

THE PATRIOTS SYMPHONIC BAND PRESENTS

*A Christmas to*  
**REMEMBER**

DR. JOHN KNIGHT, CONDUCTOR



SUNDAY  
**DECEMBER 14, 2025**

3:00PM | LCCC STOCKER ARTS CENTER



# Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for A Christmas to Remember! Get into the holiday spirit as you enjoy some of our favorite music!

*As a courtesy to audience members and performers, please turn off cellular telephones and all portable electronic devices. This will ensure that everyone has a pleasant musical listening experience. THANK YOU!*

For more information on the Patriots Symphonic Band, including dates and locations of future performances, please visit [www.patriotsband.com](http://www.patriotsband.com)

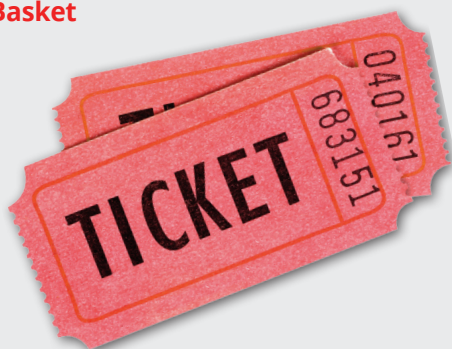
# Merry Christmas!

## Win **FREE TICKETS** and Support the Band!

Raffle tickets will be sold in the lobby before the concert and during intermission. Tickets are **\$10 for 2** and **\$20 for 5**. The winner must be present to win.

**One winner will receive the Raffle Basket valued at \$360 which includes:**

- 2 tickets to any Cleveland Orchestra performance through May 2026, orchestra level
- 4 tickets to the Patriots Symphonic Band Spring 2026 Concert on March 28, 2026
- 2 Music Speaks T-Shirts



**Winning raffle ticket will be drawn during the second half of tonight's concert!**

**Dance of the Jesters** ..... P.I. Tchaikovsky  
Arranged by Ray Cramer

**A Festive Christmas** ..... Kenny Bierschenk

**Have Yourself a Merry  
Little Christmas** ..... Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane  
Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner  
*John Kerr, Soloist*

