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**Medina Community  
Band**

# Media Release



Complete information on each concert, literature performed, soloists, and guest conductors, as well as personnel for each concert can all be found on our website:

<http://www.medinacommunityband.org/>

**This material is for the first season concert – Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

**Site: Medina's Uptown Park Square (intersections of Rts 18, 42, Broadway and Liberty Street). Cancellation of concerts due to the weather will be posted on the above website!**

**Medina Community Band** will present their **fourth concert** the 2022 summer season, a celebration of 163 years (since 1859) of presenting community concerts in Medina, on **Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:30p – Medina's Uptown Park Square Gazebo**. Concerts will continue every Friday through **Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>**. **A special July 4<sup>th</sup> concert is planned. All concerts will begin at 8:30p.**

Featured soloist will be **Clayton Van Doren**, euphonium soloist, performing Fred Harlow's ***Air Varié***, **Emelia Aceto**, soprano vocalist, performing Cy Colman's ***If My Friends Could See Me Now*** from *Sweet Charity*, and

**Marcia Kline and Paul Rocco**, trumpets, performing Vivaldi's ***Concerto in B-flat for Two Trumpets, Movement 1***.

The community band will feature George Butterworth's ***Banks of Green Willow***, Percy Grainger's ***There Was a Pig Went Out to Dig***. And the premiere performance of **Nathan James'** march ***The Fairground Organ March***. Marches will include Vasilij Agapkin's ***March of a Slavic Woman***; and Sousa's ***Comrades of the Legion, Old Ironsides***, and, ***The Stars and Stripes Forever***.

The concert will be dedicated to the remembrance of **Louis Richard DeVries** (October 4, 1946 – December 20, 2019) and **Steven G. Kerns**. (February 1, 1958 – November 23, 2019)

**Marcus Neiman** conducts Medina Community Band and will be joined in the conducting duties by **John Connors, Matthew Hastings, and Amy Muhl** (assistant conductors).

Medina Community Band is proudly sponsored and supported by the **Medina Community Band Association**, composed of members of Medina Community Band. The board of directors consists of **Lu Ann Gresh**, president; **Amy Muhl**, vice president; **Lindsay Hastings**, financial secretary; **Rodney Hannah**, treasurer; **Sue McLaughlin**, secretary; with directors **John Connors, Jeff Danilovic, Thomas Kenat, and Kristin Thompson**.

Membership in MCB is open and there are no dues or auditions; however, members are expected to maintain a regular attendance. The band rehearses on Wednesday evening from 7p - 9p in the gymnasium of St. Ambrose Church/Parish (929 Pearl Road, Brunswick, OH 44212).

For additional information on the 2022 concert season or Medina Community Band, contact Neiman at 330.725.8198 or MarcusNeiman@medinacommunityband.org, or visiting Medina Community Band website –

<https://medinacommunityband.org/>.

# The Medina Community Band

Marcus L. Neiman, conductor

John Connors, Matthew Hastings, & Amy Muhl, assistant conductors

June 24, 2022

## In Remembrance

**Louis Richard DeVries**

October 4, 1946 – December 20, 2019

**Steven G. Kerns**

February 1, 1958 – November 23, 2019

### Featuring

**Emelia Aceto, soprano vocal soloist**  
**Clayton Van Doren, euphonium soloist**  
**Marcia Kline & Paul Rocco, trumpet soloists**

Fanfare, <i>March of the Olympians</i> (1960) .....	John Williams Paul Lavender
Anthem, <i>Star Spangled Banner</i> (1889/1917) .....	Francis Scott Key Sousa/Damrosch
Overture, <i>Banks of Green Willows</i> (1913/2017) .....	George Butterworth Robert Longfield
March, <i>Comrades of the Legion</i> (1920) .....	John Philip Sousa
Euphonium solo, <i>Air Varié (Old Home Down on the Farm)</i> (1906) .....	Fred P. Harlow
<b>Clayton Van Doren, soloist</b>	
March, <i>Old Ironside</i> (1926) .....	John Philip Sousa Don Patterson
Soprano solo, <i>If My Friends Could See Me Now</i> (from <i>Sweet Charity</i> ) (1966) .....	Cy Coleman Warren Barker
<b>Emelia Aceto, soloist</b>	
Trumpet Duet, <i>Concerto in B-flat for Two Trumpets (RV 537)</i> MVT 1 (1964) .....	Antonio Vivaldi Philip Lang
<b>Marcia Kline &amp; Paul Rocco, soloists</b>	
Premiere Performance, <i>The Fairground Organ March</i> (2022) .....	Nathan James
Folksong, <i>There Was a Pig Went out to Dig</i> (1938/2016) .....	Percy Grainger Gary Gackstatter
March, <i>March to a Slavic Woman</i> (1912/1995) .....	Vasilij Ivanovitj Agapkin Col. John R. Bourgeois
Our National March, <i>The Stars and Stripes Forever</i> (1996).....	John Philip Sousa
Patriotic, <i>God Bless America</i> (1917) .....	Irving Berlin Erik Leidzén

Program subject to change



To view entire program online (at our website) scan QR code above!

