



# BAND ECHOES

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# CELEBRATE THE BAND!



## Note about COVID

What should we do concerning our Homecoming plans in light of COVID-19?

The only thing I can tell you is to keep in contact and stay informed. The UM Alumni Association is still trying to decide what is the best course of action that keeps us all safe and still honors this fabulous UM Alumni experience. There are several possibilities being discussed, so please keep checking our UM Alumni Band Facebook page, look for notifications on the UM Alumni Association website, and use the link below to the UM COVID-19 information site. We will do our best to keep you informed concerning changes in plans.

In light of all the uncertainty, please consider waiting to submit your registration until we have a definite answer.

[www.umt.edu/coronavirus](http://www.umt.edu/coronavirus)

## Welcome, UM Alumni Band!

Homecoming is such a celebration! People from all over our nation come home to the University of Montana for this one special weekend each fall. The campus always looks beautiful, and Missoula is always ready for a celebration. The weather, well, the weather is what it is—sometimes glorious, sometimes so cold our mouthpieces stick to our lips and the trumpet valves refuse to move. In past years I've even seen trombone players lube their slides with antifreeze! But even unnaturally frigid weather can't put the brakes on our Homecoming weekend. Old friends who haven't seen each other for decades can be found hugging, laughing, catching up, talking excitedly, making plans to get together later to catch up. We rehash past shenanigans, report on new careers, marriages, divorces, kids. We relive those fantastic half-time extravaganzas and the rare epic fails, either personal or corporate.

At the 2019 UM Alumni Band Banquet we had a whopping number of recent band alumni in attendance. They were all seated at what I affectionately call the holiday kids' tables. And it looked just like what you would expect from the kids' table: uproarious laughter, jokes told at the expense of former bandmates and directors, and was that a dinner roll that just flew across the table??!! The infusion of young energy and ideas will keep our UM Alumni Band vibrant, dynamic, and authentic, even while the old guard keeps a firm lid on things to preserve our history and our traditions. The health and future of our UM Alumni Band depends on both groups, and the blending of young and old.

This year our UM Alumni Band Homecoming theme is "Celebrate the Band".

And so we do. We celebrate those marvelous UM Band memories from the past, and the time we share in the now. We celebrate those who have preceded us and have taken the time and effort to create the traditions we now savor, and those young high school musicians who are learning just how fabulous being in a band can be.

We celebrate the sousaphones who insist they can't march in the Homecoming Parade without a pre-parade shot at Charlie B's, and we celebrate that moment in time as we step out onto Higgins Avenue making a big, bold, joyful noise. We celebrate being part of something that is so much bigger and more glorious than its individual members. We celebrate the band!

Come celebrate with us this year as we join together to laugh, share, tease, reconnect, and appreciate the blessings of playing together. See you in September!

**Kathy McCaughey,**  
**UM Alumni Band President**

# THE STRENGTH OF THE UM ALUMNI BAND LIES IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PAST

## A Glimpse in Time

### SPECIAL MEMORIES OF OUR 'LEADER OF THE BAND'

by Carl Smart

FRED NELSON - Nov. 28, 1928 - Dec. 5, 2019. It is with great sadness that we say "Goodbye" to Mr. Fred Nelson, our dear friend and Organizer / Charter Member / Leader of our UM ALUMNI BAND!! As an Outstanding Montana Public School Band Director, Fred impacted many hundreds of lives. He taught, directed church choirs, and raised his family in Polson, Libby, and Missoula!! Fred inspired, motivated, lovingly encouraged, and firmly set high standards for himself and his students.

I first got to know Fred in April of 1971, when as a 1st year Band Director in Glasgow, MT, I proudly took my 15 Students to the Northern State Music Festival in Great Falls. As we got off our bus, I was amazed to see TWO BUS LOADS of students unloading from Libby, MT!! I made sure to get my students to their performance rooms & adjudicators, then was surprised when about 30 students from Libby, along with Fred came in for a couple of their students' performances! As they finished, Fred quietly slipped out. What I began to realize that first morning was that Fred was dashing from room to room catching as many of his students' performances as he could. I began following him for the rest of those 2 days at Festival, and knew I wanted to learn and work as hard as I could to be like Fred as a

teacher/Band Director. True, Fred already had at least 15 years head start in teaching, so I had a lot to learn. For 48 years I have tried to be as much like Fred as I could, not just in teaching, but also in how to live a great life of integrity!

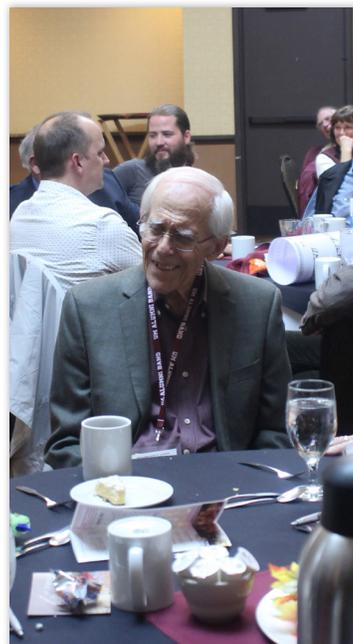


Fred was also a founder of the Alumni Band. He and a few other UM Band Alumni put in hours of planning, research, and phone calls. They had to find lost UM Band Alumni contact info, and made countless personal calls to put together the 1st ALUMNI BAND REUNION for Homecoming in 1988!! Under Fred's leadership that small planning group then became the original 'Alumni Band Committee'. For several years that group planned, added new ideas & activities, and nurtured our fledgling Alumni Band! This year will be our 32nd reunion, and I'm sure Fred would be proud to see over 100 of us coming down Higgins Avenue once again!

