



Welcome to the Life with the Blawenburg Band!

Let's look at all we have accomplished and what has changed.

Editor: Grants & Fundraising Committee



www.blawenburgband.org



From The Podium ... Dr. Jerry Rife

"Congratulations to all of you for the very successful 2026 summer concert season. I think back on the schedule we had this summer and remember the amazing 136th-anniversary concert, the special concerts made possible by the grant and our extra performances at Franklin Gazebo and South Brunswick Library that were added to our regular train station jobs and, of course, Griggstown Harvest Home, which we have played for over 100 years. We brought a lot of joy to so many audience members and we had fun making music together in the process.

As we merge into the fall and start rehearsals again (Sept. 14!), my thinking turns to some new music to read and work on. There is also a holiday season ahead with concerts at St. Ignatius Church on Dec. 6 and the annual Holiday TCNJ concert on Saturday, Dec. 12. I vow that the 2027 season will be a more respectful schedule for our membership, but one filled with great music and fun performances.

Thank you for your remarkable work this year so far and for giving yourself to the band so freely."

...Jerry Rife

From The Grants and Fundraising Committee



The G and F committee has been quite active in 2026. The Band's coordinated fundraising campaign, which includes its annual mailing to donors, donations received at concert venues and program ads for the Annual Concert in May 2026 yielded **\$4,575** in revenue. Additionally, the Band received a **\$2,000** grant from the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission to supports its

250th Anniversary of the United States summer concert series. Looking ahead the G and F committee is currently finalizing details for its Fall campaign, which seeks ads for the Band's holiday concert program in December. The G and F committee welcomes new members and looks forward to continued success for the remainder of the calendar year.

...Bill Fernekes, Linda Garvey and Dave Klucsik

Thank you to our Ad Sponsors for your Support for our May 17, 2026 Concert Program!

Thank you to all our Anniversary Concert Ad Sponsors. Our program has grown in size, quality and support over the years, evolving from a black/white edition to typeset, professional glossy full-color product. We are deeply grateful for your funding and support of the band. Listed here are the sponsors for our May 17, 2026 program:

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Special Thank You!

Our concert programs are usually published in May and December. This is managed by our Grants & Fundraising Committee. However, without the help of Sheila Fernekes, owner of Sheila Fernekes Design Studio, www.sheilafernekesdesign.com, our programs wouldn't look so professional. Sheila is the graphic designer who prepares the layout and helps make the programs look professional. THANK YOU again Sheila for donating your time and services to the band.



This program is made possible, in part, by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission through funding from the Mercer County Board of Commissioners, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

Mercer County Division of Culture and Heritage - Grant Recipient - Thank you!

Celebrating 250 Years of Music!

The Band submitted and received a \$2,000 “Special Project” Grant requesting funds to play four (4) concerts celebrating the birth of our country throughout the summer: **“Listening to the Revolution: 250 Years of American Music”**. These programs continued to enrich the lives of members of communities where we haven’t performed before, offering educational information and historic music from our country’s inception.

Free Concert Series
Celebrating 250 Years of American Music
JUNE 13, 2026 – 2:00 PM
OLD BARRACKS MUSEUM
101 Barracks Street • Trenton, NJ



The Old Barracks Museum is a popular destination for visitors from all over the world who are interested in learning about the history of the Revolutionary War. The museum preserves the building's history, which was constructed as a military barracks in 1776 during the French and Indian War and later used as a Revolutionary War hospital. It also witnessed Washington's critical victory at the Battle of Trenton. During the 20th century, the museum of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames led the fundraising campaign to purchase the building. Today, the Old Barracks Museum continues to welcome guests from across the globe, sharing the rich history of the site through interpretive programs, exhibits, and preservation so that visitors can appreciate New Jersey's history, the diverse people who made it, and why it matters.

