



## From the Prez...

Volume 5 • Issue 4 • April, 2024

Elizabeth Black ~ President, Board of Directors

Do you enjoy this time of year? Spring brings so many wonderful changes. We welcome the brighter mornings and longer evenings after so much rain and clouds. Each day offers something new to notice in our gardens. Have you seen the purple leaf plum trees all in pink flowers? How about the bright, redbud trees or the flowering tulip trees? It won't be long before the cherry trees, then apple trees, will shout their welcome to spring. It is like our music developing, unfolding before us. Our conductor, Brad Gronroos, and our band are working to bring you our most lively spring medley of songs.

Easter and passover celebrations have passed but **Passing Time with Good Company** is yet to come! Have you invited your friends and family to join the evening concert at the Mello Center on Friday, April 12 at 7pm or the afternoon concert on Saturday, April 13 at 2pm at Peace United Church, Santa Cruz. Are you in for a collection of the familiar *Purple Carnival*, and *H.M. Jollies* marches? How about the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* or *The Genius of Ray Charles*? You will also be taken back in time to meet King Henry VIII as we hear *Pass Time with Good Company*. What could be better? Sharing our concert with you, of course!

The WCB Youth Band will be performing on Friday, April 12 at the very beginning of the concert. They have been working hard these past weeks to prepare for their presentation for you and their parents. We are grateful to our WCB Youth Band teachers who have donated hours of time to our young musicians. We thank Alice Miller, Bill Nestler, and Kaitlyn Black for their untiring efforts to help our youth shine. Come early to encourage our young players.



Thank you to those who have donated for the new tuba. It will cost \$4000 to replace the borrowed tuba from Watsonville High School, and we are now two-thirds of the way in donations. Could you help push the total into full bloom soon? Please make a donation to our P.O. Box 1708, Watsonville address above or bring a donation to the upcoming concerts. Our tuba section will soon smile!

## From the Podium...

Brad W. Gronroos ~ Conductor

Spring is here, and it is concert time for the Watsonville Community Band. The annual Spring Concert Series will feature a wide variety of music, by King Henry VIII, Ray Charles, and more. Favorites such as the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, marches, musicals and more. There should be something for everyone to enjoy. As always, our concerts are free for everyone to attend. We hope to see you there.







# Watsonville Community Band Presents the 76th Annual Spring Concert Series

**BRAD W. GRONROOS**  
CONDUCTOR

## Passing Time WITH Good Company

Royal Music for a Convivial Gathering

**Friday April 12 ~ 7pm**  
Henry Mello Center  
for the Performing Arts  
at Watsonville High School  
250 East Beach Street

**Saturday April 13 ~ 2pm**  
Peace United Church  
of Santa Cruz  
900 High Street

*There Is No Charge For Admission*



## From the Peanut Gallery...

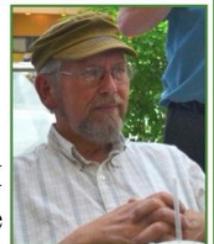
*Eugene Smith ~ Conductor Emeritus*

**The first concert.** There are many 'first concerts,' I think. I remember my very first one. I was in 4th grade at Mintie White Elementary in Watsonville. I was a beginner. I walked the 3 blocks to school carrying my trumpet. We were playing in the E.A. Hall Middle School cafeteria for Back To School Night, or some such. When it was our turn we blew a few notes to warm up. We must not have sounded too good, 'cause the band director turned to the audience and said, "This is called tuning up." Laughter. Funny that I remember that; it's all I remember from the rest of the night, except for walking home after. Another First: My first concert as the director at E.A. Hall Middle School, after the initial round of cutbacks and reassignments, was also in the cafeteria.

I really don't remember my first concert with the Watsonville Band, but I do remember the first parade. It was for the Holy Ghost Festival in Half Moon Bay, and I wore shoes I'd gotten only the day before. A lesson along with the First!

We have another First coming up this month - the first of our Spring Series is in the Mello Center at WHS on April 12. It'll be a First Performance Ever for some of our Youth Band members, as well as the first concert with our band for some of our newer players. We all can also make it a new First: the First Time a friend, neighbor, or relative hears the band!

So get busy. There's still time to ask someone (or two, or three), and time to get it on the calendar. Time for another First!





Eugene Smith ~ Conductor Emeritus

**My Grandchildren**, normally the nicest and most loving *chirren* around, tried to off their old Grandpa yesterday. We went for a walk. Now, when you live in the mountains you expect to be walking uphill and downhill, but a smart mountain-dweller avoids those steep ones, either up or down! But the kids are city dwellers and don't have those innate instincts. Sooo, up the hill we went. By the time my wife, Kathy, said "Stop as often as you need" I'd been stopping every 10 feet already. (It was a *steep* hill!) When we got to the top we were of course greeted with the inevitable sight of the road going down, then up again! Steeply. Eventually wisdom, reality, and Grandpa's wheezing convinced us to turn around.