Fred was by nature a rather reserved & quiet man, but when in leadership positions he would always be well prepared and take charge as a leader with confidence. He loved his family, his students, and his friends. When in a social gathering, Fred always had a fun story or joke to share. One of his favorite stories was about his old days in the Army during the Korean War.

As Fred would love to share, he served in the Army training young soldiers. In his version, when his time came to be sent overseas, word got out among the North Koreans that *'Nelson is coming; Nelson is coming; Oh no, Mr. Nelson is coming!!'* And so, just before Fred was to arrive in Korea the truce was declared, and they ended the War!! Did I mention that Fred was also very modest? :-)

There have been several beautiful Memorials and Obituaries written about Fred's life, including in the January issue of the MMEA magazine, the Sentinel High School December Holiday Concert program, the UM Jazz Festival Program in March, and his Dec. 10, 2019 obituary in the Missoulian. Rob Tapper, the UM Director of Jazz Studies also honored the incredible legacy of Fred with the newly established award to celebrate the Outstanding Trumpet Section at the Jazz Festival. The inaugural award was presented by Fred's oldest son & UM Alum, Niles Nelson, to the very appropriate, and talented Sentinel High School Jazz Band Trumpet Section.



As a teacher and musician, Fred's life has touched over 3 generations of students. As a family, Fred and Marlene, his High School friend, sweetheart, & wife of 61 years, leave a legacy of three wonderful sons, several grandchildren and great grandchildren! As a friend, he leaves behind many of us who have loved him and certainly miss him! As one of his former students texted me, 'God now has another awesome musician in His heavenly Choir'!

In the spirit of Fred, his son Niles shared that Fred's sense of humor was still there, right up to the day before he passed. He asked Niles, "Son, did I ever tell you the real definition of 'Perfect Pitch'?" Niles said nooo, and Fred went on, "Perfect Pitch is when you PITCH an old, out of tune accordion into a dumpster and it smashes an old saxophone!!" Spoken like the true trumpet player at heart that Fred was!!

*God Bless you Fred, and may your memories and jokes continue on!!*

# A Farewell to Bill Manning

by John Combs

The University of Montana music family lost another one of its most beloved members last March. Bill Manning started teaching music at UM in 1956 and spent the next 33 years teaching, performing and touching the lives of countless students during his tenure.

I had the pleasure of being one of those students. I'll never forget my first meeting with Professor Manning. I was late coming into the School of Music since I'd spent the previous year and a half thinking I was going to work my way into a law degree, and had put my music and clarinet away for a long nap. The coursework for pre-law was fine .... the problem was, I hated it. Every time I walked by the Music Building, it called to me. So there was Bill Manning attempting to listen to a guy who had been a decent enough player in high school but was WAY behind the curve in what it was going to take to get up to speed to make it in music land. Bill was blunt. "Maybe you want to find a different major. You don't know your scales, your sound is nothing special, and at the very minimum you need to get a real clarinet." My step up Noblet wasn't going to hack it. "You just need to know .... you've got a lot of work ahead of you." As always, Bill Manning was blunt but truthful. When he saw I was willing to work, he was too. I had Bill for music theory and my weekly lessons. I never became one of Bill's stars (that damn F# melodic minor scale) but I was given the tools and encouragement I needed. He never gave up on me even when there were times I wanted to give up on myself.

After graduating and with a few years of music education under my belt I had the delightful pleasure of having Bill sitting in the clarinet section of the Missoula Community Band when I guest conducted. What fun! Bill was a riot during those rehearsals. Most of the band didn't hear the hilarious repartee coming from the clarinet section. As always, his sound and skill was amazing.

UM Alum Kevin Hartse also had Bill as his clarinet teacher. He shares this anecdote:

"When I was a music major during the 1970s and was finishing my sophomore year, a series of juries took place. It was required that all sophomores pass these juries in order to become upper-division music students. Bill had carefully prepared me for my performance jury for the clarinet, focusing on all the scales (full range) as well as some prepared music. When it was my turn, I performed my piece and then waited to be asked to play scales that were randomly selected by various members of the assembled music faculty. After I successfully played a few

scales, someone from the choral faculty, thinking I might be tricked, asked for a "CONCERT Bb scale." I paused, feigning deep thought, and after a few moments quickly ran off the easiest scale for any instrumentalist to play. It was the feigned pause that cost me! Bill's reaction is in my memory to this day when I recall that he was the next faculty member to request a scale and I heard his voice call out "F# melodic minor" from the back of the recital hall. This was (of course) the one scale he knew I had the most trouble playing! I got through it, but my cavalier attitude had vanished. When I saw him after the jury ended, Bill smiled at me in that inscrutable way he had while implying that I was not in a place to EVER make fun of anyone on the UM music faculty! Bill is missed and will be remembered."

