

**STRATFORD CONCERT BAND** - The Stratford Concert Band was born in 1907 when James Malone, a noted Stratford conductor, founded the GTR Employees Band. When the GTR was absorbed by the CNR in 1923, the musicians became the CNR Employees' Band. In the early '60s, after more than 50 years affiliated with GTR and CN, the band began an association with the Royal Canadian Legion, taking the name of the Stratford Royal Canadian Legion Concert Band. Since 1992, the Stratford Concert Band has been an independent group, and in 1994 it became a registered charitable organization.

The band has a loyal following in Stratford, regularly drawing several hundred listeners to its weekly summer concerts in Upper Queen's Park. The band also presents several formal concerts each year, and performs frequently at civic functions in Stratford and the surrounding area. Its concerts feature standards of the concert band repertory, contemporary works for wind ensemble, arrangements of classic symphonic pieces, popular music, jazz, settings of hymns and other religious works, and, of course, marches. The band's outdoor summer concerts include "halftime" performances by smaller ensembles drawn from the band's membership, and it frequently invites guest groups or soloists to perform at formal concerts.

**FESTIVAL CITY BIG BAND** - Is a 17-piece band based in Stratford, Ontario, and has been entertaining audiences since 1995 with a wide range of music, including swing-era standards, contemporary jazz charts, Latin numbers, unclassifiably weird stuff and more. We've recorded two CDs: "For the Love of It," released in June of 2000, and "Easy to Love," released in December 2001. We keep busy with performances at numerous private and community functions across southwestern Ontario. Most of our members perform in various other professional and community groups.

**DIXON & COMPANY BAND** - Jim Dixon and wife Cindy have been professionally entertaining together since the early 1990's. Over the years, as well as building up an impressive repertoire of material, they have also developed those vocal and harmony skills that form the nucleus of their present sound. Cindy's vocal rendering of songs by Country legends like Loretta and Tammy among many others are pure delight. Attracting mainly an over 50 dance crowd, the band has noticed a growing younger audience that say they enjoy the infectious energy the band spreads while listening to the songs of their past. Enjoy their classic country sounds!

**METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND** - Founded in 1931 and has been associated with Metropolitan United Church since 1934. The brass band is a special ensemble as it utilizes only the instruments of the brass and percussion families. Our concert and service schedule of over 20 performances a year also sees us performing at a variety of churches, seniors' homes, and concert venues in the Greater Toronto Area. Our repertoire includes classics, marches, the music of the great musicals, religious music, popular selections, and contemporary works written and arranged for brass band. All of the music (with the exception of the bass trombone part) are written in treble clef. The membership is made up of men and women from all faiths. We currently have 30 members but we are always looking for new members. Since our musical programs change constantly, strong music reading skills are essential.

**WESTON SILVER BAND** - Now in its 97th season, (WSB) traces its continuous history back to 1921, when it was created as the Weston Boys' Band by George Sainsbury. Under the baton of Music Director Larry Shields, the band's membership is made up of accomplished brass players from the GTA and surrounding areas. Three-time North American Brass Band Champions, the WSB returned to competition in 2014 at the **North American Brass Band Championships** after an 18 year hiatus, and is the first and only Canadian Brass Band to win section titles at the contest. Weston won first place honours in the 2nd section in 2014. Moving up to First Section in 2015, the WSB repeated their top prize winning result. Following a 2nd place finish in 2016, the WSB decisively reclaimed 1st place at The Championships in March 2017.

Five time winners of the **Hannaford Cup**, an annual Award of Excellence at Toronto's **Festival of Brass**, as well as Best Soloist awards for members **Brad Norton**, cornet (2011) and **Robert Miller**, euphonium (2013) and **Matthew Ross**, flugelhorn (2015), the WSB has recently gained international recognition as a performing ensemble.

**KITCHENER MUSICAL SOCIETY BAND** - History documents the sporadic emergence of local bands in the village and town of Berlin (Kitchener's name until 1918) even before 1876. But it was that year which saw the beginning of a colourful era of continuous band-music presence that thrives to this day in our busy city. Today, some four-dozen dedicated woodwind, reed, brass and percussion players — men and women, teens through seniors — make up the

current Kitchener Musical Society Band. We've come a long way from turn-of-the-century military marches; now we do everything from Bach to Bernstein, from classical symphonies to hot jazz and latin beat, from Hymns to Hoagy Carmichael, from ragtime to rock-and-roll.

**MICHAEL KELLY CAVAN** - A Canadian singer-songwriter, born in Ireland and raised by his immigrant parents in North Bay, Ontario. It was during his formative years that Michael found a love of music and his own Irish Tenor voice, first as a young choirboy and then as a singer and guitarist in the Irish pub scene. He has performed as a sing-a-long piano player on a tourist train (the Polar Bear Express), has graced the stages of Massey Hall, the El Macombo, the Horseshoe Tavern, Hughs Room and various other venues. He has sung the Irish National Anthem (in Gaelic) in Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto to kick off the St. Patrick's Day celebrations and frozen his fingers off while playing on a float in the Toronto St Paddy's Day parade. He has released 4 CD's to date and is currently working on an Irish traditional one and one of new original material. He currently performs throughout Southwestern Ontario and runs the Cavan Creative School of Songwriting in Kitchener Ontario.

**SUMMER FESTIVAL WIND ENSEMBLE** - The SFWE provides a musical experience of pre-professional calibre to talented young musicians in the Greater Toronto Area. Although not all members go on to a career in music, all do carry with them the pride of being part of a unique musical family, with memories and friendships that last for years. This group performed its debut concert in the Kiwanis Pavilion Bandshell in the summer of 2013. It is a community-driven ensemble which operates largely through the support of a wide network of volunteers and patrons, and continues to raise the awareness of wind band repertoire and promote the importance of music education and the arts.

**STRINGS & TRAPS** – A popular Stratford based trio featuring Chris Adair on vocals and drums, Tim Carroll on guitar, mandolin and vocals and Jeff McIntyre on guitar and vocals. This dynamic group plays classic and new rock, country, folk, Celtic standards and more. They can be heard playing in local pubs, at weddings, festivals and celebrations of all kinds. Their eclectic songbook ensures that everyone has a good time!

**WATERLOO CONCERT BAND** - was created in 1858 to service the growing community of Waterloo's need for music. As a non-profit, charitable organization, it has grown from its roots into a 30-piece ensemble. Performances range from formal concerts to nursing home events, Christmas Parades, and civic events such as Remembrance Day. The unique feature of this Band, which sets itself apart from other local ensembles, is its work ethic and membership. There are no auditions to join, nor are there membership fees or regulations. The Band itself is a cross section of the population of the local area: we have students, both high school and university age, music enthusiasts as well as professionals, and retirees.

**UPSIDE OF MAYBE** is an award winning, family friendly, roots based pop/rock group from Stratford, ON. They have toured throughout Canada and are known for their tight harmony, infectious story telling, crafty song writing and engaging live shows. From small pubs and intimate house concerts, to rowdy festivals and concert halls - when Upside of Maybe takes the stage it's all about creating a memory and capturing a moment. The band's style has evolved greatly throughout its career, and its music which began as exclusively acoustic, quickly grew to encompass a mixture of a wide array of styles including pop, rock, folk and roots. They are most often billed as an "alt rock" band. Upside of Maybe has released a number of EP's and full length projects. They are currently in the studio working hard on a new recording and are excited to share some of the new material when they hit the road this summer. Be sure to catch them live when they come to a city near you