## Conducting Staff



**Marcus L. Neiman** has been conductor of Medina Community Band since the Fall of 1972 and has served as conductor of the ensemble longer than any previous conductor in the ensemble's history. He attended the Akron Public Schools, received his bachelor of science in music education degree from The University of Akron, master of music in music education degree from The University of Michigan, postgraduate hours at The Kent State University, and The University of Akron.

Neiman retired from posts held with the Medina County Schools Educational Service Center in 2010 (1980 through 2000 as fine arts consultant and 2000 through 2010 as director of fine arts tours and festivals). He was formerly director of bands at Medina High School (1972 through 1980). Neiman retired in July of 2016 from his position as assistant professor of music education at the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University where he was an interim assistant director of bands conducting the Concert Band (May of 2010 through May of 2011) and music education courses, as well as supervising music education student teachers.

Prior to his arrival at Kent State University, Neiman was a part-time lecturer for the music department at Case Western Reserve University with major responsibilities of teaching their "Foundations of Music Education" course and supervising music education student teachers from April 2004 through May of 2010. He also supervised visual arts education student teachers for The University of Akron.

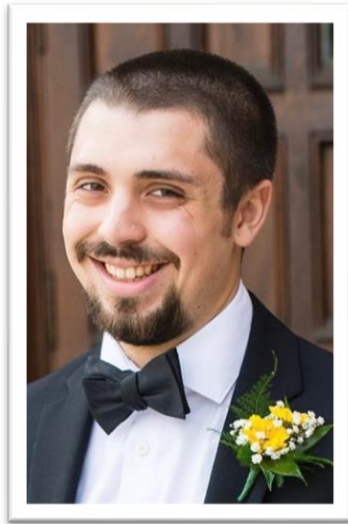
Neiman was a founding trustee and past president of both the Medina County Arts Council and Medina County Performing Arts Foundation and served as music director for productions by both Medina County Show Biz Company and Brunswick Entertainment Company. He served as a committee member on the City of Medina Uptown Park Committee and Arts Under the Stars committee. A past member of Medina Noon Kiwanis Club he was a member of the class of '94 Leadership Medina County. He was awarded the **Leadership Medina County "Excellence in Education Leadership"** in June of 2014, the sixth recipient of the award in Leadership Medina County's history and the only recipient not a superintendent of a school district.

Neiman has served Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) as a member of the adjudicated events flute solo and ensemble required list selection committee, communications, governmental relations, music in our schools, and public relations committees, district president, vice-president, state chair for **Music In Our Schools** and public relations, state editor of their professional journal **TRIAD**, and state chair for their council of supervisors. He was elected by OMEAs membership to serve as state president from July 1, 1998 through July 1, 2000 and is currently OMEAs state historian. He was awarded OMEAs highest honor, the **"Distinguished Service Award"** on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Professional Development Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. Neiman has been published in Music Educators National Conference journal **MEJ**, **The Instrumentalist**, **The School Musician**, **The Music Educator**, OMEAs **TRIAD**, **FANFARE** magazine, and Bands of America **Newsletter**. His first book, edited for MENC, entitled **Life in the Music Classroom**, was published by MENC in April 1992. He is listed in Marquis **"Who's Who in America"** (58<sup>th</sup> Edition).

Neiman has appeared with junior high/middle and high school, college and university, community bands, and American Federation of Musicians union professional bands as a guest conductor and in his characterization of famed bandmaster **John Philip Sousa** in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, (state of) Washington, and Wisconsin. On October 15, 2004, Neiman conducted the Volga Concert Band in Saratov, Russia in a Sousa-style concert following a week's residence in Moscow and Saratov. In addition to conducting the Medina Community Band (since 1972), he formed his own professional touring band -- **The Sounds of Sousa Band** -- (in 1992) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the formation of Sousa's first non-military band. To this date, he has performed for over 200,000 people in the role of Sousa.

