

# Prairie Brass Press

A publication of the Prairie Brass Band of Arlington Heights  
P.O. Box 182, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0182  
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Fall 1999

Volume 1, Issue 1

## THE PRAIRIE BRASS PRESS HITS THE NEWSSTANDS

Welcome to the first issue of the Prairie Brass Press! The Prairie Brass Press is devoted to the members, friends, and fans of the Prairie Brass Band. It will be an important source of news and information on the PBB. We plan to publish three newsletters each year to keep you up to date on current happenings, concerts, other performance events, and future plans.

Members and friends of the band are welcome to submit articles, quotes, or brass band news to be included in upcoming issues. We are also looking for volunteers to help edit future newsletters. Anyone interested in making contributions or getting involved can contact the Editor, Michael Fath.

We are looking forward to a great year!



## THE PRAIRIE BRASS BAND ENTERS ITS THIRD YEAR — “THREE TIMES THE CHARM”

Good brass bands don't just happen, they take time, planning, and effort to develop. Sometimes in the flurry of all the details of weekly rehearsals, it's not apparent how rapidly progress has taken place in the two years since Prairie Brass Band was formed. Last summer the band dug out some music that really challenged us in our first year, and this time we just breezed through it with no problem. This year we are working on music that we wouldn't have touched just two years ago.

The nice thing is that this progress has taken place while the band's membership has remained stable. Of the 29 members who played on our first concert in December 1997, 20 of them are still in the band. That is remarkable, considering how mobile musicians tend to be. All twenty have made significant strides forward in their individual playing as a result of their participation in Prairie Brass Band.

Not only have members moved ahead personally, they are now forming small

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**PRAIRIE BRASS BAND**  
Arlington Heights, Illinois  
Founded 1997

### Board of Directors

Roger Menning, Founder and President  
Dallas Niermeyer, Conductor  
Ken Wistrom, Assistant Conductor  
Michael Brainin, Carol Dickenson,  
Michael Fath, Clark Niermeyer, Jim Short

Make a note: The Prairie Brass Band has a  
**NEW MAILING ADDRESS!** Send correspondences to us at:

*Prairie Brass Band*  
P.O. Box 182  
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0182  
email: info@prairiebrass.org  
phone: (847) 538-5842

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ensembles within the band for various occasions. At last year's NABBA contest, two small groups, a tuba/euphonium quartet and a brass quintet competed, in addition to four soloists. Very few bands in North America had as many entries in those categories, and none had as much success. Two soloists placed third in their respective categories, and the quintet won first place. The others all gave very impressive performances as well. This year a group of eight players in the band decided to participate in a special NABBA Festival in Las Vegas on Halloween weekend. They have been asked to perform twice, including being the first ensemble on the program at the Gala Concert.

The next event for the band this year will be an exciting concert on Sunday, November 14th at Hersey High School in Arlington Heights. This 3:00 p.m. matinee concert will feature both PBB and the Chicago Brass Choir, an outstanding ensemble led by Dr. Michael Stewart, who has been a guest conductor and clinician for PBB in the past. Dr. Stewart has composed and arranged music for brass bands in addition to much of the music performed by the Chicago Brass Choir. The concert on the 14th will feature each ensemble separately, and then we will all combine for some awesome combined numbers. This will definitely be a must-hear concert for brass music lovers!

There will be two other PBB series concerts in Arlington Heights during the '99-'00 season. On March 19th, 2000, we present

our annual Pre-Contest Concert. This concert is always a treat for audiences who want to hear the band at its absolute best, playing music that is dazzling for its virtuosity and artistic quality.

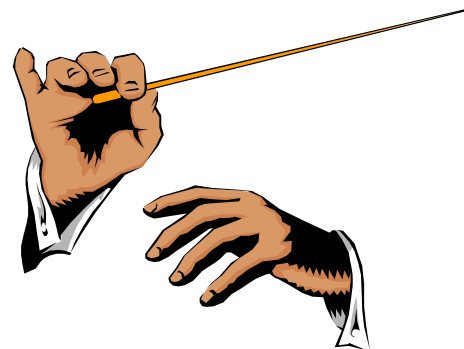
The annual NABBA contest will be held in Columbus, Ohio on April 15th, 2000. PBB will be facing some intense competition from other bands in the Honors Section, but we are determined to add to the growing prestige of the Chicago area and Midwest bands. We will make Arlington Heights proud!

After the contest, on June 11th, we end our series with our Spring Pops Concert. This is a change of pace from the seriousness of competing, and a preview of the style of music PBB plays in the summer months.

In addition to our series concerts, Prairie Brass Band is planning a number of special performances as we participate in the cultural life of our "home town," Arlington Heights. We will be the featured entertainment at a Millennium Project Celebration in mid-January, probably at the newly remodeled Metropolis Performing Arts Center. We are also exploring possible engagements at various grand openings in town.

PBB's third year promises to be our best ever. We in the band are really pumped up, and we invite all our supporters and their families and friends to enjoy the wonderful world of brass band music with us this year.

Roger Menning, President.



*The Conductor's Podium*

## **A BRASS FEAST - NOVEMBER 14TH CONCERT NEWS**

The concert on November 14th marks the beginning of the third season for the Prairie Brass Band. It is with great enthusiasm that we are able to share the program with the nationally-acclaimed Chicago Brass Choir. If you love brass music in all its many forms, this is the concert for you.

