

# Prairie Brass Press

A publication of the Prairie Brass Band of Arlington Heights  
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Winter 2000

Volume 1, Issue 2

## **PRAIRIE BRASS BAND STARTS THE 1999-2000 SEASON WITH TWO GREAT CONCERTS**

In November and December, the Prairie Brass Band gave two exciting performances to concert goers in Arlington Heights and River Forest.

On Sunday, November 14th, over 250 people attended the "Brass Feast" Concert with the Prairie Brass Band and the Chicago Brass Choir at Hersey High School in Arlington Heights. This concert featured great brass music from both ensembles.

The Chicago Brass Choir began the concert with six pieces, including Michael Stewart's "Fanfare of Remembrance" and a delightful arrangement of John Rutter's "What Sweeter Music."

The Prairie Brass Band continued the program with seven selections including Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm", the Derek Bourgeois "Serenade", percussion feature "Helter Skelter" (with soloist Teralyn Schwab on marimba), and a rousing rendition of "Riverdance." The concert ended with the combined ensemble, which performed Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in B flat Major" and Henry VIII's "Pastime With Good Company."

On December 16th, the Prairie Brass Band returned to its second home, River Forest, and performed a Holiday Concert for the Cappelli Institute of Music at the River Forest Women's Club. This lighter concert included Randy Steinberg's arrangement of "Snippets for a Christmas Eve" and the Prairie Brass Baritones, Euphoniums, and Tubas performing a "Tuba Christmas Suite."

Our 1999-2000 season is off to a great start. We hope to see you at an upcoming concert!

## **PRAIRIE BRASS BAND TO COMPETE AT THE 2000 NABBA CHAMPIONSHIPS IN COLUM- BUS, OHIO**

The Prairie Brass Band is focusing its attention this winter on the upcoming North American Brass Band Association (NABBA) Championships being held April 14-15 in Columbus, Ohio. The two day musical extravaganza will feature top brass bands from across North America. Soloists and ensembles also compete during the event, and the gala concert on Saturday night will include a performance by the Canadian Brass.

The Prairie Brass Band has selected to compete in the Honors Section again in 2000 and has chosen three pieces to perform in competition. The required test piece for the Honors Section is ...

### **Music for the Common Man**

"Music for the Common Man" was composed by Kenneth Downie. The program notes describe the work as follows: "Music for the Common

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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

*(Continued from page 1)*

Man' was commissioned by the Swiss Brass Band Association and the Music Association of Norway for their National Brass Band Championship.

The theme, stated at the onset, is largely reflective in mood, albeit with underlying moments of tension. Fragments of it re-emerge between the fast sections, which all derive from the opening material. The theme returns triumphantly near the end, and after a series of changing moods, serenity and repose are re-established.

The title has three way aptness. It indicates the unpretentious nature of the music, it alludes to a universally known fanfare and symphony, and it make a fitting tribute to the composer's uncle, Theodore Coony, who died during the writing of the work, and who did much to encourage Kenneth as a composer.

Kenneth Downie was born in Glasgow in 1946. He studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and at Durham University and was a specialist music teacher in schools for 10 years before starting his own jewelry business. His particular interest in brass bands began at an early age in the Salvation Army, where he is still a bandmaster, and where he has many published compositions, both instrumental and vocal."

The Prairie Brass Band has selected two additional pieces to perform at the NABBA Championships. The first is...

### **Dimensions**

"Dimensions" was composed by Scottish composer Peter Graham. Mr. Graham was born in 1958 with brass bands in his blood. He was taught piano by

his mother and played cornet in his local Salvation Army corps band, where his father was bandmaster. After graduating from Edinburgh University, he worked as a brass teacher, a music editor, and a band master.

His earliest publications were marches for the Salvation Army, but he first came to the attention of a wider brass audience with the publication of "Dimensions." Peter Graham wrote "Dimensions" during the summer of his graduation and entered it for a competition organized by the West Glamorgan Education Authority, little suspecting that it would win. The piece then came to the attention of Edward Gregson, who was advising Boosey & Hawkes on test piece selection. As a result, "Dimensions" was published for the qualifying rounds of the 1984 National Brass Band Championship of Great Britain. This remarkable debut by a composer in his early twenties shows an enviable grasp of all aspects of composition.

The Band's final contest selection is the march ...

### **Mephistopheles**

"Mephistopheles", composed by Shipley Douglas, was described simply by BBC Network Radio as "a devil of a march."

### **Solos and Ensembles**


The Prairie Brass Band will have one of the largest contingents of soloists and ensembles at the 2000 NABBA Championships. Three ensembles and six soloists are scheduled compete.

The large ensemble will be a dectet performing "Festive Overture" by Dmitri Shostakovich. This brass version was arranged by Randy

Steinberg and will receive its premier at the March 19th concert.


The Prairie Brass Quintet won first place at last year's Adult Small Ensemble Contest and hopes to defend its title this year. The quintet will be performing "Suite from the Monteregian Hills", by Morley Calvert, a challenging and entertaining work from the standard brass quintet repertoire. Returning to the quintet from last year are Christine Moore and Gabe Kasperek on cornet, and Roger Menning on tenor horn. New members of the quintet are Steve Larkin on trombone, and Steve Marcus on tuba.

