

# Red Lodge Music festival



## Bouncing Back

by **Kenneth Gilstrap** | *President and Artistic Director* | Red Lodge Music Festival

Resiliency: the capacity to withstand or to recover quickly from difficulties

For the Red Lodge Music Festival, bouncing back and resiliency came in the form of planning and holding the 57th Season of the Festival after two years of Covid absence. For the City of Red Lodge, resiliency came in the form of building back after flood waters swept through the town just as the Festival wrapped up in June.

Why could the Red Lodge Festival recover? Red Lodge is a wonderful city and is a great place to spend a week immersed in music. The Festival has a long history of devoted artists who love to perform and teach with one another. The Board of Directors has always been diligent and prudent in its management of Festival finances and operations.

I want to personally thank the Board of Directors and all Festival supporters who worked tirelessly these past two years to bring the Festival back. We rallied behind over 170 students, a dedicated camp staff, and 30 faculty musicians as they delivered a musical shot to the arm for ourselves and each other. Most importantly, our young musicians needed this camp again, especially to feel and hear the awe of playing in large and small musical ensembles. They also needed to just be kids at camp.

When you give financially to the Festival - through its endowment, annual donation campaign, memorial fund, Fun Run contribution, faculty and staff housing donation, or scholarships - your support helps keep camp costs affordable for families.

As we plan for the 58th Season of the Red Lodge Music Festival, we are all passionately committed to continuing and guarding the value of music performance in the Beartooth Mountains. This year will be better than ever!





# A Conversation With Two Composers

by **Mary Patton** | Red Lodge Music Festival

The Red Lodge Music Festival experienced a first this last summer (well, besides the extreme flooding). We had the privilege of hearing a composition written by a student being performed by faculty members. The piece, called Echoes of the Canopy, was written by Spencer Sanders, a high school junior from Hyde Park, Utah (just north of Ogden). Spencer's piece was written for clarinet and violin and wonderfully performed by faculty members David Carter and Megan Kenney.

As background, the festival has enjoyed over the years many amazing world premieres written by our 'Composer in Residence' John Harmon. "Mr. Harmon is an amazing composer and when I saw his bio, I knew I needed to attend this camp", said Spencer. After the first day of camp, which can be pretty hectic and new, John and Spencer immediately began forging a common share centered around piano and composing. But each has their own unique process and artistry.

"My ideas and emotions are often triggered by visual concepts, especially centered around Native American themes, which have resonated with me since childhood" shared John. Spencer typically writes for choral ensembles and has played piano since he was 8. At the age of 9, he started thinking about composing as he listened to movie soundtracks.

John is amazed that Spencer is composing at such a young age, as he did not have the training or background to notate the music that erupted in his head until he attended college. Spencer composes his music on a computer via a notation software, which will also play back the music. "I appreciated the way Mr. Harmon presented methods to expand my harmonic language and various ideas related to counterpoint", Spencer shared when asked why he appreciated this opportunity. John's approach was to cheer Spencer on, not to change or influence his music.

It was interesting to hear how these musicians felt when they heard their pieces performed. The common emotion: it is a very humbling experience combined with gratitude to the musicians who are interpreting their pieces. The music they created, whether composed on paper or via computer software, was a privilege for us all, and we look forward to many more creations of music composition at the Red Lodge Music Festival.



Join us for our **58th Season**  
Montana's Premier Music Festival



# Returning Students and Important Memories

by **Mark Soueidi and Beatrice Gatien** | Red Lodge Music Festival

Each year, the Festival takes time to recognize the returning 5th and 6th year students with a meal at the Red Lodge Pizza Co. While cutting through slices of pizza this year, we had the unique opportunity to get to know this year's returning students.

When the discussion turned to why they came to the Festival each year, they cited their ability to experience new conductors at the podium and the challenging and different repertoires. Many agreed that it took their hometown band and orchestra conductors to get them interested in attending their first camp, and they have gladly returned each year. Some asked if the camp could be extended to two weeks!

The students also agreed that meeting a variety of other musicians - some new, some familiar, and some good friends – is a major draw to return. One student said her parents initially wanted her to experience an “away camp” opportunity, and RLMF was a welcoming opportunity – so much so, she continued to return each summer.

