



Audio Etiquette

Tony Gutierrez, 2008 Band Director

Every year I write about what I call "Audio Etiquette" or how we as performers should be aware of what we say around "open microphones" at performances. Microphones are positioned strategically around the band providing "sound reinforcement", that is, to make us sound better by amplifying certain instruments. Most of the time we can't hear ourselves over the speakers so its hard to know when microphones are live. Many times during a performance we like to share jokes, personal information or comments and just get caught up in the moment while having a good time. However, there have been incidents in past where a comment was broadcast to the audience. The rule of thumb is: never say anything near a microphone that you wouldn't want the audience to hear. So if you see our dancers frantically waiving their hands and making facial gestures to get your attention, it may be because you are "live".

Drinking Responsibly

Tony Gutierrez, 2008 Band Director

Every year I also address the issue of drinking responsibly. We have the unique pleasure of being in an organization that embraces Bavarian culture and promotes Oktoberfest. The primary activity at any Oktoberfest is the consumption of bier. We have the privilege of enjoying some of the finest biers in North Carolina and our customers generously share it with us. With that said, we all need to be aware of our [alcohol consumption](#) before, during, and after a performance. Over consumption of alcohol can sometimes lead to behavior that does not reflect well on our performance or our organization. A good rule of thumb is consume no more than one to two pint-size glasses of biers per hour. Make sure you eat something before you drink. Finally, as band and dance directors, it's our responsibilities to insure that we provide the best performance possible to our customers and that our members arrive, perform and return home as safely as possible without incident.

St Mathews Oktoberfest

Dave Arner, Conductor & Trumpet Player

The venue was nice & the food was good at St. Mathews. There were only 2 problems: the band & the audience. At the start the audience talked amongst themselves and paid absolutely no attention to the band. That was good because the band got off to a very bad start, primarily because of poor leadership on my part. (I think I have come to better understand some things and I think I'll do better next time.) The band came around and in the second set, so did the audience. The 2nd 3rd & 4th sets had some extraordinary audience participation. We sent 4 dancers primarily as crowd rousers, but they actually did a dance show and really wowed the audience. Kay did a great job helping them rouse the crowd. This previously comatose audience came alive and participated in everything we threw at them, singing along, dancing, and smiling through the final number.

Bill plays his double-bell
baritone at the Waldhorn.

Call the LGB Band Phone 919-321-0731

The LGB&D band phone has the latest most up-to-date info on the current weekend's performances including departure location and times and any last minute gig cancellations or other changes. We strive to insure the information is current. So, on the day of the performance before you leave home, always check the band phone at 919-321-0731.

Update Your LGB Contact Info

Make sure your contact information on the [LGB&D Address List](#) is up-to-date, especially cell phone numbers. We use them to frequently to communicate among members traveling in a caravan or individually to a performance location.

LGB&D Store Sales

Thanks to Wanda, Chris, and Chien-hsin for selling a record \$722.00 in store sales at Waldhorn. We sold out of the cow bells, cow hats, and almost all the felt Alpine hats and most of the new chicken hats with legs. The dirndl vests were also a big hit. ~ Teri



Waldhorn Oktoberfest

William Robinson, Baritone

Here are my **random thoughts** on some of my observations during our wonderfully successful performances this weekend at the Waldhorn.

The tent! Waldhorn's tent set up was far better than Little River's. The band and the audience were all under one tent, so no one had to endure looking at the director's knees.

The rain! What is it about the Waldhorn gig and rain? Friday night was one big downpour. The rain was mostly nothing more than an inconvenience, although it forced the dancers onto the asphalt - the wooden dance floor was too slippery. Saturday was much better weather wise, and the size of the audience quite evidently showed it. The first time I played with the band - 2 years ago at the Waldhorn - it was rainy and cold. During a conversation with Jim I compared it to the gig two years ago, and he told me that one year they actually cancelled the Friday night performance there because the rain was so bad.

Kudos to Jere! Do you know who the sound guy was in every other band I've ever played with? The band members. Stupid, stupid protocol. You just don't realize how invaluable having a dedicated sound guy is until there's a problem. It happened Friday night. Due to the rain we lost power [Jere said "the box" got wet, but that means nothing to me]. In any event, after a short break, he managed to install a new one and we had no further interruptions. Nice work getting us back up. One minor recommendation: next time, if the lights go out during a song, we should probably wait until the song is over to try to fix the problem to avoid being blinded while performing.

Favorite songs [without singers]: trumpet echo [nice job, trumpets], and the alhorn song [nice job, Connie]. Just plain fun songs that the audience quite self evidently thoroughly enjoyed both nights.

Least favorite songs: Any song with 5 or more flats [Db], especially if I'm sight reading. As my high school director used to tell me when playing Db, "if in doubt, play 2 and 3 [the second and third valve]". Sage advice. Actually, the least favorite songs during the weekend weren't really songs, and weren't played by us [except during one break by Eva]. It was by those drunken folks in the back of the tent blasting on those plastic bugle horns.

