



## Music Notes

*News and information of interest to the members of the  
Freeport Community Band  
Winter 2018*

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Visit our Website: [www.freeportband.org](http://www.freeportband.org)



### **THE FCB MUSIC LIBRARY CONTINUES TO GROW**

#### **Meet Our New FCB Music Librarian**

In 2017, Terry Shirreffs (Flute) was elected Librarian of the Freeport Community Band succeeding Nathan Garfinkel (Clarinet/Associate Conductor) who served in that role for several years. Terry received her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY and a Master of Arts from CUNY Queens College in the field of Historical Musicology. She is currently Music Chairperson at Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead. In addition, she holds two

certificates in Educational Leadership from the College of St. Rose in Albany. One certificate is in the area of School Building Leadership and the other in School District Leadership. Terry plays flute with her church choir and will occasionally conduct the choir.

During the summer months Terry is one of the musical directors for the St. Thomas the Apostle Summer Theater program in West Hempstead a theater program for middle and high school students. Also in the summer she plays with the Farmingdale Village Pops.

### **Ever Wonder Where Our Music Comes From?**

Raoul Camus, renowned musician and “Conductor Laureate” of the FCB, led and conducted the Band until December 2010. It was under his outstanding leadership that the band grew significantly in size from fourteen members to over fifty and a vibrant concert schedule was developed.

As Conductor, Raoul kept the Band's entire music library in his home. The music that the Band played was selected by a music committee consisting of four FCB members and chaired by Nathan Garfinkel. After each piece of music was selected and performed at a concert, it was then stored in Nathan's home where it remained for several years. But a large amount of the Band's music remained with Raoul until it was merged with the music that was kept at Nathan's home. Nathan continued to recommend music for the Band and purchased and arranged the individual folders that we continue to use. Terry has continued to upgrade our music and music folders.

### **The Creation of the FCB Music Library**

The FCB is a part of the Freeport School District's Adult Education Program. Hence, we rehearse at the Freeport High School and on occasion at the Dodd Middle School. Last year the FCB Board of Directors approached Ruth Breidenbach, Coordinator of the Arts for the School District and explored the possibility of establishing a permanent home for our music. With Ruth's help our FCB Music Library is now housed adjacent to Ms. Breidenbach's offices at the Columbus Avenue School. In cooperation with Ms. Breidenbach and Michael Lasorsa, Director of Bands at the Freeport High School, we now have access to the High School's

music library which greatly expands the amount and type of music that is available to us.

### **How Much Music Is In Our Library?**

Our music has come from several sources over the years. Recently additional music was found at a local Freeport Fire Station from the days when we were the Freeport Fire Department Band. Some of the music was taken by Nathan Garfinkel to his home and some was taken to the Freeport United Methodist Church by the late Bob Raynor.

Our best estimate is that we have over 1000 arrangements in our files. And recently we received an additional donation of 225 charts from our band member, Ron Slomin (Bari Sax). Barry Howard (trombone, Secretary), has created a data base of our music but there are still a few boxes of music that were stored in the United Methodist Church which have not yet been added to our index.

The types of music that we have and the themes that we can offer to potential concert hosts include Broadway Shows, Military/Patriotic, Pop, Holiday, Classical, Movie Themes, etc.

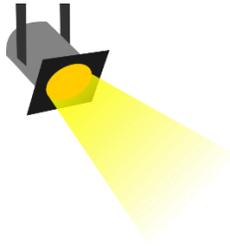
### **How Can You Help?**

Volunteers are needed to help sort, copy and file the music. Plans are being considered to do a complete overhaul and upgrading of the library this summer, a project which will require the assistance of many FCB volunteers. We would also welcome non-FCB member volunteers such as friends of Band members, high school and college students who have and interest in music.