**Sleigh Ride** ..... Leroy Anderson

**Cantique de Noel** ..... Adolphe Adam  
Arranged by Chip Davis, Adapted by Robert Longfield

**Celtic Carol** ..... Traditional  
Arranged by Robert W. Smith

**Finlandia** ..... Jean Sibelius  
Transcribed by Mark H. Hindsley

## *Intermission*

**Carol of the Bells** ..... M. Leontovich and P. Wilhousky  
Arranged by Sean O'Loughlin

**Salvation is Created** ..... Tschesnokoff  
Arranged by Bruce H. Houseknecht

**Alleluia! Laudamus Te** ..... Alfred Reed

**A Christmas Festival** ..... Leroy Anderson

**Christmas Sing-A-Long** ..... Arranged by James D. Ployhar  
*Brenda Pongracz, Guest Vocalist*

# ***The Patriots Symphonic Band Members***

**Dr. John W. Knight**, *Conductor, Wellington*

**Brian Burke**, *Concert Narrator*

## **FLUTE**

Cindy Becker *manager*  
(retired), Rocky River

Gina Bitonte *dentist, Shaker Heights*

Gretchen Burmeister *funeral*  
*director (retired), Avon Lake*

Stacy Hetrick *scopist, Lakewood*

Barbara Lucas *business*  
*educator (retired), Avon*

Tracey Maxwell *program*  
*director (retired), Berea*

Laurie Miller *clergy (retired), Elyria*

Gretchen Moore *registered*  
*nurse, North Ridgeville*

Jill Murrell *music educator*  
(retired), Sheffield Lake

Amanda Shalkhauser *industrial*  
*hygienist, Grafton*

Amy Stoessel *business*  
*development, North Ridgeville*

## **PICCOLO**

Stacy Hetrick *scopist, Lakewood*

## **OBOE**

Kim Weaver *operating room nurse*  
(retired), Columbia Station

## **CLARINET**

Teri Alten *medical technologist,*  
*North Ridgeville*

Melanie Birchfield *executive*  
*secretary (retired), Birmingham*

Brian Burke *minister (retired),*  
*Wellington*

Sheryl Cawrse *winery owner, Huron*

Rebecca Darby *911 dispatcher,*  
*North Ridgeville*

Diane Diekroger *college*  
*counselor (retired), Avon*

## **CLARINET CONT.**

Mary Jo Shalkhauser *engineer*  
(retired), Amherst

Barbara Sherman *teacher*  
(retired), Avon Lake

Karen Sokol *music teacher*  
(retired), North Ridgeville

Karen Sprague *educator*  
(retired), Elyria

Joe Szabo *lineman (retired), Amherst*

## **BASS CLARINET**

Lee Shoemaker *engineer, Avon Lake*

## **BASSOON**

Carol Burke *music teacher*  
(retired), Wellington

Melanie Nichols *programmer,*  
*Garfield Heights*

## **ALTO SAXOPHONE**

Tara Habenicht *high school*  
*teacher, North Ridgeville*

John Kerr *plant manager*  
(retired), Fairview Park

## **TENOR SAXOPHONE**

Janice Peak *teacher, Sheffield Lake*

Brad Vandasik *engineer, Berea*

## **BARITONE SAXOPHONE**

Leah Schmitz *physician*  
*assistant, Avon*

## **TRUMPET**

Debbie Chase *quality control*  
*clerk (retired), Wellington*

Megan Dobos *student, Oberlin*

Dave Hager *music educator*  
(retired), Westlake

Bill Kannen *software business*  
*owner (retired), Oberlin*

Don Kraps *clergy (retired), Cleveland*

## TRUMPET CONT.

Laurel Lloyd *community band director, Westlake*

Sandra Orland *IT solution architect, Brooklyn Heights*

Mark Shoemaker *architect (retired), Huron*

Peter Struk *engineer, Olmsted Falls*

James Tinsley *professional musician, Oberlin*

## FRENCH HORN

Beth Boudreau *teacher (retired), Vermilion*

Gretchen Calderhead *senior legal assistant, North Olmsted*

Jay Calderhead *music teacher, North Olmsted*

Tyler Harmon *business analyst, Strongsville*

Susan Pack *music teacher, Lorain*

Benjamin Washburn *GM Jim Pizza Box, Huron*

## TROMBONE

Dan Brady *carpenter (retired), North Ridgeville*

Mike Brawley *teacher (retired), Elyria*

Mitch Cramer *Auto Worker, North Ridgeville*

Jeff Krejci *insurer, North Olmsted*

Frank Lupinski *teacher (retired), LaGrange*

Don Pincombe *US Army/security mgr. (retired), North Ridgeville*

Dave Weaver *chemical engineer (retired), Columbia Station*

Steve Wiersma *engineer (retired), Westlake*

## EUPHONIUM

Gail Hayden *teacher (retired), LaGrange*

Aaron Schlosser *Chemical Engineer, Gibsonburg*

Kurt Shalkhauser *engineer (retired), Amherst*

## EUPHONIUM CONT.

Jon Sokol *music teacher (retired), North Ridgeville*

## TUBA

Walter Diekroger *VA hospital chaplain (retired), Avon*

Kevin Mayle *3D digital engineer, Westlake*

Gary Twining *wine wholesaler (retired)/ wine writer, Elyria*

## PERCUSSION

Clarence Barber *composer/ music editor/publisher, Elyria*

Jill Cornell *piano/percussion teacher, LaGrange*

Sharon Dixon *church administrator (retired), Westlake*

David Eddleman *band director (retired), Avon Lake*

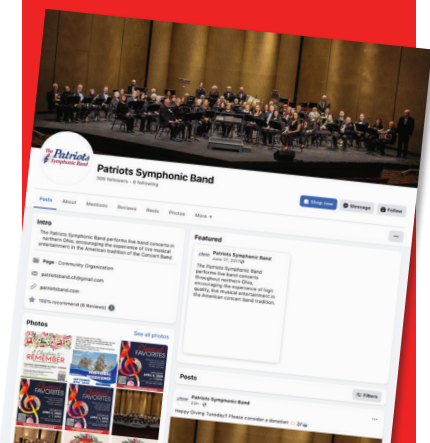
Darryl Mika *music teacher, Berea*

Anna Sawyer *student, Elyria*

Rick Snodgrass *purchasing agent (retired), Wellington*

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[facebook.com/patriotssymphonicband](https://facebook.com/patriotssymphonicband)





**DR. JOHN KNIGHT** is Professor Emeritus of Conducting and Ensembles and Music Education at Oberlin Conservatory, Oberlin, Ohio. A member of the Oberlin Conservatory community since 1978, he served as chairman of the Conducting Division for many years, retiring in 2013. Dr. Knight received his baccalaureate degree from the University of Central Arkansas and masters and doctoral degrees from Louisiana State University. He is a guest conductor of professional orchestras and bands, all state and honor

ensembles throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia at such venues as the Sir Adrian Boult Hall in Birmingham, England; Severance Hall, Cleveland, Ohio; Chicago Orchestra Hall; and in 2016 in Carnegie Hall, New York.