Free Concert Series
Celebrating 250 Years of American Music
JULY 4, 2026 – 7:30 PM
WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK
355 Washington Crossing/Pennington Road • Trenton, NJ



Washington Crossing State Park is located just eight miles north of Trenton, at the site of General Washington's historic Christmas Night Crossing of the icy Delaware River prior to his surprise attack on Trenton on December 26, 1776. For almost ten hours, boats and ferries carried men, horses and cannon to the Jersey side. Landing at Johnson's Ferry, the Continental Army faced an arduous 17-mile march to Trenton in a snowstorm. Reaching Trenton in the early morning of December 26th, the Continental army emerged, defeated and captured over 900 Hessian soldiers, securing a morale boosting victory of immeasurable proportions.

The Johnson Ferry House is the only building on either side of the river that was standing at the time of Washington's crossing of the Delaware, making it a “witness” building. The restored George Matthews Harding Mural of the Crossing hangs in the new Washington Crossing State Park Museum & Visitor Center.

Free Concert Series
Celebrating 250 Years of American Music
JULY 8, 2026 – 6:00 PM
23 SOUTH WARREN STREET • Trenton, NJ
(5 minute walk from the Trenton Battle Monument)



Looking over the Capital City at 150 feet, stands Trenton's Battle Monument. The granite column structure commemorates the December 26, 1776, Battle of Trenton in which our founder George Washington led Continental forces to a pivotal victory during the American Revolutionary War.

Built between 1891 and 1893, the monument was officially completed and dedicated on October 19, 1893. Designed by architect John H. Duncan, the column is crowned with an observation deck, and a statue of Washington pointing towards the battle site. The base is enlaid with bronze plaques as well as statues of John Bland of the 14th Continental Regiment and Blair McClernahan of the Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse. The pavilion of the monument contains historical tablets presented by the New Jersey Society of the Cincinnati. Today, the monument preserves the legacy of Trenton with ongoing community programs such as Patriot Week, annual reenactments of the Battle of Trenton from December 26 through December 31, and community tours and programming.

Free Concert Series
Celebrating 250 Years of American Music
JULY 26, 2026 – 6:00 PM
MORVEN MUSEUM AND GARDEN
55 Stockton Street • Princeton, NJ



Morven Museum & Garden in Princeton, NJ is the only original house of a signer of the Declaration of Independence that is open to the public. Built in the 1750s for Richard Stockton and his wife, Anne Boudinot Stockton, an early published poet, Morven was home to four generations of the Stockton family and generations of enslaved men and women, as well as immigrant servants. It later became home to the innovative industrialist and humanitarian Robert Wood Johnson, Jr. and served as New Jersey's first governor's mansion. Today, Morven welcomes visitors to explore this layered history through its museum, exhibitions, educational and cultural programs, and historic gardens. Learn more at morven.org.

Summer Concert Series 2026!

SPRING & SUMMER PUBLIC CONCERT
2026 OVERVIEW - UPDATED 5.6.2026

Blawenburg Band
EST. 1890

May 17--136th Anniversary Concert--TCNJ 3 p.m.
May 24--Hopewell Parade, 1-2 p.m.
June 7--Montgomery Strawberry Festival, 1:00 PM
June 13--The Old Barracks-Trenton, 2-3 PM
June 20--Franklin Twp. Gazebo, 6-7 PM
June 29 --Hopewell Train Station, 7 PM
July 4--Washington Crossing Park, NJ, 7:30 PM
July 8-- 23 South Warren St., Trenton, 6:00 PM
July 12-- South Brunswick Library, 3:00 PM
July 13-- Hopewell Train Station, 7:00 PM
July 27-- Hopewell Train Station, 7:00 PM
July 30 --Morven (Richard Stockton's Home) Princeton, 6 PM
August 3-- Hopewell Train Station RAIN DATE 7:00 PM
August 15--Griggstown Harvest Home, 5-7pm
September 20-- Ewing Covenant Ice Cream Social, 3 PM.

