



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/>

art credit – Tom Batiuk



Medina Community Band will present their third concert of the 2025 **Summer Concert Series** – on **Friday, June 20th, at 8:00 p.m., in the Uptown Medina Square Gazebo**. There is ample parking and no admission charge to the concert.

For the second year, **Medina Community Band** will partner with the **Brass Band of the Western Reserve (BBWR)**.

Conducted by Jay Wardeska, the BBWR will perform Richard Strauss' *Fanfare der Stadt Wien*, Kaye and Price's *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* featuring their cornet section, Sibelius' *Finlandia*, Weiss and Douglas' *What a Wonderful World*, featuring Flugelhorn soloist **Jeff Danilovic**, King's *Barnum and Bailey's Favorite* (March), Puccini's *Nessun Dorma* featuring cornet soloist **Michael Skotko**, Newbury's *An American Trilogy* and Sousa's *U.S. Field Artillery March*.

Conducted by **Marcus Neiman** and **Dr. Darren LeBeau**, **Medina Community Band** will perform the Warren Barker arrangement of *Deir in De*, Karl King's *War March of the Tartars*, Mendelssohn's *Concertpiece for Two Clarinets, Op. 114, No 2 (first movement)* featuring **Mary Ann Grof-Neiman** and **Erich Standar**, Barnhouse's *Battle of Shiloh* (march), Butterworth's *Banks of Green Willow*, Seitz's *The World is Waiting for the Sunrise*, Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* (march), and Berlin's *God Bless America*.

This concert will last approximately 70 to 80 minutes.

In the event of rain, cancellation will be posted on the Medina Community Band website - <https://medinacommunityband.org/>.

END

Brass Band of the Western Reserve

Jay Wardeska currently serves as the Executive Director of the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA). In March of 2022, he was named the music director of the Brass Band of the Western Reserve. He is currently a PhD candidate in Music Education at The Ohio State University and holds a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Mount Union.

Wardeska taught music at the middle school, high school, and college levels in the State of Ohio for over 30 years. Bands under his direction performed at a number of state and national events including OMEA Professional Development Conferences, the Ohio Band Directors Conference, the NAFME-Disney Honors Festival, the U.S. Army Band President's Concert, the University of Akron Concert Band Clinic, and partnership concerts with a number of university band programs.

Wardeska has been the recipient of many honors and appointments, including being named the 2013 National Band Director of the Year by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the U.S. Army Band. Additional awards and appointments include the Joseph A. Leeder Award in Music Education, selection to the NAFME U.S. Army All-American Band Directors Academy, Grammy Quarterfinalist for the Music Educator of the Year, the Medina County Arts Council's Service to the Arts Award, National Band Association Citation of Excellence, and the National Excellence in Teaching Award. He is also a Martha Holding Jennings Foundation Jennings Scholar. Other professional memberships include Phi Beta Mu and the American School Band Directors Association. (as of 24 04 12)



The **Brass Band of the Western Reserve** was founded in 1997 by Dr. Keith Wilkinson, a nationally renowned British brass band conductor, arranger and frequent adjudicator at the North American Brass Band Competition.

BBWR's current director, Jay Wardeska, has been a band conductor and active trumpet player in the state of Ohio for more than 30 years. He currently serves as a Graduate Teaching Associate in music education at Ohio State University, where he's pursuing a PhD in Music Education.

Wardeska has been the recipient of many honors and appointments, including being named the 2013 National Band Director of the Year by the National Association for Music Education and the U.S. Army Band.

The band follows British brass band instrumentation, using cornets and tenor horns in place of trumpets and French horns. Tubas, euphoniums, baritones and trombones round out the band, with a strong percussion ensemble for support.

Brass Band of the Western Reserve Soloists



Jeff Danilovic (featured flugelhorn soloist) is a clinical manager with 19 years experience in Cardiothoracic Intensive Care and Home Care Nursing where he currently has the role of Clinical Market Manager. He earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Cuyahoga Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Ohio University. Prior to his career in nursing, Jeff studied music education at The Ohio State University where he participated in various ensembles including the Trumpet Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and The Ohio State University Marching Band. Jeff and his wife Colleen, reside in Medina, Ohio with their children Caitlin, Connor, and Molly. (25 05 22)

Michael Skotko is a semi-professional trumpet player and music educator in the Northeast Ohio area. He began playing in the 5th grade at Hickory Ridge Elementary School. Michael's professional journey began when he decided to pursue a Music Performance degree at Kent State University. Upon

graduation, Michael then attended Penn State University to study a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance.

