

The Circleville Herald, Friday, December 4, 1998

THE HERALD

Pickaway BRASS

QuINTET

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Musicians prepare for Christmas concerts

Story and photos

By LINDA AUDET THOMAS

The Herald

The comforting, lilting notes of *Oh, Come All Ye Faithful* could be heard at the Pumpkin Show building Tuesday evening as Pickaway Brass Quintet practiced for some upcoming holiday concerts.

The quintet plays all kinds of music, including weddings, church services, Pumpkin Show, county fairs, graduation ceremonies, weddings and just about any occasion that comes up. They play hymns, seasonal music, Dixieland jazz, classical and Broadway.

"The first time we played, it was for the Bible College commencement," said band leader Clifford Kerns, who plays the tuba.

"Now we have a tape that we released Oct. 22, with samples of our repertoire."

"That was interesting, going into the recording studio," French horn player Carol Geron said.

The tape is available at Greenlee's and at Hott Music in Circleville.

Last year, they played at an OSU Buckeye "Beat Michigan" party.

"But they didn't beat them," Geron said.

Everyone laughed. No, they lost that game, they all said.



This weekend, the band will start its Christmas concerts, beginning with the Hospice Light Up a Light at 7 p.m. Sunday. They will be playing just inside the doors at the Catholic church, where marchers will end up following the candle lighting ceremony.

Then, on Dec. 21, they will play Christmas carols at some rest homes and at Berger Hospital, and will follow that event with a concert at Sunrise Rotary the next day.

Kerns retired from teaching music in Circleville City Schools. He now teaches music to home-schooled kids through the Logan Elm Baptist Church and New Hope Church.

"He made music his life," Geron said. "The rest of us have a variety of careers. We play music just for fun — although Cliff plays for fun, too."

Geron, a retired RN, played at Capital University for years, where she studied with Nick Perrini, the university's horn professor. She is also president of Goodtime Quilters.

Jerry Voss, when not playing his trombone, sells radio and television advertisements for the Agri Broadcast Network.

Trumpet player Jeff Mathew works in legal services for the Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections in Orient.

Laura Bethel, like Mathew, plays the trumpet. She also teaches fourth grade in the Amanda-Clearcreek School District.

The five band members, since they began playing together seven years ago, have developed a repertoire of several hundred musical pieces. Although it would seem difficult to remember hundreds of songs, the players say they have no problem. They pick only so many pieces for each concert, and they get together for practice every Tuesday evening at the Pumpkin Show building.

"You do the songs so often," Mathew said, "and you practice in your spare time."

QUINTET

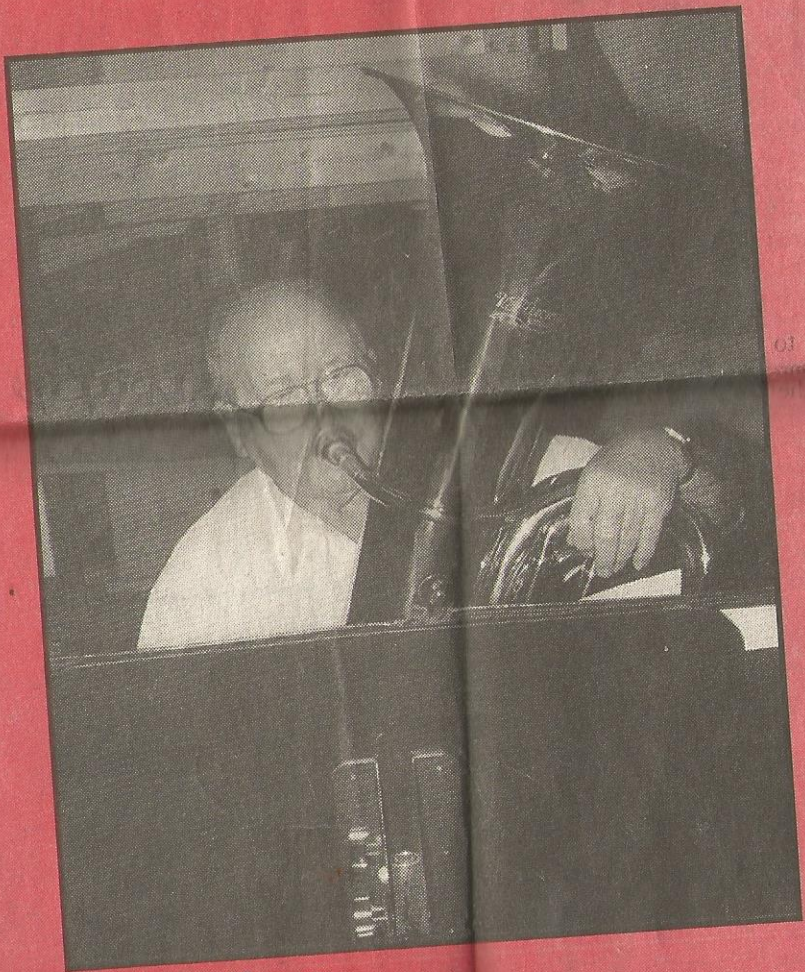


Laura Bethel -

Pickaway Brass Quintet

Pickaway Brass Quintet

Cliff Kerns, Carol Geron, Jerry Voss, Laura Bethel and Jeff Mathew will perform at Light Up a Life on Sunday, and follow that with Christmas carols at area rest homes and Berger Hospital on Dec. 21.

