

PICKAWAY BRASS CONCERT PROPOSAL

I. Proposal

The Pickaway Brass is interested in creating a concert that would incorporate the physical comedy of a local clown group.

II. Background of the Pickaway Brass

The Pickaway Brass is a brass quintet based in the Circleville area and was created in 1991 in order to have a musical group to perform for the graduation ceremonies of what was then The Circleville Bible College, now known as Ohio Christian University.

The instrumentation of The Pickaway Brass includes:

- 2 Trumpets
- Trombone
- Tuba
- French horn
- Percussion

However, members of The Brass have used a variety of other instruments in order to give its music distinctive personalities, to include:

- Euphoniums
- Eb trumpets
- Soprano trombone (slide trumpet)
- Flugelhorns
- A multitude of percussion related items, to include cow bells, triangles, wooden sticks, etc

Since its inception, The Pickaway Brass has performed all over central and southern Ohio for weddings, church services, shopping malls, social and civic groups, as a part of various concert subscription series, county fairs, our own annual concerts, Berger Hospital, area rest homes, and The Circleville Pumpkin Show.

The musical library of The Brass currently includes over 620 songs, with over 200 of them being arranged by both present and past members of The Brass.

This library includes: ragtime, classical, popular, movie and TV themes, big band, folk, religious, marches, **novelty numbers**, and songs that feature different members of the group as soloists. In addition, the current membership is capable of arranging almost any song to fit our instrumentation, the needs of the venue, and the purpose of the performance.

More information about The Pickaway Brass, to include both video as well as sound files, can be found at:

- **Facebook:** Just search for *Pickaway Brass*. We will be the only group with that name.
- **MySpace:** <http://www.myspace.com/pickawaybrass>

III. Purpose of Incorporating a Performance With a Clown Group:

Community instrumental musical groups generally only appeal to an older audience. This dynamic is easily observable at concerts as close to home as those by The Adelphi Community Band, The Circleville Pumpkin Show Band, Lancaster Community band, and many others, to even include The Pickaway Brass.

There is nothing wrong with this dynamic, but The Pickaway Brass is interested in partnering with other groups, whether primarily instrumental or other, that would allow us to:

- Continue to have fun playing music together
- Expand our library of performance capabilities to include other unique entertainment facets that won't generally be found in the Circleville area

Even professional orchestras often incorporate the music of dramatically contrasting musical groups in order to meet this need-to include orchestras performing with such diverse groups as:

- **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy** (*a 50's style swing band*)
- **Saxton's Cornet Band** (*a Civil War recreation band*)
- **Blood Sweat and Tears** (*70's rock instrumental group*)
- **Three Dog Night** (*70's rock vocal group*)
- **The Ohio State University Marching Band**

IV. Target Audience of a Joint "Pickaway Brass and Clowns" Concert

The original thought was that this type of performance would be primarily designed for children, and for as young as 4-5 years of age.

However, it is realized that this type of performance combining clowns physical comedy and fun music would be attractive to audiences of all ages.

In any advertisement for any such concert, however, it would certainly be emphasized that we would have entertainment that would appeal to everyone, including very young children.

V. Role and Limitations of a Clown Group Within This Proposal

While the following thoughts may vary based on the specific clown group with which The Brass may become affiliated, as well as the purpose of the performance and the specific interests/constraints of the venue, it is envisioned that the role and limitations of the clown group would be guided by the following:

1. The clown group does NOT have to do any announcing of any songs, or contribute verbally to the concert, if it does not desire to do so.
2. Of any specific concert, the clown group does not have to develop skits, routines, etc. for every minute of the concert, or for every song.

In fact, it is anticipated that for any initial concert, the clown group would only have prepared a few skits and activities, and that as the association between the two of us hopefully continues, then the library of clown skits and activities would continue to grow with what hopefully will be additional experience and fine-tuning.

3. The activities of the clowns can include:
 - Skits to be done in between songs,
 - Skits that can be done in accompaniment with the songs,
 - Skits and activities accompaniment with just parts of some songs.
4. The members of The Brass are happy to contribute ideas for skits and activities for the clowns. We can even assist in developing any specific props that may be used by the clowns during the performance. Some of us would even be willing to participate in any skits, activities, etc.

The goals that will be kept in mind in the development of specific prop would include (especially if provided by The Pickaway Brass)

- Cheap (in terms of both money and time needed) to create
 - Safe for participants and audience
 - Easily taken apart (if needed) for transportation to the concert venue
 - Easy to replace
 - Whoever pays for and builds the props can keep the props
5. The Pickaway Brass is absolutely a “family oriented” show in both music as well as word, and that will absolutely be the direction for any clown activities as well. This obviously would include that no one would get injured or embarrassed, and that there would be no damage to the concert venue.

6. With # 5 (above) in mind for all of us, there shouldn't be a conflict in the development of any skits and activities designed by the clown group. However, in all cases, The Pickaway Brass retains the ability to veto any specific activity, as well as develop the specific program and music content for any specific venue.

Again, while it isn't perceived that there will be issues regarding program content, and all concerts will be given joint billing, it is clear that the clown group is performing **at the invitation of** The Pickaway Brass.

7. While there are generally few opportunities for any musical group in the Circleville area to be offered money to perform, in the event of any money being offered for any specific performance in which the clown group is used, this amount will be divided among The Pickaway Brass and the clown group in accordance with the amount of participation the clown group would have during that performance.

EXAMPLE: If the performance consists of The Pickaway Brass performing 10 songs, but the clown group only performed during one of these songs, then the amount offered to each would be adjusted to reflect only this percentage of participation in the event. This would be discussed between us prior to the event.

VI. Misc. Info:

1. The Pickaway Brass already has recordings of many of the songs in its library, so in addition to any combined practice time, these recordings can be made available to the group to be utilized during that group's practice.
2. Given enough lead-time, members of The Brass can arrange any song as necessary that could be used during any concert.
3. Please contact me if there are any questions:
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The Pickaway Brass
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This can be a fun and unique concept, and we look forward to pursuing this idea with any interested group.

END

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