Upon arrival home there was a fine nap to be had.

Now the reason for this shocking narrative is this: my realization that the first parade - the Pacific Grove *Good Old Days Parade* - is a month away! I can easily walk - march - that nice, flat distance, but playing at the same time considerably alters the equation! So as much as I don't want to, it's time to get out there and do some walking. (The hills can be very good parade conditioning, as long as one avoids those steep areas!)

Get to it. Don't wait. If you do you'll be sorry on May 4th in PG. If you're really dedicated, give me a call. I'll share the hills.



After the Scotts Valley Concert, L to R: Amanda, Jackson, myself, Sarah, Kathy

- OUR CONDUCTORS -



Ralph "Slip" Bohnett  
1947

Mert Carlyon  
1955



Bert Viales  
1958

Gary Horsely  
1964



Don Pellerin  
1966

Bert Viales  
1969



Sylvester "Mac" McElroy  
1999

Eugene Smith  
2005



Brad Gronroos  
2012

~ OUR PRESIDENTS ~



Eugene Smith  
2005-2010

Kevin Miller  
2010-2012



Steve Braun  
2012-2013

Barbara Smith  
2013-2016



Antonio Trujillo  
2016-2018

Dana Sales  
2018-2022

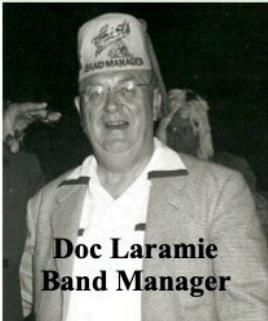


Elizabeth Black  
2022-2026





You always wanted to be in the Band but you only play the radio? No worries, mate! We've always had band members who were not musicians, and have always depended on them, too! In fact our very first Band Manager, local chiropractor E. J. "Doc" Laramie, wasn't a musician, yet he helped guide the band in its early years. Street Directors, Color Guard members, banner carriers, music librarians, sitters for the young children of performers during the gigs, cooks, cleaners, veggie washers (in the Artichoke Booth days), truck drivers, seamstresses, you name it. 'Cause it takes more than flutes, clarinets, etc. to get the band onstage or on the street. So if you'd like to help the band in an important way, contact us! We'd love to have you join our Band Family, even in a non-musical way. Email, contact a band member, or just come down to rehearsal, every Wednesday night, 7:30pm-9:30pm in the WHS Band Room!



**Doc Laramie**  
Band Manager



**Connie Beilby**  
Super Hero



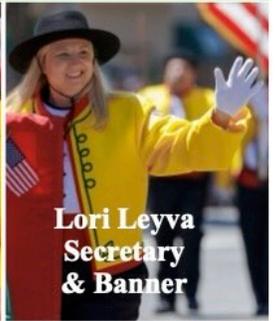
**Elizabeth Black**  
President &  
Color Guard



**Frank Turner**  
Band Manager



**Kim Kannely**  
Street  
Director



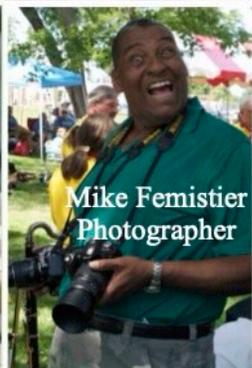
**Lori Leyva**  
Secretary  
& Banner



**COLOR GUARD**



**Marge Coolidge**  
Music Librarian



**Mike Femistier**  
Photographer



**Stan Kniffen**  
Nourishment Chair



**Nancy Olson**  
Super Heroes

**Kay Burtess**



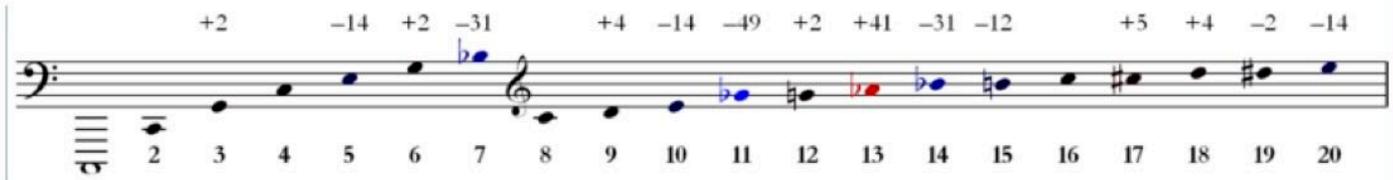
## Music Theory 110

Antonio Trujillo ~ Principal Trumpet



When I was taking piano lessons as a kid, I would see occasional references to Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*. I didn't know what it was referring to and never asked. Based on my limited knowledge of musical history and grammar/vocabulary in general, I ultimately decided it must mean "well-behaved piano player." I could never figure out why Bach would write songs for this specific group of people. As it turns out, I was wrong, and what Bach was referring to was a tuning system for keyboard instruments like harpsichords and clavichords.