Neiman's goal has always been to preserve the presence and character of the traditional "town-band." In addition, Neiman has encouraged composers to write for the band. Over the years, the band has commissioned works by Douglas Court, Robert Feldbush, Stuart Ling, Edmund J. Siennicki, Tadd Russo, and David Shaffer. Neiman is a member of numerous professional organizations including the National Association for Music Education and Ohio Music Education Association, National Band Association, Ohio Alliance for Arts Education and Ohio Citizens for the Arts. Neiman is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi (University of Michigan Nu chapter, and honorary Beta Pi at Kent State University). He is also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa (national leadership society – The University of Akron - Theta Circle). He and his wife Mary Ann, who is a professional clarinetist reside in Medina with Ludwig – the cat.

**John Connors**, assistant conductor, is a Sergeant First Class in the Ohio Army National Guard, where he serves as the full-time Readiness Noncommissioned Officer of the 122nd Army Band in Columbus. In addition to these duties, he continues to perform as a trombone player and serve as drum major, where he has led the band in parades throughout the state of Ohio. 2022 will mark Connors' fifteenth year serving in the Ohio National Guard. Outside of the Army, John remains active as a freelance musician throughout Ohio and currently plays lead trombone in the John Trapani Big Band of Canton. He has also served as trombone soloist with the Brass Band of the Western Reserve in Akron. Additionally, he performs on historical instruments with the Civil War period ensembles The 73<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment Band, The Camp Chase Fifes and Drums, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Brigade Band. He joined the Medina Community Band in 2002 to play trombone, and he has also played in the euphonium, horn, and percussion sections. Connors holds a Master of Music Degree in Music Education from the University of Akron (2019), Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh (2014), and Bachelor of Music degree in Trombone Performance, with a minor in Jazz Studies, from Ohio University in Athens (2012). He graduated from Highland High School in 2007. Connors has studied conducting with Richard Suk and Andrew Trachsel at Ohio University, Andrew Feyes and Galen Karriker at The University of Akron, and with Marcus Neiman.

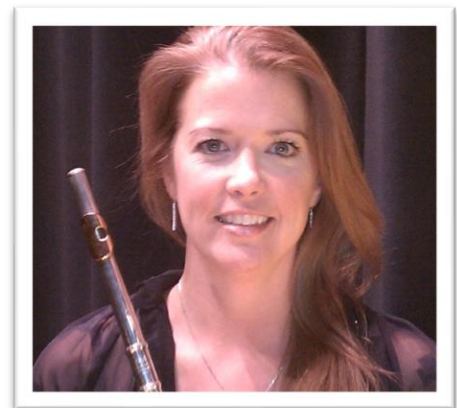


**Matthew Hastings**, assistant conductor, has been employed with the Wadsworth City Schools since 2015. At Wadsworth, Hastings oversees the 5th and 6th grade band programs, assists with the marching band during band camp, and serves as theatre manager for

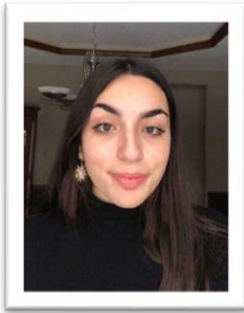
Wadsworth's OJ Work Auditorium. Prior to his appointment at Wadsworth, he completed his student teaching experience at Donnell Middle School in Findlay, Ohio teaching grades 6-8 band and grades 6-7 general music. Hastings joined the Medina Community Band in 2018 where he plays tuba and percussion, and he is also serving as an assistant conductor for the 2019 summer session.

Hastings graduated from Green High School in Green, Ohio in 2011, and earned a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Ohio Northern University in 2015. He resides in Medina with his wife, Lindsay and their dog, O'Malley.

**Amy Muhl** has been a member of Medina Community Band since 1998 and appointed as an assistant conductor in 2022. Originally from Lyme, Connecticut, moved to Ohio to study music education at Oberlin Conservatory in 1991. She graduated in 1995 and taught orchestra for two years in the Willard City Schools. Amy received her masters of music education from Kent State University on a scholarship, in 1998. She then taught instrumental music at Buckeye High School, in Medina (OH) and in the fall of 1999, became the elementary band teacher for Buckeye Local Schools. In the fall of 2001, she began teaching elementary instrumental music at Central Intermediate School in the Wadsworth City Schools. After raising Eva and Simon for 5 years, Amy returned to Wadsworth Schools teaching general music at Valley View Elementary and is now back at Central Intermediate School teaching general music and choir. Amy also plays flute/piccolo and piano, in addition to being a member of Medina Community Band and Sounds of Sousa Band. She is also Vice President of the Medina Community Band Association. Amy resides in Wadsworth with her husband Frank, and three children Kenneth, Eva and Simon.



