



The Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band 2019-2020

Handbook



www.goldcoastband.org



The Gold Coast Band

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March 2019

The Gold Coast Band

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band!

The band was founded in 1976 and has continued the spirit of a community band for more than 40 years. The Gold Coast Band is composed of dedicated volunteer musicians who have joined together to create music for their own enjoyment and the enrichment of the community.

The multigenerational group provides quality musical entertainment to local residents of all ages and also accepts musicians of varying ages who are from Boynton Beach and neighboring communities.

The band usually rehearses on Thursday evenings from September through April and has four concerts a season. The schedule of rehearsals and concerts is posted on the band's website, www.goldcoastband.org.

Although there are no auditions, there are some minimal requirements for participating in the band. Without them we cannot achieve our primary goal of enjoying and performing good music together. All members must be able to read music, be willing to rehearse parts independently and be prepared for rehearsal and concerts, commit to attending rehearsals on a regular basis and be willing to put forth their best effort to work together with the ensemble.

We hope you enjoy being a member of the Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band and that your opportunity for musical performance and expression is greatly rewarded through your participation and involvement.

Musically Yours,



Barbara A. Rubenstein

The Gold Coast Band

HISTORY

The Boynton Beach Gold Coast Band has been entertaining audiences for more than 40 years. It was founded in 1976 by the late Dr. James E. Buffan who came to Boynton Beach from Niagara Falls, New York where he was the director of music for the city's public schools. He served as a music teacher on the faculty of Niagara University and directed several local bands in nearby communities such as Little Falls.

Dr. Buffan's Gold Coast Band started as a community band composed of volunteer musicians, and it has continued as such throughout the years. His late wife, Lee Buffan, served as the delightful emcee at concerts for many years.

After Dr. Buffan passed away in 1991, DeVere Fader became the band's director. DeVere served until 2000 when his brother James Fader became the new director. James served as director from 2000 to 2015, and Kenneth Wilbanks was the director from 2015 to 2017. From 2017 to the present, Barbara Rubenstein has been the band's director.

(See the biographies of the directors in the back of this handbook.)

The Gold Coast Band

MEMBERSHIP AND GUIDELINES

Membership is open to adults, college students, and middle and high school students who are recommended by their music directors. Students are welcome to join the group but must commit to all rehearsals and concerts in order to earn Community Service Hours. Members range in age from teens to their nineties. The Music Director will determine if the band can accept new members. In order to maintain a balanced instrumentation, there may be a need to create a waiting list for new members. The band is organized by members who serve on the Board of Directors who are elected annually.

1. Rehearsals

Rehearsals are usually held on Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Our current rehearsal location is the First Baptist Church in Boynton Beach, 301 North Seacrest Blvd. Boynton Beach, FL 33435. Players should arrive early to set up their stands, warm up, and tune so rehearsals can begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

2. Instruments/Equipment

Band members need to provide their own instruments and accessories but if an instrument is needed, consult the Music Director. Members should have their own music stands and stand lights. Several instruments are owned by the City of Boynton Beach. They are expensive and difficult to replace. The percussion section leader is responsible for overseeing the percussion instruments. Band members are asked to not play another member's instrument without asking the owner. All members are strongly encouraged to purchase tuners.

3. Music

Music is copied so that original parts do not get lost. It is expected that you will take your folder home to practice. However, if you have to miss a rehearsal, your folder should be returned if no one else plays your part so that your part can be covered in your absence. All folders must be returned after each concert so the music can be changed.

4. Section Leaders

Appointed by the Music Director, section leaders organize the section in which they play, hold and conduct section rehearsals as needed, serve as liaison with the Music Director and Librarian, assign parts within the section and assure that their section has music in the correct order for rehearsal. Section leaders do not have to be the best players in the section.

5. New Players

New members will communicate with the Music Director and the Personnel Manager who will assist with the registration forms and introduce the players to the section leader. The section leader or Music Director will seat the new member temporarily. Seating and assignment of parts will be at the discretion of the Music Director and the section leaders.

6. Attendance

Each member will be expected to attend every rehearsal and performance. Attendance is taken at all rehearsals and performances. A member who finds he/she cannot attend either a rehearsal or a concert should notify the Personnel Manager or the Music Director. It is very important that the Music Director and section leaders know at least two days (whenever possible) in advance of a member's absence. Attendance at more than half of the scheduled rehearsals, including the dress rehearsal, prior to any concert is expected. Unusual circumstances need to be discussed with the Musical Director.