My last article discussed the harmonic or overtone series and the ratios between frequencies of different intervals. Just intonation is the tuning of musical intervals of whole number ratios, e.g. 3:2 or 4:3, found in the harmonic series. Stringed, bowed instruments like violins are often tuned using pure fifths or fourths. However, keyboard instruments are rarely tuned using pure intervals as it can make some chords in some keys sound really out of tune. Well temperament, as used by Bach, is a type of tuning wherein the 12 notes per octave were tuned such that all major and minor keys could be used without sounding out of tune.



In Western music, the most common tuning system since the 1700's has been 12 TET or 12 tone equal temperament. In 12 TET, the octave is divided into 12 parts where the frequencies are equidistant. Every semitone, or half-step, such as C to C# or Eb to E, is the same exact distance apart in frequency. Currently 12 TET uses A 440, i.e. a standard pitch of A tuned to 440 Hz, as the reference point and all other notes above and below A 440 being defined as some multiple of frequencies away from 440 Hz.

This tuning system requires a lot of compromises in pitch when compared to the harmonic series. You'll recall the above graphic from Music Theory 109 where the number below the notes identified which overtone the note was. The number above the harmonics indicates the difference in intonation compared to equal temperament. The three blue notes are significantly flatter and the red note is significantly sharper in the harmonic series than the equivalent notes in 12 TET. The other notes are close enough to where you likely wouldn't notice.

Tuning instruments using just intonation can give the instrument a purer tonal sound but only for limited key signatures as they are tuned around a specific note. Trying to play in other key signatures produces a very dissonant, unpleasant sound and you would need to retune the instrument for the new key. Key modulation within a piece would be practically impossible as would playing several pieces in different keys in succession. Using equal temperament, including 12 TET, allows for much more flexibility with key signatures and allows for greater complexity in the music we play and listen to. And of course Bach used it to great effect in his *Well-Tempered Clavier* with its 24 preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys. 

## MARK YOUR 2024 CALENDAR

### 2024 Calendar of Performances and Activities

April 12 & 13 - 76th Annual Spring Concert Series  
 May 2 - Combined Concert with Aptos High School  
 May 4 - Pacific Grove Good Old Days Parade  
 May 27 - Memorial Day Concert at Roaring Camp  
 June 22 - Hollister Saddle Horse Show Parade  
 June 23 - ComicCon/Nerdville Concert, Watsonville HS  
 July 4 - Aptos & Watsonville Independence Day Parades  
 August 9 & 10 - 77th Anniversary Concerts  
 November 11 - Veterans Day Ceremonies, Watsonville  
 December 8 - Christmas on the Wharf, Monterey  
 December 13. 14. 15 - 77th Annual Winter Concert Series



Retired WCB Conductor (of 39 years!) Gonzalo "Bert" Viales receiving the prestigious Sudler Silver Scroll Award from Col. John Bourgoise, former Conductor of the U.S. Marine Band.



Written	Musical Turns	Played
	A turn above a note, is divided into 4 equal parts and starts on the note above.	
	An accidental sign below the turn alters the lower note.	
	An accidental sign above the turn alters the upper note.	
	An inverted turn above a note, is divided into 4 equal parts and starts on the note below.	
	When a turn is between two notes that are the same, the turn takes half the value of the first note and is played as a triplet.	

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the born-in-March crowd!  
 Left to Right are **Amy East**, euphonium, **Barbara Smith**, flute, piccolo and a Past President, **Gustavo Cisneros**, clarinet and Drum Major, and **Susie Kuhlmann**, clarinet!

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## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### BUSINESS MEMBERS OF OUR BAND FAMILY

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Cassidy's Pizza • Cowles Berry Farm  
Edward & Kathleen Banks • Lawrence Lease  
Ed Bogner Mechanical • Pajaro Valley Printing  
Sambrailo Packaging • Pacific Ag Pac  
Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Market  
Alladin Nursery & Gift Shop • Watsonville Ford  
Santa Cruz County Bank • Chevrolet of Watsonville  
Watsonville Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF OUR BAND FAMILY

#### **SUPPORTERS (\$250+)**

Pat Mintun-Bont • Larry Cordidon • Jeffery Collins  
Grant Erickson • Leon & Janet Mayou  
Tom & Thoma Mitchell • Bill & Janice Nicolosi  
Marilyn Rivers • Barbara Smith  
Clarice & Harry Wiggins

#### **BENEFACTORS (\$500+)**

Gail & Elizabeth Black • Bill & Allegra Bortin  
William J. Codiga Family Foundation  
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Roger Erickson • Clint & Karen Miller  
Rowland K. (Reb) & Pat Rebele  
Frank & Merrie Ann Turner  
Bob Graves and Judy Norton Charitable Family Fund  
The Sons and Daughters of Italy, Watsonville Lodge