To say Bill loved music was an understatement. He loved playing music for himself but especially in collaboration with others. Bill was active in the Missoula music community for decades, playing clarinet in numerous ensembles and church groups, including the Missoula Community Band. Bill loved ice cream and waged a lifelong battle against peanut butter. He never allowed peanut butter in his house. Why? We'll never know. Bill had a bright and active mind, could solve any crossword puzzle or Sudoku game, and embraced the outdoors as a fly fisherman, cross country skier and avid golfer. His faith and his humor were always consistent. We will remember Bill most for his dry, witty sense of humor, as his jokes would either make us laugh or roll our eyes. In the spring of 2017 Bill had a stroke after a golf game. Since then, whenever anyone asked him about how his game was, he replied "It was one stroke too many." He will be greatly missed.



*Bill, pictured here on in the front right, was a deeply spiritual man and a long time member of the Missoula first United Methodist Church, where he sang in the choir.*

# ...and our steps toward the future.

## BAND IN THE BAKKEN

### An Interview with Bridget Stepan

By Candy Johnson

Last summer while calling clarinet players to twist their arms to play in the Alumni Band, I had a 45 minute conversation with Bridget Stepan. I found myself taking notes and picking my jaw up off the floor. My first thought was we all need to hear from this ball of fire! Her love for her students and teaching band was spellbinding.

Bridget started her music career in small Whitehall, Montana, with supportive parents. Her mom even had her practice in the car while driving to Irish Dance practice in Butte. Her adored private teacher, Michelle Tebay, pushed, pulled and inspired Bridget every step of the way. Michelle was a local artist who taught music in addition to creating art. She introduced Bridget to musical theater where she became a member of the Butte pit orchestra for the school co-op musicals. During one lesson, Michelle invited Bridget to “try out” six new clarinets she was considering for purchase. Bridget played each one and finally found the one she fell in love with. What a surprise to find that Professional Model Buffet under her Christmas tree that year!

Her years at UM were a joy and filled with every music opportunity possible. She calls Dr. Kevin Griggs “a



legend” and says he is the reason she was successful in college. He pushed her to be the best she could be, provided guidance and support, and was a fantastic role model. Leon Slater and Maxine Ramey also taught her much about clarinet, band and teaching. John Combs, the Schubergs, and Brenda Griggs were also very instrumental in guiding Bridget in her music career. She says that she is eternally grateful to the UM music teachers along with her Whitehall teachers and our Montana Music Educators Conference.

Bridget’s first school was a K-12 job at Richey. She loved the K-12 music program and states, “I wish every music teacher could experience teaching in a small school. You do everything – I learned time management in that small school.”

By that time Bridget was married and took a job in Ray, North Dakota, to be with her husband, Ryan. Bridget says that Ryan is above and beyond supportive of her career and without him “I would have never moved or grown as the teacher I am today. He even takes time out of his



busy schedule to help cut out things for my classroom.” His constant support has encouraged her to take on new challenges, including moving school districts.

Bridget took a teaching job in Williston after the High School Band director, Eric Rooke, convinced her to take the job during the Williston Band Day. There, she started teaching Music and Movement to early elementary students. She then moved to teaching the 5th and 6th grade bands before and after school. This was until the decision was made to have students start band in 6th grade and make it part of the school day. The Bakken brought a huge influx of people to the area, so when the doors opened to the new Bakken Elementary School, what was 60 students in band swelled to 100, and then 140 the next year. The school has added an orchestra and the band numbers have still grown.

Bridget is lucky to teach only 6th grade, and teaches specific instrument groups per class period. She also contributes the success of the program to her principal, Jeremy Mehlhoff, who created the dream schedule she has today. The whole staff at Bakken Elementary is very supportive of the beginning band program.

There is always something exciting brewing to keep the student interest high in Williston: concerts, solo days,



Band-O-Rama, Jazz Night, guests, and the capstone, Williston Band Day. Band Day is a huge event, not only for Williston but also for many North Dakota and Montana schools. Bands converge on Williston to march in the huge parade and participate in a day of concerts and workshops with guest artists. It is a magical time of sharing music and building memories. The support of the Williston City Visitation Bureau helps make this event possible. They help to bring in a professional drum line from an NFL team such as the Philadelphia Eagles and Denver

Broncos. The students have an opportunity to work with this drumline and even play with them.

This year, Bridget is a beta teacher to test out a new band curriculum by the Grammy Music Educator Mickey Smith Jr. She loves what she does and says, “Beginners are where it’s at.” She confesses to being, “a 12 year-old trapped in an adult body.” During the COVID-19 school closure she challenged students to turn in more practice videos than confirmed COVID cases. By the time the number of cases peaked at 700 in North Dakota, the students had turned in 850 videos for their “Covid Challenge.”

