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CHESTER BRASS BAND

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Yes, COVID-19 has taken its toll on our ability to bring first rate, fun music to the Maritimes. It has also meant that our players are missing the music, the practice and the camaraderie from coming to rehearsals. However, we are optimistic that the success of Nova Scotians in controlling the virus will result in resumption of rehearsals very soon and the chance that we can plan some concerts in 2021. At the very least, we hope to be allowed to play outdoors and we have started to plan a Bandstand Series for the Chester waterfront bandstand in July and August. As a subscriber, you will be the first to hear any news on that front.

We want to thank all of you who supported us in our recent fund raising campaign. Your gift to us has guaranteed that we can continue from where we left off, as soon as provincial COVID protocols allow. Our gift to you will be the music -- soon to ring out over Chester harbour and in churches and performance halls near and far! We also are grateful for the support given to us by the Municipality of Chester whose COVID grants have helped many local organizations in recent months.

Once Upon A Time....Part 2

Commander George L. Morrison (retired) joined Chester Brass as its Director in June 2000 and took on the challenge to get it ready for its

George studied music (piano and trumpet) at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto and in addition to military bands has performed with

first bandstand concert on July 3, 2000. The program was:

1. *Marche Lorraine*
2. *Around the World*
3. *Spanish Gypsy Dance*
4. *She's Like the Swallow*
5. *Waltzing Matilda*
6. *Bier Waltzer*
7. *Wings*
8. *Hava Nagila*
9. *Cum Baya*
10. *Jamaican Rhumba*
11. *Cossack Patrol*
12. *Die Lorelei*
13. *It's a Small World*

Extra: Devon Fantasy

George has made music his life, including a 49 year continuous service record with the Royal Canadian Navy and the Canadian Forces, becoming Supervisor of Music for the Canadian Forces worldwide. He always maintained a love of music education and showed this in his work with the cadet music program of the Atlantic provinces.

In 2018 he was chosen by the Nova Scotia Band Association for the first ever **Distinguished Band Director's Award**.

the CBC band and orchestra and in bands that backed people such as Anne Murray, Bobby Vinton, Frank Sinatra Jr. and the Bolshoi Ballet. He has many Broadway-style shows in his resume as well.

George has experience conducting the Stadacona Band of Maritime Forces, Atlantic, bands that played for National Film Board productions and the Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble. If you watched any of the first few Nova Scotia Tattoo shows they were likely conducted by George.

In addition to conducting Chester Brass -- which also means selecting, scanning, studying and teaching the repertoire as well as organizing concerts -- he currently is a playing member of Scotia Brass; and while they were still performing, he was a member of the Soda Shoppe Band who raised almost \$1million for charity.

George is now in his 21st year with the Chester Brass Band.



Cmdr. George Morrison (retired) has been the Director of the Chester Brass Band since June 2000.



George L. Morrison, Director of Music: Chester Brass Band.

If you are reading this, you have likely supported the Chester Brass for many years. Most of our followers have been around that long, and you are our best ambassadors! Most of you are aware of our long history and you already know how important this band is to the arts in Chester and beyond. However, we need to reach a larger, and in fact a **new** audience if we are to remain relevant to those in the Halifax-through-Chester-through-Windsor-through-Lunenburg County area.

You can help by forwarding this e-mail to friends and family who also enjoy good music from the past 200 years. Whether it is brass band versions of the classics, traditional marches or recent show tunes, we try to improve our library every year to bring you the most enjoyable music possible. (Click below to subscribe.)

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