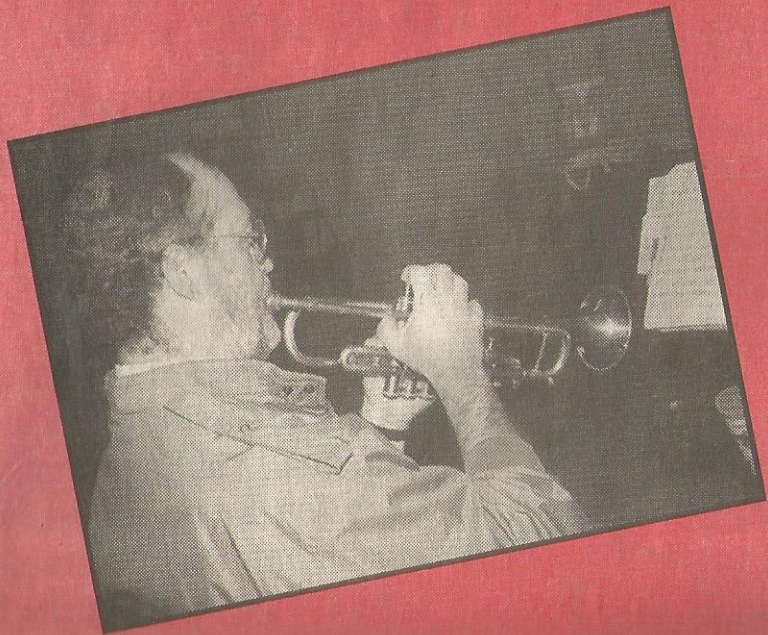


Clifford Kerns





Carol Geron



Light Up a Life

The Light Up a Life march downtown will begin at 7 p.m. Sunday on the court house steps. After a reading of names for individuals being remembered or honored, a lighted candle procession will head to Saint Joseph's Catholic church, where the Pickaway Brass Quintet will greet marchers with music. Clifford Kerns will also perform two songs accompanied by the organist, Paul Dunkle. Contributions from the annual event support Hospice patients who no longer have insurance or other means of financial support.*

Carol Geron

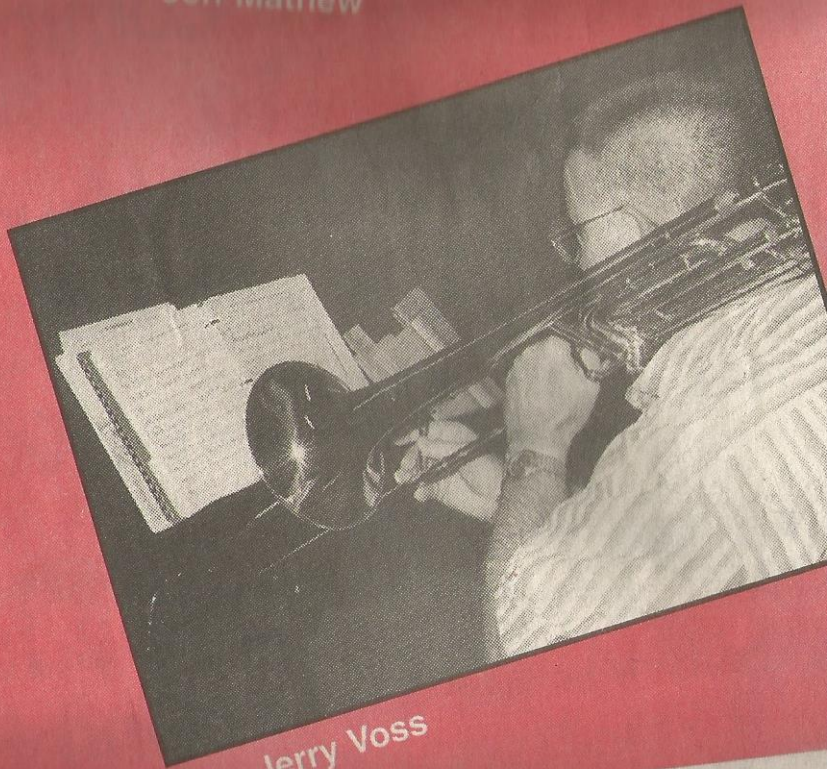


Jeff Mathew

support Hospice patients who no longer have
other means of financial support.



Matthew



Jerry Voss