# Soloists and Composers



Since sixth grade when she joined choir, Emelia Aceto has had a passion for singing.

That passion led her to begin studying voice about three years ago, and nearly two years ago she began entering singing competitions.

Now, the Highland High School sophomore is on the cusp of global glory as she is one of the final five competitors in the Hammerstein International Youth Solo Contest. The contest is open to those from kindergarten to seniors in college, with Emelia competing in the high school category.

After submitting her video entry in December of her singing "Why Was I Born?" — a piece written, in part, by Oscar Hammerstein — she made her way to the finals through a judging process, with the winner to be announced at 8 p.m. Feb. 12 during a Facebook Live event taped at Hammerstein's house.

Though she has competed in large-scale competitions before, Emelia said she was thrilled about this entire experience.

"Going into it, it's always exciting entering a new competition just to see what happens," Emelia said. "It's just really exciting. Every competition is exciting to see how far I can get and see all the other people that entered too. Especially in the times we're in, it's cool to be able to participate in music somehow."

Should she win, Emelia would receive the grand prize, which includes the opportunity to record her song in Hammerstein's living room, have her video featured on the front page of the Oscar Hammerstein Museum and Theatre Education Center (OHMTEC) website for one month, a \$250 cash prize and a Zoom voice lesson with either Justin Guarini, who in 2002 was the runner-up on the first season of "American Idol," or Andrew Polec, an award-winning Broadway performer.

Second place will receive a sheet music collection of more than 50 songs with lyrics by Hammerstein and a \$100 cash prize, while third place will receive an OHMTEC shirt and a \$50 cash prize.

"Why Was I Born?" was chosen in part because of a suggestion from her voice teacher, Denise Milner Howell, and because of Emelia's fondness of the song's message.

"I really love the way that it constantly goes back to, 'Why was I born? To only love you,'" Emelia said. "It's so unconditional. It's a very touching song. The emotions that are portrayed through it of yearning are just very special."

Musical inclinations are nothing new to the Aceto family. Alongside her father, Chris Aceto, being a singer all his life, Emelia's uncle, Raymond Aceto, is an opera singer and principle artist at the Metropolitan Opera and has served as a large source of inspiration for Emelia.

"I see the talent and I see the gift that my daughter has," Chris Aceto said. "It's been exciting because I look at the unbelievable amount of talent that she has. She's very gifted. I noticed this at a very young age. A lot of what Lia does is self-taught."

For as long as he's been involved in music, Chris Aceto said he has never had to push or nag his daughter to work at her craft or want to be better. And his excitement watching Emelia grow over the last several years has left him as proud as ever.

"I've been around enough successful musicians to know that the ones that are successful are not the ones that their parents had to tell them to go practice," Chris Aceto said. "It's something that they love to do, it's something they do because they want to and enjoy it. I can't remember the last time I had to tell Emelia to go practice her piano or to go sing or prepare for her voice lesson. She does it all on her own."

He added that should Emelia win this competition, it would give the world the opportunity to see that talent that he and his family have seen for so many years now.

"The pride would be amazing," he said. "It would support everything that we think of our daughter and her talent. That other people see it, recognize it and it would just give proof to what we already feel and know for ourselves."

If she were to come out as the winner of this competition, Emelia said it would "mean a lot" to her and also show her not only what she's capable of, but also how far she's come.

"I'd love to have a gauge on where I am and, being able to see that I've made it this far from where I started, it's very special," Emelia said. "It's a great opportunity to push for my career if I do decide to go into music when I'm older. It's very exciting overall."

**Marcia Nelson Kline, trumpet duet.** Copley resident Marcia Nelson Kline began her trumpet studies with parents Milton and Sarah Nelson, Lloyd Haines, and further advanced her studies with Harry Herforth and James Darling. She is a member of Medina Community Band (since 1984) and Brass Band of the Western Reserve (since 1997) and has performed with Marcus Neiman's Sound of Sousa Band, Mill Street Brass Quintet, and Cleveland Women's Orchestra. She is featured as a cornet soloist on Medina Community Band's CD "Sounds of Summer". Marcia has an associate degree in medical assisting from The University of Akron and is a retired ophthalmic technician from Cleveland Clinic.



