

May 12, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Wendy Weissman, and I am writing this letter in support of the Great Falls Municipal Band. I perform with the band. I moved to Great Falls, Montana in 1997 not knowing a soul except my husband. Because I played the clarinet casually throughout high school and college, the first thing that I did was join the band. Not only did I receive great musical experiences, I met some great people that I am still good friends with today.

The band serves a need in our community. It not only encourages amateur musicians like me to play an instrument on a regular basis, but also for the audiences to listen to top quality music. I learned during the pandemic how much music feeds a soul and how important it is in life to have it. Even though we could not have full band rehearsals or concerts, I got together with one or two other players on a regular basis, spaced 6 feet apart in a living room, and played duets and trios. That one hour a week was something that I always looked forward to – no matter what was going on around me in the world. That was my safe space.

This band not only satisfied audiences in Great Falls with the music we perform, but it gives satisfaction to the musicians knowing that we are doing something that we love and giving back to our community.

My children were involved in the Great Falls music department and received excellent musical education. Both my children were in All State Band for several years. My daughter joined us in the summer band for a few seasons. For her to perform with such talent was an amazing experience for her. She continued to play in college and still plays in a community band in Columbia Maryland.

I can't say enough about how the Great Falls municipal band changed my life in so many ways. I always look forward to rehearsals so that I can see my friends again, catch up on life, and maybe play some correct notes. The concerts are the icing on the cake for me. I know that the audiences enjoy our free concerts all summer and now the fall and spring. I have one person who is constantly asking me when my next concert is – she can't wait to hear us perform.

In conclusion, this band fills a need in our community – for both the musicians, the audiences and the community as a whole. Please consider your support for this organization too.

Wendy Weissman

To Whom it May Concern

Strategic Investment Grant Request of Video equipment for the Great Falls Municipal Band

My name is Phillip R Burton, I am a member of this, and all it's associated bands. I am requesting that you approve this grant request. After a 30 year hiatus of playing my instrument, I began playing again in 1996 as I approached retirement. After a few years of practice, I was thrilled to become a member of this band, which provides free concerts in the park during the summer months. In addition, the Municipal Band organization also provides support for a winter community concert band, and a community Jazz band. We provide an outlet for our musicians, and our concerts, are enjoyed by members of the local community, and surrounding areas. We participate in the 4th of July Parade, and perform an annual Summer Pop's Concert in our Convention Center, in addition to weekly summer concerts in the Band Shell in Gibson Park. The concerts we provide enrich the music appreciation and participation of the community.

The Great Falls Municipal Band is a 501 C 3 non profit origination of professional and advanced amateur musicians. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all volunteered to provide concerts to the citizens of Great Falls. We are totally supported by donations from the local community. This has severely limited our ability to compensate our musicians, and maintain our equipment.

The Great Falls Municipal Band has been providing free concerts to the local community for the last 128 consecutive years, and we look forward to our 129th year with much enthusiasm. The band has promoted appreciation of the musical arts, in providing an outlet for local professional and advanced amateur musicians, and students. Several of our current members have been in the band since High School, including our recently retired principal musical director who conducted the band for 40 years. The highlight of most musicians in town, is becoming a member of this band. I might add, many of our members are also music teachers who for 11 years in a row have earned top awards by the National Association of Music Merchants, NAMM. Our School Music Department has provided outstanding quality music education to our community. These music educators encourage their advanced students to participate in the various community bands in the area, such as the Community Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Municipal Band. The entire community benefits from the connection of music in the community, and in our schools.

The band records those concerts year round, using an older iPad, recorded by the spouse of one of the band members. The sound and video quality is not capable of capturing the quality of the music being provided. Those videos are uploaded to YouTube for community members, family and friends of the band to enjoy online. A new professional quality camera and sound recording would enhance that.

Yours truly,

Phillip R Burton

301 34th Ave NE
Great Falls, MT 59404

TO: James Rickley, Grant Writer

5.13.22

As a member of the Great Falls Municipal Band, I would like to say a few words about the importance of the "Muni Band" to our community. This organization does a wonderful job of bringing people of diverse backgrounds together to create something of value - bigger and better than our individual selves. Though our country is very divided, our Great Falls community comes together as one people when the Muni Band performs! The Muni Band is vital to the overall health and wellness of our city. For me, our band is a great source of pride, satisfaction, and love for our people.

Our country is suffering greatly during our current financial woes. We are urgently seeking ways to continue to fund our Municipal Band's more than 128 years of uninterrupted performance in Great Falls. In addition to facility rental expenses, our equipment needs are many. These include a new sound reinforcement equipment, sheet music, and replacement of unserviceable percussion equipment.

We appreciate your consideration of our needs to continue our city's great American municipal band tradition.

Sincerely,

TERRY L. KNOWLES
1-406-402-7502