

Alton Municipal Band 2021 Concert Season Continues, Features Sophie Browning

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ALTON – The Alton Municipal Band kicks off WEEK 3 of its Concerts in the Park series with a terrific jazz ensemble scheduled to perform at Riverview Park Thursday, June 24th at 8pm under the direction of jazz master Tim Jarden. Known to many around the area as “Third Coast” the group is comprised of local music educators who play music in a variety of styles, including Jazz, Standards, Latin, Blues, Fusion, Ballads and Rock. Originally known as the Alton Landing Jazz Quintet, the group has seen several personnel changes; however, the latest iteration of the group includes two of the original members – Lewis & Clark Community College Jazz Director Tim Jarden and Alton

School District Band Director Kenny King. Additional musicians include Alton School District Band Director Chris Jarden (trumpet/piano), Illini Middle School Band/Chorus Director Waylon Schroeder (saxophone) and special guest, recent Alton High School graduate Fletcher Leonard (percussionist). Tim says they rotate saxophone players and drummers who play in more than one band, and often perform in a variety of combinations.

Sunday, June 27th at 7pm the full Alton Municipal Band will be back at Haskell Park performing outside near the Lucy Playhouse under the direction of Jennifer Shenberger. The theme for WEEK 3 is THREE's COMPANY and will feature the talents of Sophie Browning on Clarinet. Sophie Browning is a clarinetist and music educator from St. Louis, MO. An avid chamber musician, she has performed frequently with the Nabla Trio, Gateway to the West Wind Quintet, and the Skware clarinet quartet. In addition to her chamber work, Sophie also enjoys collaborating with living composers and has premiered several works that have been accepted to festivals including the New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival (NYCEMF). Sophie has taught in the Southern Illinois and Metro-East area for several years and will be joining the School District of Clayton as a band director and woodwind specialist next year. A passionate music educator, Sophie has presented research at the National Association for Music Education annual conference. She received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education and Clarinet Performance from Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville, where she studied with Dr. James "Mac" Hinson. Sophie just completed her Master of Music in Clarinet Performance at Bowling Green State University where she studied with Kevin Schempf and Georg Klaas.



Thank you to everyone who attended both concerts last week where we saw the debut of the Alton Municipal Band's Woodwind Ensemble at Riverview Park on Thursday and the full band performance under the direction of David Drillinger at Haskell Park on Sunday. The Sunday performance featured guest artist Dr. Marc Schapman who currently serves as Professor of Voice and Director of SIUE Opera and Musical Theater. Schapman entertained the park audience with I Feel a Song Coming On, and opera favorites Funiculi Funicula and Nessun Dorma.

Members of the newly formed AMB Woodwind Ensemble include Martha Roberts and Gail Drillinger on flute, Adam Rodgers on French Horn, Deborah Kelley on Clarinet, Ilene Morgan on Oboe and Gregory Van Asch on Bassoon. In addition to the concert at Riverview this ensemble performed last Saturday at the Alton Farmers' and Artisans' Market to a wonderful crowd of market shoppers. Adam Rodgers remarked, "This was the most fun I've had making music in a long time." Martha Roberts has been a big part of the Alton Municipal Band since 1978 playing flute and piccolo, serving as the band manager for many years and on the board of directors. She has performed with the St. Louis Philharmonic and freelanced as a musician in the area for years. She has operated a homeschool band program, taught band at Mississippi Valley Christian School and is well known to many students who took private lessons from her. She met her husband Lloyd who plays trumpet while in the band, and they both continue to be active supporters of all band activities. Gail Drillinger serves as the band's announcer for performances and plays the flute and piccolo. Outside of band, she is active with the Alton Little Theater and sings at the Evangelical UCC. She and husband David live in Godfrey. Adam Rodgers is in his 14th season with the Alton Municipal Band. His primary instruments are piano and French horn. Many may have seen him perform at the dedication of the Cousley Sunken Gardens last year. Adam Rodgers has spent the last seven years serving as a music educator in the Parkway School District in Chesterfield, Missouri, where he regularly accompanies students for contests and auditions. He completed his bachelor's degree in Music Education at Illinois State University in 2012, and in 2020, graduated from Eastern Illinois University with his Master's degree in Music Education. He serves on the board of directors as Vice President and is the Kiddie March Coordinator this year. Deborah Kelley has been a member of the Alton Municipal Band for 32 years performing clarinet. She has served as the band's assistant manager and on the board for many years. She teaches private music lessons and has been an instructor at Lewis and Clark Community College. She often performs with the Alton Symphony Orchestra and in productions for the Looking Glass Playhouse in Lebanon, Illinois. Greg Van Asch has been playing bassoon with the band for four years and works for Stifel Financial in St. Louis as a bond processor. Greg often performs with the Alton Symphony Orchestra, loves playing with his dog and trivia around the St. Louis area. Ilene Morgan on Oboe is a retired math professor. She retired from Missouri S&T (in Rolla) in 2017 and moved to the St. Louis area in 2019. She has participated in a variety of musical ensembles and particularly enjoys musicals

