



IN THE MOOD

The Olney Big Band
NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2006

Volume 1

Dear Members:

Welcome to the first run of The Olney Big Band Newsletter. Our goal is to provide a space where we can share ideas and information that will enhance the experience of being a member of The Olney Big Band. This is your newsletter, so feel free to provide input for articles and features.



Special Dates:

Gigs:

Aug 17, 26
Sep 10, 17, 25
Oct 8, 26, 28, 29

Recording:

Sep 24

Rehearsals:

Aug 21
Sep 11
Oct 2, 16, 30

*See inside for full
schedule details*

Letter to the Editor

A hearty welcome to all the music lovers who have an opportunity to read this new attractive publication. It is the first edition to be published and I hope there will be many more.

What is so attractive? It's the fact that this publication speaks for and about an excellent musical aggregation headquartered in Montgomery County, Maryland. It's the fact that its name should be welcome to all jazz/swing music lovers in the nation: THE OLNEY JAZZ TROUPE, dba THE OLNEY BIG BAND.

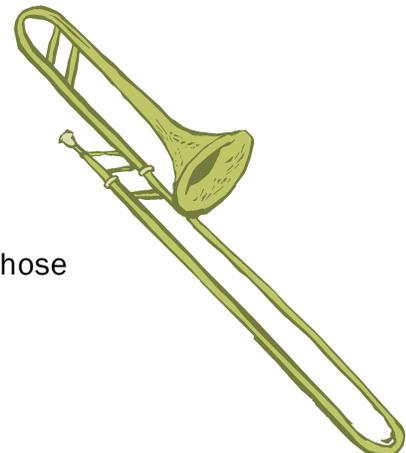
It's the fact that the OJT is led by our skillful jazz director, Rip Rice. We all love Rip and admire his deep knowledge of jazz/swing music. It's the fact that when this band opens up under the direction of Rip Rice with its theme song, "S'Wonderful", listeners will hear our five-piece reed section, five trumpeters, four trombonists, four rhythmesters, and two excellent vocalists.

It's the fact that the theme song will be followed by historic tunes made famous by Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Artie Shaw, Woody Herman and the like. It's the fact that our music library is prepared for us to play additional numbers such as waltzes, jump tunes, fox trots, and Latin numbers. It's the fact that this combination of jazz, swing, and romantic music is guaranteed to trigger memories of college day proms and concerts as audience members enjoy dancing with their favorite partner.

In the words of Frank Sinatra, "'Big Band' in the 30s and 40s meant ten musicians or more. As long as there was the feeling of teamwork, of a group of saxophones blending and a tightly knit brass section, it qualified. Those bands ranged from the Guy Lombardos and Wayne Kings on through the Goodmans, Ellingtons, and Dorseys. Regardless of which segment of the public they aimed at, the big bands became vitally important, at home and abroad. In the years between the first two world wars, some of our greatest bands toured all over the world, and wherever they went, they told a little bit about America."

And so, dear readers, we invite you to relive those sounds with us TODAY!!! AND TOMORROW!!!

Bob Redding, trumpet section



The Olney Big Band Board News

SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA DANCES

Barry Schwartz (B.J. Pumpnickel's) has offered us the opportunity to play for monthly Sunday afternoon Tea Dances at the Ballroom (2-5 pm) in addition to our monthly brunches. For the balance of 2006, there are two Sunday afternoons with no interference from Redskins games -- Sept. 17th and Oct. 29th. Assuming that the two 2006 Tea Dances are successful, Barry will plan to hold monthly Tea Dances starting at the end of the Redskins' football season.

NAME CHANGE

After due consideration, your board has determined that we are now The Olney Big Band, and appropriate changes in our web site and flyers are being made immediately.

BAND WORK ASSIGNMENTS

Band Section Leaders will be receiving a list of Tasks relative to the responsibilities of each section spreading the chores of setting up and tearing down -- hopefully that should ensure smoother transitions.

OLNEY COMMUNITY BAND SHELL

It has been suggested that the Community of Olney should have a Band Shell somewhere so that the Olney Big Band, the Olney Community Band, and other groups can perform in a musically oriented venue. The Board agrees with this concept and will support it. Glenn Ochsenreiter (trumpet section) has agreed to serve as OBB Point Person for the Olney Community Band Shell Project. He and wife Nancy will be coordinating with point persons of other Olney community groups to help make this Band Shell a reality as soon as possible.

THE BIG BAND SOCIETY

The Olney Big Band already is a member of the Potomac River Jazz Club, and will be joining The Big Band Society shortly.

OBB RECORDING

Glenn Ochsenreiter has accepted the assignment of Chairman of the Recording Committee, reporting to the OBB Board of Directors. His initial role will be to oversee any recordings that are made of the Band, and to provide advice in producing recordings.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS

Official OBB documents are available upon request. Please contact Rip with requests for Board Minutes, and Dave Schumer for copies of legal papers (By-Laws, Articles of Incorporation, IRS paperwork, etc.).

Songwriters Hall of Fame

Henry Mancini was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 16, 1924.