**Paul V. Rocco, trumpet duet,** originally from Brooklyn, New York, studied trumpet at SUNY at Fredonia, later completing a Bachelor's of Fine Arts Music at the University of Akron. While at The University of Akron, he studied with Tucker Jolly and Scott Johnston, continuing with Geoff Hardcastle after graduation. Rocco moved to Ohio to take the position of police officer for the City of Medina, retiring in 2009 after 20 years of service. He became a member of Medina Community Band in 1989. He also performs with the Brass Band of the Western Reserve. Rocco is presently teaching private trumpet lessons for Barberton Middle and High Schools, and Green Middle School. He resides in Medina with wife Gayle, son Gary, three rescue dogs and a cat.

**Nathan James, composer,** was born on October 25, 1996, in Abingdon (VA) and resides in Monaca, PA. He graduated from Freedom Area High School (PA) and studied music at West Liberty University in West Virginia for two years, then changed direction and attained an Associate Degree in Engineering from the Community College of Beaver County in Pennsylvania.

Nathan experiences with composition starting in the seventh grade. Through a combination of self-teaching and internet research, coupled with some basic college experience with ensembles and arrangement, Nathan dove fully into composing. His compositional abilities run the gamut from Classical to Prog Rock, including 8-bit video game music, sailor shanties, and even D&D character-inspired pieces, but he prefers writing for orchestra, wind band, and brass ensembles. His goal is to compose a full-length film score.



**The Fairgrounds Organ March** is raucous and fun! Composed and completed on April 12, 2020, the march is an exciting and entertaining offering by a young, and upcoming composer!



**Clayton Van Doren, euphonium soloist,** lives in Lodi with his wife, Carolyn. Clayton started playing trombone and euphonium in the school band program in Wooster, and played trombone in the Lafayette Community Band for seven years while in graduate school at Syracuse University. He has been a member of the Medina Community Band since 1988. He is a third generation euphonium player, his son Adam is the fourth, and he has hopes that at least one of his grandkids makes it five.

# In Remembrance

Louis Richard DeVries

October 4, 1946 – December 20, 2019



**Louis Richard DeVries**, 73, formerly of Akron, died at his home in Natchez, Mississippi, on December 20. A musician, Louis graduated from the University of Akron and received master's degrees at the University of Michigan (music) and Kent State University (library science). He played with the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra and Rapides (La.) Symphony Orchestra and Medina Community Band.

He is survived by his wife, Allyn Baranoff DeVries; his sisters, Patricia (David) Gold and Denise (Michael) Phares; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

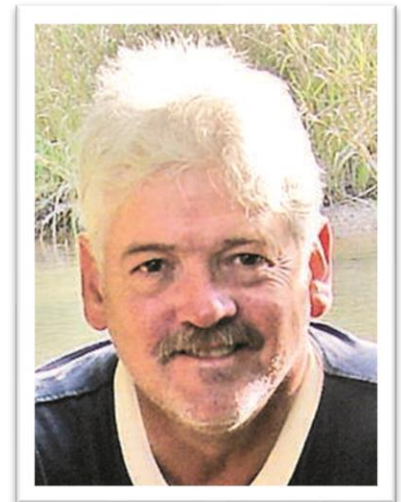
Louie had played in the Akron, Canton and Youngstown Symphonies. Conducted the St Joseph LA community orchestra and played in and conducted the St Joseph Jazzers. He was a librarian at the George Armstrong library in Natchez and in the Akron Library downtown. He was also a tour guide in Natchez.

Steven G. Kerns

February 1, 1958 – November 23, 2019

**Stephen G. Kerns**, 61, resident of Wheeling, West Virginia, died Saturday, November 23, 2019 at Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown, West Virginia. He was born in Richmond, Virginia on February 1, 1958. He was the son of Barbara "Bobbi" Molter Way (Mark) and the late The Reverend Thomas Kerns (Jeanie). Steve was the second of five children.

Steve was a classical and jazz musician. He began his music career playing the piano at an early age of seven years. Steve took many lessons and had a gift of being able to play his instruments by ear. He picked up the clarinet in sixth grade and continued to play and study it throughout his secondary education. While playing the clarinet, Steve also learned to play the flute as well as the alto and tenor saxophones. Music was his world. He was happiest when playing his instruments and he loved performing for people. Whether he was on stage with a band or practicing, Steve was in his glory playing music. He enjoyed putting his twist on popular songs as well as creating his own melodies. He was talented beyond means and became known as an extraordinary sax player.



