

The Latest News from Your Minnesota State Band

Summer 2023

Great News! The Minnesota State Band has been awarded a Legacy Grant in the amount of \$50,000 to be spent over the next two years. Many thanks to everyone who helped especially our friends at the Minnesota Legislature including, Representative Dean Urdah, our sponsor in the House and Senators Justin Eichorn and Andrew Lang, our sponsors in the Senate.

This process took many long hours of effort and included testimony by board member Craig Allen, President Jack Kennedy and Conductor Keith Liuzzi. Here is a sample of some of the live testimony.

“The Minnesota State Band is a 45-piece concert band that performs a wide variety of music throughout the year. Except for the Conductor, no one in the organization is paid. In fact, every band member pays a fee of \$80 dollars a year to be a member of the band.

This year, the band celebrates 125 years as an arts organization. We are a part of Minnesota’s rich history.

... Our goals are to increase the number of concert tours, continuing to reach out to smaller communities in outstate Minnesota, sharing our love of music with residents and playing joint concerts with community bands and school bands throughout our state.

... The only thing that prevents us from traveling to more small towns and playing with more community and school bands is money. After all, it takes quite a lot to transport a 45-member concert band from town to town. But that is exactly what we would like to do. People who live in small towns deserve a variety of quality music just as much as the people in large cities.”

So, while this grant is a great deal of money, there is a slight issue. When we reserve the tour bus and book hotel rooms, we must pay all those expense’s out of the band’s own bank account. Our first 3-day tour which I will explain in detail below, is expected to cost \$20,000. So, this is why we humbly ask our most loyal members to help us with your annual contributions to cover the upfront costs.

A true story from Craig Allen.

After I testified in front of the Senate Committee, on a very cold and icy Friday morning in March and stepped out of the room to put on my coat a man approached me and said I had done a really good job. I thanked him. He then asked me if the band would be interested in playing at the Red Lake Reservation. His name is Chief Dan King, President of Red Lake Nation College.

I couldn’t believe it! I said yes, we would definitely be interested. So, he gave me his business card. What a fantastic opportunity I thought. The encounter was very brief.

Well, guess what. Since that meeting, we have had many conversations with Chief Dan King and in fact will meet with him next week to finalize our trip to Red Lake, Minnesota. Red Lake will be the last stop on a three-day tour which will includes concerts in Park Rapids and Wadena.

The plan for the Red Lake Concert is to share the program with the Red Lake Nation College Choir and Dance groups.

I know that without checking the history of the Minnesota State Band that this will be the first time this 125-year-old organization has ever played or been asked to play on a reservation before. This is indeed an honor and a great opportunity to reach out to our Native American friends by sharing our joy of music.

But wait, there is more. Chief Dan King has invited the Minnesota State Band to play a concert at the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Conference the week of March 4, 2024 at the Minneapolis Convention Center!

Thank you, Associate Members!!

The Minnesota State Band has been around a very long time but we know that without our loyal contributors, this band would not exist. It is your faith in us that keeps this organization moving forward. Please take a minute to fill out the Associate Member Form to renew your Associate Membership.

Yes, you Heard Right, the 125th Anniversary Minnesota State Band Teddy Bears are on their Way

The soft cuddly bears come in blue or white and will be available for a \$30 or more contribution starting at our concert at Roseville Central Park on July 11. **Your collection is not complete without the official 125th Anniversary bear!**

Roseville Concert

Tuesday July 11 at 7 PM

Roseville Central Park, Frank Rog Amphitheatre
2540 Lexington Ave N. Roseville, MN 55103

Annual Como Park Series - First Concert

Wednesday August 9 at 7 PM, Como Lake Side Pavilion, 1360 Lexington
Parkway N. St. Paul, MN 55013

Annual Como Park Series – Second Concert

Wednesday August 16 at 7 PM

Annual Como Park Series – Final Concert

Wednesday August 30 at 7 PM

Litchfield Opera House

Saturday October 7, 4 PM

136 N. Marshall Ave. Litchfield MN 55355

Fall Legacy Concert Tour October 12 – 14

Park Rapids High School

Thursday October 12, 7 pm

401 Huntsinger Ave. Park Rapids, MN 56470

Wadena Memorial Auditorium

Friday October 13, 7 PM

216 Dayton Ave. SW Wadena, MN 56482

Oshkiimaajitahdah Convention Center

Saturday October 14, 7 PM

15525 Mendota Ave. Redby, MN 56670