Visit www.blawenburgband.org
Under Performance Schedule
for more details or Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/BlawenburgBand>

The band has had an incredibly busy summer, performing 17 concerts where we shared some of the music from our 250th Anniversary Concert series. Many thanks to the venues which invited the Band to perform during our 137th year of providing music for the community.

Thank you to all our Patrons and Donations

Thanks to everyone who continues to attend our concerts and provide support for our programs. Our audiences continue to grow, and as a non-profit volunteer organization we appreciate your support and generous donations.



A summer of Musical Pleasure, the Photos Say it all!!!

What an exciting summer - instead of words, here's evidence of our musical journey during summer 2026!



Under One Flag: Struggle and Resilience

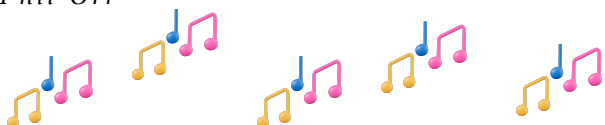
The Band commissioned an original work from Hopewell NJ musician and composer Phillip Orr to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country. Here is Phillip Orr's description of his composition "**Under One Flag: Struggle and Resilience.**"



"To mark the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I have aimed to musically capture and celebrate the determination and costly sacrifice of the generations who have fought to gain and defend our freedom.

I approached this in two ways: first composing recurring serious themes, often accompanied by tumultuous drumming, that evoke striving, pushing, and earning for progress; and second, by weaving together traditional and popular American melodies that have woven us, our richly diverse citizenry, together Under One Flag. These are melodies we have both adopted and birthed; songs learned in school, church, camp; danced to, marched to, wept to; songs of pride; protest, whimsy, joy; folk, holiday, protest, spiritual, cowboy, theater, and celebration songs. Some blend smoothly side by side in harmony, while others create dissonance, much like some people we know. Whether the listener recognizes all 49 melodies is less important than feeling the dynamic texture they create overall: The shifting, vibrant landscape of life passed forward to us by freedom-loving people, diverse and resilient. May we continue to persevere."

... Phil Orr

*Band Finances - Overview Summary:*

As part of the Band's effort to provide greater transparency regarding finances, here is a summary of revenue and expenses from Treasurer Bruce Levinson, current through August 2026.

Interest income \$1,582

Mercer County LAP Grant \$2,125

Total Donations \$38,893

Full Band Performances \$5,250

Grant Total Revenue \$47,850

Grand Total Expenses \$18,079

Cash Increase Through August 31, 2026: \$29,771

Next Few Concerts/Other as of 8.31.2026:

- **Thursday, September 17, 2026** - Oxford Enhanced Sr. Living; 290 E. Winchester Avenue, Langhorne, PA 19047, 7:00 PM - **Private Venue**
- **Sunday, September 20, 2026** - Ewing-Coventry Presbyterian Church Ice Cream Social, 3:00 – 5:00PM (**Raindate 9.27.2026**) - **Public Venue**
- **Sunday, December 6, 2026** - St. Ignatius Concert, 999 Reading Avenue #1, Yardley, PA 19067 - 3:00 PM - **Public Venue**
- **Saturday, December 12, 2026** - Band Holiday Concert Program, The College of New Jersey (Kendall Hall), 3:00 to 5:00 PM - **Public Venue**

Other:

- **Tuba Christmas** - MarketFair, 3535 US-1, Princeton, NJ 08540 - Public Event - Open to band brass players, all other can come and enjoy.
- **Monday, December 14, 2026** - Save the Date - Band Holiday Party, Princeton Montessori School, 487 Cherry Valley Road, Princeton, NJ 08540 - Time ~6:30 PM TBD - **Private Venue**

Calling All New Band Members:

Last year we highlighted individual bandmembers in the newsletter by requesting answers to four questions and requesting a photo so we can learn more about you. If interested in contributing this information, please email linda@garvey5.com.