



The Blawenburg Band

presents our

Holiday Program



Sunday, December 7, 2025
3:00 p.m.



The College of New Jersey - Kendall Hall
2000 Pennington Road, Ewing, New Jersey 08628

FREE ADMISSION • DONATIONS ACCEPTED • ADA COMPLIANT

Welcome to our Holiday Program!

The Blawenburg Band is happy to be performing for you today at Kendall Hall at The College of New Jersey. Thank you for your continued support of the band.

The band is a non-profit volunteer organization. We rely on support from our patrons and community members. Band volunteers however, keep the band fiscally responsible and running daily, thanks the following people:

Dr. Jerry E. Rife – Music Director and Conductor

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Blawenburg Band Board Officers

President – **Anthony Pappalardo**

Vice President and Booking Manager – **David Gwin**

Treasurer – **Bruce Levinson**

Librarian – **Susan Danser**

Secretary – **Thomas Boyd**

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Webmaster – **Linda Garvey**

Grants & Fundraising Committee:

William Fernekes, Linda Garvey, David Klucsik

Other Support:

Assistant Treasurer – **Jodi Bardin**

~
Special thanks for your help today!

The Band Board and the Grants & Fundraising Committee would like to share a heartfelt THANK YOU to **our volunteers**. Your assistance as ushers and at the donation table is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Thank you for making this concert a success.

John Anastasio - We want to express our sincere appreciation for your invaluable coordination and support of our concerts at The College of New Jersey as well as your years of service on the Band Board as Secretary. Your efforts are crucial in ensuring the success of these events and as our record keeper on the board. Thank you for making it all happen.

Edward Anastasio – Ephemera Photographics – Thank you for donating your time and talents to photograph the band during our concert performances.

Thank you to **Sheila Fernekes** who designed our printed concert program.

The Blawenburg Band: Captivating Audiences with the Best of Live Music



Widely recognized as the oldest community band in New Jersey, the Blawenburg Band has entertained audiences in Central New Jersey and adjacent Bucks County, PA for 135 years. Founded in 1890 in the Somerset County hamlet of Blawenburg, in a building that still stands today, the Band continues the community band tradition of performing an ambitious repertoire including marches, show tunes, movie themes, Dixieland, opera classics, and original compositions by band members, among other genres.

The Band's musicians are volunteers from all walks of life. They range in age from their teens to their nineties and include students, teachers, research scientists, computer specialists, homemakers, business people, doctors, lawyers, active retirees and many more. Some members bring decades of musical training and professional experience; others are dedicated--and accomplished--amateurs.

Notwithstanding their varied backgrounds, band members are alike in a most important way: they enjoy making music together, to the delight of young and old.

The Blawenburg Band has become synonymous with holiday parades and community celebrations, and frequently performs for area church socials and retirement centers. Recent performances have included well-known scores from celebrated films and TV series, Broadway themes, and soloists. Last year, the Band hosted guest conductor, noted arranger and band master Loras Schissel, senior musicologist at the Library of Congress and one of the nation's foremost experts on the music of John Philip Sousa, Aaron Copland, Percy Grainger, Leonard Bernstein and others.

Members of the Blawenburg Band

Musical Director and Conductor

Dr. Jerry E. Rife

Flute

Leslie Rife *
Susan Danser +
Daniel Lester
Jennifer Cridge

Oboe

Michael Benthin*

Bassoon

Bruce Levinson +
Christine Peterson
Mark Schroeder

Clarinet

John J. Anastasio
Tom Boyd +
Emily Russoniello
George Balog
Linda Tappin
Laraine Schwartz *
Markus Klampfl
Larry Tatsch +
Linda Garvey +
Rick Bergacs

