

2022 REPORT & NEWSLETTER

Alumni Relations

Our Facebook membership increased from 280 to 386 in 2022. Over 340 members are active within the group, sharing 75 posts, 390 comments, and over 1600 reactions. Our Instagram page has 68 followers. We are just getting started on Twitter.

Facilities

Our music library continues to grow. We currently have 81 recordings spanning years from 1965 to 2018. Most of our recordings are from the Symphonic Band, but a few are from the Delphian Choir. We have a couple Orchestra recordings, but need more. We also need more recordings from the 80s and 90s. Contact Matthew Kapus if you have recordings to donate.

Annual Alumni Meeting

Our annual alumni meeting was held on April 7, 2022. Ten people attended in person and 17 votes were submitted online. All officer positions were reelected for another one-year term.

New Trustee!

This year, the trustees welcomed Tony Rosales to fill a vacancy on their team.



Scholarship Committee

The scholarship committee has gone through significant preparation to be ready to make awards once the scholarship designated funds reach the trigger point for the program.

Committee members have met with multiple foundations in Montana to understand the types of scholarship funds available at each foundation. They have also gathered information about the minimum opening balance, minimum granting balance, start up fees, and annual fees for each product offered by those foundations.

A comprehensive set of qualification criteria, selection criteria, an evaluation rubric, and selection committee preparatory materials have been designed. These have been reviewed, approved, and adopted by the board of trustees. Many of these materials are available on the association's website (<https://gfhsmusicalumni.org/scholarships/>).

Our intention is to recognize those students who show by their actions that they are committed to excellence in the Great Falls High

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Finance Committee

Assets

	Scholarship Fund	General Fund
10/1/21	\$ 2,538.41	\$ 1,805.00
Contributions	\$ 1,982.50	\$ 500.00
Disbursements	\$ (2.38)	\$ (857.00)
9/30/22	\$ 4,518.53	\$ 1,448.00

Goal: \$10,000

Expenses

Date	Expense	Amount
4th Qtr 2021	Bank Fee	\$2.38
	Website Registration	\$12.00
	Mail	\$150.00
1st Qtr 2022	Registered Agent Fee	\$125.00
	MT Report Filing Fee	\$120.00
	Mail	\$150.00
2nd Qtr 2022	Mail	\$150.00
3rd Qtr 2022	Mail	\$150.00

School music program. We're looking for students who are not only working on their individual skills, but are supportive of their peers and their faculty in making their performing ensembles exemplary. We would also like to support students who have expressed an intention to continue to include music as an intrinsic part of their future careers. It's important to note that these awards are not intended necessarily for the best musician in the ensemble or exclusively for students who are pursuing music performance or education as a career. We want to support the student that shows up prepared, on-time, and with a will to help make each performance the best it can be.

In 2022 the Great Falls High School Music Alumni Association was pleased to announce one-time awards to the recipients of the John Phillips Sousa Award, the National Choral Award, and the National Orchestra Award winners from Great Falls High School. These one-time awards were made in memory of Bill Larson with thanks for, and recognition of, his many years of service to music in Great Falls.

Future scholarship awards will be made as soon as the scholarship fund reaches \$10,000. We currently have \$4,500 in funds designated to support our scholarship program. It is our desire that the scholarship fund become self-sustaining by having a sufficient balance that earnings on investments and on-going new donations cover the outgoing scholarship awards and provide for growth to support additional awards each year.

We would be grateful for your participation in raising the remaining funds needed to allow our first award. You can make a contribution at our website or through Network for Good.

<https://www.nfggive.org/guidestar/84-2041051>.





In 1983, I accepted a one-year appointment to serve as band director at Great Falls High School. Bill Larson was about to take a one-year sabbatical to earn his music supervisor's certificate. Bill was remarkably well organized and left me a notebook that covered all aspects of the program, for which I was very grateful. He even invited me to participate in the drum major selection process for the coming fall, which I happily accepted.

Long story short, Bill's preparations helped facilitate a successful year, and upon his return, he moved into the music supervisor's position, which allowed me to stay put. It was also incredible timing, as I had recently become engaged, and Laurie was hired to teach middle school vocal/general music in Great Falls. We both appreciated our ability to put down roots in the community.

After one more year, the school system switched from a three-year high school system to four. High school music numbers exploded, and we moved to three bands, eight choirs, and two string orchestras . . . and Laurie moved up to join the music staff at GFHS.

Out of about 1800 students in the school, we had between 500 and 600 students involved in music. Paul Ritter, as the senior choir director and department chair, knew more about my job than I did, so I was very appreciative of his help and guidance. Linda Lydiard was also a fabulous colleague and I enjoyed sharing rehearsal space and collaborating with her. Laurie enjoyed her choirs, and also brought her handbell expertise from the middle school and created three new handbell choirs at the high school level. We added music theory and history classes and I was amazed to be a part of a fantastic team of professionals – not just at GFHS, but across the entire community.

I saw about 210 students each day during my final three years. Of the three bands, the top two combined to form the marching band, which rehearsed at 6:55 a.m. – not a favorite time for students or parents (or me), but a necessary evil to avoid after-school conflicts. The top band supported boys' basketball and the second band played for the girls. We also had a curricular jazz band as well as a second group after school.

I cherish the memories of my five years at Great Falls High School. I enjoyed supporting the many who successfully auditioned for All-State and All-Northwest, the trips to AA Band Festivals were fantastic, and I continue to remember the experiences of the Symphonic Band trips to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary and the performances at the All-Northwest Music Educators conference in Portland. I also loved the shared Christmas programs, which always ended with all the ensembles performing *Peace, Peace*, and the combined spring concerts where we packed everybody into the old gym. It underscored how working together was so much better than being competitive between our particular programs of study.

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My time in Great Falls helped shape me into who I am today. I credit the school and administration, the over-achieving, committed students, my tremendous colleagues, and the support of my wife/colleague Laurie, in helping me succeed in my 28 ½-year Army Music career. Returning to Great Falls in 2012 with the U.S. Army Field Band, to support the 75th convention of the Montana Music Educators Association convention, was surreal. Stepping back into the band room to lead a conducting clinic with my musicians sitting in the same chairs where I once led high school students was an indescribable feeling. Thanks, Great Falls High School - I will never forget the remarkable years that I spent walking your halls.

Timothy J. Holtan (Mr. H)
Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)
Great Falls High School Band Director - 1983-88



This year, we lost one of our beloved former band directors. LeRoy "Bill" Larson passed away in August 2022. Bill was Director of Bands at GFHS from 1967 until 1984 when he became the Music Supervisor for Great Falls Public Schools until his retirement in 1994. To honor Bill's legacy, the GFHS Music Alumni Association is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the GFPS Foundation to sponsor three music awards in honor of the late Bill Larson. This year, a portion of our operating funds will be used to award \$250 (in Bill's name) to each of the three John Philip Sousa, National School Choral, and National School Orchestra winners at Great Falls High School. Bill Larson was an amazing director and had a huge, positive impact on so many of us in this group. Your Alumni team thought this would be an appropriate way to recognize that impact and honor his legacy.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and participation in this group.



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gfhsmusicalumni>



<https://www.instagram.com/gfhsmusicalumni/>



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Association Leaders

President: Luther Enloe

VP Scholarships: Brian Van Vleet

VP Alumni Relations: Matthew Kapus

Treasurer: Kevin Van Vleet

Secretary: Crystal King

Trustee: Lori de Vangel

Trustee: Jason Neiffer

Trustee: Joy Geller

Trustee: Tony Rosales

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<http://www.gfhsmusicalumni.org>