When asked about favorite memories since their first camp, students mentioned the traditional picnic outing to Wild Bill Lake. Just before the week draws to a close, the Festival treats everyone to a fun picnic afternoon, where students get to enjoy lunch and explore the old fishing hole created by William “Wild Bill” Kurtzer in 1902. It's at Wild Bill Lake where students take a hard-earned break from rehearsals. They explore various trails around the lake and do fun things like putting together impromptu forts, coloring their faces with fire-pit charcoal and even form impromptu jam sessions - proving that even out in the woods, RLMF students cannot get away from their love of music.

Returning students mentioned how their individual roommate experiences create enduring friendships. They love to unwind from a full day of rehearsals and concerts with roommates, and some even admitted to enjoying conversations and interactions with camp counselors!

Here are other lasting memories from fifth and sixth year returning students:

- Performing a repertoire like “Lord of the Dance” and “Minnie the Moocher”.
- Not getting enough sleep – even to the point of nearly falling asleep during performances!
- Giving them a chance to finally perform in a larger ensemble than they were normally accustomed to back home.
- Assembling a cool Red Lodge Music Festival t-shirt collection each year, the different colors representing each summer.

Finally, a plea was made by the students to have seat cushions in the bleachers during the evening recitals. Some things just never change!



**Please consider RLMF in your estate planning.**

# A special thank you TO OUR ANNUAL DONORS

## **Benefactors \$300 +**

Martha Brown & Marty Clague  
Jean Anne Bullock  
Julia Childs  
Lori & Dave Christianson  
Carole Critelli (Frank & Inez Memorial Fund)  
Carmen DeBello  
Kathleen Delahanty  
Joy Goodwin  
Dr. & Mrs. Gumper  
Mrs. Margo Holmgren  
Yvonne Jensen  
Dr. Julie Johnson  
Mary & Bob Johnson  
Arle & Armand Lohof  
Bill Morgan & Kris Decker  
Kathy & David Munson  
Barbara Ostrum  
Suzi & Randy Pendegraft  
Anita Philipsborn  
Diane Redinius  
Polly Richter  
Betsy Scanlin  
Mr. Michael Sweeney  
Steve Tjelveit & family  
Ben Tyrell & Megan Littlefield  
Mitzie & Jim Vorachek

## **Sustainers \$150-299**

Drs. Duncan & Vicki Burford  
Gilbert Burdett  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Ellis  
Mr. Tim Fox  
Hancock Enterprises (Kelly Coleman)  
Mr. & Mrs. John Haughey  
Ms. Lynn Jensen  
Dr. Lisa Malody  
Ms. Saralee Melnick & Thomas Astle  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Singer  
T. Weaver

## **Patrons \$100-149**

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. James Downs  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Frank  
Dr. & Mrs. James Good  
Mr. & Mrs. James Gransberry  
Hardy Construction  
Mrs. Marlene Lawson  
Dr. Jeff Lindenbaum  
Tiffany Madden  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Murphy  
Cathie S. Osmun  
Dr. & Mrs. Dale Peterson  
Mr. Robert Reichert  
Bernard Rose  
Betty Roy

Martha Sobral  
Mr. & Mrs. John Stewart

## **Contributors up to \$99**

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Bar  
Mr. & Mrs. Uri Barnea  
Julie Blakeslee  
Mr. Les Crawford  
Carol Erkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Gilstrap  
Nancy Hamilton  
Mrs. Mary Jo Johnson  
Dr. Katharin Kelker  
Kay Kovach  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Larson  
Mrs. Katie Link  
Herbert Mangis  
McCarty Trading Group Inc.  
Ms. Christine Poe  
Mrs. Carlene Taubert  
Dr. Jane Van Dyk  
Mr. & Mrs. James Young