Michael first joined The Brass Band of the Western Reserve in 2006 playing Eb Soprano Cornet while studying at Kent State University. He took a leave of absence from the band towards the end of 2010 when he moved to Pennsylvania to study his master's degree and returned to the band in 2014. He is regularly a featured soloist with the group both during their concert series and while touring Ohio. Michael is also the President of the Brass Band of the Western Reserve.



Michael has played at many prestigious venues in his professional career including Severance Hall, The Kennedy Center, and Carnegie Hall.

As an educator, Michael has worked with several of Ohio's most successful music programs. He was a trumpet and visual tech for Brunswick High School, a regular finalist at Band of America Regional Championships, from 2005-2009. In 2009, Michael was the trumpet tech for Capital Regiment Drum and Bugle Corp. That year, they returned to Open Class and finished 5th in Open Class Finals after being inactive for the past 2 years. From 2014-2019, he worked with both the marching band and concert band at Waterloo High School. Since 2019, Michael has been honored to be the Brass Caption Head for the Crestwood Scarlet Guard. He specializes in the musical development of the trumpet and mellophone musicians but is responsible for the "big picture" ensemble sound of the Scarlet Guard brass section. In addition to the marching band, he works regularly with the Symphonic Band leading full brass sectionals and working with individual sections.

In addition to working with school band programs, Michael also teaches private lessons to aspiring trumpet players.

Currently, Michael resides in Stow with his wife Marisa and is an IT Manager working at Kent State University.

Medina Community Band 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 studied conducting with Richard Jackoboice, William D. Revelli, and Elizabeth Green.

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 was a part-time lecturer for the music department at Case Western Reserve University from April 2004 through May of 2010. From 2010 through July of 2016, Neiman was an assistant professor of music education at the Hugh A. Glauser School of Music at Kent State University.

Neiman was a founding trustee and past president of both the Medina County Arts Council and Medina County Performing Arts Foundation. He served as music director for productions by both Medina County Show Biz Company and Brunswick Entertainment Company and served as a committee member on the City of Medina Uptown Park Committee and Arts Under the Stars committee. He was a member of the class of '94 Leadership Medina County and 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 29th, 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 listed in Marquis "**Who's Who in America**" (58 Edition).

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. (25 05 13)

Dr. Darren LeBeau, associate conductor, started his teaching career in 1989, prior to accepting the Director of Bands position at Revere Local Schools in 1998. Dr. LeBeau's primary responsibilities included Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, and the Marching Minutemen. He also taught beginning instrumental music at Bath Elementary School. In addition to his teaching duties, Darren LeBeau was the Auditorium Manager and High School Building Use coordinator. Preceding to his tenure at Revere, he was the assistant band director at Barberton City Schools, Claymont City Schools, and Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School. Dr. LeBeau earned both his master's degree '98 and Bachelor's degree '89 in Music Education from The University of Akron. He earned his Ph.D. from Kent State University in 2020. He is actively involved in the Ohio Music Education Association and has participated in the OMEA Leadership Academy. He is an active OMEA Adjudicator for Marching Band, Solo and Ensemble and Large Group Adjudicated events. He has also served OMEA as a host for High School Large Group and Marching Band adjudicated events. Dr. LeBeau has been a member of the Brass Band of the Western Reserve. Dr. LeBeau was awarded PTSA "Teacher of the Year" for Revere Local Schools in 2022 and "Who's Who in America" 1991, '92 and '93. His ensembles have received OMEA superior ratings at the local and state levels at marching band and concert band adjudicated events. He retired from Revere Local Schools after 34 years of teaching in June of 2023. His professional memberships include the Revere Education Association, Ohio Education Association, National Education Association, Ohio Music Education Association, Music Educators National Conference, Kappa Kappa Psi, and American School Band Director Association. Darren was appointed as an associate conductor in the Spring of 2023. (as of 24 07 18)





Matthew Hastings, assistant conductor, has played tuba with the band since 2018 and has served as assistant conductor since 2019. He teaches 5th and 6th grade band at Wadsworth Intermediate School and has been with Wadsworth City Schools since 2015. Matthew holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Ohio Northern University (2015) and a Master of Music in Music Education from Kent State University (2024).

