



THE FORTISSIMO NOTES

The Official Newsletter of Covina Concert Band, Covina, California

Issue 1.4

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October 2012

AUDIENCE ENJOYED A BAND AN HOUR FOR 8 HOURS

The Covina Swing Band Festival, sponsored by Covina Concert Band, made its appearance in Covina Park at the Charles King Memorial Bandshell on September 29. Eight swing bands performed from 1:00 to 9:00 – that was a band an hour for eight hours. The festival attracted a good audience; however, the very hot weather may have discouraged some. Thanks to The Covina Parks and Rec Department, along with all that they did to help make the festival a success, shade was provided for the audience.



The festival, which is provided at no cost to the audience, was designed by the festival committee to be a self-supporting event with donations and proceeds from Covina Concert Band Snack Bar providing the necessary financial support. All eight bands donated their time for this event. Friends of Covina Concert Band donated their time to staff the Snack Bar, with the regular menu, and barbeque the delicious hamburgers which is not part of the regular menu. The total income from snack bar sales was more than enough to cover snack bar expenses and provide a complimentary meal to any performing band member that requested it. Next year, with some proposed changes, it may be possible to support the Fifth Annual Swing Band Festival without having to dip into the Covina Concert Band's general fund.



Michael Ellington and Jim Starr

The entertainment team of Jim Starr and Michael Ellington, from the LAPD Concert Band, provided entertainment between bands. They also did the announcing and certificate presentations.

The audience enjoyed the great

swing band sounds delivered by these eight great swing bands. Here is the schedule and contact information. Give them a call and let them know that you appreciated their participation in the Fourth Annual Covina Swing Band Festival.

1:00 pm TWIST OF ORANGE

The Swing Band of Covina Concert Band
Pete Mittelstadt, Director
Contact: CovinaConcertBand.org

2:00 pm WINDMILL BIG BAND

Tom McClure, Director
Contact: Tom McClure 562-756-8679
Saxxman4u@aol.com

3:00 pm LAPD SWING BAND

The Swing Band of LAPD Concert Band
Don Kimball, Director
Contact: lapdband.org 626.968.1656

4:00 pm PALMINTERI AND THE BIG BAND

Frank Palminteri, Director
Contact: Frank Palminteri 626.966.1918

5:00 pm SOZO!

Ben Gonzalez, Director
Contact: SozoJazz.org

6:00 pm THE HARMONY SISTERS

Chris McAleer, Leader
Contact: HarmonySisters.org

7:00 pm MUSIC MASTERS

Floyd Munson, Director
Chris McAleer Phone 909-996-3777

8:00 pm BIG WEDNESDAY BAND

Tom Balderrama, Director
Tom Balderrama 626.332.9804

Twist of Orange, the swing band of Covina Concert Band, consists of members of the Covina Concert Band and was created in order to perform the wonderful music of the swing era which extended from the nineteen thirties into the early sixties. This music has a definite feeling of movement, and still is danced to in many venues.

Twist of Orange is directed by Pete Mittelstadt who is also the band's arranger. He arranged the music performed at the Covina Swing Band Festival for your enjoyment. Pete also plays the clarinet, saxophone, flute, and piano.



Pete Mittelstadt

All proceeds from the Covina Concert Band Snack Bar in Covina Park are cheerfully donated to Covina Concert Band.

The Covina Swing Band Festival is sponsored by Covina Concert Band, a California not-for-profit corporation. Thank you for your support of this event and other Covina Concert Band activities.

DID YOU KNOW...



You may know, that at one time or another, you probably have had the experience of getting a tune or song, or part of a tune or song, stuck in your head. *You may also know* that it has happened to you after you've been watching a movie or a TV show and the theme music subconsciously makes its way into your brain and stays there for many minutes, or even hours. It probably has happened to you after you have gotten off of a certain ride at a certain local amusement park. *You may even know* that it happens to you after you have been practicing music, (which, if you are a member of Covina Concert Band, you do daily, of course--right?).