## **Scholarships**

A-1 Rental  
Ben Steele Middle School –  
Ryan Hennessy  
Ben Steele Middle School –  
Thomas Burke  
Castle Rock Middle School –  
Justin Engle  
Frank and Inez Critelli  
Memorial Scholarship  
Friends of Music, White Sulphur  
Springs  
Kari Drange  
Sidney E. Frank Foundation  
John and Kylie Goodheart  
Erin and Bryan Grummett  
Dr. and Mrs. Lew Gumper  
Margo Holmgren  
Kathleen Jones  
Mike Leslie  
Montana Music Institute  
H. Stephen and Vikki Payne  
Red Lodge Fun Run  
Red Lodge Songwriter Festival  
Riverside Middle School –  
John Goodheart  
Rocky Mountain Songwriters,  
Inc.  
Sheridan Arts Council,  
Sheridan WY.  
Donell Small  
Don & Jane Stone  
Sweet Grass Arts Alliance  
Tripp & Associates

## **Memorials**

*In Memory of Bill Jones, Jensy Jones, Richard  
& Warren Jones, and Eloise Kirk  
Kathy Jones*

*In Memory of Barbara Rightmire  
Kenneth & Barbara Eickenberger  
Kenneth & Carolyn Gilstrap  
Sandra Western*

*In Memory of Sandy Mauchley  
Julie Blakeslee  
Grace Lamdin  
Del Parkinson  
Steve & Mary Patton*

*In Honor of Anne Fujiwara  
Kelly Coleman  
Susan McKinley*

*Minnabeth Garrison - Memorial Music Fund  
Julie Blakeslee  
Debbie Dolezal  
Kathy & David Munson*

*In Memory of Ann Woodrow Cane  
Christine Poe*

*In Memory of Eloise Kirk  
Cheri Anderson  
Uri Barnea  
Lavone Bennington family  
Julie Blakeslee  
Bruce & Darlene Ellis  
William & Carmen Galt  
Ken & Carolyn Gilstrap  
Catharine Glennon  
Maribeth & John Hansen, Jr.  
Lynn Jensen  
Diane Boyer Jerhoff  
Richard & Patti Lewallen  
Greg & Kathy Murphy  
Audrey O'Brien & family  
Virginia Olcott  
Steve & Mary Patton  
Michael Peterson & Rosemary Judge  
Robert Reichert  
Patricia Roberts  
Joseph & Betty Roy  
Sandi & Ralph Shirts*

**"Every drop of water is welcome in the ocean."**

*—Mother Teresa*



# Musings of a First Year Faculty Member

by **Scott Jeppesen** | Faculty | Red Lodge Music Festival



Since joining the music faculty at Montana State University Billings in 2017, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with students of diverse ages, hometowns, cultures and experience levels. One of my favorite educational responsibilities is to travel Montana to work with student ensembles. Many small towns have school bands with nontraditional instrumentations, while some are made up of students from vastly different grades and ability levels. I was naturally excited when invited to teach at the Red Lodge Music Festival where I was asked to lead their middle school saxophones, saxophone ensembles, and jazz band.

Throughout my career, I have worked with students at the elementary, high school, and collegiate levels. I somehow missed out on the Middle School experience. Fortunately, my wife Roxanne teaches middle school orchestra and offered her invaluable tidbits of advice. So with her tips in my back pocket and my horn over my shoulder, I ventured off to Red Lodge as a first time faculty member.

I'll admit the saxophone classes and ensembles went smoothly. However, as a new faculty member of RLMF, nothing could prepare me for the great adventure known as "Middle School Jazz Band".

As background, a typical jazz ensemble consists of 16 or 17 members scored with saxophones, trumpets, trombones, piano, basses, guitar and drums. However, our band had approximately 60 members! In addition to the usual above noted instrumentation, the RLMF Jazz Band included flutes, clarinets, tubas, a cello, and 3 drummers. Instead of the standard 4 trumpets, we had 10. Instead of 5 saxophones, we had 12, all with little to no experience playing or improvising jazz music.

Surely this had to be a practical joke on the new guy, right? The jazz band was a massive ensemble with an enormous sound, but how do you even find sheet music for this monster? Fortunately, after consulting with my gracious fellow faculty members and placing a very panicked call to my wife, I somehow put together music for the 60 students to play at their first day of rehearsal!

In retrospect, the experience of working with middle schoolers became the highlight of my week. They were eager to learn and wanted to improve and perform. Improvising jazz music can be an intimidating experience for all musicians. I am proud to say that roughly half of the band members performed improvised solos at the final concert. They improved so much over the week and, most importantly, we had fun!