In addition to his work with the band, he performs with the Northeast Ohio Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble (NOTE) and has played tuba in various venues throughout Medina. He also spent several years playing piano for multiple churches and now enjoys playing more casually at home. He lives in Medina with his wife, Lindsay — a piano teacher at Sarah’s Violin Studio — and their dog, O’Malley. Outside of music, Matthew is an avid runner and enjoys cheering on the Cavaliers, Browns, and Guardians. (as of 25 05 19)

Amy Muhl, assistant conductor, has been a member of Medina Community Band since 1998 and was 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 Master 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. (25 02 23)



Medina Community Band Ensemble Members



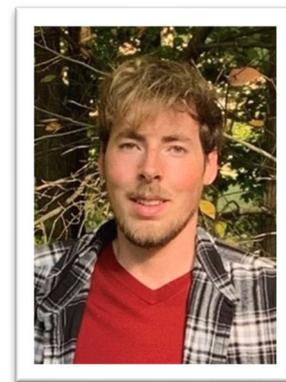
Mary Ann Grof-Neiman clarinet section leader and head librarian, received her bachelor of science in music education degree from the Bowling Green State University. Ms. Grof-Neiman has served as principal clarinetist with the Sounds of Sousa Band and as clarinetist for the Blossom Festival Band, the Cleveland Winds, Lakeland Civic Band, Lakeside Symphony Orchestra, Youngstown Symphony, Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra and Erie Philharmonic. She currently performs with the Cleveland Philharmonic Orchestra, Heights Chamber Orchestra, Home Town Concert Band, Akron Symphonic Winds and Medina Community Band. She maintains private studios at Baldwin Wallace College through their Community Arts School as well as her home in Medina. She has served the Ohio Music Education Association as a Woodwind Adjudicator for the last 36 years and most recently as clarinet auditioner for the All-State Band/Orchestra (2025 Cleveland Conference). She is currently a member of AFM Local 4. (as of 25 06 16)

Erich Standar (clarinet and assistant librarian) has been a member of Medina Community Band since 2017. He graduated from Highland High School in the class of 2018, where he was a member of the school’s Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Band. He was a member of the Pit Orchestra (fall 2016 and 2017) musicals, Mary Poppins and Fiddler on the Roof. He brought back

the school’s Clarinet Choir which he led during his senior year. Erich was the recipient of the John Philip Sousa Award (Spring 2018) for superior musicianship and outstanding dedication.

He was selected to perform in the Kent State University Honors Band (Winter 2016), the Ohio University Honors Band (Winter 2017), and the Akron University Clarinet Workshop (Winter 2018). Erich has participated in the Ohio Music Education Association District Six Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event where he received superior class “A” ratings.

Erich currently oversees driver skills examinations for the Ohio Department of Public Safety in addition to serving as the band’s Assistant Librarian." (as of 25 06 16)



Medina Community Band History

The Medina Community Band

June 20th, 2025 – 8:00 p.m.

Celebrating World Music Day and Juneteenth 2025

Program

The Brass Band of the Western Reserve

Jay Wardeska, conductor

Anthem, <i>Star Spangled Banner</i> (1889/1917)	Francis Scott Key Sousa/Damrosch
Fanfare, <i>Fanfare der Stadt Wien</i>	Richard Strauss Howard Lorriman
Cornet Section Feature, <i>Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy</i>	Kaye/Price Roy Woodfield
Overture, <i>Finlandia</i>	Jean Sibelius Howard Lorriman
Flugelhorn Solo, <i>What a Wonderful World</i>	Weiss & Douglas Alan Fernie
<i>Jeff Danilovic, soloist</i>	
March, <i>Barnum and Bailey's Favorite</i>	Karl L. King Peter Roberts
Cornet Solo, <i>Nessun Dorma</i>	Giacomo Puccini David Hirst
<i>Michael Skotko, soloist</i>	
<i>An American Trilogy</i>	Mickey Newbury Goff Richards
March, <i>U.S. Field Artillery March</i>	John Philip Sousa M.L. Lake

The Medina Community Band

Marcus L. Neiman, conductor
Dr. Darren LeBeau, associate conductor
Matthew Hastings, & Amy Muhl, assistant conductors

Lullaby, <i>Deir in De</i> (1990)	arr. Warren Barker *
March, <i>War March of the Tartars</i> (1938)	Karl L. King *
Clarinet Duet, <i>Concertpiece, Op. 114, No. 2</i> (mvt 1) (1833)	Felix Mendelssohn Harry Gee
Mary Ann Grof-Neiman & Erich Standar, soloists	
March, <i>Battle of Shiloh</i> (1888)	Carl L. Barnhouse * John Paynter
Folksong, <i>Banks of Green Willow</i> (1913)	George Butterworth Robert Longfield
March, <i>The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise</i> (1919)	Lockhart/Ernest Seitz * Harry Alford
National March, <i>Stars and Stripes Forever</i> (1896)	John Philip Sousa
March, <i>God Bless America</i> (1917/1936)	Irving Berlin Erik Leidzen

* Dr. Darren LeBeau conducting

Program subject to change
(As of 25 06 14)