

294 Musical Notes

*The Official Newsletter of the Lancaster-York
Federation of Musicians*
Affiliated with the American Federation of Musicians
www.lancasteryorkmusicians.org

Lancaster-York
Musicians
40 Wynwood Drive
Mountville, PA
17554
717-285-3564
July-August 2015

BROWN BAG VARIETIES SET FOR SUMMER 2015

Once again the popular Brown Bag Varieties will be heard in downtown Lancaster, thanks to the organizing work of Ann Nye and the financial support of several area businesses and professional firms. The summertime variety

show is a showcase for Local 294 bands running over the noon hour thru Labor Day. Thanks are extended to band leaders and sidemen who agreed to participate. Lancaster in Summer wouldn't be the same without them.

2015 Summer Brown Bag Series Schedule

Fulton Bank Quadrant – 11:45 to 12:30

-
- 6/26 For the Love of Jazz: Jazz Standards
 - 7/3 Todd Fulginiti Quintet: Jazz inflected Pop/R&B
 - 7/7 Hot Rod and Hippie: Stephen Foster to the Kinks and beyond
 - 7/10 Marty's One Man Band: Summertime Sing-A-Long
 - 7/17 Bravura Brass: Marches, Show tunes, and Light Popular Music
 - 7/24 The Clarions: Light Classics to Pops
 - 7/31 Lancaster Brass Quintet: Broadway, Ragtime and Patriotic
 - 8/7 Dixieland Express: New Orleans Style Dixieland and Vintage Jazz
 - 8/14 Lancaster Trombone Quartet: Variety of Big Band, Broadway and Showtunes
 - 8/21 Lancaster Wind Quintet: Light Classical, Pops and Broadway
 - 8/28 Dave Wilson Quartet: Contemporary Jazz
 - 9/4 Saxology: Classical, Jazz, Pops, and Marches

...AND DON'T FORGET TO THANK THESE SPONSORS WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE

PROGRAM SPONSOR

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Listening is just the beginning

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Acknowledgements

Lancaster Parking Authority
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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – BILL HICKS

For Bill Hicks, an AFM member for over 40 years, there was never a question about what he wanted to do for a living growing up in Lorain, Ohio. He wanted to play trumpet at the highest level and with the best musicians in the country.

Knowing that he had to get from his sleepy hometown on the shores of Lake Erie to Los Angeles to fulfill this dream, he joined the U.S. Army following graduation from Clearview High School. He got a commitment from his recruiter for a posting as a musician at Fort McArthur in San Pedro, passing up more prestigious postings in the east, so that he could be close to and learn from the elite studio musicians in the L.A. area.

In addition to his ceremonial duties with the 72nd U.S. Army Band from 1970 to 1973, he played first chair in the concert band and lead with the post dance band. But there was never a doubt that when his enlistment was over he would try his hand as a professional performer.

After his honorable discharge, he joined L.A. Local 47 and began playing with rehearsal bands and orchestras. Like any musician trying to make a living, he took just about anything he could get; Latin bands, weddings, club dates, Disneyland, recording, big bands.



Bill (Center) With Harry James The King of Brass,” regarded among the top players and instructors around. Bill remembers, “I was warming up with some exercises from the Gordon method. Someone asked me if I wanted to meet Claude. He was studying with him and took me to his next lesson.”

That meeting was a turning point in Bill’s professional life. He began studying trumpet with Gordon and continued for 17 years. He credits the “Systematic Approach to Daily Practice,” taught the correct way by its author, with developing his playing to the elusive “next level.”

As his skills became known, he got more work, eventually landing a job as lead trumpet with the Harry James Orchestra in 1976.

In the three years that followed, he toured and played with some of the biggest names in show business. He also played with the Bob Crosby, Alvino Rey, Jimmy Dorsey, and Ray Anthony bands. [Click here for a listing of Bill’s professional playing credits.](#)

It was in the late 80’s that work began to dry up in Los Angeles and Bill began looking for something different. His wife at the time was from Central Pennsylvania and in 1987 they moved to Harrisburg. Bill joined the Harrisburg Local (serving on its executive board for many years) and quickly became known in the area. He played in pit orchestras for national Broadway touring companies at the Hershey Theatre and in the house band at the American Music Theatre. He free lanced with other area bands (like Dave Stahl and Zim Zimarel) and began teaching private lessons. He currently plays with Rob Stonebeck.

In 1990, he bought Big Band Nostalgia from Ed Felty (Lebanon Local) and founded Big Band Nostalgia Productions, operating four bands with a variety of genres: Big Band Nostalgia, [2nd Avenue Swing Riot](#), Combo Nostalgia, and Bill Hicks Brass.

Although he is best known as a big band and show band performer, he is an accomplished classical player and a brilliant soloist. [\(Click here for audio clips.\)](#)

Bill now lives in Denver, PA and is a member of Local 294 taking freelance jobs and teaching the Claude Gordon Method to students, professionals, and “comeback players” in his studio and on Skype. [\(Click here for website\).](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS



The next general membership meeting will be on October 27, 2015 at 7:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the Mountville Community Center, Library Conference room: 120 College Avenue; Mountville, PA 17554. Use the entrance at the right of the flagpole.

After that, there will be a meeting on December 1 at the same time and place.

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