### **A Word of Thanks**

Terry would like to thank those folks who have volunteered to help transport the music folders from rehearsal to rehearsal and invites others to become a part of this important team. If you want to assist with this please let Terry know. We're so glad to see so much growth in our library in recent years. If there is a particular piece of music you would like the band to play, just contact Terry at [tshirreffs@gmail.com](mailto:tshirreffs@gmail.com) to see if it's in our library.

## *Spotlight on Grace Palmisano (Clarinet)*



Henry Louis Gates, Jr. is probably best known for the popular PBS series “Finding Your Roots.” Week after week Gates brings his guests back in time to discover their roots, their ancestors and how and when their families came to the United States. Some were slaves and some were free men and women about to begin a new life in “the promised” land.

Grace Palmisano is the Henry Gates of the Freeport Community Band. But more about this later on.

When our band was in need of a webmaster it turned to Grace. She was a great choice and went to work immediately to update our website ([www.freeportband.org](http://www.freeportband.org)) and add many new features to assure that it would be both interesting and user friendly.

The number of hits (people who have visited the website) has grown and people from all over the country have come to the site. Some are just seeking general information about the Band while others are looking for a band experience and subsequently have become members of the FCB.

The website also provides the Long Island community with information about upcoming concerts as well as the history of our nearly one hundred year old Band, the music we play, our members and the awards that the Band has received. If you haven't yet visited the website, please do so.

In April, 2017 Grace was appointed to the position of Assistant Director of the Long Beach Public Library where she is responsible for the day to day operation of the Library for this community of over 33,000 residents. Prior to joining the Long Beach

Library, Grace was a member of the professional staff of the Franklin Square Public Library for fourteen years where she introduced many operational changes that made the library one of the best on Long Island.

Her academic history includes a BA in History from Adelphi University, a Master of Library Science from Queens College and an Advanced Certificate in Public Library Administration from LIU.

Grace's interest in music began when she was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and began to play the recorder. She enjoyed playing music even then. She credits this experience for her becoming a clarinetist because, as she says, "it looked like the recorder", even though she now says that the recorder is technically closer to a flute than a clarinet. And what was the first song that she played? Answer: "Merrily We Roll Along."

Grace joined the Freeport Community Band in January of 2015 at the behest of her friend and high school classmate, Erin Bennett (clarinet). Her hobbies include blogging ([rigbysmanse.blogspot.com](http://rigbysmanse.blogspot.com)), kayaking, arts & crafts, photography, baking, cooking and reading.

So where does Professor Henry Louis Gates fit in? Well Grace became interested in genealogy after doing a project for school. Some of her research involved reaching out to speak to as many relatives as possible. She recalls that she called her grandmother and asked why her relatives came to the States from Ireland? She thought that her grandmother told her that they left because of the "potato **salmon**" and included that fact in her report. Later on she came to understand that her grandmother was referring to the Irish potato "**famine**"!! (1845 to 1852)

Grace's interest in genealogy continues to this day. She has presented genealogy lectures at many community forums. (And she is also assisting our FCB President, Bill Rothchild, who is currently researching his family's history.)

So if you need help with your computer, finding a certain book or a lost relative, or a particular recipe etc., just turn to this wonderful, multi-talented young lady. She's got all the answers.



## **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY A GREAT SUCCESS**

Our sincere thanks go out to the **First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin** and its **Pastor, Adam Fischer**, for allowing us to again use their beautiful facility for our annual Holiday Party. We also want to acknowledge the role that **Zach Downing**(sax) played in making sure that the arrangements with the Church were complete. Zach is a member of the Church.

And a special thanks to our FCB members who set up the social hall for the post-concert party and meal. The room looked beautiful, the food was yummy and the ambience was outstanding.

During the concert a special award was present to **Ruth Breidenbach**, Coordinator of the Arts and Community Relations for the Freeport Schools. Ruth has supported our Band for many years and is always available to lend a hand.