Bass Clarinet

Eric Saurer +

Alto Saxophone

Max Hill
Mark Klein

Tenor Saxophone

Clara Boyd

Baritone Saxophone

Jonathan Holmquist *

French Horn

Lisa Peterson * ≈
John Tracey
Sharon Hallanan
Kevin Perry
Herb Foster

Euphonium

Jack Price
Carolyn Auerbach *
Tom DeFalco

Cornet/Trumpet

Michael Unger * ≈
Marcy Morrison ≈
Marc Angelone
Anthony Pappalardo +
Robert Fluss
Brett Dejneka
Jim Gillberg
John Sakizadeh
Ken Molinaro
Robert V. Jaeger
Bill Watts

Trombone

David Gwin *+
Robert Schilling
Pete Reichlin
Sarah Danser ≈
David Klucsik
Bill Fernekes
Tom Seeland

Tuba

Kate Foster *
Rob Chadwick ≈
James Yeh
Paul Zagarella
Harry Salotti

Percussion

Janice Mehalick *
Jody Bardin
Ed Majorossy
Ethan Ramos
Lukas Kulesa



The Blawenburg Band

Holiday Program

December 7, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Jerry E. Rife, Musical Director, Conductor

Blawenburg Brass Quintet

Christmas Bell Fantasy.....arr. B. Holcombe
Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah.....arr. Z. Smith

