund • Realty Executives of St. Louis-Edward Lazarski • Saint Charles Memorial Gardens (Baue)

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The AHCB annually funds the **René Sanders After Hours Community Band Scholarship at the Community Music School (CMS) of Webster University**. Individual donations and a portion of our operating funds are dedicated toward assisting students with tuition fees who are studying an instrument commonly found in a concert band.

≈ SCHOLARSHIP DONATION BOXES ARE IN THE LOBBY ≈

Follow the QR code for more information on the René Sanders AHCB Scholarship



Thank You for your Continued Support

Donations may be tax-deductible. Please check with your tax professional.
The After Hours Community Band is a 501(c)(3) organization and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri.

[**www.ahcb.org**](http://www.ahcb.org)

Save the Date: August 5-Family and Friends Summer Pops Concert.