

History of the Lafayette Band

The Lafayette Band of North Kingstown is one of the oldest bands in continuous existence in Rhode Island. The band was formed in the mill village of Lafayette in 1882 and served as the focus of village social life by performing at lawn parties, socials and band fairs which were three-day entertainment extravaganzas. East Greenwich, Davisville and Wakefield all had bands, but the Lafayette Cornet Band, as the band was known in the early days, was considered the best of the area bands. In the late 1800's and early 1900's, the band was led by the captain of the steamer *General* and entertained on moonlight excursions between Wickford and Newport. At the opening of the Sea View Railroad running from Wickford to Narragansett Pier in 1899, the band led the celebration from its own railroad car. As some bands floundered, this band flourished when women and high school students were invited to participate in 1946. Playing concerts in various neighborhoods through the years, the band now makes its summer performance home at the Lafayette Band Shell, located at the North Kingstown Town Beach.

"There aren't many things that last for more than a century. Fewer still that remain vital and true to the purpose for which they were created. In North Kingstown, the old mill village of Lafayette lives on in music that reverberates over several generations, helping to give a community its identity and its voice."

Doug Norris, Standard Times

LAFAYETTE BAND
P.O. Box 855
North Kingstown, RI 02852
Address Correction Requested

Lafayette Band

Annual Fund 2008 Private Contributions



*Celebrating community
through music.*

Tel: (401) 946-5855
www.Lafayette-Band.com



Mission

The mission of the Lafayette Band is to celebrate community through music. Perhaps you have enjoyed a warm summer evening at the North Kingstown Town Beach listening to lively patriotic music and Broadway show tunes being played by the Lafayette Band. Maybe your heart beat a little faster as you felt proud to be an American when you heard the band play a Sousa march during the Memorial Day parade. Or perhaps, you enjoyed a holiday concert with your loved one at a local nursing home performed by the Lafayette Band. Whatever the occasion, the Lafayette Band, undoubtedly, was an integral part of the experience.

To its musicians, the Lafayette Band has a purpose to provide an outlet where the musicians can express their special abilities and achieve group satisfaction toward an artistic goal. The band also enables the musicians to develop friendships with others with similar interests in music from different age groups and occupations. Lastly, the band provides a form of relaxation for the musicians from their sometimes hectic and stressful lives.

“... hopes for the band can easily be understood just by listening to this fine – tuned mixture of artists combining their individual talents. It’s not only a harmonious experience but also a true testament to their creative accomplishments of delivering big band sound with lots of small town charm.”

Cheryl Butler, NK Villager

Musician Volunteers

The Lafayette Band is a Community Band offering an opportunity for any musician to continue using musical skills beyond school graduation. Currently the band has members from North Kingstown, Block Island, Cranston, East Greenwich, Exeter, Jamestown, Middletown, Narragansett, Newport, Peacedale, Warwick, and West Kingston.

Performances

Each year, this concert band of 45 members prepares approximately 80 musical pieces for the summer concert season. Retired North Kingstown High School band director Joseph R. Pelosi, conductor of the Lafayette Band since 1963, selects a blend of classical overtures, solo and ensemble pieces highlighting various band members or sections, novelty numbers, show tunes and a blend of popular and lesser known marches for the enjoyment of the audience. Not only does the Lafayette Band perform in public during the summer at the North Kingstown Beach, they perform twice a year for residents of local nursing homes. The band has performed in Cranston, Warwick, North Smithfield, at the Rhode Island Convention Center as part of First Night, at the Newport Marriot at Christmas time and most recently, as part of America’s 400th Anniversary celebration in Newport. The band also participates in civic events such as town parades and the Wickford Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. This year, the Lafayette Band is proud to perform an “Armed Forces Salute” concert in conjunction with Armed Forces Day.

Private Contribution Form

| <i>Here is my contribution as a:</i> | <i>Price</i> |
|---|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$25.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President's Club | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Circle | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ |

Name

Address

Phone

Please make your check payable to the Lafayette Band

***Please mail your contribution to:
Lafayette Band
P.O. Box 855
North Kingstown, RI 02852***

The Lafayette Band is a non-profit organization and contributions are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

The Lafayette Band is 126 years old !

Through your contributions to the Lafayette Band Annual Fund you will help ensure that this historic band can keep the music alive in the community for another 126 years.

Lafayette Band

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