and chamber music. This is her first summer with the Alton Municipal Band. This ensemble is scheduled to perform at the Alton Farmers' and Artisan's Market again in July.



This 131st consecutive season of Summer Concerts in the Parks looks a bit different than in the past but remains a 9-week season with performances on Thursdays at Riverview Park at 8pm and Sundays at Haskell Park at 7pm. Ensembles will be featured June 24th, July 1st and July 8th at Riverview Park as the Alton Municipal Band eases back into its season. The full band will continue to perform at Haskell Park where players and audience can spread out and social distance through August 8th. Audience members are encouraged to bring their own seating and follow the state and city health and safety guidelines for social distancing and mask wearing particularly for those that are non-vaccinated. The full band will return to Riverview Park starting July 15th WEEK 6 themed LET'S GO under the direction of David Drillinger with guest vocalist Sue Parton Stanard. Residents can find out what else is going by accessing the Alton Municipal Band season concert program flyer from the city website.

We welcome and encourage the community to visit the parks for some quality outdoor time together with family and friends and come listen to some of the best music around. The city's continuing support for these FREE outdoor concerts is a wonderful Alton tradition dating back to 1891. Anyone interested in making a donation to further support expanded ensemble performances and concert activities can send a check to city hall payable to the Alton Municipal Band Special Fund or make donations on-line through the Alton city website. Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on the latest happenings, and feel free to share your memories, pictures and best band moments with

the group. If you have other questions, let us know at info@altonmunyband.org and thank you for your support.



Alton Municipal Band
Since 1891

www.cityofaltonil.com



CALL US
618.468.1237

2021 Concert Season

Performances are under the direction of David Drilling and Jennifer Shenberger.



SUNDAY 7PM HASKELL PARK (FULL BAND)

JUNE 13 - WELCOME BACK!

with vocalist Dr. Paul Varley

JUNE 20 - REFLECTIONS

with vocalist Dr. Marc Schapman

JUNE 27 - THREE'S COMPANY

with Sophie Browning on Clarinet

JULY 4 - PATRIOTIC WEEK

with vocalist David Guebert

JULY 11 - CHOREOGRAPHY & JAZZ

with the Will Schmalbeck Jazz Ensemble

JULY 18 - LET'S GO

with vocalist Sue Parton Stanard

JULY 25 - AN EVENING W/ ERIN

with vocalist Erin Bode

AUGUST 1 - CHILDREN'S CONCERT

with soloist TBA

AUGUST 8 - SO LONG, FAREWELL

with vocalist Robyn Brandon

THURSDAY 8PM RIVERVIEW PARK GAZEBO

JUNE 10 - BRASS QUINTET

JUNE 17 - WOODWIND QUINTET

JUNE 24 - JAZZ ENSEMBLE

JULY 1 - BRASS QUINTET

JULY 8 - GOSPEL ENSEMBLE

JULY 15 - AUGUST 5 IS FULL BAND

These concerts are open to the public and completely free. They are held outside, so grab a picnic blanket or your lawn chairs, and head on over to the park where you can kick-back and relax to some great music.

We are very excited to let you know the full band will return to perform at Riverview Park in the Gazebo on Thursdays starting July 15th. Musicians scheduled to perform at Haskell Park on Sundays will also perform at Riverview Park.

📍 Check us out on Facebook!



Dr. Paul
Varley



Dr. Marc
Schapman



Sophie
Browning



David
Guebert



Gospel
Choir



Sue Parton
Stanard



Erin
Bode



Will
Schmalbeck



Robyn
Brandon