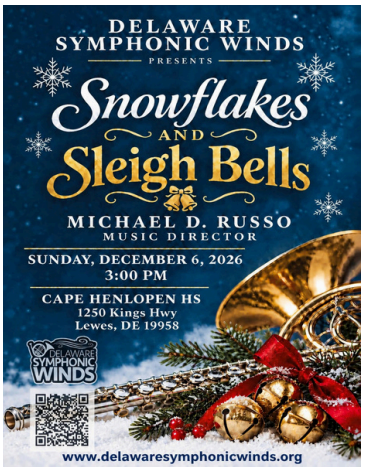
October 2026

Noteworthy News

Delaware Symphonic Winds

Welcome to a New Season!

Fall and Spring concerts are at Milford HS and Cape Henlopen HS and our Inaugural Winter Concert will be held at Cape Henlopen HS.
Visit our website at www.delawaresymphonicwinds.org for more information.



Welcome back, musicians, friends, and supporters! As we begin another exciting season of music-making, we're thrilled to have Delaware Symphonic Winds together once again. Whether you've been with us for years or are joining us for the first time, you are an important part of what makes this ensemble special.

A new season brings new music, new challenges, new friendships, and - most importantly - many opportunities to share the joy of music with our growing community. We look forward to rehearsing, performing, laughing, learning, and making music together.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful musical family. Here's to a season filled with great music, memorable performances, and plenty of fun along the way.
Let the music begin!

Pamela Letts
President, Delaware Symphonic Winds

The Value of Playing in a Musical Ensemble

Playing in a musical ensemble is about much more than making music. Whether performing in a band, orchestra, choir, or chamber group, musicians learn valuable skills that extend far beyond the rehearsal room.

Ensemble playing teaches teamwork and cooperation. Every member has an important role, and success depends on listening carefully, supporting one another, and working toward a shared goal. Musicians discover that no single part is more important than the whole, fostering respect, responsibility, and trust.

Performing with others also strengthens musical abilities. Players develop better rhythm, intonation, balance, and musical expression by listening and responding to those around them. Rehearsals encourage discipline, patience, and perseverance as the group works together to refine each performance.

Perhaps most importantly, ensembles create a sense of community. Friendships are formed through shared experiences, challenges, and achievements. The excitement of preparing for and presenting a performance builds confidence and creates lasting memories for both performers and audiences.

The lessons learned in an ensemble—communication, collaboration, commitment, and excellence remain valuable throughout life. Playing together reminds us that when individuals combine their talents with a common purpose, the result is something far greater than any one person could achieve alone.

Delaware Symphonic Winds Fall concerts - Let Freedom Ring!

Our concerts will be a journey through musical images and events related to the history of our country over the last 250 years.

The program will begin with an energetic, forward-driving selection titled Firework! by Jan Van Der Roost. In just over a minute the composer shows the band off in a powerful and virtuosic manner. This will be followed by the Concertino for Clarinet and Band by Warren Barker which will feature Richard Foote as our Clarinet Soloist. Concluding the first half of the program will be the World Premiere of Mark Stransky's Suite For A Patriot. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of America, this chronological four movement suite is dedicated to both the celebration of the nation that belongs to all of us and to George Washington, the first President. It programmatically represents America's transition from subjects of Great Britain to independence and the creation of these United States.

The second half of our concert will feature two guest conductors from within the ensemble. Cindy-Lee DiMeglio, Flute, will conduct Flight Of The Piasa by Robert Sheldon and Pamela Letts, Trombone, will conduct Melodious Thunk by David Biedenbender. You will also hear selections from Lincoln by John Williams arranged by Jay Bocook and A Mother Of A Revolution by Omar Thomas celebrating the bravery of Marsha Johnson - one of the instigators of the famous Stonewall uprising.

Our concert will conclude with the Armed Forces Service Medley freshly arranged by Bruce Malone honoring our Armed Forces and The Stars and Stripes Forever by John Philip Sousa, the officially designated march of the United States of America.

We hope to see you at our concerts! Use the QR codes below to order your tickets

Saturday, October 24, 2026
3pm
Milford High School
1019 North Walnut Street
Milford, DE 19963

Sunday, October 25, 2026
3pm
Cape Henlopen High School
1250 Kings Highway
Lewes, DE 19958

Program Note from our Fall Literature

The Stars and Stripes Forever by John Philip Sousa

Sousa consistently stated that this march was divinely inspired and was born of homesickness. In his autobiography, Marching Along, he provides the details of its creation after he had received a cablegram in Italy that his manager, David Blakely, had died: “Aboard the Teutonic, as it steamed out of the harbor on my return from Europe in 1896, came one of the most vivid incidents of my career. As I paced the deck, absorbed in thought, suddenly I began to sense the rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. It kept on ceaselessly, playing, playing, playing. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued to unfold the same themes, echoing and reechoing the most distinct melody. I did not transfer a note of that music to paper while I was on the steamer, but when we reached the shore, I set down the measures that my brain-band had been playing for me, and not a note of it has ever changed. The composition is known the world over as The Stars and Stripes Forever and is probably my most popular march.” (By permission of John Philip Sousa, Inc., New York City)

Player Profile

Marcy Parakaza, flutist

Marcy grew up in Baltimore and attended Peabody Preparatory, received a Bachelor of Arts in Music Performance and a Master's Degree in Information Sciences. She moved to Lewes 25 years ago and worked for the State of Delaware as a Bureau Chief.