I look forward to another great week in 2023, but I'll be ready this time!



## Fun Run Donors

Joel & Margie Adams  
Elizabeth Scanlin  
& Jeff Anderson  
Anonymous  
Theresa Ball  
Grant & Laurie Barnard  
Julie Blakeslee  
Keith & Susie Brighton

John & Patricia Burg  
Jennifer Burns  
Kari Drange  
Bert & Jo Ann Eder  
Mark & Jamee Free  
Bill Galt  
Galt String Gallery  
Kenneth Gilstrap  
Lindell & Dianne Gumper  
Donald & Rebecca Hardy

Lynn Jensen  
Carmen Loma Media  
Jerimiah & Kathryn Lysinger  
Tiffany Madden  
Don & Nancy Hamilton  
Lisa Malody  
Herbert & Gerry Mangis  
Bill Morgan  
David & Kathy Munson  
Mary Jo Noser

James & Carolyn Pidgeon  
Barbara Pitman  
Norma Scheidecker  
Patty & Bill Schuessler  
Karen Simmons  
Alan Tjeltveit  
Amy Wiebold  
Donald & Janis Williams

# RLMF Bicycle Brigade

by **Bill Morgan** | Board Member | Red Lodge Music Festival

As if cued by a symphony conductor, every first week of June the town of Red Lodge experiences an annual mass of visiting students riding bicycles. Local residents then know that spring is being ushered away and that summer's first festival has arrived.

Yes, this sure sign of summer's eminent arrival comes in the form of a near 200-member bicycle brigade, transporting aspiring young musicians around town during the Red Lodge Music Festival. Whether pedaling to rehearsal, lunch, or simply swinging by the Candy Emporium for another treat, RLMF students know the value of having a bike during their week-long residency in Red Lodge.

Mark Soueidi, who has been a camp counselor and flat fixer at the festival since 2012, does what he can to make sure that the campers go no longer than a short intermission without their trusted steeds. "I stock up on tire tubes, cleaning kits and Allen wrenches to make sure no student is left stranded", says Mark, who also coaches trombone students on the side.

The Festival does its very best to remind students to honor the traffic signs, wear protective gear, and be respectful of each other and members of the local community while riding "Having a bike on hand can make an incredible difference to each student, whether they are getting to breakfast or rehearsal in the morning, or want to grab a treat and explore the charming shops and eateries on Red Lodge's Main Street", says Mark, an avid bicycle rider himself.

The honored tradition of bringing your bike to the music camp fits in well with Red Lodge's enduring charm and culture. A positive outcome of Mark's work is that through a bit of elbow grease and coaching during festival week, students have a more dependable bike to use throughout the summer when they get back to their own home towns.

Mark also indicates that there has been talk of creating a formal bicycle-centered event for festival students next summer – one that will not only add a fun twist to the camp's festivities, but also show off a bit more of the town of Red Lodge while practicing and reinforcing bicycle safety at the same time. Mark's final words to next year's students is to "be sure to dust off the bike and pump up the tires come next spring, because you will certainly appreciate having a bike while enjoying bringing in the summer at the Red Lodge Music Festival"!



***We have hard work ahead and need your help.***

***A gift to the endowment is a wonderful way to leave a legacy to our mission of music and education.***

**Donations or inquiries may be addressed to:**

**Bill Galt** | Treasurer

Red Lodge Music Festival

1014 Harvard Avenue | Billings, MT 59102-1812

P 406-850-7343

[endowment@rlmf.org](mailto:endowment@rlmf.org)

**For questions regarding a planned gift, please contact:**

**Nicole Ohs** | Gift & Estate Planning Director

Montana Community Foundation

PO Box 1145 | Helena, MT 59624

P 406-671-9843

[heather@mtcf.org](mailto:heather@mtcf.org)