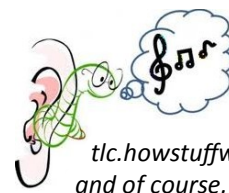
But, **DID YOU KNOW** that there is a name for this intrusive melodic phenomenon? It's called an *earworm*. It has also been described as Musical Imagery Repetition (MIR), or involuntary musical imagery, as well as "stuck song syndrome" and "sticky music." In German, it's called an "ohrwurm." I just call it annoying, because it happens to me a lot. From what I've read about earworms, though, I'd better get used to it, because I seem to be a likely candidate for getting them. According to one source, "earworm attacks were more frequent – and lasted longer—for musicians and music lovers." I would describe myself as a musician and a music lover. I also read that "It's likely females have MIR more than males." Yes, I would describe myself as female (because I am!). Research also found that earworms "annoyed, frustrated, and irritated women significantly more than men." I already admitted that I find them annoying (earworms, not men—most of the time, anyway). Another source said that "slightly neurotic people also seem to suffer more." Hmm. I think it's time to move on to discussion about some other information I learned about earworms, and possible solutions for getting rid of the little buggers (if you want to)...

In a study done in 2003 by James Kellaris, PhD, a marketing professor at the University of Cincinnati, songs with lyrics were reported as the most frequently stuck (74%), followed by commercial jingles (15%) and instrumental tunes without words (11%). At the time of that study, the Chili's "Baby Back Ribs" jingle and the Baha Men song "Who Let the Dogs Out" were high on the list of top 10 earworms. Both of those songs have the three key qualities that are most likely to cause an earworm, according to Kellaris: repetitiveness, simplicity, and incongruity (an unexpected rhythmic variation). But the most prevalent earworm on the list, the one in the number one position, was "Other" – not the name of a tune, but each individual's own personal earworm that tends to haunt them. A more recent study done in 2010 also found relatively little overlap between the songs going around in different people's heads, suggesting that it's more the song's interaction with the individual person than the song alone that creates the "cognitive itch." I also found it interesting that, contrary to popular belief, it's not just the songs we hate that become a broken record in our heads. In a study done by researchers at Bucknell University, more than half of students who had songs

stuck in their heads rated them as pleasant, 30% were rated as neutral, and only 15% of the songs were considered unpleasant.

Some people don't seem to mind having earworms; I even came across a website (earworm.com) that invites you to "Stick A Song in Someone's Mind," and to rate the earworms shared by others! But many people DO mind having earworms stuck in their mind, and have come up with all sorts of techniques for trying to get rid of them. One way that people try to get rid of an earworm is to do something (work or an activity of some kind) to try to distract themselves from hearing the stuck song (for example, sitting at the computer and writing an article about earworms for your community band newsletter). Other ways that have been suggested are: trying to listen to/sing/play another tune to dislodge the one that's stuck; talking with someone about it; trying to complete the song in your head (listen to it all the way through to the end); picturing the earworm as a real creature crawling out of your head, and then imagining stomping on it; or just waiting it out (letting it "crawl out" on its own).

Well, whether you like it or not, the next time you get an earworm going around in your head, just remember that you're not alone; someone else around you is most likely going through the same thing, or will be very soon – it's a small world, after all!



~ Contributed by Darlene Sanger

Information for this article was obtained from the following websites: webmd.com; spring.org.uk – psyblog; chipur.com; tlc.howstuffworks.com; earworm.com; and of course, wikipedia.com.

CHRISTMAS BEGAN IN OCTOBER

Covina Concert Band enjoyed a good summer season of hard work. Many new pieces, along with a few old favorites, were performed. With a performance due each week, Monday night rehearsals were stressful to say the least. There was absolutely no time to waste. Sometimes the band thought that they would be expected to sight-read a piece at rehearsal and perform it on the following Thursday; but fortunately the director, Tom Ridley, would not allow that — It's do it right or not at all.

Some of the members are relieved that the summer season is over and are looking forward to a more restful rehearsal schedule; however, Covina Concert Band gets little rest. Rehearsals are held each Monday night all year round except for a few Mondays around the holidays.

At the October 15th rehearsal, the rehearsal folders were found filled with a lot of new Christmas music. Tom brought in some new and interesting Christmas pieces including some Christmas Swing. This music is for the annual Covina Concert Band Christmas Concert that is already scheduled. It will be performed Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church which is located at 310 North 2nd Avenue, Covina, California. With this early start, the 2012 Christmas Concert promises to be one of the best. With 14 weeks of preparation and polishing, it certainly should be. Plan to be a part of it.

TRAVELS WITH THE BAND

On a warm Sunday afternoon on August 12, 2012, the Covina Concert Band arrived in Huntington Beach to perform with the Huntington Beach Concert Band. Those of us who were early to arrive were able to witness the setting up of the portable inflatable bandshell — quite a feat, it seems.

