

Who We Are

The North Pittsburgh Symphonic Band is a community organization of approximately 85 volunteers who share a love of music and the desire to bring quality symphonic band literature to the community. The NPSB is unique in the North Hills area, as it is a full symphonic band encompassing woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments. It was founded in 1992 as the North Suburban Symphonic Band under Warren Mercer, long-time Director of Bands for the North Hills School District, and has enjoyed playing with many talented and well-known soloists over the years. However, the true success of the NPSB continues to be the volunteer musicians who bring their considerable talents to the band.

An important part of the NPSB's Mission Statement is, "The NPSB will contribute to the audience appreciation of wind band literature through the medium of public concerts, encourage young people in the area school districts towards the benefits of participation in musical organizations in both school and community, and above all, maintain and expand the role of the community band in America."

Where We Play

The ensemble performs and rehearses at the North Hills School District Middle School located on Rochester Rd in the North Hills. Directions can be found:

On our website, www.NPSBand.org

Or by using their address: 55 Rochester Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

The Music

The band plays a wide variety of music including the finest and in new and established repertoire, instrumental/vocal solos, Broadway show tunes, jazz, popular and patriotic music. We feature instrumental soloists, vocal soloists and ensembles from inside - and away from - band membership.

You should be able to read music and play at a high school level or beyond. The difficulty of our selections range from high school to college levels, and a recent listing of concert repertoires can be viewed on our website.

Rehearsals

The NPSB rehearses Monday nights from 7:30pm - 9:30pm at the North Hills Middle School. Please allow time to park, set up, tune and generally be available for the downbeat at 7:30.

How To Join

The band is open to all adult (high school or older) instrumental musicians in Allegheny County and the surrounding area. New members are always welcome. Although we have no formal entrance requirements or audition process, members must provide their own instruments (except for percussionists.)

Communications

Upon joining the band, you will be asked to provide an email address / cell phone number for intra-band communications. This will be primarily used for band-only communications, e.g. – concert announcements, cancellation of a rehearsal due to inclement weather or rehearsal updates. We may also, sparingly, send out emails / texts we think you may find of a related interest, e.g. – Symphony ticket offers, band member performances – separate from the NPSB, etc.

Promotions and Development

We are supported by donations from individual and corporate sponsors, grants, membership fees (dues), and revenue from private performances for community and non-profit organizations. Donations to the band are generally tax deductible for the donors. Each of our concert programs contains advertisements of local companies or donors that have contributed to the NPSB.

We highly encourage all of our members to post flyers in the surrounding area prior to concerts and “make the ask” of friends, neighbors, employers - anyone who is a supporter of that member’s NPSB participation - to support our band. We also hope that you will be able to provide to us names and emails of friends, relatives - or anyone else you feel might find our concert announcements informative. These addresses will be kept private and used strictly for NPSB communications.

Contact Us

For more information, review www.NPSBand.org or contact us at info@NPSBand.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are there any current COVID protocols?

A. As of now, we are currently requiring proof of every member’s COVID vaccination, and mask usage in all areas of the Middle School with the exception of when seated on the stage.

Q. What does it cost to join the NPSB?

A. Annual membership in the NPSB is \$50 (\$25 for high school or college students.) Checks can be made payable to NPSB and given to the Treasurer, Shira Burg (oboe), or any of our other board members.

Q. Will I have to audition?

A. No audition is required. We expect each member to have a working knowledge of the instrument and ensemble playing. Our Music Director / Conductor and your section leader will work to place you where she/he feels you will make the most valuable contribution to the overall musical benefit of the band. The Music Director / Conductor reserves the right to suggest and advise placement to adjust balance and technical requirements.

Q. Will I be required to attend every rehearsal?

A. When you officially join the NPSB, you're making commitments. You're committing to performance, rehearsals, continuity, etc. We understand you have priorities outside of the group, but we do ask for dependability. In order to function successfully and live up to our own standards, consequently, we expect 75% of all rehearsals for each concert. Please notify your section leader ASAP and attendance@NPSBand.org with rehearsal / concert conflicts.

Q. How often and where does the band play?

A. The NPSB performs 4 concerts per season at the North Hills Middle School auditorium, and they are usually in October, December, March and May. Rehearsals run from September through May. Occasionally the NPSB chooses to perform extra concerts - community events held that may be held in the summer or early spring. We give as much notice on these as possible to accommodate member scheduling.

Q. How do I get to the concerts?

A. Members provide their own transportation to concert sites. Carpooling is recommended.

Q. Do I have to bring a music stand?

A. Music stands are provided for regular rehearsals and concerts. Music and folders are also provided, however, these need returned immediately after each concert for removal and insertion of new pieces for the next concert. Additionally, if you are required to share a folder, please make sure it is available for each member at every rehearsal.

Q. What does the band wear in concert?

A. We wear formal black attire for all concerts. Men should wear a tuxedo or black suit with a white shirt and black tie, while women should wear a long-sleeved black top with a long black skirt or pants. Contact us for specifics or other questions at info@npsband.org.

Please visit www.NPSBand.org for more information!!