

# WATSONVILLE COMMUNITY BAND

## Spring 2017



### Spring Concerts

**Sunday, April 23**

Henry J Mello Center  
250 E Beach Street  
Watsonville  
2:00 pm

**Sunday, April 30**

Hollister Veterans Hall  
649 San Benito Street  
Hollister  
2:00 pm



### Washington, D.C. trip

May 26 - 30

### 4th of July Parades

Aptos 10:00 am  
Watsonville 12:00 pm



## Spring 2017 Concert Series

The birds are singing. The trees are in bloom. The rainy, wintry weather is behind us and Spring is near. What does all that have to do with the Watsonville Community Band? It means that our 2017 Spring Concert Series is near, too!

“Around the World” is the theme for this series. Come spend the afternoon with us as we play worldly selections like *Les Miserables*, *Irish Washerwoman* and *Italian Holiday*. We will also feature *Light Cavalry Overture*, which premiered in Vienna in 1866, and *The Crosley March*, by American composer James Fillmore.

If you were at our 2016 Winter concert in Watsonville, you will likely remember the debut performance of the WCB Youth Band. The students gave a commendable first concert that was enjoyed by all. If you missed that performance, don't worry! You will have another opportunity to hear these young people play at the Mello Center in Watsonville on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The WCB Youth Band will start promptly at 2:00 pm, and the adult band will come on immediately after them.

## Watsonville Community Band Celebrates 70 Years

The Watsonville Community Band's Spring concert series is our 69<sup>th</sup> concert series. Yes, you read that right! We are celebrating 70 years of playing music for the people of Watsonville and area communities. We will mark our 70<sup>th</sup> year with an exciting trip to Washington, D.C., this coming Memorial Day weekend.

As we celebrate this monumental event, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our boosters and the city of Watsonville for your years of faithful, unwavering support. Every time you bring your families to watch us march in parades, join us at our concerts, and generously support us with your booster memberships, you give the Watsonville Community Band a gift that helps us keep local music alive. For that, we **THANK YOU** for your continued support!

## Trip to Washington, D.C.

The Watsonville Community Band is in the final stages of preparing for our trip in May to Washington, D.C., where we will represent California in the National Memorial Day Concert Series. The music has been chosen, the venues picked, and our band members and their companions are ready to board the plane for what will be a very exciting trip!

# Youth Band Keeps Watsonville Band Young at Heart

By Jeanne Byrne

At 70 years old this year, the Watsonville Community Band is a “mature” organization. In fact, many of the jokes bandied about the music room relate to the high average age of the band members. Since last summer’s launch of the Youth Music Program, however, we’re bringing that average age way down!

The interest and participation in the WCB Youth Band has continued to grow. We invited our summer Youth Music Program participants to join us for an ongoing program that meets every Wednesday evening before the regular Watsonville Community Band rehearsals. Volunteers from the band coach the children on their instruments, and WCB trombone player Gail Black conducts the youth group as they progress to more involved songs and arrangements.

The Watsonville Community Band will continue to support the Watsonville area’s young musicians with the 2017 Summer Youth Music Program. The 6-week program will meet three times per week in June and July, providing enough time to hone skills and get the students into a regular routine of practicing and rehearsing. The summer program will also offer the opportunity for a new crop of beginning students from throughout the school district to begin learning a band instrument. We will have different leveled groups for students of all ages and abilities. Any students within the PVUSD, 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, are welcome to join us. The summer program is staffed by volunteers from the WCB. We do ask participants to pay a small materials fee of \$25 if they can afford it.

Several WCB members also volunteer during the school year at Hall District Elementary School and Pajaro Middle School, two PVUSD schools that have initiated the process of bringing back music education (music books and reeds were purchased for the music students at Hall Elementary by the WCB). And on that note, PVUSD has recently hired a full-time band teacher to split her time beginning this fall teaching band at Hall District Elementary School and Pajaro Middle School. It will, of course, take years to recreate a thriving music education department in the district. But we like to think that the volunteer efforts of our Watsonville Community Band members are making that process smoother and faster. PVUSD listened (and heard the music!), and is following through to continue what the Watsonville Community Band has started. It is well worth it to see the world of music brought to these children!

*“The interest and participation in the WCB’s Youth Band has continued to grow.”*



WCB Youth Band conductor Gail Black introduces the Youth Band to a captivated audience at WCB’s 2016 Winter Concert in Watsonville.



WCB member Alice Miller coaches the WCB Youth Band at a recent Wednesday night rehearsal in the Watsonville High band room.



WCB Youth Band members had their first concert in December 2016 during the WCB’s Winter Concert series in Watsonville.