



## Special 2024 Maine Tour Edition

### *July 23-27, the Yankee Brass Band Brings Traditional American Brass Band Sights and Sounds to Maine*



Welcome to the 2024 tour edition of the Friends of the Yankee Brass newsletter. In this special edition we are pleased to share information about the band, the tour, and Yankee Brass organization.

As you will read in this newsletter, the Yankee Brass is dedicated to preserving and promoting the American brass band traditions that held an important and prominent place in the lives of people and communities in Maine and across America during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

This, the 37<sup>th</sup> annual tour, is the result of a year long planning process with an effort to include brass band music and composers associated with

Maine. The organization is also dedicated to providing information and resources with the intent of putting the bands and music of the time period in perspective and help audiences be informed listeners. We look forward to performing for you, meeting you, and sharing our enjoyment of being a part of these time-honored traditions.

### **Special Greeting from the Board President**

Hello. My name is Dennis Emert and I am the President of The Friends of the Yankee Brass. I am excited to say that our annual concert tour will take place July 23-27. We will be performing in Corinna, Bangor, Waterville, Bath, and Bethel. ***I would like to personally invite you to attend one (or more) of our Concerts.***

If you are able to attend, please stop and visit with the band after the concert and meet the players as well as get an up-close look at the instruments that we are performing on. *I look forward to meeting many of you this summer at a concert.*



## The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



### The Yankee Brass Band

The members of the Yankee Brass Band represent many of the traditions of the 19<sup>th</sup> century brass band. The musicians have various professional and music backgrounds like early bands.

In the band of today, the musicians' backgrounds include music professors, lawyers, scientists, writers, analysts, and other areas of interest. The musicians bring a wealth of knowledge and experience with the instruments and performance practices of the era. Members are highly skilled musicians and scholars who, over many years, have developed a depth of knowledge that helps bring authenticity to our performances.

As performers, band members have many years of experience performing in many genres including military bands, wind ensembles, orchestras, jazz bands, serenade bands, civil war re-enactment bands, small ensembles, and have serenaded cows. Several members have been featured soloists and clinicians throughout the United States and internationally.

Bringing together these musicians, backgrounds, and knowledge provides audiences with an entertaining and special experience.

### Tour Schedule \*

Tuesday, July 23 @ 6:00 pm  
Corinna Maine Gazebo Bandstand

Wednesday, July 24 @ 6:00 pm  
Bangor Maine Public Library Patio

Thursday, July 25 @ 7:30 pm  
Colby College Gordon Center for  
Creative and Performing Arts:  
Performance Hall

Friday, July 26 @ 6:30 pm  
Library Park (City Park), Bath

Saturday, July 27 @ 2:00 pm  
Museums of the Bethel Historical  
Society

\* Additional details are available on the *Yankee Brass Band Concerts* webpage (see the last page for the web address).

### Yankee Brass Serenade Band

The beginnings of the Yankee Brass Serenade Band go back to 1981 and a visit to the United States Marine Corps Band in Washington D.C. in search of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century brass band books. A Serenade Band often performed where a larger group was not suitable or appropriate.

In 1986 the Serenade Band was formed based on a six-part format used during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century - Eb cornet, Bb cornet, Eb Alto (2), Baritone, and Bass. The Serenade Band is composed of the principal players of the Yankee Brass Band who bring to life the beautiful and intimate sounds of the past era.

***We hope you will join us to experience this wonderful and gentle music.***





# The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



## A Special Message from the Music Director

Dr. James Chesebrough



Attention music lovers, history buffs, and fans of the Yankee Brass Band. Greetings! The 37<sup>th</sup> tour of our very special ensemble runs July 23 – 27 all across the great state of Maine. ***This is your personal invitation to join us at our concerts.*** Historic brass music will be echoing from Corinna and Bangor-to Waterville, Bath and Bethel. The band's performances, in period uniforms on original instruments, will present live concerts straight from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century.