Bridget is a wife and mother to a musical two-year-old, Mara, who can even conduct loud and soft! Bridget is actively involved in her community and plays in the Williston Summer City Band, Community Orchestra, Polka Band and also recently joined a Dixieland Band that performs in Scobey. She plays the Penny Whistle as a hobby and loves playing clarinet in the Alumni Band. Her parting words to us were:

**“Most of my life lessons I learned in band. Just one great teacher can put the fire in you. I was blessed with many.”**



## Drum Major.

There are a lot of feelings, experiences, and memories associated with those words. I'm sure we all remember who our drum majors were. My senior year of college my dream came true by getting to become a drum major. Since being out of college, I've missed the leadership and energy that comes from conducting the marching band. That's why I was so thankful to be asked to be the alumni drum major last year.

Our alumni band is amazing! I can't even start to describe how great it was to stand on the podium and look around the room at so many happy faces.

Getting to conduct people of all ages, races, occupations, and instruments reminded me of why we do band. We do it for the love of music, performing, and getting to be a part of something bigger.

As a music teacher, I stress to my students why they should stick with band. You are part of their inspiration as I share pictures and stories! My students were in awe that even as an adult, I can still march in the parade and play my instrument with others. This shows students that band is not only a class but a lifelong family they can become a part of. During this crazy time, I have always turned to music and my old college friends. So I encourage you to reach out to those friends and pull that instrument out.

**Bring those friends, share your stories, and I hope to see you in September!**

**Kristen Cottom**

# Inspiring the Next Generation



## Band of Honor

**Do you want to support the Alumni Band of the future?  
Consider becoming part of the Band of Honor!**

Established by the UM Alumni Band Board in 2014, the Band of Honor recognizes those individuals who give far above and beyond the average donors to the UM Bands. Every donation received is greatly appreciated and generously given, but the Alumni Band wanted a way to acknowledge those folks who give more. Those alumni fulfilling the requirements are honored at the annual UM Alumni Band Banquet and have their names added to a beautiful plaque.

We have every reason to be so proud of the accomplishments of our UM Band program. Our UM Band Directors have done such great work with the band program at every level and with every ensemble. **The UM band students represent our university with excellence and amazing energy. They are all so deserving of our support.**

\* Our last honorees were unable to attend last year's banquet due to the adoption arrival of their first grandchild. We hope to recognize them in September!

**The recipient of the award must do one of the following:**

- Establish a current and ongoing endowment for scholarships or annual giving through the UM Foundation for the UM Bands.
- Set up a Future Endowment gift for scholarships or annual giving to the UM Bands.
- Give a Lump Sum Donation of \$1,000 or more to our UM Bands for current needs as the Band Directors decide most appropriate!

Let Kathy know if you're interested in joining the ranks of the Band of Honor. We'd love to have you join these beloved and esteemed band members.

**2014 - Virginia Vinal**

**2014 - Don Stanaway**

**2014 - Fred Nelson**

**2014 - Carl Dix**

**2016 - Linnea Ghilardi & Steven Armstrong**

**2017 - Denley Loge**

**2018 - Carl & Betty Smart**

**2019 - Karen & Tim Zanol\***

# INSIDE THE MUSIC BUILDING

**Dear Alumni Band,**

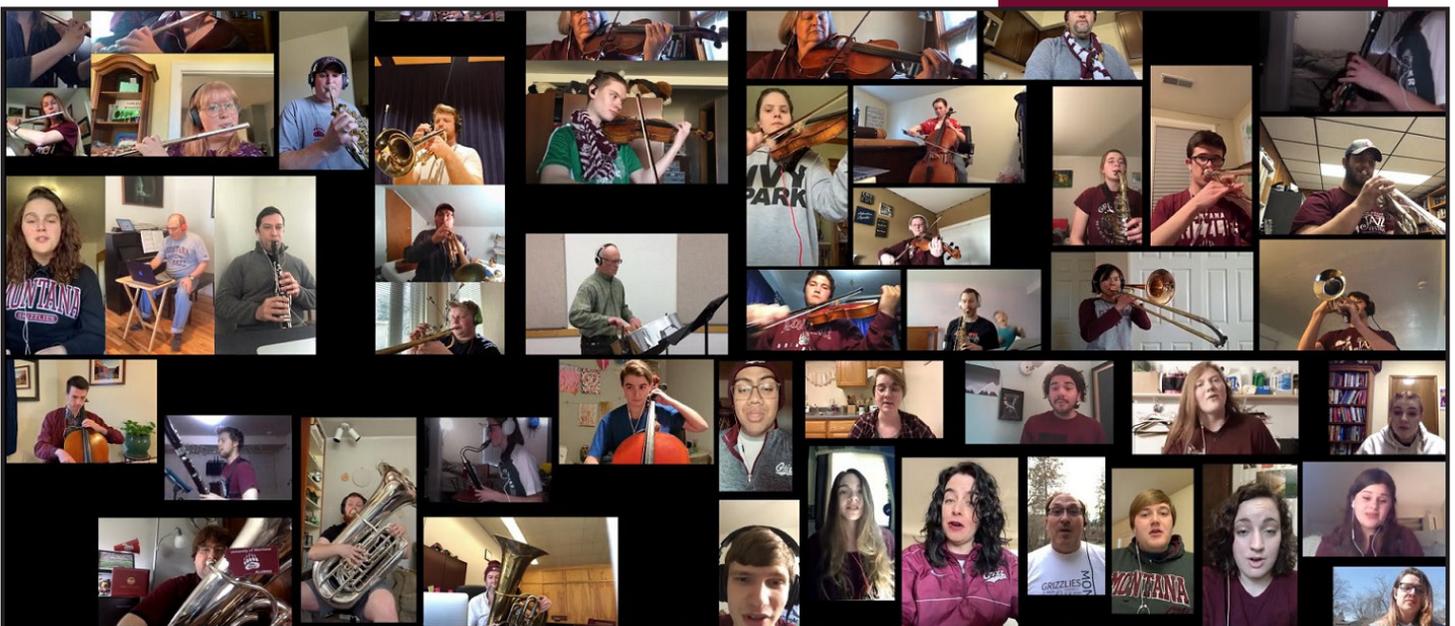
I hope you're all enjoying summer! As a new director last fall, I was grateful to have the opportunity to meet many of you at Homecoming. That time of year is always a special one that allows us to connect with our past, engage with the present, and to imagine our future. Now, more than ever, we feel so fortunate to have that connection with so many of you. Thank you for your continued support!