7. Concert Attire

Dress for most concerts will be Formal Black.

Dress for men:

- Black tuxedo or black suit (black tuxedo preferred)
- White shirt
- Black bowtie
- Black socks
- Black shoes

Dress for women:

- Black full length (floor length) dress or skirt OR
- Black long pants (dressy, semi-formal)
- Black top with 3/4 length sleeves to full length sleeves (covering arms is preferred); no see-through tops
- No short skirts
- Black shoes
- Minimal jewelry

At some concerts we may choose to dress in white tops/shirts and black pants/skirts.

8. Concerts

A schedule of our four main concerts will be distributed at the start of the season so personal schedules can be adjusted accordingly. Additional concerts at alternate venues may be scheduled throughout the season. Members will be notified of these additional performance opportunities as early as possible. Specific details for each concert will be distributed by email prior to each event.

9. Committee Work

It takes a lot of work to keep a large band playing with consistent high quality. The work of committee members is very much appreciated. The Board President will notify members when volunteers are needed to serve in various capacities. Please feel free to join a committee! If you feel you are capable of chairing a committee, or if you see a need for a new committee, talk to the President about it.

The Gold Coast Band

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

The Board of Directors consists of the following positions:

- President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Personnel Manager
- Musical Director
- Member-At-Large (2)

1. President

The President calls and chairs Board meetings and business meetings, and appoints committee chairpersons and special committees as needed.

2. Secretary

The Secretary takes minutes during meetings, sends them to Board members for any corrections, and emails them to the President for approval at the next meeting. The minutes are also archived.

3. Treasurer

The Treasurer keeps track of the finances and bank accounts.

4. Personnel Manager

The Personnel Manager is a non-band member who keeps registration forms, maintains a waiting list of prospective players, keeps a record of attendance and maintains an up-to-date email list of all members.

5. Musical Director

The Musical Director conducts rehearsals and concerts, selects music, works with the Librarian on distributing music, assigns players to chairs, makes arrangements for all concerts, names an assistant conductor as needed, and invites guest conductors, soloists or other performing groups to practice and perform with the band.

6. Member-At-Large

7. Member-At-Large

A Member-At-Large assists with responsibilities as assigned.

The Gold Coast Band

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROCEDURES

1. Elections

- Intentions or Nominations to Run are announced and submitted to the Gold Coast Band by April of each year.
- Voting usually occurs on the fourth Thursday in April using a ballot process. A new President and Board members will be announced for the next concert season.
- The current President and Board will train the newly elected Board members.
- The newly elected President and Board members will assume their new duties after the last concert of the season.
- Any band member who wishes to serve on the Board must be a member in good standing.
- If a member of the Board gives up his/her position, or is removed, the President or Music Director may appoint a temporary person to fill that position until a new member can be elected. The election can be held at any time. The temporary person may fulfill the duties until the next season.
- A Board member can run for the same office the following year. There is no limit on the number of terms a person can hold office. However, each year they must be re-elected.

2. Board Meetings

Board meetings shall be conducted as follows:

- The President, Music Director or Personnel Manager can call a meeting of the Board when needed.
- There are no set dates or times for meetings.
- Meetings can be held wherever it is most appropriate for Board members.
- Any member of the Board may make a proposal to the Board for a vote. It is recommended that the proposal be submitted to the President and/or Music Director prior to the Board meeting. Proposals may also be presented at the beginning of a Board meeting, and added to the agenda, time permitting.
- All proposals needing votes will be passed with a majority of Board members.
- In order to conduct official business, a quorum is required at meetings.
- The Music Director can veto any proposal.
- All Board members in good standing have voting rights.

3. Order of Business

The order of business for Board meetings is as follows:

- Roll call
- Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- Reports of officers
- Reports of committees
- Old and unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

The Gold Coast Band

COMMITTEES

1. Equipment Committee

This committee prepares the rehearsal hall and the stage, or other facilities, for rehearsals and concerts. Committee members help with the transportation of instruments and equipment and for keeping inventory.

2. Group Ticket Sales Committee

This committee uses promotional materials to facilitate the sale of group tickets.

3. Hospitality Committee

This committee organizes snacks and drinks for concerts.