## Board of Directors:

Ken Gilstrap, *President/ Artistic Director*

Codie Wahrman, *Vice President*

Bill Galt, *Treasurer*

Steve Patton, *Camp Director*

Kari Drange, *Secretary*

Lynn Jensen, *Enrollment*

Julie Blakeslee, *Ensembles Director*

Carmen Galt, *Recruitment*

Kassidy Conlon

Peter Habein

Becky Hardy

Betty Hecker

Lynell Kruckeberg

Marlene Lawson

Bill Morgan

H. Steven Payne

Join us for our **58th Season**  
**Montana's Premier Music Festival**



# Memorial Awards – 2022

Our memorial awards are created at the request of supporters who wish a monetary award be dedicated in the name of a special person for the benefit of festival participants. These awards are merit-based, specific to particular instruments, and decided upon during the week of camp. For those interested in establishing an award fund, please review the Red Lodge Music Festival Memorial Award Guidelines Resolution at [rlmf.org](http://rlmf.org).

## **2022 Richard A. Fox Memorial Award**

### **Given by Tim Fox**

Jr. Violin: Tarquin Bennion  
Sr. Violin: Elijah Leafy

## **2022 Barbara Healow Peterson Memorial Award**

### **Given by Mike Peterson**

Jr. Viola: Ashlynn Miller  
Sr. Viola: Lindsay Abelin

Jr. Cello: Evan Guthridge  
Sr. Cello: David Ehinger

## **2019 Steve Stone Memorial Award**

### **Given by Don & Jane Stone**

Jr. Bass: Isaac Ballif  
Sr. Bass: Nathan Shaw

## **2022 Kim Johnson-Garcia Memorial Award**

### **Given by Jeanne Johnson**

Jr. Flute: McKenna Cox  
Sr. Flute: Kyra Bruner

## **2022 Forest Cornwell Memorial Award**

### **Given by Kristen Hoyer Tellcamp**

Jr. Oboe: Eliza Seifert  
Sr. Oboe: Gwen Thompson

## **2022 Gary Behm Honorary Award**

### **Given by his Former Students**

Jr. Clarinet: Samantha Ramirez  
Sr. Clarinet: Hannah Vincent

## **2022 Jan Stone Memorial Award**

### **Given by Don & Jane Stone**

Jr Bassoon: Macy Krumdieck  
Sr Bassoon: Tony Ninichuck

## **2022 Russ Davis Memorial Award**

### **Given by Mary Davis McLean**

Jr Sax: Thomas Byron  
Sr Sax: Serena Fink

## **2022 Don McComas Memorial Award**

### **Given by Sharlene McComas**

Jr Trumpet: Maclain Olson  
Sr Trumpet: Thomas Rupsis

## **2022 Jan Stone Memorial Award**

### **Given by Don & Jane Stone**

Jr Horn: Oliver Chicol

## **2022 Dr. Kenneth H. Mueller Memorial Award**

### **Given by Carol Mueller**

Jr Trombone: Sami Nauman  
Sr Trombone: Jack Staton

## **2022 Edward Rath Honorary Award**

### **Given by Carl Rath**

Jr Piano: Brody Arroyo  
Sr Piano: Spencer Sanders

## **2022 James Robertson Memorial Award**

### **Dr. Dale & Judy Peterson**

Jr Low Brass: Greyson Kiner  
Sr Low Brass: Mikai Anevski

## **2022 Leonard Droste Memorial Award**

### **Given by Percussion Enthusiasts**

Jr Perc: David Miller  
Sr Perc: Jay Nedrow

## **Six Year Award Recipients**

Ava Arrowsmith, Bronté Bennion, Madison Bratton  
Ret Bruner, Serena Fink, Joelle Loomans, William Miller  
Abigail Molm, Jack Staton, Jamie Tucker, Reagan Wyatt

## **Five Year Award Recipients**

Kyra Bruner, Lukas Kiekoover, Thomas Rupsis  
Danessa Stevens, Jax Sutton



# Red Lodge Music festival

Post Office Box 80268  
Billings, MT 59108-0268

Non-Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Billings, MT  
Permit No. 262



[www.rlmf.org](http://www.rlmf.org) | Save the Date  
Next Camp – June 3-11, 2023  
Like us on Facebook 



Join us for our 58th Season of Montana's Premier Music Festival

[www.rlmf.org](http://www.rlmf.org) | Save the Date  
Next Camp – June 3-11, 2023