Low brass players are creative! Phillip's beautiful horn had a technical glitch Saturday evening - one of the rotary valves came loose [which is why I'm a piston valve sort of guy]. Anyway, after several minutes he was able to jury rig the problem by taking a plastic tie wire and holding the valve in place. It was a pretty inventive temporary solution. Hope it's nothing major.

Phillip hurt my lips and teeth! Okay, maybe just indirectly. During that technical glitch, Phillip wasn't able to play the baritone treble clef part, and when he found out that I could read treble clef he handed me the book and asked me to play it. For those of you who don't know this, the baritone treble clef part is, in many arrangements, different than the base clef part - in very general terms, when the horns play harmony, it's about a third of an octave higher. There are some high freaking notes. I give credit to Phillip and Connie for playing the treble clef part all the time [and beautifully]. Tough on the embouchure.

Treble clef's dirty little lie! For anyone who's had to transition from base clef to treble clef during the same set, it can be a little confusing. That's because of treble clef's dirty little lie. You see, base clef is true: When I see a C in the arrangement, I play a C. Simple, right? Well, not so with treble clef: when I see a C in the arrangement, I have to play a Bb!. Yeah, that's right, I have to transpose up one step. How stupid is that? Oh, you clarinet players and trumpeters know what I'm talking about. You call a C a "concert Bb". Jeesh. Continued next page...



Waldhorn staff enjoy modeling new dirndl vests.



Our ladies also enjoy the extra enhancement they get while wearing the dirndl vests

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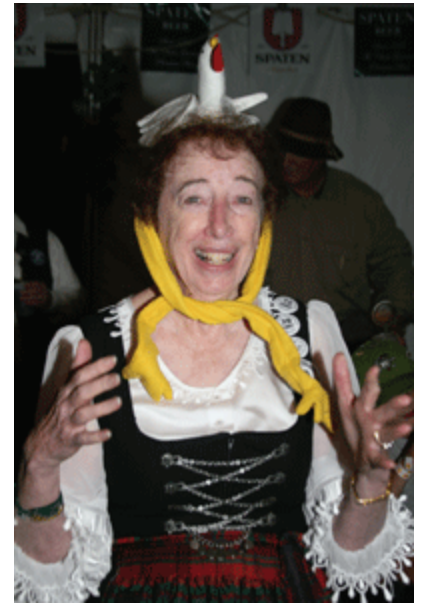
I lost my glasses! I hate getting older. I'm nearsighted, but I can't read music using my regular glasses anymore. A few years ago, I had a cheap pair of glasses made with the lenses focused like the middle of a pair of trifocals, so I can read music from a comfortable distance. Jim's done the same thing, I think. Anyway, if I want to see distance, I wear my regular glasses. If I want to read music, I wear the other pair. Sometimes, if I sit close enough to the music, I don't need either pair, which is why at one point Doug made fun of me for having two pairs of glasses on my head at the same time during a song. Anyway, I managed to lose the cheap pair at some point Saturday night. If anyone comes across a strange pair of glasses when you're unpacking, let me know.

Big Bob! I couldn't send an article about the Waldhorn without mentioning the LGBD's biggest [literally] fan. Bob was the first person into the tent Friday afternoon, and the last to leave Saturday evening. He's a big, tall man, wearing Lederhosen and a felt hat. Tony described him as looking more German than anyone the band saw during its recent trip to Germany. Both nights he sat right next to the band. His vessel of choice was a 3 liter stein that was rarely empty, although he had a sampling of other beverages that he freely offered to anyone near him [including apple schnapps, which I had to decline because I was driving]. How he was able to walk without staggering, and talk without slurring, at the end of the gig is anyone's guess. He said he may travel to Walhalla to hear us play in a few weeks.

Gas and beer rationed. What year is this? As for the gas, did you notice the police at the one station that had fuel? As for the beer, in a spirited and enthusiastic effort, the band members succeeded in blowing through most of the weekend's allotment of beer tickets Friday evening, so there were just two apiece Saturday. After that everyone shared what was available. And of course Big Bob was right next to us.

Dees iz da baste! During one of the breaks early Saturday evening, I strolled outside the tent to where they were selling admission tickets. The mother of the woman who owns the Waldhorn - I'm afraid I forgot her name - was working there. I asked her if she could hear the band okay. She looked at me, smiled, and without hesitation said, in her heavy German voice, "Ve hoff uder bonds uder veeks, but deez von, deez von iz da baste!" ["we have other bands other weeks, but this one, this one is the best!"].

Thanks for voting me a member of the band. I promise not to unilaterally play a song during a break again, and I look forward to Walhalla.



Wanda and Wayne model our latest chicken hats at the 2008 Waldhorn Oktoberfest.



Waldhorn owners Gitta and Thomas toast another great start to the Waldhorn Oktoberfest.



Waldhorn customers perform the Praxplattle.
