

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