

**Local  
Residents  
Unite *To*  
Rediscover  
Their Love  
For Music**

By Alice Hicks

**CY-FAIR'S  
COMMUNITY  
BAND**



Community band to play for coming events

As the sounds of summer fade away, replace them with something new. Chill out with Carmichael or hang loose with Handel at a Cy-Fair Community Band concert. The nonprofit band, which rehearses at Lone Star College - Cy-Fair, is made up of members of all ages and plays a diverse range of music from Disney themes to Dvorak. "We're extremely pleased to have the Community Band rehearsing and performing in our Center for the Arts," says Celia Barnes, Lone Star's Fine Arts Coordinator. "It's wonderful to meet members from our local community and to have the opportunity to listen to talented musicians of all ages."

Founding member Bill Howard says the band is open to anyone interested. "Young and old are welcome," says Howard. "Membership is open to anyone who wants to play concert band music. No tryouts are required."

### PRELUDE

The band formed in April 2007 and consisted of 12 to 15 members. Band Manager John Bowden says the band began in an effort to provide concert music in a convenient location. "There are a number of very good community bands in the Houston area," says Bowden. "But we felt that none of these were near enough to the Cy-Fair area. Also, none of the existing bands has a goal of serving the Cy-Fair community."

So far the band has played an Independence Day concert at a Copperfield park, but hopes to play much more for the community in the future. "I would like to see the band play two or three more concerts by the year's end," says Howard. Howard added that the band's wide variety of musical styles appeal to all ages in the community. "We serve the community by providing music and entertainment for its many people, events, and functions," says Howard. "The band plays light and heavy concert band music, marches, patriotic, and Christmas music."

### FIRST MOVEMENT

The band's current instrumentation consists of: flute, Bb clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, bass saxophone, cornet/trumpet, baritone, euphonium, trombone, French horn, and percussion. Some pieces also require the addition of harp. Bowden says the band's goals include adding more members, especially more cornet/trumpet players, to round out the group.

**Membership is open to anyone who wants to play concert band music and no tryouts are required.** - John Bowden

"We would like to build the band into a well-balanced organization which includes all the standard concert band instrumentation," says Bowden.

The band welcomes guest conductors, including high school and college drum majors, while seeking a permanent conductor. John Wolfskill, Lone Star - Cy-Fair's Music and Band Director, is currently conducting the band. "I'm very excited that they've asked me to direct," says Wolfskill. "They've been very kind and welcomed me with open arms." Wolfskill says the Community Band will have a lot more opportunities to play in collaboration with the Lone Star - Cy-Fair Symphonic Band, including a concert in early November at the college. "They play well and have good music backgrounds," says Wolfskill of the Community Band. "This is only the nucleus of what is to become."

### FINALE

The band is made up of students, professionals, and retirees. The members have diverse backgrounds including engineering, software consulting, and education. Bowden has a degree in naval architecture and has played in community bands before. Howard is a software consultant by day and volunteers on the weekends. **CFM**

*ALICE HICKS is a freelance writer and mother of two. She plays bassoon, piano, and various percussion instruments.*

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