The structure of the concert was most appreciated, the back and forth between the conductors, with both bands performing the same pieces, was a unique experience, and served to demonstrate that all involved did an outstanding job in terms of musicianship. It was a very nice event to round off the summer season.

On Sunday, October 21, 2012, the Covina Concert Band travelled to Pomona to perform in a concert with the Pomona Concert Band. It was a cool evening, but the warmth of the reception more than made up for any discomfort. The audience appreciated hearing two very accomplished bands. Those of us who had never visited there before now know a little about the Pomona band.

For this concert, each band performed separately. Covina Concert Band performed first before the intermission then Pomona Concert Band performed after the intermission. The second half of the concert was planned carefully so that when the Pomona band finished their last piece, the two bands had time to come together on stage without delay to perform jointly America The Beautiful and Stars And Stripes Forever.

From the perspective of the band members, it was wonderful to have a time to meet the other band's musicians on a personal level. The Pomona band hosted an informal reception after the concert, at which many band members took the opportunity to renew ties with old acquaintances, and establish a rapport with their counterparts in the other band. It was a memorable evening, and I hope it is an event that will be repeated in the future.

Submitted by Karen Praeger

ONE BAND MEMBER'S STORY

The autobiography of Frank Muglia is reprinted here from the April, 2002 issue of King's Tempo, the Covina Concert Band newsletter of the time. The newsletter was named after Charles King, the Founder of Covina Concert Band in 1956.

For the April 2002 issue of King's Tempo Frank Muglia wrote: About sixty eight years ago, I was born in a town in Southern Italy, a town with a population of 1500 people. It was 1800 feet above sea level, from that point we were able to see the beautiful ocean and the volcano "Etna of Sicily". It truly was a magnificent view.

In 1941, I was eight years old when a retired music professor gathered about 15 people, both young and old. He gave us free music lessons; the first 4 months we studied the basics, then we turned to the instruments.

Unfortunately, because of the economic situation that prevailed during the Second World War, my father was unable to purchase me a clarinet. But there was an old musician and he gave me an old clarinet.

Within a year a band was formed and we went to another town to perform. One of the pieces of music was "Prelude of the Opera" and "Traviata". Also every Saturday I played a serenade to my girlfriend, it consisted of 3 pieces of music, the 1st to wake her, the 2nd for her to open her window, and the final to put her gently back to sleep.

In 1950, because my mother was from Argentina, the whole family of ten moved to Buenos Aires. It was a 17-day trip by ship, and we arrived in Argentina in August of 1950. I was forced to quit music for a moment; I got a job so I could acquire a clarinet and an alto saxophone. Then I went to study music in a conservatory for three years.

I came to the United States in 1956, and I started working and worked for forty years, until 1994 when I retired from Peerless Pump. I was a machinist, and in order to keep myself busy, I took up again music, and I joined the Covina Concert Band. And I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the band members for giving me the chance to let me join it, and be a small part of the Covina Concert Band. I would like to invite all of the people that like music to join the band, because to me music is the most wonderful thing.

This story was reprinted here as a tribute to an old friend who developed health problems many months ago. John Coleman, a member of the band's clarinet section, was told by members of the family that Frank Muglia died Sunday, November 11th. Frank leaves an empty chair in the third clarinet section of his beloved Covina Concert Band. We will miss him.

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday December 16 at 3:00 pm prepare your heart for Christmas and enjoy a free festival of music at **First Presbyterian Church of Covina, 310 North 2nd Avenue, Covina, California**. Enjoy Christmas selections including Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival", Jack Bullock's "A Festival of Christmas Carols", and more. Enjoy the fresh sound of Covina Concert Band and First Presbyterian Church of Covina's Chancel Choir performing together for the first time. Join in singing with the band and choir. Enjoy Adolphe Adam's "Cantique de Noel" with band accompaniment, and more. To add to the variety of music, the band will perform Sammy Nestico's "Good Swing Wenceslas" and Mark Williams' "Santa at the Symphony". A visit by Santa, with his bag of surprises, will certainly be enjoyed by the children and those young at heart.

The audience, choir, and band are invited to an after-concert reception with refreshments and a traditional holiday bake sale. Donations are appreciated.

Mark your calendar. Bring your family and friends.