



Then and Now

27 Years and Counting - The Stillwater Community Band is Home

It is hard to believe how fast the first 27 years of the reformation of the Stillwater Community Band have passed.

In the fall of 1991, William Ballenger had a dream to rekindle the music of the SCB originally formed on July 4, 1906. Music was donated by area public schools and OSU and all that was needed was a home. The logical place was the newly created Stillwater Community Center and it has served as our home ever since.

Summer concerts began in 1992 on the south lawn of the old courthouse. Averaging 35 members, the band presented five unique concerts each summer. With the new addition to the courthouse, the band moved to the courtyard on the east side of the Stillwater Public Library. Through all the years of outdoor concerts, The Community Center served as our home for rehearsals and the alternate venue for performances in case of inclement weather. In the summer of 2013, it was decided to move all concerts into the Winfrey Houston Theatre permanently.

In addition to the Stillwater Community Band, the organization has also sponsored the Stillwater Community Jazz Band. Stillwater Jazz was originally formed as "music therapy" for area musicians to get together every Monday night in the Community Center and play simply for the fun of playing. Soon, the band began to branch out and perform at various venues in the area, and a regular performance schedule at the Community Center was formed.

In 2017, it was decided to have both groups perform together throughout the year. Now, rather than the SCB only performing the four concerts in four weeks during the month of June, the group rehearses every 2nd and 4th

Monday through the year and will present five concerts between October and May. Stillwater Jazz also rehearses on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month allowing both groups to now perform music that was not possible on only one rehearsal per concert.

The SCB owes their entire existence to the Stillwater Community Center. This has been our home since the building opened in 1991 for everything - all equipment and now over 50 rehearsals and performances throughout the year in the beautifully redesigned Winfrey Houston Theatre. With the support of the community and the city, the SCB has grown to more than 70 members from Stillwater and the surrounding area.

The next performance of both the Community Band and Stillwater Jazz will take place on Friday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Stillwater Community Center. Holiday tunes will be featured on this annual Christmas concert and admission is always free to every performance. It is with much gratitude that the members of the SCB thank the Friends of the Stillwater Community Center for keeping the Community Center alive for hopefully many years to come!



ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 23, 2017

Wayne Bovenschen has been the music director for the Stillwater Community Band since 2005 and Percussion Instructor at OSU since 1987.

The Stillwater Community Center Foundation and the Friends of Stillwater Community Center strive to provide supplemental resources for the Stillwater Community Center to ensure its accessibility, affordability and sustainability for its use by residents and visitors of Stillwater and surrounding area. Visit www.sccfriends.com for more information.

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