Steve was preceded in death by his father, The Reverend Thomas Kerns (Jeanie) and his older sister, Linda Kathryn "Katy" Jarrett (Mark).

He is survived by his partner in life, Susan May; mother, Bobbi Way (Mark); his sisters, Elizabeth "Beth" Kerns, Ann Rotman (Rodney) and Jennifer Winebrenner (Eric). Steve is also survived by his special aunts, The Reverend Natalie McWilliams and Carolyn Stearns whom he loved dearly; and by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

## Medina Community Band



***Banding together to celebrate a new land.*** The Medina Community Band traces its beginnings back to 1859, when a group of local wind and percussion players got together (some with formal training - others without) to perform music for the community. That first "community band" was called *The Medina Silver Cornet Band*, probably since the instruments the musicians used were primarily "silver lacquer coated" cornets or percussion. Since its beginning in 1859, that the band has been in existence, there have been 20 directors. **Marcus Neiman** has served as conductor since 1972 with **John Connors** serving as assistant conductor (since 2015), and **Matthew Hastings** as assistant conductor (since 2019), and **Amy Muhl**, as assistant conductor (since 2022)

Early versions of the band probably existed at the pleasure of the square's business community, who often funded the season and encouraged patrons to attend the concerts. The performance night has changed over the years, in most cases at the urging of the business community, and season concerts have been given on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. Since the 1970s, the band has been supported by donations from the general public and, to this day, is supported through these donations. Band members donate their time and talent to rehearsing and performing for the community as members of the ensemble.

Since the 1970s, Medina Community Band has traveled outside Medina to perform: Ashland Brookside Bandstand (1980, 81, 93); Bay Village (Connections Series 1990, 91, 92); Canton (Kent State Stark Community Band Exchange Concerts 1995, 96, 98, 99); Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland Youth Winds Exchange concerts – Severance Hall – 2002 and 07, Medina, 2005); Cleveland State University (2010, 13); Dalton (Wayne County Schools Honors Bands 1983); Mentor (Lakeland Civic Band Festival 1985 and 1990); Mercer (PA) (with Mercer Community Band, 2009); Milan (EHOVE Career Center, 1993-2007); and, Wadsworth (Wadsworth Community Band Festival 2007). In February of 2015, Medina Community Band was selected by blind audition to perform at the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Development Conference in Cleveland.

Regional and nationally known conductors have appeared with Medina Community Band. Since the 1970, the following individuals have appeared as guest conductors: David Adamson; William Bauer (Florida State University); Frank Cosenza (Mentor, OH); Albert Oliver Davis; Paul Droste (Ohio State University); John Boyd (Indiana State University); Wayne Gorder (Kent State University); John Franklin (Kent State University); Patricia Ann Grutzmacher (Kent State University); Richard Jackoboice (University of Akron); Robert Jorgensen (University of Akron); Galen Karriker (University of Akron); Jesse Leyva (Kent State University); Gene Milford (University of Akron); Nathan Muehl (St. Petersburg College, Florida); Bill Park (North Royalton Community Band); David Seiberling (Moore Community Band); Edmund J. Siennicki; and, Nathan Stark (Montana State University).

The following individuals have been commissioned, or have written, or arranged, works for Medina Community Band: Douglas Court; Albert Oliver Davis; Robert Feldbush; Percy Hall; Floyd O. Harris; Stuart Ling; Gene Milford; Bill Park; Tadd Russo; David Schaffer; David Seiberling; Edmund J. Siennicki; Gail Sigmund; and, Jonathan Tietz.

Medina Community Band is sponsored by the **Medina Community Band Association** composed of members of The Medina Community Band proudly supports the community band. Membership in MCB is open and there are no dues or auditions; however, members are expected to maintain a regular attendance. When in session, the band rehearses on Wednesday evening from 7p - 9p in gymnasium of Brunswick St. Ambrose Church/School, 929 Pearl Rd. (US Rte 42) *Brunswick*, Ohio 44212). During normal seasons, the band also presents their popular summer series every Friday, June through July, in Medina's Uptown Park Gazebo. Each year the band presents at a winter concert, and spring concert. For additional information on the 2022 concert season or Medina Community Band, contact Neiman at 330.725.8198 or [MarcusNeiman@medinacommunityband.org](mailto:MarcusNeiman@medinacommunityband.org).