

# Community Band Corner

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## Welcome to the Community Band Corner!

**This issue's featured ensemble is the Lakeshore Symphonic Band located in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.**

**Who are the WBDI members involved with this ensemble and what are their roles?**

**Johanna Anderson** – I am a WBDI member and I am the musical director of the Lakeshore Symphonic Band. Elizabeth Bredman, a percussionist, is also a WBDI member!

**J.F. – When and why was the ensemble formed?**

**J.A. –** Lakeshore Symphonic Band was founded in 1976, which means that 2026 is the band's 50th anniversary. In the spring of 1976, several Ozaukee County residents sought an outlet for their musical talents. Existing community bands in the area rehearsed and performed primarily during the summer because they included student musicians among their ranks. LSB organizers decided they would form a community band that would rehearse and perform primarily from September through May. Its purpose then, as it is now, was to provide an opportunity for adult participation in a musical organization, as well as cultural enrichment for the community at large.

**J.F. – What is the size of the ensemble? Has it changed over the years?**

**J.A. –** The current Lakeshore roster has around 60-65 members. During the first two concerts back from COVID (my first two concerts as conductor), the band was a little smaller than this. Due to space limitations at our December concert venue, we are not able to have more than 60-65 band members. I really enjoy this size of ensemble and it is awesome to have eight French horns!

Some of the members are current or retired music educators, but the majority represent a wide variety of different careers and vocations. We even have two charter members of LSB that still play with us! I also have some of my former and current Concordia University Wisconsin students in the band and I love being able to continue to make music with them in this setting.

**J.F. – Where do you rehearse and perform? What is your rehearsal and performance schedule?**

**J.A. –** We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:00 pm in the band room at Cedarburg High School in Cedarburg, WI. LSB performs four concerts a year – October, December, February, and May. The fall, winter, and spring concerts are held at the Cedarburg Performing Arts Center, which is the PAC for Cedarburg High School. Our December concert is a Christmas concert at Holy Hill Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Hubertus, WI. There are typically seven scheduled rehearsals prior to each concert.



Johanna Anderson with Haly Besaw (Lakeshore Symphonic Band Board President).

**J.F. – What did your ensemble do during the pandemic?**

**J.A. –** Like many other ensembles, LSB had to cancel a concert at the last minute, due to the start of the pandemic. The band was on a hiatus for several seasons and the previous director stepped down, which meant that the board needed to search for a new director. I was honored to be asked to guest conduct two concerts, with rehearsals starting again in January 2022. This opportunity resulted in my appointment as music director.

**J.F. – What do your members enjoy about playing in the band?**

**J.A. –** I think that the band members especially enjoy being together as an ensemble each week. The friendships and social connections are essential parts of LSB and we all encourage and foster this. Making music together is also an important part of the LSB mission, but the sense of community is the heart of the band.





Johanna Anderson conducting the Lakeshore Symphonic Band.

**J.F. – Tell us about any special places or performances in which your group has participated.**

**J.A. –** The band's favorite concert each season is our annual Christmas concert at Holy Hill. We have a reverence for the space and the acoustics are breathtaking. There are also several repertoire traditions for this concert, including Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival* and *Sleigh Ride*, as well as an audience sing-a-long. For one of our February concerts, LSB had the opportunity to collaborate with the Cedarburg High School Choir. The band and choir performed several pieces together, including *Sleep* by Eric Whitacre and the Carmen Dragon arrangement of *America the Beautiful*. The choir also joined in on the whistling during *On the Mall* concert march!

**J.F. – What are your responsibilities as director of the ensemble? Are there tasks that you delegate to others?**

**J.A. –** Lakeshore has a board of directors that oversees many of the band operations, which means that I have a lot of help and support with administrative and organization tasks. In other words, I am able to delegate often (i.e., personnel decisions, band library, program notes, set up and tear down for concerts, etc.). My primary role as music director is to select all repertoire and concert themes. I plan the repertoire for all four concerts during the summertime, so that I can present the board with the vision for the whole season. In addition, it is my responsibility to promote the mission of the band by engaging audiences and community members through innovative programming.

**J.F. – How do you go about programming for your ensemble?**

**J.A. –** I aim to be thoughtful and intentional with my programming. For each concert, my philosophy is to select a wide variety of repertoire, including traditional/classic wind band pieces,

new/contemporary pieces, familiar/popular pieces to the audience, and band member suggestions, to name a few. I am also mindful about including one or two pieces that I have conducted previously, so that I have sufficient time to score study for new pieces.

**J.F. – What are you looking forward to in the future and is there anything else you would like to add?**

**J.A. –** The 25-26 season marks the 50th anniversary of Lakeshore Symphonic Band and we are planning a series of commemorative events throughout the season.

LSB is commissioning a piece from Wisconsin-based composer Stacey Berk. It will be a joyous concert opener that celebrates the band's legacy and impact on the community. The piece will premiere at the May 2026 concert. I have also invited former LSB director, Dr. Louis Menchaca, to

conduct a piece for this concert. Dr. Menchaca happens to be my former band director and now colleague and mentor at Concordia.

It is truly an honor to conduct this wonderful group of individuals. It is a fulfilling and rewarding experience and I am grateful for all the people that I have met through LSB.

**Learn more about Lakeshore Symphonic Band and connect with them online:**

LSB Website:

<https://www.lakeshoresymphonicband.org/>

LSB Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeshoreSymphonicBand>

LSB Instagram:

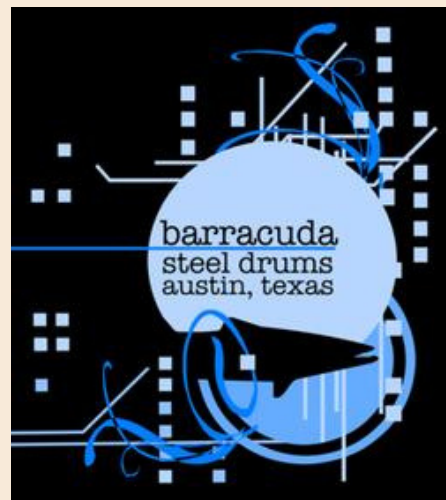
[https://www.instagram.com/lakeshore\\_symphonic.band](https://www.instagram.com/lakeshore_symphonic.band)

LSB YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vyST\\_bioL7RvJkxL3LYfQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vyST_bioL7RvJkxL3LYfQ)



**Jean Flaherty** earned her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 2004 and her Master's degree in Music Education from the American Band College of Central Washington University in 2022. She has taught band to students in grades 4-12 and elementary music to students in grades K-8. Currently, Jean teaches elementary music to students in grades pre-K through 5 for Albemarle County Schools and serves as a marching and music instructor for the Albemarle HS marching band. Additionally, Jean directs the Albemarle County Concert Band, which she founded in 2016 as a community band for local educators.



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