4. Library Committee

Members of the Library Committee assist the Librarian as needed.

5. Publicity Committee

This committee promotes and publicizes band activities, submits concert schedules to local newspapers and media in a timely manner and distributes flyers.

6. Sponsorship Committee

This committee develops contacts in the community who may be interested in being a sponsor. Work involves collaborating with the Publicity Committee.

The Gold Coast Band

MUSIC DIRECTORS

Barbara Rubenstein

2017 – present



Barbara Rubenstein was trained at the Ithaca College School of Music in Ithaca, New York where she graduated Cum Laude with a degree in Music Education as a clarinet major. Her 34-year teaching career included positions as an instrumental music teacher and band/orchestra director in Dallas, Texas and Rochester, New York. Her last 30 years prior to retirement were in Victor, New York, just outside of Rochester.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities that included concert, jazz and marching band, adjudication preparation and conducting the musical productions, she was the Coordinator of the District Music Department and supervised student teachers for 25 years. Barbara is a member of the National Association for Music Education, NYSSMA (the New York State School Music Association and FMEA (the Florida Music Educators' Association). She is a past member of the New York State Band Directors Association and the New York State Council of Administrators of Music Education. She is a life member of Sigma Alpha Iota and was recently awarded an honorary membership by her former students to Tri-M, a high school music honor society.

From 2006-2011, she served on NYSSMA's Executive Council as Zone Representative of the Genesee Region, acting as a liaison between the local teachers and the state council, and overseeing adjudication festivals and All-State concerts for nine counties. She and her husband, Todd, moved to Palm Beach County in 2013 and have three grown children. Locally, she has performed with the Royal Palm Beach Community Band where she served as Associate Conductor (2014-2016) and the New Gardens Band, acting as interim/substitute and guest conductor (2014-2017).

Kenneth Wilbanks
2015 - 2017



Born in Southeast Texas, Ken graduated from Nederland High School in Texas and went on to earn his bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and his master's and doctoral degrees from Texas A&M University.

Ken taught high school band, and his groups were recognized in district, area and state competitions. He was a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Band Masters Association, Texas Music Adjudicators Association and Kappa Kappa Psi. He also served as a guest conductor and clinician.

Ken is also a member of ASCAP.

After teaching high school band, Ken worked in estate planning and retired from the financial field in 2007. He returned to his musical roots in South Florida by performing and conducting with the Broward Symphonic Band as well as composing. His hobbies are yachting, watching sci-fi movies and spending time with his dog.

Ken's goal for a band is to have a fun and rewarding experience while making music!

James Fader 2000 - 2015



At the age of 8, Jim realized that he wanted to be just like his older brother, DeVere, and become a band director. He achieved his goal by completing his bachelor's degree in music education and a master's degree in trumpet performance from the University of Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, he played in the marching band for six years (including two Rose Bowl Trips) and the symphonic band for five years.

Sandwiched between degrees, Jim enlisted in the United States Army during the Viet Nam conflict when he served as solo trumpet and assistant conductor of the Fifth United States Army Band in Chicago, Illinois. Although he wasn't needed, he was the back-up bugler for President Eisenhower's funeral.

After completing his degrees, he was director of music in the Marlette Public School system (Marlette, Michigan) where he developed a music program that included more than one-third of the entire school population. His high school band won the Mid-West National Band Championship in Rock Falls, Illinois.

Jim and his wife Nancy and daughter Jamie moved to Ft. Myers, Florida in 1976 where he taught at Suncoast Middle School for 18 years. Jamie attended the University of Florida and the University of Delaware and received her doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently a professor at Temple University. Unfortunately, Jim retired from teaching when his wife passed in 1993.

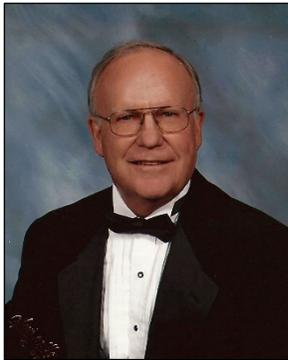
In 1998, he found the second love of his life, Cindy. They both enjoy music to no end and their daughter Rachel also started studying music at an early age at the Conservatory School at North Palm Beach. Jim has also played trumpet in the Gold Coast Band, the Florida Intergenerational Orchestra, the Orchid City Brass Band, the Palm Beach Winds, and the Orchestra at the First Baptist Church in West Palm Beach.