Rather than providing the usual update on activities in the School of Music, I thought many of you might be curious how we're adapting to these new and interesting times. While many of the details are still being worked out, UM has committed to return to face-to-face instruction wherever possible for fall. In the School of Music, that means we're exploring all sorts of creative and innovative ways to make individual lessons, ensembles, and courses safe and productive learning environments for all of our students. We're also prepared to be flexible and to meet students' needs as they arise. While the new normal seems to be "no more normal," I've been so encouraged by the resilience and spirit of our students and faculty. Many of you probably had the chance to see our Zoom version of "Up with Montana" that we put together after we moved online for the semester. That was just one of many examples of the creativity in performance that continued despite these challenging times. We had streaming recitals, a virtual graduation, a cyber convocation series, and a digital cabaret on YouTube. If you happen to be on social media, please have a look at some of the extraordinary work our students accomplished throughout the year by following us on Facebook and Instagram @ UM School of Music. We're very proud!

Finally, on behalf of the School of Music, I'd like to congratulate John Combs on a well-earned retirement. John's service to Alumni Band, our schools, and music education across the state has been immense. He's a legend, and we wish you the best in your new life adventures!

**All best,  
James**

JAMES RANDALL | 406-243-4535  
DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
COLLEGE OF THE ARTS AND MEDIA  
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



# INSIDE THE UM CONCERT BANDS

by Dr. James Smart

2019-20 was a year to remember for the UM band program and it wasn't because of COVID-19! Our concerts featured amazing repertoire: Firebird Suite (1919) – Igor Stravinsky, Soulström - Jodie Blackshaw, Lincolnshire Posy - Percy Grainger, Poem of Fire - Ida Gotkovsky, Traveler - David Maslanka, Carmina Burana - Carl Orff, Smetana Fanfare - Karel Husa and more.



**Composer/Conductor Brian Balmages with high school students.**

Our January 2020 tour to North Central Montana was one of the most memorable trips we have ever taken. It was vital for us to perform for (and with!) class B and class C schools that comprise most of Montana, as well as perform for schools whose band directors attended UM. While we had to cancel a few stops because of bad weather we were still able to spend quality time at many schools.



**Side-by-Side rehearsal with Dutton-Brady 5th through 12th grade band students.**

We got to stop at Cascade, Capital, C.M. Russell (UM grad. Chris Kloker, director), Conrad, Dutton-Brady (UM grad. Luke Juras, director), East Helena (UM grad. Cole Bass, director), and Great Falls (UM grad. James Mephram, director) high schools.



**Composer/Conductor Brian Balmages with high school students.**

In February, Dr. Smart traveled to Nigeria to conduct the West Africa International School Honor Band founded and organized by Blake Panting (BME '03). The experience led to several UM Symphonic Wind Ensemble members being selected to teach private lessons via Zoom to middle and high school students from Abuja the capital city. Later that month, the UM Bands hosted 23 bands for the 38th Concert Band Festival with guest clinicians Kaitlin Bove and Christin Reardon-McLellan and renowned guest euphonium soloist, Demondrae Thurman.



**Dr. Smart with the West Africa International School Honor Band.**

We had big plans to host Project Earth, a 2-day event centered around climate change awareness featuring performances by students, School of Music faculty, and guest lectures by faculty from the departments of Forestry, Philosophy, Climate Change Studies, and Media Arts. It was a massive organizational effort that involved two premieres, lighting, and film that will hopefully be hosted in April 2021.

# INSIDE THE GRIZZLY MARCHING BAND



Photo credit for GMB and Jazz photos goes to Max Hill. @galileelookdup

## Hello UM Band Alumni!

Wow, how quickly things can change! In spite of all the unexpected events we've been experiencing, I am holding out hope that we will be able to participate in Homecoming as we always have. In fact, I am hoping that we have a new perspective on friends and family and what is important in life. This could be a very meaningful and enjoyable Homecoming celebration this fall!



The biggest news of the 2020 season is that I have been offered a sabbatical for the 2020-21 school year. I will be working on a companion textbook which teaches methods for troubleshooting problems in brass players and how to fix them. My replacement will be Mr. Will Roesch who was the band graduate teaching assistant 3 years ago. He knows the Grizzly Marching Band well and did an excellent job as both a TA and our tuba instructor in the School of Music. He is really excited to return to Montana and gain some valuable teaching experience at the college level.