The Mancini filmography is one of the most extensive and honored in history including scores for films like The Glenn Miller Story, The Benny Goodman Story, Touch of Evil, Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961 Academy Award for Best Score), High Time, Bachelor in Paradise, Charade, Man's Favorite Sport, Days of Wine and Roses, The Pink Panther, A Shot in the Dark, and The Great Imposter.

Mancini also wrote the background scores for the television show Peter Gunn (winning the Grammy award for best score in 1958).

Collaborating with lyricists Johnny Mercer, Mancini produced such hits as "Moon River" (1951 Academy and Grammy awards for best song in a film), and "Days of Wine and Roses" (1962 Academy and Grammy awards for best song in a film).

Article Courtesy
Songwriters
Hall of Fame



Bob Redding blows one a' la Harry James at the Sandy Spring Firehouse Brunch performance.

Player Spotlight

Robert (Bob) Redding's musical experience began more than 80 years ago. As a farm boy from Indiana he played piano for religious services at his local rural church, beginning at age 5. During his grade school years he began playing cornet; and by his senior year in high school, he had shifted to trumpet and had won second place in a statewide music contest. After high school he attended Ohio State University and Georgetown University School of Law where he received his law degree. He played in the OSU football and concert bands and also played jazz gigs to help pay for college expenses. During those years he headed up a five piece jazz band called the "Ohio State Collegians" and for two summers in 1938 and 1939 he traveled to Europe playing on shipboard to entertain passengers. Over the years, he has played jazz trumpet in many groups, performed at business conventions and sit-in sessions at Preservation Hall in New Orleans. He once had the privilege of playing "Taps" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery.

For more than 25 years, he played and sang Masonic and popular music; and, for a decade, he managed the music program for the Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite Masons in Washington, D. C. However, a couple years ago at age 85, he stepped down from these responsibilities.

Bob believes that playing in The Olney Big Band is a real privilege and at 87 is excited about his new adventure in Big Band Jazz.

Bob at the Grand Opening of the Olney Theatre Complex.



Not only is Harry James his musical inspiration, Bob once carried Harry's trumpet case.



OBB Schedule

GIGS

Thursday, Aug 17 -- 7:30-9 pm -- Olney Village Center outdoor Concert.

Saturday, Aug. 26 -- 7-10 pm -- Leisure World, Crystal Ballroom.**

Sunday, Sept. 10 -- brunch at the Ballroom -- we play 10-11 am and 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Sunday, Sept. 17 -- TEA DANCE at the Ballroom -- 2-5 pm -- with Super Smorgasbord.

Sunday, Sept. 24 -- 1-5 pm @ the Ballroom -- RECORDING -- but still tentative, depending on availability of trombones. Stay tuned.

Monday, Sept. 25 -- 7-8 pm -- outdoor concert @ Brooke Grove Retirement Village (Sandy Spring) -- no rehearsal this night).

Sunday, Oct. 8 -- brunch at the Ballroom -- we play 10-11 am and 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Saturday, Oct. 14 -- 3-4 pm -- Olney Library.

Thursday, Oct. 26 -- 7-9 pm -- Harvest Moon Ball, Rockville Senior Center.

Saturday, Oct. 28 -- 7-10 pm -- Leisure World Ballroom Dance Club.

Sunday, Oct. 29 -- TEA DANCE at the Ballroom -- 2-5 pm -- with Super Smorgasbord.

REHEARSALS

Mondays

Aug 21 -- Sept. 11 -- full band

Oct 2, 16, 30 -- full band

* Ballroom at Sandy Spring:
<http://www.ballroomatsandyspring.com/index.html>

** Closed to Public

Moments in Big Band History

WEBB "CUTS" BASIE IN SWING BATTLE

Big Band Music Battle At The Savoy

January 1938

New York, N.Y. - The much heralded Battle of Swing between Chick Webb's and Count Basie's bands took place Sunday Night at the Savoy Ballroom. The affair drew a record attendance and hundreds were turned away at the box office, with the crowds tying up traffic for several blocks in that vicinity. Applause for both bands was tremendous and it was difficult to determine which band was the more popular.

A highlight of the evening was reached when Duke Ellington was persuaded to play some piano and sounded so good that Basie's band picked it up and swung right along with him. General consensus of opinion agreed that both bands played magnificently making the decision a close one. There was good feeling all round, and it was decided that there would be a return battle in the near future.

Norma Miller,
Downbeat Magazine

LEGENDS OF JAZZ

By Roger Aldridge

Don Redman is credited by jazz historians as being the first great arranger in jazz. In the late 1920s Redman, in collaboration with Fletcher Henderson, developed many of the fundamental concepts for a large jazz ensemble in balancing the written arrangement with solo improvisation. Influenced by Louis Armstrong's jazz phrasing, the swinging style of Don Redman's innovative arrangements -- in stark contrast to the overly formal and "sweet" music of the commercial society bands of the day -- became a model for the great swing bands that followed in the 30s and 40s. All of us who love big band music owe a great debt of gratitude to Don Redman.

Editor's Note: Don Redman can be heard occasionally on Comcast Cable Channel 426 (Big Band & Swing) -- commercial-free, uninterrupted Big Band music.