At a time when the United States had less than a handful of symphony orchestras, there were more than 10,000 concert bands active across America. These bands served many functions, playing a significant role in community life. Just as the Yankee Brass does today, 19<sup>th</sup> century bandmen enjoyed the delight of musical performance, but beyond the benefits to the performers, bands played a significant role in their communities. They supported local militia, rallied for local politicians, celebrated national holidays, and provided a background for the social life of the time. Since there were few orchestras, the band was the ensemble that brought European classical music to the American public. This year's Yankee Brass Band concerts do this and more. You will hear rousing marches, dance tunes, and parlor music. The program includes two works by a composer of some of the greatest and most exciting overtures of all time. Bands and bandmasters from Maine are well represented with recreated selections that were performed by local bands and their leader/composers. Some very fine soloists will be featured, and all of the players are masters on original, historic instruments. You do not want to miss this chance to hear and see a fine performance of a traditional brass band.

We hope you will join us as we travel to the time just before the War between the States through the rise of the professional bands of Gilmore and Sousa. It is a chance to experience the same enjoyment as audiences of the past have done for many, many years. *And when you attend, please feel free to engage with the players. They love to talk about their instruments, the music, and local history.* See you then!





# The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



## What's on the *Programme*?

By Dr. James Chesebrough



Part of the job of the music director is to select music that recreates an and accurate picture of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century American brass band's musical heritage and traditions. Performances of this era included music from operas, symphonies, musical theater, folk tunes, ballads, and patriotic songs. The music was fun to play and entertained the audience. It often was connected to community bands and band leaders. This year's *programme* was selected with these things in mind in order to replicate the actual sights and sounds that audiences would have enjoyed in days gone by.

Opera classics include the "Overture" to *Tancredi* and "The Anvil Chorus" from *Il Trovatore* by Italian composers Gioachino Rossini and Giuseppe Verdi. Unlike performances by Patrick Gilmore, who conducted the latter work in 1869 with 100 Boston Firemen pounding anvils in unison, we believe in quality over quantity. Our anvil soloist is a highly trained musician, and he owns his own anvil.

Maine's 19<sup>th</sup>-century band tradition dates from before the Civil War. Chandler's Band, originally called The Portland Band, was organized in 1833. It took its present name when Daniel Chandler became the leader in 1843. He developed the band into one of the finest performing groups of its kind, and it is believed to be the nation's second oldest professional band in continuous service. To acknowledge this fine band, Yankee will perform *Chandler's Galop*, composed in 1892 by Enos A. Blanchard, a member of Chandler's Band. The lively *Chandler's Jig*, attributed to Chandler himself, will finish the set.



Today's native Mainers probably recognize "Penobscot" as the name of a town, a county, or a river, but in 1849 it was the title of a polka written by a Mr. Sportz and "Respectfully Dedicated to all the Ladies in the Single and United States." The Yankee Brass Serenade Band's performance is also respectfully dedicated to the ladies in our audience.

German-born composer, Johann Carl Hermann Kotzschmar, arrived in Portland in 1849. Like many European trained musicians, he thrived in America. In 1856, before he became known as "Portland's Musical Genius", he composed the *Leviathan Concert March*. In 1858, the world's largest ship, Leviathan (AKA The Great Eastern), was supposed to come to Portland on her maiden voyage.



## The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



Kotzschmar wrote this march in anticipation of the event, but the ship never came. In 2021, Yankee Band member and director of Portland's Centennial Brass Band arranged for a new edition of this fine march. It is a great addition to this year's Yankee Brass tour.



There is no way that Yankee would come to Maine and not perform the music of Robert Browne Hall, who was born in 1858 on Abagadasset Point in Bowdoinham, Maine. Since 1981, the last Saturday in June has been officially Robert Browne Hall Day in Maine. Yankee cornetist, Dennis Harrington, has the honor of portraying Mr. Hall. Famous during his lifetime as a composer and a fine cornetist, Hall served as conductor of bands in in Bangor, Waterville, and Albany, NY. He taught music at Colby College, the site of our Thursday concert, and returned to Waterville in 1902. Hall was an outstanding cornetist with a tremendous range. It is said that while marching in parades, he would play certain strains an octave higher than written. Even at a distance, one always knew when R. B. Hall's band was approaching. Our audiences will get to hear some fine cornet soloists when Wayne Collier and Isabelle Lowe perform Hall's *Grand Fantasia "Bolero."* They will also get to experience R. B. Hall marches with performances of *March G. M. B.* composed for the Gardner, ME Military Band and *Dunlap Commandery*, for the Dunlap Commandery, Knights Templar of Bath, ME, the site of our Friday concert.

These are just some highlights of this year's Yankee Band Tour. There is much more music from days gone by, and Yes! There will be Sousa.