I will not be completely absent from the band though. I will probably be writing the halftime shows and also trying to maintain and build relationships with the band members. This year, I might even be able to participate in some alumni band events that I am normally not able to attend.

I am considering several options for music for our halftime shows this season. Because it is 2020, I know that many bands around the nation are looking at doing a play on the date by performing 20/20 shows featuring music related to sight or with "eyes" in the title. I also plan to do a dance show featuring songs like "Shut Up and Dance", "Riverdance" and "Safety Dance." The third show is still in the works because I want to see what new music will be released this season. It should be a fun series of halftime shows!

As always, I hope to see many of you at Homecoming this fall. We are once again looking forward to some interaction with our great alumni at the ice cream social during band camp. It is great to see this relationship between the UM Alumni Band and the Grizzly Marching Band continue to grow and develop.

**See you this fall!  
GO GRIZ!!**

**- Kevin Griggs**

# INSIDE THE UM JAZZ BANDS



What a memorable year for all of us, including the UM Jazz Program – guest artists, fundraisers, pandemic, new jazz faculty, our jazz festival and so much more!

## JAZZ BANDS, FACULTY AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS

The Jazz Program is running on all cylinders with three big bands and six small groups (combos). We are fortunate to now have three new incredible musicians/teachers mentoring our jazz students. We are thrilled to introduce you to including award-winning pianist David Morgenroth, guitarist Jeff Troxel and bassist Tommy Sciple as new members to our education team. These three gentlemen are exceptional musicians and have already made a difference in our program.

We have a wonderful Teaching Assistant helping out with some of the jazz, band program and trombone offerings. Mitchell Bailey (trombone) from the University of New Hampshire has been a tremendous help to our program. He also wrote an incredible arrangement of 'Nardis' for the Jazz Ensemble I.



## UM BUDDY DeFRANCO JAZZ FESTIVAL

The 2020 edition of our festival will be remembered for a long time. We managed to have 42 groups participating along with some of the finest educators and jazz musicians in the business. The guest artists were incredible musically as well as being unbelievably flexible as we needed to create an "Awards Showcase" at 5:45pm instead of the usually energy packed evening performances. We closed out the festivities with an exciting Jam Session at Plonk Wine Bar on Friday evening. Join us March 11-12, 2021 for the 41st Annual UM Buddy DeFranco festival with lots of surprises including an Alumni Jazz Band!

# INSIDE THE UM JAZZ BANDS



## JAZZ EVENTS/JAZZ ARTIST SERIES

This past year was very exciting. We produced "Women & Changes," a tribute to female artists, in October featuring dancers from Missoula including Joy French as well as internationally award-winning composer, Patty Darling. The Jazz Ensemble backed up woodwind artist Erica von Kleist for our 8th annual Holiday Swing (at the Downtown Dance Collective) raising over \$15,000 for the Jazz Program. Thank you, Heather Adams!

We once again hosted the UM Jazz Artist Series with drummer Matt Wilson in January (also at the Downtown Dance Collective). He and his group worked with UM musicians during the day. We had one of the UM Small Groups perform at that concert – what a wonderful day of music and jazz education!

Unfortunately, we had many great performances cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the April performance with the Ralph Alessi Quintet (Jazz Artist Series), 8th Annual Jazz Arrangers concert with Ellen Rowe (we have seven student arrangers create music for the 8th Annual Jazz Arranging concert which will now be in September), as well as performances at Jazzoula, New Orleans Spring Break tour with the Jazz Ensemble, and a guest artist performance at the Mead Jazz Festival (Spokane) to name just a few.

## THANK YOU

I want to truly thank all of the School of Music supporters as well as current UM student musicians (some are now alums!). The UM musicians conducted themselves with maturity, flexibility and care throughout this challenging year. I have so much respect for all of them and can't wait to getting back to LIVE music!

Looking forward,  
Rob Tapper





**Ice Cream,  
You Scream,  
we're all  
screaming  
"When's the  
Ice Cream?"**

- Randy Zschaechner

The Alumni Band has provided an ice cream social as part of the Grizzly Marching Band Camp each fall to rousing support and appreciation for all that attend. From the quarts consumed to the sweet conversations being had, it's a wonderful night for everyone. Each year the Alumni Band is excited to offer this experience and gain connections with many future Alumni Band members; it's always fun to relive the 'good ol' days' and see how things are working on campus now!

This year however there's a wrench in the cog. Due to the current pandemic situation the University has altered their fall calendar and, in doing so, has changed when/how the Grizzly Marching Band Camp will be happening. We remain hopeful however that we'll be able to support the GMB with an Ice Cream Social again this fall. Extra helping hands are always welcome, so keep an eye on your email throughout the summer for information regarding when and if we'll be able to host an Ice Cream Social 2020!