In addition, our Band received the **Mayor's Certificate of Recognition** from Freeport Village Mayor, Robert T. Kennedy. The Certificate states that *"On behalf of the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Freeport, this is in recognition of the Freeport Community Band at their annual holiday party. We appreciate your dedication to enrich our community with music over the years. At this momentous occasion we offer our best wishes for continued success in the future. Congratulations!"*

### **MUSICIANS, TAKE NOTE: WHY PROTECTING YOUR HEARING IS SOUND ADVICE**

According to researchers, musicians are nearly four times more likely than others to suffer from noise-induced hearing loss and more than twice as likely to experience tinnitus as a result of their jobs. Considering the number of hours musicians practice and perform, it's likely that without protection, musicians are putting their hearing at risk. (Excerpted from an article by Dr. Esther Fogel of Comprehensive Audiology in Lynbrook ([info@compresensiveaudiology.com](mailto:info@compresensiveaudiology.com))).



## **2018 Freeport Community Band Calendar**

Additional Dates to Be Added Upon Confirmation

February 26 Rehearsal

March 12 & 26 Rehearsals

April 9 & 23(Note A) Rehearsals

May 7 & 21(Note A) Rehearsals

June 4(Note A), 18 Rehearsal

June 3 (Sunday) 2:30PM- Concert at Our Lady of Consolation, West Islip

June 15 (Friday) 8:00 PM-Concert at the Sousa Band Shell, Port Washington

July 12 (Thursday) 7:00 PM Concert on the Freeport Esplanade Nautical Mile

**Note A**=Tentative. We may use an alternate site such as the Music Room at the Dodd Middle School, 25 Pine St., in Freeport.

### **The Freeport Community Band Board of Directors 2017-2018**

President-Bill Rothchild  
Conductor-Sandra Vigliotti  
Vice-President-Dale Allinson  
Vice-President-Josh Stein  
Secretary-Barry Howard

Community Relations-Frank Barbuzza  
Treasurer-Peter Ekstrom  
Librarian-Terry Shirreffs  
Webmaster-Grace Palmisano  
Ombudsman-Jeanette Hartmann

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR-WE STAND CORRECTED!

**Editor's Note:** In the last issue of *Music Notes* we reprinted a story from another source about the late Mitch Miller. Following the appearance of that story we received a response from Vinnie Scire (clarinet) about the accuracy of the piece. We thank Vinnie for setting the record straight. Here are Vinnie's comments.

*Here are a few corrections. It is mentioned that there was a bouncing ball by each lyric. WRONG! There was no bouncing ball. The lyrics would move upward two at a time.*

*Many singers were mentioned whom Miller promoted. I never recalled Miller promoting Aretha Franklin. They forgot one more singer, Leslie Uggams who later became a well-known soloist and actress as well.*

*Also, an actual member of "Mitch Miller and the Gang" went on to be a co-host of Sesame Street. I am referring to Bob McGrath. Not only did McGrath sing with the gang, but also sang many solos on the "Sing Along with Mitch" TV show.*

*Finally, "Sing Along With Mitch" did not go off the air because of the "rise of rock 'n' roll music." Miller's earliest hits "Yellow Rose of Texas," "River Kwai March," "The Children's Marching Song," and "Do Re Mi" were hits at the same time rock 'n' roll was underway. This was between 1955 and 1960.*

*It was the British invasion that not only stymied Doo Wop, but stymied all the careers of the famed crooners of the 1950's. Thus, the Beatles and their followers from England also ended the TV show "Sing Along With Mitch" in 1964 and the famous "Mitch Miller and The Gang" in 1965. If you ever listen to Mitch Miller's versions of "The Children's Marching Song" and "Do Re Mi", you will notice many young children singing with the gang. I always wondered if they were the children of the Sing Along gang.*

*I remember the famous "Sing Along with Mitch" TV show from January 1961 to September 1964. I have the original version of Mitch Miller's first album, "Sing Along with Mitch" which came out in the fall of 1958. I do not intend to give this up (unless the price is right!).*