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## General Information

The band is open to all adult (high school or older) instrumental musicians in Allegheny County and the surrounding area. New members are always welcome. No audition is required.

The band plays a wide variety of music including marches, overtures, transcriptions, contemporary, classical, instrumental/vocal solos, Broadway show tunes, jazz, popular and patriotic music. We feature instrumental soloists, vocal soloists and ensembles from inside - and away from - band membership.

## Who We Are

The North Suburban Symphonic Band is a community organization of approximately 75 volunteers who share a love of music and the desire to bring quality symphonic band literature to the community. The NSSB is unique in the North Hills area, as it is a full symphonic band encompassing woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments. It was founded in 1992 and has enjoyed playing with many talented and well-known soloists over the years. However, the true success of the NSSB continues to be the volunteer musicians who bring their considerable talents to the band.

An important part of the NSSB's Mission Statement is, "The NSSB will contribute to the audience appreciation of wind band literature through the medium of public concerts, encourage young people in the area school districts towards the benefits of participation in musical organizations in both school and community, and above all, maintain and expand the role of the community band in America."

## Where We Play

The ensemble performs and rehearses at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Lodge located on Cemetery Lane off the Perrysville Exit of 279N. Directions can be found:

- On our website, [www.nssband.org/](http://www.nssband.org/)
- On the Masonic Hall website, <http://www.islamgrotto.com/direct.html>
- Or by using their address: 3579 Masonic Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237-2700.

## Communications

Upon joining the band, you will be asked to provide an email address for intra-band communications. This will strictly be used for band-only communications, e.g. - cancellation of a rehearsal due to inclement weather or rehearsal updates.

We hope that you will be able to provide to us names and emails of friends, relatives - or anyone else you feel might find our concert announcements informative. Again, these emails will strictly be used for concert communications.

## The Music

The band plays a wide variety of music including marches, overtures, transcriptions, classical, contemporary, instrumental/vocal solos, Broadway show tunes, jazz, popular and patriotic music. We feature instrumental soloists, vocal soloists and ensembles from within the band membership.

## Rehearsals

The NSSB rehearses Monday nights from 7:30pm - 9:30pm at The Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Hall. Membership is open to all adult (high school or older) instrumental musicians without audition. We have a mandatory dress rehearsal the Thursday before each concert.

## Promotions and Development

We are a 100% non-profit organization. Each of our concert programs contains advertisements of local companies or donors that have contributed to the NSSB. We highly encourage all of our members to post flyers in the surrounding area prior to concerts and "make the ask" of friends, neighbors, employers - anyone who is a supporter of that member's NSSB participation - to support our band. For more information, please contact Promotions Committee Chair, Melissa Corso (French horn.)

## Contact Us

For more information, contact Band Representative, Elise Neill (oboe), at [elise\\_neill@hotmail.com](mailto:elise_neill@hotmail.com).

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q. What does it cost to join the NSSB?**

**A.** Annual membership in the NSSB is \$25. Checks can be made payable to NSSB and given to Treasurer Jim Grosheider (Trombone) or Band Representative, Elise Neill (oboe.)

### **Q. Will I have to audition?**

**A.** No audition is required. We expect each member to have a working knowledge of the instrument and ensemble playing. Our Music Director / Conductor and your section leader will work to place you where she/he feels you will make the most valuable contribution to the overall musical benefit of the band. The Music Director / Conductor reserves the right to suggest and advise placement to adjust balance and technical requirements.

### **Q. Will I be required to attend every rehearsal?**

**A.** When you officially join the NSSB, you're making some commitments. You're committing to performance, rehearsals, continuity, etc. We understand you have priorities outside of the group, but we do ask for some dependability. In order to function successfully and live up to our own standards, we need to be able to count on each and every member.

### **Q. How often and where does the band play?**

**A.** The NSSB performs 4 concerts per season at the Greater Pittsburgh Masonic Hall, and they are usually in October, December, March and May. Rehearsals run from September through May. Occasionally the NSSB chooses to perform a 5<sup>th</sup> concert - a community event held at the Upper St. Clair high school in early May.

### **Q. How do I get to the concerts?**

**A.** Members provide their own transportation to concert sites. Carpooling is recommended.

### **Q. Do I have to bring a music stand?**

**A.** Music stands are provided for regular rehearsals and concerts. Music and folders are also provided, however, these need returned immediately after each concert for removal and insertion of new pieces for the next concert. Additionally, if you are required to share a folder, please make sure it is available for each member at every rehearsal. Feel free to make copies of your parts as needed.

### **Q. What does the band wear in concert?**

**A.** We wear formal black attire for all concerts. Men should wear a tuxedo or black suit, while women should wear a long-sleeved black top with a long black skirt or pants. Contact Band Representative, Elise Neill (oboe) for specifics or questions.

Please visit [www.nssband.org](http://www.nssband.org) for more information!!