# OF COURSE WE TAILGATE!

- KATHY MCCAUGHEY

As the various bands, floats, politicians, clubs and VIPs finish the Homecoming Parade, they just kind of break apart near the University of Montana campus and trundle off to find a sandwich and a cold drink. Not the UM Alumni Band! We make a left off University Avenue and march right into the backyard of Fred and Kathy McGlynn, the generous and gracious parents of UM Alum Brendan McGlynn. The tantalizing aromas of grilling burgers and hot dogs draw us in from over a block away. Brendan and Rob Tapper, our outstanding and energetic director of Jazz Bands take charge, along with their fantastic and hardworking crew. Clad in work aprons, they lay out a most satisfying spread for all who have triumphantly marched the two-plus mile parade route and are in need of sustenance, a beer and a place to rest weary feet. Sousaphones litter the alley behind the yard as those who toted them line up for a crack at the beverage coolers and potato salad. We sit and eat and marvel the fact that we successfully managed to keep playing the entire parade route, and pretty much stayed in formation. We talk, we laugh, we get another burger, another cup of beer, we celebrate. Sign up to join us this year.

**Yeah, it's a good time.**



# CELEBRATE THE BAND SO THE BAND CAN PLAY ON!

## UM Grizzly marching band plays on – JACK BERRY

At our organization meeting in 2019 the Alumni Band Board was notified that the University was not going to be able to bring the UM Grizzly Marching Band or the Alumni Association to the Holiday Inn for Homecoming festivities due to budget constraints. Griz Marching Band Director Kevin Griggs told us that playing in the Holiday Inn atrium to a packed house is something all the band members look forward to every year. He said it compared to the feeling of playing for a national championship. Your Alumni Band committee decided that the BAND MUST PLAY ON.

We went to work. Carl Smart is good friends with Greg Beach, CEO of Beach Transportation. Upon hearing about our dilemma from Carl, Mr. Beach cut us a very good deal. Kathy, our Alumni Band President went and visited with the Holiday Inn about helping us make the event a reality. We scaled back the usual high-end hors d'oeuvres to some basic munchies, and the Holiday Inn was more than happy to welcome the event and have a no-host bar available. Just mentioning our challenge to one of our own Alumni Band original organizers, Don Stanaway, led him to immediately offer a check along with any other help. Next, I contacted First Security Bank in Missoula as I know they have been fantastic supporters of the Griz over the years. Without delay, Geoff Peddicord said they would be happy to fund the remaining costs to get the Griz Marching Band to and from the Holiday Inn. Without these amazing people and generous donations, we would have lost an integral part of our Homecoming experience. We express our heartfelt thanks to all who helped make the Friday Night Holiday Inn Performance a reality.

The band came, and the crowd came, and it was incredible! There is nothing like hearing the Griz Marching Band play "Up With Montana" at full volume inside the atrium of the Holiday Inn. WOW!!!

**and the band played on...**





# Who is Tim Fox?

TRACK STAR, ATTORNEY, POLITICIAN, TRUMPET PLAYER...OR CONDUCTOR?

Tim Fox is many things, but mostly I consider him a good friend. After joining the UM Alumni Band organizing committee, I asked who was going to be the guest conductor. One of my immediate suggestions was Tim Fox. Most in our group only knew Tim Fox as the Montana Attorney General and politician, however, I knew a little bit about Tim's background and his appreciation of music and the arts.

Tim grew up in Hardin, and both his parents were musicians. His mother played piano and his father was an accomplished violinist and horn player. According to Tim, "Dad won many violin competitions when he was young, and was Utah State Fiddle Champion one year as a kid." His father and two uncles could be found playing Dixieland music, marches, and big band music with other musicians. They played in the Al Bedoo Shrine Marching Band where Tim's Dad was the drum major for many years. Tim's father was one of the founders of the Billings Symphony, where he played principal second violin for over three decades.

Growing up in a home with four older brothers, Tim recalls the house being filled with music. At 10 years old Tim began taking trumpet lessons, and learned to play horn. In high school Tim participated in chorus, swing choir, marching band, and swing band. Oh yeah, he also ran track. In a rural state like Montana, I have heard many stories of the connection between music and sports.

When he got to UM, Tim signed up to do it all - band, choir, and track. However, the track scholarship was paying the way, so Tim gave it his focus. Tim still co-holds the UM 110-meter high hurdle record at 14 seconds. Not too bad! By the way, a few years ago Tim patiently tried to teach my daughter to jump hurdles while in middle school. He could still clear the hurdles. If I tried, I would break something.

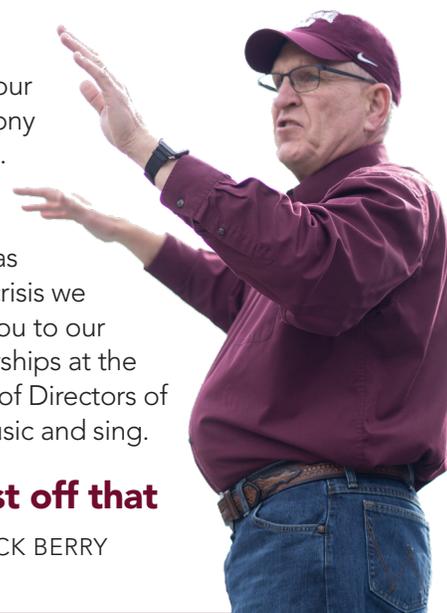
How did it feel to stand at the podium and conduct the massive UM Grizzly March Band and Alumni Band?