"I truly will always cherish the 15 years of conducting the most wonderful 'gold coasters' in the world.

Jim says, "God, family and music are my life!"

DeVere Fader

1991 – 2000



DeVere Fader was born in Caro, Michigan. When his family moved to the Beecher District near Flint, Michigan, he played trumpet in the band and sang in the choir. While there, he won the American Legion Award for citizenship and patriotism. He also served as vice president of Boys State, class president for three years, student council president, and editor of the yearbook. He was student conductor of both the band and chorus, and he won 32 district and state medals for music proficiency. He also earned the Regents Alumni Academic Scholarship to the University of Michigan.

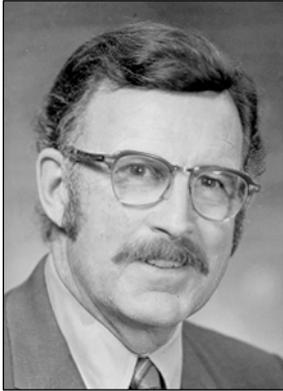
DeVere entered the University of Michigan in 1954 and was awarded both bachelor and master's degrees in music education, majoring in both vocal and instrumental music with a minor in mathematics. He was senior class president and president of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (honorary national music fraternity.) He played for four years in the famous University of Michigan marching band, sang in the select Michigan Singers, the men's glee club, and was an all-campus winner in wrestling, softball, and self-defense.

Following college, he taught band, chorus, and math for 23 years in the state of Michigan. He was district president in three different band associations, was the founding father of the Michigan Competing Band Directors Association, and was a teacher-of-the-year finalist. His bands at Bridgeport and Bad Axe were state marching band champions five times. His Carson City, Bridgeport and Bad Axe bands were frequent winners at the National Cherry Festival held yearly in Traverse City. In his 10-year tenure in Bridgeport, his marching bands and auxiliary units won more than 150 first-place trophies. In 1976, the Bridgeport band was rated in the top three music programs in America by *Ruffles and Flourishes* magazine. In 1973, the band was recognized by the Michigan state legislature as Michigan's Musical Ambassadors.

In 1981, DeVere moved his family to Boca Raton, Florida where he continued to teach band, chorus, and math for 17 years. He was district president three times. In 1999, he moved to Punta Gorda. He was director of the North Port Concert Band for 10 years and also directed the Charlotte County Community Band. He also played, directed, and sang in the Sun Coast Wind Ensemble of Venice, and the Heartland Pops of Avon Park in addition to directing. He is active in church and plays in the bell and church choirs of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Punta Gorda. In his spare time, he can be found on the golf course with his wife Candy.

Dr. James E. Buffan

1976 – 1991



The late Dr. James E. Buffan formed a community band in the City of Boynton Beach, Florida in 1976. The band was originally named the James E. Buffan Gold Coast Band. Dr. Buffan was a man with a musical vision that inspired others to join him in creating entertaining music for the community.

He came to Boynton Beach from Niagara Fall, NY, where he was director of music for the city's public schools. He also served on the faculty at Niagara University and formed small bands in local communities in upstate New York such as Little Falls.

During his 15 years as director of the James E. Buffan Cold Coast Band, Dr. Buffan attracted dozens of accomplished musicians from various communities in South Florida to play in the band. In cooperation with the City of Boynton Beach, the band had regular practices and concerts throughout the winter season. The band grew over the years, but it is because of his initial dedication and foresight that the band continued to thrive even in his absence.



The Gold Coast Band, Inc.

c/o 827 Ridge Rd, Lantana, FL 33462
www.goldcoastband.org

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Instrument(s) _____

Occupation(s) _____

Cell # _____ Home # _____

Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Contact Phone Number _____

Date _____

Students: School _____ Grade _____

ATTENDANCE POLICY

1. Attendance will be taken at every rehearsal and concert.
2. All members are expected to attend all rehearsals and scheduled concerts.
3. Attendance at the pre-concert rehearsal shall be required unless there is a good cause for such absence. Non-attendance at the pre-concert rehearsal without good cause will preclude the member from performing in that concert.
4. If you are not going to be at a rehearsal, it is your responsibility to let the director know as soon as possible either via email or phone call.

Please read & sign below:

I have read the "Attendance Policy" and agree to abide by it.

Signature _____ Date _____