Robert Browne Hall



John Philip Sousa



# The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



## Learning From the Past...

Education is an important core part of the Yankee Brass Band's mission and goals. Scholarship and the application of the performance practices of the 19<sup>th</sup> century are essential to presenting authentic and informed performances.

Members of the organization have invested significant time in researching original brass band music and 19<sup>th</sup> century culture. Collections at the Library of Congress, United States service band libraries, museums, historical societies throughout the United States, and scholarly historical records have provided valuable information about the music and bands of the era.

Research on performance practices, instrument designs, instrument makers, and bands of the period has also provided valuable insights. Applying what we have learned allows audiences to experience a performance as people in the 19<sup>th</sup> century may have experienced.



*Photo from PMEA Summer Conference presentation by Kenneth Kreitner and presented with the Yankee Brass Band*

## And Sharing What We Have Learned

Bringing what we have learned to our audiences and people with an interest in the American Brass Band is essential to our mission. The sharing of insights is accomplished in many ways. First, is through our concerts. These performances use original instruments of the period and provide a first-hand opportunity to experience the unique quality of the early versions of modern instruments. During performances, our Music Director provides background commentary to create context to the music.

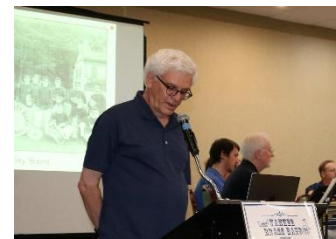


*Dr. James Chesebrough presenting commentary during performance*

During the 2023 tour, the band presented a workshop on *The American Amateur Brass Band* at the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA) Summer Conference. At that presentation the attendees were given the opportunity to experience the combining of scholarship with music performance.

Educational materials are available on the Yankee Brass Band website and more are being added.

And, we always enjoy meeting with people at our performances to talk about the band, the instruments, and music. ***Please make sure to introduce yourself and join us in a conversation.***



*Kenneth Kreitner and Yankee Brass Band presentation at PMEA Summer Conference*



# The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



## Yankee Brass Band Facebook Page

By Mike Seckla



Love it or hate it, social media is where an increasing number of Americans are going first for information. The Yankee Brass Band Facebook page seeks to bridge the gap between 19th century American brass band music and the 21st century. With the Band's stated goal of "entertaining audiences in New England and beyond with historically informed performance", The Yankee Brass social media presence is one way we're trying to both grow the size of our literal audiences and also stay in touch with the beyond.

Both fans and band members can find something to "like" about our Facebook page. Followers of Yankee Brass on social media are among the first to know the where and when of upcoming Yankee Brass tours and concerts. Also found on the band's Facebook page are pictures and videos of past performances, news items from the Yankee Brass website, Dr. Chesebrough's "From the Podium" musings, and news items about band members past and present. Information about each performance will be posted to the Band's social media, as well as any weather-related venue changes. Are memes more your social media speed? We have those too.

What is the future of The Yankee Brass Band on social media? Goals for the upcoming year include a concert livestream, some educational features, and branching out into other social media spheres. If you haven't already, give us a Like and stay up to date with the latest from The Yankee Brass Band.

### We want to thank the sponsors of the Yankee Brass Band 2024 Maine Tour.

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and the Harold J. Crosby Band

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## The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.



### Mission of the Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.

- Organize and support the Yankee Brass Band to provide live performances that inform audiences of the authentic musical traditions, sounds, and repertoire of 19<sup>th</sup> century bands.
- Research, restore, and preserve the actual brass band music of the period.
- Provide educational activities and historically informed presentations to promote a better awareness and understanding of the role of brass bands in building our cultural identity and creating a common cultural bond in America.

As a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization, we depend on the generosity and support of people who find value in our work to keep alive the traditions of the American Brass Bands. There are several ways you can support our efforts.

- Charitable Contribution. The Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc. contributions are tax deductible and provide the financial support that is vital for our organization to meet our goals. For more information go to the “Contribute to the Friends of the Yankee Brass” page on our website.
- Spread the Word. Encourage friends, family, and colleagues to visit the Yankee Brass Band website, “Like” the Facebook page, share this newsletter.
- Attend a performance and bring a friend and colleague with you. Performances are great family events that are entertaining and informative.

As always, thank you for your interest in and support of the Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc. and the Yankee Brass Band.

Regards,  
Friends of the Yankee Brass, Inc.  
Board of Directors

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