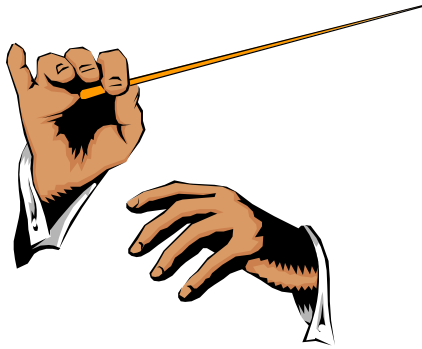
A percussion ensemble is also preparing for the NABBA Championships.

Serious brass band fans will converge on Columbus for a weekend of great music. More information on the 

## **PRAIRIE BRASS RECORDS NEW WORK BY MICHAEL STEWART**

The Prairie Brass Band continued its close collaboration with award winning composer Michael Stewart by recording his new composition for solo cornet and brass band entitled Intranets. The recording is not commercially available, but was used by Mr. Stewart for entry into the 2000 International Trumpet Guild Composers Competition. The soloist on the recording was the Prairie Brass Band's Principal Cornet, Cyndi Scoglio.

Best of luck to Michael Stewart in this international competition! 




*The Conductor's Podium*

## **NABBA PREVIEW CONCERT WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 19TH IN ARLINGTON HEIGHTS**

The Prairie Brass Band will perform its second Arlington Heights Concert of the season at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 19th, 2000. This concert is our annual Championship Preview Concert and will include performances of the test pieces that will be played at the NABBA Championships in Columbus.

The concert will also feature many of the Prairie Brass soloists and ensembles that will be competing in Columbus. The Band will fill out the concert program with several light tunes.

This concert should have something for everyone — some serious brass band music, lighter jazz and marches, and great brass solos and ensembles.

Tickets to this concert are now available for purchase. Advance sale tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students. Prices at the door are \$7 for adults and \$6 for seniors and students. Call (847) 538-5842 for information. 

## *The Member's Corner*

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In this issue we profile our Founder and President, Roger Menning, and our Principal Euphonium, Brad Say.

**Name:** Roger Menning

**Position with Prairie Brass Band:** Trombone, Founder, and President

**Instruments:** Tenor trombone, bass trombone, Eb tenor horn. Also baritone and euphonium.

**Hometown:** Crystal Lake, IL

**Professional position:** Integrated Circuit Designer with Motorola

**Family Info:** Joyce (Medical Technologist), daughters: Jennifer (13) plays classical and jazz piano and clarinet, and Sarah (10) plays piano and is a ballet

dancer, and is starting flute this year. Three cats, soon to be joined by a fourth.

**Education:** Master's degree in Music Composition and Brass Performance from Western Michigan University (Kalamazoo, MI)

**Other musical groups:** Crystal Lake Community Band, Bass-ic 4 Tuba/Euphonium Quartet, Prairie Brass Quintet, Prairie Brass Octet.

**Other musical activities:** Administration of the Prairie Brass Band, teaching trombone private lessons, coordinate brass music at my church

**Favorite Breakfast Cereal:** Kellogg's Mini-Wheats

**Comments:** Forming and managing the PBB is the accomplishment (outside of being a father) that I am most proud of. Sometimes I can't believe that something so fun and rewarding could be the result of just having an idea and trying to make it work. It is my hope that music lovers throughout the Midwest will come to love brass bands, and that the PBB will help make that happen!

**Name:** Brad Say

**Position with Prairie Brass Band:** Principal Euphonium

**Instruments:** Euphonium / trombone

**Hometown:** Arlington Heights, IL

**Professional position:** Middle/Elementary School Band teacher

**Family info:** Single, native of Pennsylvania

**Education:** B.A. in Music Education from Northwestern University

**Other musical groups:** Currently, I perform with the Wisconsin National Guard Band and the North Shore Concert Band. Previously, I have played in many musical groups including active Army bands in New Jersey and Maryland and with the Northwestern University Marching Band.

**Other musical activities:** Band arranging, teaching private lessons

**Favorite breakfast cereal:** Cookie Crisp 

## *Musical Notes*

“I think I should have no other mortal wants, if I could always have plenty of music. It seems to infuse strength into my limbs and ideas into my brain. Life seems to go on without effort, when I am filled with music.”

— George Eliot

Prairie Brass Band  
P.O. Box 182  
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## Next Arlington Heights Concert:

### *Prairie Brass Band Championship Preview Concert*

3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 19, 2000  
John Hersey High School Auditorium  
1900 E. Thomas St.

*We'll see you there!*

Sign up a friend for the newsletter:

<b>SEND TO:</b>	
Prairie Brass Band	
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Arlington Heights, IL 60006	
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email	

## NEWS BRIEFS

### *Friend of the Band, Bill Pellant, Passes Away*

We are saddened by the loss of Bill Pellant, a talented arranger and friend of the Prairie Brass Band, who passed away unexpectedly in November. Bill arranged the Bach "Prelude and Fugue" that was performed at the Brass Feast Concert. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

### *Christmas Concert in DeKalb Concert Cancelled*

Oops! Due to circumstances beyond our control, the December 4th Holiday Concert at the Egyptian Theater in DeKalb was cancelled. We know of several

Prairie Brass Band fans who made the trip out to DeKalb only to discover that there was no concert. We send our apologies to these hearty souls!

### *In the Next Issue of the Prairie Brass Press*

- Highlights from the 2000 NABBA Championships
- Complete Prairie Brass Band Summer Concert and Parade Schedule

*For the latest news, check out the band's web site at:*  
[www.prairiebrass.org](http://www.prairiebrass.org)