Marcy is a founding member of a woodwind ensemble, Vientos Quartet, an original member of the Rehoboth Concert Band, Southern Delaware Orchestra, and Delaware Symphonic Winds.

She has served on the Board of Directors for the Rehoboth Concert Band, Delaware Symphonic Winds and the Rehoboth Film Society. She is also a member of the SODELO artistic advisory and was a member of the initial winds, brass, and percussion audition committee.

Marcy has played concerts and participated in master classes across the United States as well as Cuba, Ireland, Prague, Budapest, Salzburg and Vienna and has had the honor of performing under the baton of Marin Alsop, Conductor Emeritus of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Player Profile

Richard Foote, clarinetist

Richard is a retired military band musician - Pennsylvania Air National Guard and United States Army (active duty).

His assignments included the 389th Army Material Command Band at Aberdeen, Md., the Army ground Forces Band in Atlanta, Ga., the 8th Army Band, and the Training and Doctrine Band in Virginia.

After retiring he performed for years with ensembles including the Virginia Grand Military Band, the Philadelphia Wind Symphony, the Maryland Winds, Delaware Symphonic Winds and the Virginia Wind Symphony. Richard has also played with orchestras including the Wilmington Symphony, the Newark Symphony and the Newark Chamber Orchestra.

As a retiree and playing only with the DSW Richard enjoys recording clarinet ensembles at home and many of them have been posted on YouTube for your enjoyment.

Guest Conductor Profile

Cindy-Lee DiMeglio is a graduate of Douglass College, Rutgers University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Flute Performance with a minor in Conducting. For over 42 years, she has maintained a thriving private flute studio, teaching students from fourth grade through adulthood in both New Jersey and Delaware. Mrs. DiMeglio studied flute performance with Janet Weiss, Gwendolyn Mansfield, and James Scott. Her conducting studies were under the direction of William Berz and Dr. Scott Whitener.

Throughout her distinguished performance career, Mrs. DiMeglio has held principal positions with numerous ensembles.

Currently Cindy-Lee performs on flute and piccolo with Delaware Symphonic Winds, as well as the Southern Delaware Orchestra (SODELO) and the Rehoboth Concert Band, where she also serves as Treasurer on the Board of Directors. She is also a founding member of the Champagne Flutes, performing throughout Southern Delaware.

Mrs. DiMeglio is deeply honored to have the opportunity to conduct "Flight of the Piasa" with her Delaware Symphonic Winds musicians and friends.

Other Concerts of Interest

🎷 **Rehoboth Jazz Festival — Oct. 15–18**
The 2026 festival includes artists such as Monty Alexander, Stanley Jordan, Diego Figueiredo, Paul Taylor, Michael Lington, Acoustic Alchemy, and the 2026 RB All-Stars.

📯 **Rehoboth Concert Band - Duty, Honor, Country: A Tribute to Veterans**
Sunday, November 8, 3 PM - Indian River HS

🎺 **Coda Brass**
Coda Brass - November 13, Newark
Listed as part of the Chapel Street Concert Series.

🥁 **Coastal Concerts**
Saturday, November 21, 2 PM - Ji Su Jung & Timothy Chooi
This is an especially intriguing one for instrumentalists: marimba and violin in a collaborative program.

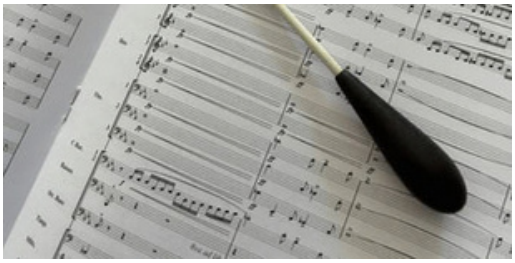
🎻 **Southern Delaware Orchestra - The SNOWMAN & Holiday Classics Peace**
December 12 & 13, 3 PM - TBA and Cape Henlopen HS

Rehoboth Concert Band - Holiday Peace
Sunday, December 20, 3 PM - Cape Henlopen HS

🎵 **University of Delaware School of Music**
UD has an enormous concert calendar—more than 300 music performances annually - and its Newark venues include Gore Recital Hall, Puglisi Orchestra Hall, Loudis Recital Hall and Bayard Sharp Hall.

Donate to our Sheet Music Fund

This fund is for the acquisition and preservation of physical and digital sheet music for Delaware Symphonic Winds.
It ensures our musicians have access to high-quality scores and supports outstanding wind ensemble performances.

DONATE NOW

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