The Blawenburg Band

Overture to *Miracle on 34th Street*.....Bruce Broughton
The Holly and The Ivy.....arr. T. Wallace
Ukrainian Bell Carol, from *Shchedryk*.....M. D. Leontovych, arr. P. Sparke
Babes in Toyland.....arr. L. Forsblad
Morning Has Broken.....arr. T. Wallace
The Polar Express Selections.....Alan Silvestri, arr. J. Brubaker
Festive Sounds of Hanukah.....arr. B. Holcombe
Jingle Bells.....arr. J. Dawson
Let's Remember Pearl Harbor/Praise the Lord.....arr. M. Green
Old Scottish Melody, *Auld Lang Syne*.....arr. C. Wiley
Sleigh Ride.....Leroy Anderson
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.....Hugh Martin, arr. J. Swearingen

~~~ Program Subject to Change Without Notice ~~~

\* Section Leaders    + Band Board Members/Officers    ≈ Brass Quintet

<https://blawenburgband.org>

## *About the Conductor* *Dr. Jerry E. Rife*

A prominent educator, conductor and performer, Dr. Jerry Rife celebrates his 40th anniversary this year as Conductor and Musical Director of the Blawenburg Band. Under his guidance, the band has grown from a local small-town band in 1985 to a 75-member, premier musical organization that has performed hundreds of concerts under his baton.

Dr. Rife's leadership has developed the band's prominence and quality reputation with concert performances at Princeton University's Richardson Auditorium, Longwood Gardens, The Sousa Centennial Ceremony and The White House. In addition, the band's performances are annual traditions at area holiday parades, church socials, community venues and celebrations. In some cases, the band has performed at the same occasions and venues for decades.

Dr. Rife is Professor Emeritus of Music at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where he taught music history courses and was Director of Bands. He served as Chairman of Music in the Fine Arts Department since 1984 and taught graduate-level musicology courses at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, once it became Rider's School of Music. He is a recipient of the prestigious Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching.

He holds a Ph.D. in musicology from Michigan State University, a Master of Music in clarinet performance and an undergraduate degree in music education from Kansas State University. Prior to his appointment at Rider, Dr. Rife was an Assistant Professor of Musicology at Michigan State University and taught doctoral- and master's-level musicology courses and in the undergraduate music history curriculum.

He studied with Fred Ormand, past president of the International Clarinet Association, Elsa Ludwig-Verdehr of the Verdehr Trio, Clark Brodie of the Chicago Symphony, George Silfies of the St. Louis Symphony and Frank Sidorfsky at Kansas State University.

Dr. Rife has also been a contributing writer for the *Saxophone Journal* since 1988 and has reviewed performances and recordings for *Jazz Player Magazine*. He was the Associate Producer of the documentary



"If You Knew Sousa," a 90-minute film funded by WGBH public television in Boston and aired as a flagship show of the PBS series "The American Experience."

Dr. Rife readily shares his decades of experience and expertise with concert audiences, often with entertaining commentary and anecdotes on marches, film music, other genres and composers. As much as concertgoers enjoy his podium banter, longtime band members likewise commend his stage presence and engagement with the musicians as well as the audience.

As one veteran band member observes, "I thoroughly enjoy playing for our audiences, knowing that they are having as much fun as we are!"



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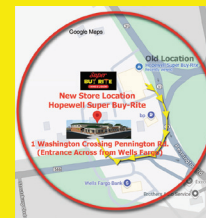
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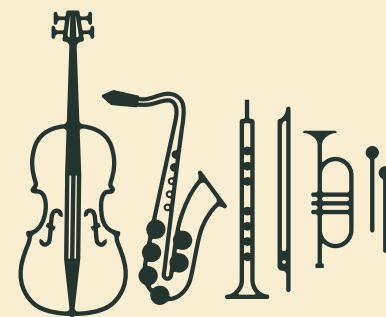
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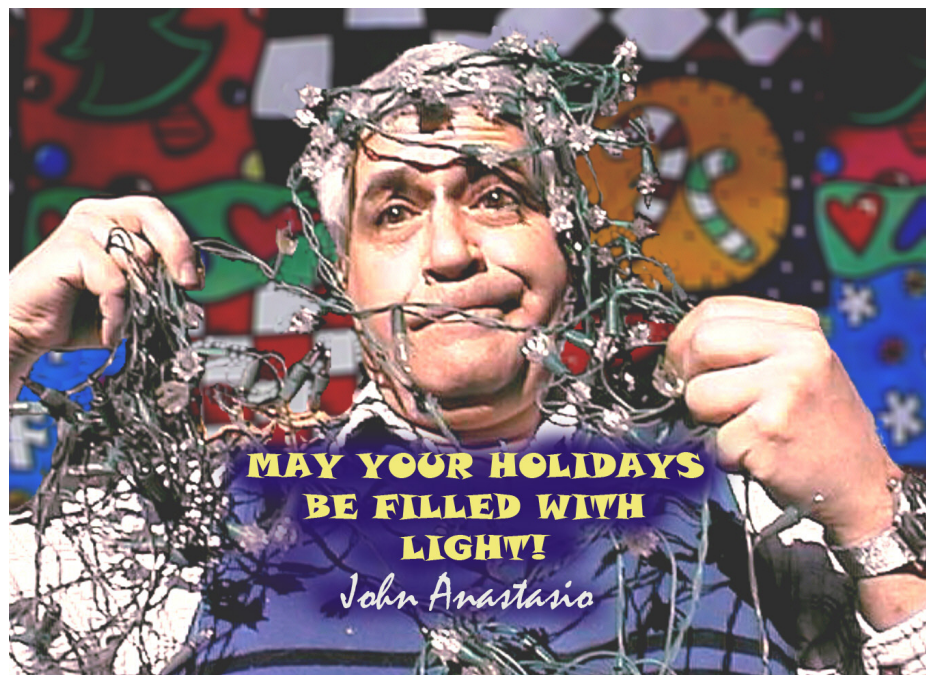
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The Blawenburg Band is a charitable organization under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is listed as such on the IRS website. You can search the IRS website for qualified charities at <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search> and type in the Band's EIN: 22-3602598.

The Blawenburg Band is also registered as a charity with the NJ Office of the Attorney General, Charities Registration Section. Interested individuals can make a gift to the Blawenburg Band by writing a new Will or adding to an existing one.

For more information:  
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By donating to The Blawenburg Band, you are not just contributing to an organization, you are investing in the preservation of a musical legacy that has endured for 135 years. With your generous contributions, we can continue spreading the joy of music while creating lasting memories for generations to come. Please join us in preserving the timeless beauty of live music.

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<https://blawenburgband.org>

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**For information about booking the band for an event:**  
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**For general inquiries about joining the Blawenburg Band:**  
contact Dr. Jerry Rife – Conductor at (609) 947-6810  
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**For additional information:**  
contact Anthony Pappalardo,  
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