Dr. Knight is on the board of directors for The Instrumentalist magazine where he has had over 100 published articles on conducting. For his articles he received the Citation of Excellence for creative writing from the Educational Press Association of America. Dr. Knight is the author of The Interpretive Wind Band Conductor published by Meredith Music Publications in 2007, which is devoted to the conducting pedagogy needed for the interpretation of major concert band repertoire, and The Golden Age of Conductors, published by Meredith in 2010, which is an interpretive analysis of musical masterworks by twenty great maestros from Arturo Toscanini to Carlos Kleiber. Dr. Knight is also co-author of the popular textbook "Prelude to Music Education," published by Prentice Hall which is used in college classrooms throughout the USA.

**THE PATRIOTS SYMPHONIC BAND**, established in 1977 as an American-style hometown concert band, has been providing fun and enriching music to the community for nearly 50 years! The Band, one of the largest and most active non-profit music organizations, draws its volunteer musicians from more than 25 communities across northeast Ohio. Band members range in age from their teens to their nineties demonstrating that playing an instrument is an enjoyable lifelong experience.

The Patriots Band plays several concerts each year and has performed in local town squares and schools as well as Severance Hall and at several Ohio Music Educators Association professional conferences. The Band provides fun and enriching music to both listeners and musicians.

**Have questions or want the band to perform somewhere?**  
*Email us at [patriotsband.oh@gmail.com](mailto:patriotsband.oh@gmail.com)*

## PATRIOTS SYMPHONIC BAND METRONOME SOCIETY

*Northeast Ohio's best 501(c)(3) nonprofit music ensemble*



# Support the Band!

The Patriots Symphonic Band is one of northeast Ohio's largest and most active nonprofit, volunteer music organizations.



*To support the band and  
give a donation, scan the  
code or visit our website!*

[www.patriotsband.com/sponsor.html](http://www.patriotsband.com/sponsor.html)



### Visit Midview High School Junior, Samantha McDonough,

in the lobby to learn about her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Samantha is raising funds to create an all-inclusive music-based play area for children. Stop by her table and purchase a t-shirt to support her effort to bring music to everyone!

## Patriots Symphonic Band **METRONOME SOCIETY PATRONS**

*Updated 12/2/25*

### **PRESTO \$1,000+**

Dr. Gina Bitonte  
Dr. John & Kay Knight

### **VIVACE \$500+**

### **ALLEGRO \$250+**

Carol & Brian Burke  
Tom & Barb Lucas

### **MODERATO \$100+**

Kevin & Cindy Becker  
Gretchen Burmeister  
Gail Hayden  
Jim & Tracey Maxwell  
Laurie Miller & Paul Jaster  
Jill Murrell  
Sandra Orland

### **ADAGIO \$50+**

Don Krapps  
Michael & Laurel Lloyd  
Gretchen Moore  
Leslie & Lee Shoemaker  
Amy Stoessel  
Peter & Michele Struk

### **LARGO \$25+**

Karen & Dave Sprague

### **CORPORATE SUPPORT**

The Cleveland Orchestra  
Nordson Corporation  
Paper Moon Winery

## **PATRIOTS SYMPHONIC BAND LEADERSHIP**

*\*denotes board member*

Tracey Maxwell, President\*

Gretchen Moore, Membership &  
Communications\*

Sandra Orland, Marketing & Outreach\*

Lee Shoemaker, Scheduling\*

Cindy Skelton-Becker, Fundraising\*

Brian Burke, Treasurer

Kay Knight, Librarian

Mary Jo Shalkhauser, Website

Dave Weaver, Sound Recordings

## **2026 Concert Schedule**

*Check website for additional concert  
dates and to confirm concert details as  
sometimes plans change*

### **Spring Concert**

Saturday, March 28, 7:30PM  
LCCC Stocker Arts Center

### **Paper Moon Vineyards Concert**

Saturday, June 27, 7:00PM  
2008 State Road, Vermilion

### **Independence Day Celebration**

Tuesday, July 3, 7:00PM  
Wellington Town Square

### **Put-in-Bay Concert**

Date - August 1st or 2nd  
Perry's Victory & International  
Peace Memorial

### **Holiday Concert 2026**

Sunday, December 13, 3:00PM  
LCCC Stocker Arts Center



*The* **Patriots**  
Symphonic Band

[www.patriotsband.com](http://www.patriotsband.com)