Each group will present a varied and wide-ranging program, from Bach to Gershwin to original compositions by the Chicago Brass Choir's director, Michael Stewart. One of the most unique features of the concert will be the combined brass finale, which will feature both groups performing a Bach Prelude and Fugue and music written by Henry VIII, both rather unusual fare for brass ensembles. This is a wide ranging program that you won't want to miss.

Dallas Niermeyer, Conductor



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Congratulations to our new assistant conductor, Ken A. Wistrom! Auditions were held at the September 16th rehearsal, and each candidate conducted a movement from "The Shipbuilders." We had three very qualified candidates, and Ken was selected to replace our departing Assistant Conductor Jerry Cadden. Jerry moved to Boston this summer and is now on the Music Department faculty at Boston College.

Ken has had a long and distinguished career in music education and will be an important part of the band's success this season. He earned his B.A. in Music Education from Augsburg College, Minneapolis and his M.A. in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago.

Ken has taught instrumental music for 28 years in Minnesota and Illinois and is active as a music adjudicator and clinician in the Midwest. He is currently band director for Thomas Middle School in Arlington Heights.

Ken has studied conducting with H. Robert Reynolds, Craig Kirchoff, Allan McMurray, Elizabeth Green and Gary Hill. He is also an accomplished brass performer and has played in the low brass sections of the Des Plaines Community Band, the Highland Park Symphonic Winds, and the Sioux Falls, S.D. Community Band. Ken is currently in the baritone horn section of the PBB.

Welcome and congratulations!



## *The Member's Corner*

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This section of the newsletter will feature news and information about the members of the Prairie Brass Band. If you would like to be included in an upcoming issue, please contact the Prairie Brass Press Editor. This edition includes profiles of two new PBB members, Randy Steinberg and Taralyn Schwab. Welcome to the PBB!

**Name:** Taralyn Trace Schwab

**Instruments:** Percussion (everything...including steel drums), Piano, Oboe

**Hometown:** Grew up in Arlington Heights....currently living in Gurnee

**Professional position:** Band Director at Warren Township High School

**Family Info:** Dad (Terry), Mom (Cynda), and Brother (Troy) still live in Arlington Heights. My "family" is my cat (Powder) and my dog (Peanut)

**Education:** Bachelors Degrees in Music Performance and Music Education from the University of Kentucky. Graduate Degree in Music Writing for Media Productions and Film Scoring from the University of Southern California (Los Angeles). Minors in Piano and Oboe Performance

**Other Musical Activities:** Percussionist with the Debut Symphony of Los Angeles, Timpanist in Lexington Community Orchestra, Percussionist in Lexington Philharmonic, Performer for Regal Cruise Lines, Accompanist for various church organizations, private lesson instructor, clinician for Yamaha Bands of America World Percussion Symposium, and Panyard, Inc.

**Favorite Breakfast Cereal:** Count Chocula!

**Name:** Randy Steinberg

**Instruments:** Trumpet/Cornet, Piano


**Hometown:** Rolling Meadows, IL

**Professional position:** Principal Consultant - IBM

**Family info:** Wife - Faith, Kids - Jennifer (13), Robert (10), James (8)

**Education:** B.M.E. (Music Ed - Roosevelt Univ. ), M.M.E (Music Ed - Northern IL Univ. ); M.S. (Computer Science - Northern IL Univ. )

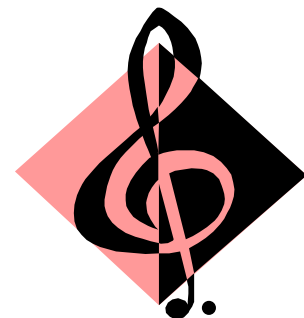
**Other musical groups:** Many including North Shore Concert Band, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Addison, Arlington Heights, Palatine, Skokie, etc.

**Other musical activities:** Lots of composing for concert band, brass ensembles of all kinds; Theme song "March For Des Plaines" used on cable channel 25 in Des Plaines to open/close televised city council meetings; numerous arrangements written for show orchestras, some jazz band, etc. Theatre Musical Director and Orchestra Conductor for Schaumburg Encore Theatre, Elgin Community Theatre. Piano accompaniment for many musicals and shows as well. Also former member of rock group Urban Crisis (on Trumpet), Malcolm X College Jazz Band (this one is a long story in itself) and 

### *Musical Notes*

"Be a storyteller in sound. Express emotion in music. Play to feel better."

— Arnold Jacobs



Prairie Brass Band  
P.O. Box 182  
Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0182

Mailing  
Address

## Next Arlington Heights Concert:

*A Brass Feast: Prairie Brass Band and Chicago Brass Choir in Concert*

3:00 p.m., Sunday, November 14, 1999  
John Hersey High School Auditorium  
1900 E. Thomas St.

*We'll see you there!*

## NEWS BRIEFS

### ***PBB to Perform Holiday Concerts in DeKalb and River Forest***

The Prairie Brass Band will perform two concerts in December to celebrate the Holiday season. The first concert will be at the Egyptian Theater in DeKalb on Saturday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m.

On Thursday, December 16th, the PBB will return to River Forest as part of the Capelli Institute of Music Concert Series.

The River Forest concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the location will be the unique Frank Lloyd Wright designed Women's Club

at 526 Ashland Ave. in River Forest.

Tickets for the River Forest Concert are \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for students and seniors. Children under age 8 are free.

### ***Arlington Heights Concert Series Subscriptions Are Available***

Subscription tickets to the three Arlington Heights Concerts are now available for purchase. Prices are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students. Pick them up at the November 14th concert or call (847) 538-5842 for more information.

Sign up a friend for the newsletter:

### SEND TO:

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