

## Yakima Valley Community Band (YVCB) History

In 1919, an article in the Yakima Herald Republic announced that a 50-piece band was being organized in Yakima, supported by local businessmen. It was an all-male group that rehearsed in school band rooms and performed in parades and park concerts. This band represented the civic pride of the community of Yakima.

Around 1949, the band was absorbed by the Yakima Elks Lodge. They played for meetings and parades and traveled to Elks conventions. When the Elks moved their lodge to Selah, the band became the Yakima Community Band, much as it started out, and as it still is today. Female musicians joined the band as it continued to rehearse in schools and play summer park concerts. The concerts were held in parks in all the neighborhoods of the city, but that left audiences unsure where to find the next concert. Randall Park, with its creek-side location was established and remains the summer band concert venue.

Besides the Randall Park concerts, the band expanded its schedule to include summer park concerts in other valley communities, particularly in Toppenish and Selah, but in other cities up and down the valley as well. The band has traveled beyond the valley to perform in Leavenworth, Goldendale, and Walla Walla. As part of Community Band festivals, the band has performed at the Seattle Center and on the Seattle waterfront for their Maritime Days Festival.

The band has also represented Yakima abroad. At their own expense, members of the Yakima Valley Community Band traveled to Switzerland in 1996. A grant from the Petry Trust enabled that group to appear in the band's new dress uniforms for concerts in Davos, Bad Ragaz, and in a historic band shell on the shores of Lake Lucerne.

In 1999, the band traveled to Great Britain, traveling through England and Scotland to perform. Most of the concerts were arranged in small communities so band members were able to interact with the local people. Meeting local band musicians and sharing concert venues with them enriched the experience.

In 2000, the band purchased a trailer to replace the small fleet of pickup trucks that formerly transported percussion instruments, music stands, our public address system, and boxes of music to the outdoor concerts. Having a safe system of transporting and storing band supplies and instruments led to the purchase of a set of timpani and other percussion instruments which previously were borrowed from school bands.

Since 1919 the band has continued to flourish under many excellent directors.

<http://yakimacommunityband.org>

## Yakima Valley Community Band Member Handbook

### **Band Purpose**

The purpose of the organization is to perform, promote, and further live concert band music. The band is organized exclusively for educational, charitable, scientific and literary purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the Constitution, the YVCB shall not carry on any activities that are not in furtherance of one of these purposes.

### **Band Mission Statement**

1. To promote and further the performance of live concert band music.
2. To provide area musicians an opportunity to continue to enjoy their music experience.
3. To provide students with a large band experience.

*A copy of the Band Constitution and Bylaws are available on request.*



### **Band Organization**

Director, Assistant Director

Executive Board:

President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer,  
Five members at-large, Director

Yakima Valley Community Band-P.O. Box 9742, Yakima, WA 98909  
<http://yakimacommunityband.org>

## Membership Selection

Anyone eighteen (18) years of age or over who is interested in promoting and furthering the purposes of the organization is eligible for membership, subject to the approval of the section leader and the band director.

Anyone under the age of eighteen (18) years who desires to gain the experience of rehearsing and performing with the organization is subject to the approval of the section leader and the band director. Anyone under the age of eighteen will also provide a recommendation from his/her school band director or private music teacher.

Membership is extended to all who meet the approval standards without regard to race, creed, color, gender, or sexual orientation. Membership is discretionary. No person is guaranteed membership. Membership may only be granted upon the terms and conditions set forth in Article IV of the Bylaws.

## Responsibilities

### Membership Code of Ethics

- Members will remain attentive in rehearsal (listening and following directions without talking).
- Members will offer comments, critiques, and suggestions after rehearsal and privately.
- Members will use respectful language.
- Members will communicate with section leaders/band director if they must miss a rehearsal.
- Members will deliver their folders to section leader when absent so their part can be covered in rehearsal.
- Members need to turn in band folders at the end of concerts.
- Members are expected to attend rehearsals. Members with sporadic attendance may be addressed by the section leader or director regarding whether they should play in the next concert.

## Rights

Members in good standing:

- (over 18 years of age) shall have full voting powers in the elections and procedure and on other matters that require member votes.
- (over 18 years of age) have the right to run for all positions on the Executive Board.
- shall have paid the YVCB dues.

***Members shall read and signify that they understand band policies and will abide by the Code of Ethics.*** Members may also consent to email notifications of meetings. YVCB director has the authority to ask a member to leave rehearsal or resign from band if the responsibilities listed in the band handbook are not followed. The Executive Board has a policy to review a member's request to be reinstated.

## Band-owned instruments

- Band-owned percussion equipment – band pays for the maintenance and repairs.
- Band-owned wind/brass instruments – members who play them pay for maintenance and repairs.

## Uniforms

- Uniforms are to be worn for all concerts. Members may see the designated band member for information on obtaining the formal uniform and the summer uniform.
- Formal uniform will be provided by the band. This uniform consists of black tuxedo pants, white tuxedo shirt, reversible red/black vest, one red and one black bow tie. Band members are responsible for maintaining their loaned uniform. When a member leaves band, the formal uniform must be returned.
- Summer uniform consists of a light blue polo shirt with the band logo, black pants or skirt, white cap or visor. Members need to purchase these items.

## Rehearsals and Concerts

### Rehearsal Schedule

- YVCB meets weekly on Mondays.
- Rehearsals are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a scheduled break.
- A list of rehearsal dates will be handed out to members and will be posted on the band website.
- Rehearsal location will be on the schedule and posted on the band website.

### Concert Schedule

- Formal concerts are held on Monday dates to be announced. The concert schedule will be handed out to members and will be posted on the band website. These programs are held indoors.
- Summer concerts are on Wednesdays with intermittent extra dates. The summer schedule and locations will be handed out to members and will be posted on the band website. These programs are held in various parks.

## Dues

- Dues of ten dollars (\$10) will be collected at least annually from the membership.
- Dues are given to the secretary/treasurer or any officer of the band.