

**Gateway City Big Band
MISSION STATEMENT**

The *Gateway City Big Band, Inc.*, a non-profit corporation, provides advanced jazz education and performance opportunities for participating musicians. Through its performances, it strives to promote public awareness of the “big band” style of music, to encourage and support music education at the secondary school level, and to assist other non-profit groups with fundraising.

**Gateway City Big Band
Schedule**

Consult our website at:

<http://www.gatewaycitybigband.com/>

Sunday, May 15, 2011

American Legion Hall in Columbia, IL (1 Memorial Drive) at 7-10 pm.

Friday, June 10, 2011

Maryland Heights concert series from 7-9 pm at the Creve Coeur Sailboat Pavilion in Creve Coeur Park.

Saturday, June 11, 2011

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church (808 N. Mason Rd) annual “Concert Under the Stars” at 7-9:30 pm. 314-434-5906 for information and table reservations.

Sunday, June 12, 2011

Gentry Park band shell (4201 Fee Rd., Bridgeton, MO) at 6-8 pm.

Saturday, June 25, 2011

Kirkwood Area Arts Council's “Making Music” concert series at 7-9 pm at Kirkwood Park (Geyer and Adams) in the Amphitheater.

President's Message

The February newsletter was the last edited by Phil Vonder Haar, who passed away in March. With this edition, Dennis Owsley, a member of our Board of Directors and well-known host of KWMU's jazz show Jazz Unlimited, assumes the role of editor. We are thrilled that Dennis, with his obvious wealth of knowledge and experience, has offered to assume the role. But we are still a little in shock over the suddenness of Phil's passing.

There are many factors that make up the GCBB experience from the musician's perspective, but perhaps the best over the years has been the opportunity to play alongside musicians like Phil; those that lived the big band experience, played the style as it was meant to be played, and were willing to constantly share their knowledge and stories.



Phil had a ton of both experience and stories. He was in the 24th Division Army Band in occupied Japan. He played with Nick Stuart, a 20's era movie star and his “Movie-land Band”, touring, recording, and making TV appearances. He backed performers such as Victor Borge and Liberace in Las Vegas. He played with many local and regional bands, and was playing in a broadcast from the Chase Hotel on the day he asked his wife Jane to marry him. Somehow he knew

exactly how many previous times he had played at the Casa Loma Ballroom (well into the hundreds).

My lasting memory of Phil will be his dedication to his friends in the band, chasing down the final details for his last newsletter. He pushed a little harder than usual for article contributions and facts he needed – he understood the severity of his disease and we didn't. The newsletter was published, Phil forwarded instructions for editing future newsletters, and he resigned from the band with as much notice as he could give. He finished all that he started, and left us with great memories.

Rick Sharp, President

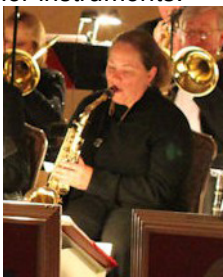
**Bix Beiderbecke in
St. Louis**

The Arcadia Ballroom, located at 3515-23 Olive Street, was home base for trumpeter Bix Beiderbecke and c-melody saxophonist Frank Trumbauer from the fall of 1925 through the spring of 1926. During this engagement, Trumbauer coached Bix on his phrasing. Their recording, Singin' the Blues is a result of this coaching.

The band had St. Louisan Pee Wee Russell and Bud Hassler, a member of the symphony. Hassler was instrumental in getting Bix to attend symphony concerts, where he fell in love with the music of Delius and Ravel. Bix's four piano pieces (In a Mist, etc.) seem to date from this experience.

Meet Alesia White

Alesia White has subbed on the Gateway City Big Band for about two years before recently becoming a full time member. She began piano lessons at age 5 and found that music suited her. In 6th grade she joined her school band and began playing clarinet. During this period she learned to play other instruments.



While in Union High School, Alesia earned top ratings in solos and small ensembles in State Competitions and also made All-State Band and All-State Jazz Band. She was the first student

from her school to attend the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. She was awarded the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award along with the John Philip Sousa Band Award at Union High School.

Alesia attended Southwest Missouri State University, pursuing a degree in Saxophone Performance. While at SMSU she studied with Randy Hamm and played in all the jazz bands and in quite a few other ensembles. Alesia also performed with the Orchestra as a winner of the Concerto Competition.

She is currently in her second year of working with the band program in Salem, working with the marching band, doing camps, rehearsals, and writing the show music. She also revived the jazz band, growing it from a combo to a big band this year.



The **Quarter Notes** is the official publication of the *Gateway City Big Band, Inc.*, a non-profit organization. It is published quarterly in November, February, May and August.

For changes, additions or cancellations to the Quarter Notes email list, contact **Karen Sharp** by phone: **314-542-9276** or email: **Karendkelly@juno.com**.

For comments, additions or corrections to the **Quarter Notes**, contact **Dennis Owsley** by email: **dcowsley@mvp.net**

To book the band, obtain band photos or other information, contact our **Business Manager, Jerry Wood** by phone: **314-739-4918** or by email: **mus-tangsvo@sbcglobal.net**

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Newsletter