"Being in Washington-Grizzly Stadium with 26,000 Griz fans is always a treat, but to be down on the field with the Marching Band was the best Griz experience I've ever had. I may have to dust off my trumpet and play in the UM Alumni Band this year (or next year?)."

First responses: Favorite composer "Bernstein"; Favorite song "Vivaldi's Four Seasons"; Favorite Band "UM Grizzly Marching Band" The Helena Symphony was another favorite, and CCR's "Down on the Corner" made the song list.

When asked about the importance of the arts, Tim responded, "I see the arts as essential to the well-being of all humans and communities. Music has helped me, and my family get through the COVID-19 pandemic, and this crisis we are experiencing underscores the importance of music education. Thank you to our essential arts educators – we appreciate you!" Tim funds two violin scholarships at the Red Lodge Music Festival in his parents' memory. He served on the Board of Directors of the Billings Symphony and the Helena Symphony. He continues to love music and sing.

**Now you know my good friend. Tim, it's time to dust off that old trumpet, join the band, and play, play, play!!** - JACK BERRY



# Concert Reading Session

BY LILLY OLSON

In recent years, it's possible you've noticed the option to sign up for "Concert Band Rehearsal" on your registration form. If you've never been, perhaps it's an activity you might consider adding next homecoming! Although, "Concert Band Rehearsal" is a misleading term.

## It should read "90-Minute Whirlwind Sight-Reading Session Wherein You Remember How to Read Rhythms."

Dr. Smart pulls 10 or so pieces of concert band music from the UM music library, we settle into Room 1 with our instruments, and sight read through all of them. You might only get to read through the piece once or twice before we pull out the next chart, but you won't be bored! This "rehearsal" keeps you on your toes. It's free to sign up for and attend. More importantly, however, this Friday morning activity gives you the chance to blow on your instrument a little earlier in the day (read: oil those valves/slides, find a good reed, etc.), reacquaint yourself with the music building and faculty, and see some friends before the big marching band rehearsal after lunch! I, myself will be hanging out in the baritone section with Carl Smart.

## We look forward to seeing you!



## Alumni Pep Band

### Contact Kathy

if you are interested:

[kmc092052@yahoo.com](mailto:kmc092052@yahoo.com)

or at (406) 370-7360

Come winter break at UM each year, your UM Alumni Band changes hats and becomes a pep band. UM band director Kevin Griggs invites us to join his UM Pep Band for two basketball games when several students are home for the holidays. We rock, we shout, we trash talk, and have a marvelous time. So, watch for those emails in November and December, inviting you to be part of the raucous, wildly enthusiastic pep band for those two Saturday games. It's really a great way to spend a Saturday, so if you are in town, get your name on the pass gate list and prepare for an afternoon or evening of fun. And, we always go out for beer and pizza afterward!

# 2020 Registration Form

Please fill out your contact info and include a \$20 check to the UM Alumni Band for your annual membership dues. If you choose to donate to the UM Bands, please include an additional check made out to UM Bands. Please return this form and your payment to:

UM Alumni Band  
PO Box 1473  
Missoula, MT 59806

Below you'll find examples of what the Department of Music needs most. If you donate to a specific item, your money will be used to help fund that item. If you would like to make a general donation to the department so they can choose where the money goes, anything is welcome.

Thank you for your generosity during this time.

## UM Alumni Band Dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 What years were you in the UM Bands? (e.g. 1965-70) \_\_\_\_\_ How many years have you participated in your UM Alumni Band? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ UM Alumni Band annual membership dues \$20/member \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional UM Alumni Band donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR GRAND TOTAL of AMOUNT ENCLOSED for UM ALUMNI BAND = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## Donations to the UM Bands

PLACE A CHECK MARK in front of each item you wish to donate to and calculate your 2020 Total:

In lieu of:	I want to donate	# OF PERSONS	= Donation
_____ Jazzy Box Lunch	\$10	x _____	\$ _____
_____ Happy Hour and Annual Banquet	\$26	x _____	\$ _____
_____ Alumni Band Family Tailgate/BBQ	\$10	x _____	\$ _____

Specific Item Donations:	YOUR DONATION AMOUNT
_____ Music Stands (\$50 each)	\$ _____
_____ UM Summer Music Camps Scholarships (\$250 each)	\$ _____
_____ Air purifiers for student and faculty safety (\$500 each)	\$ _____
_____ Co-commission pandemic inspired piece by Joel Puckett (\$500)	\$ _____
_____ Baritone Saxophone (\$6000)	\$ _____
_____ Bass Clarinet (\$6000)	\$ _____
_____ General Donation to UM Bands	\$ _____

→ Consider becoming a member of the Band of Honor with a \$1000+ donation

I would like my donation to be anonymous: Yes / No

**YOUR GRAND TOTAL of AMOUNT ENCLOSED for UM BANDS = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

# Thank you Alumni Band!



# Go Griz!

## UM BAND ECHOES

Kathy McCaughey ~  
2020 UM Alumni Band President  
PO Box 1473  
Missoula, MT 59806  
Cell – (406) 370-7360

## THANK YOU

A special thank you to the following people and merchants for supporting the UM Alumni Band.



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