



2016-06-27 / Local

Windham Swing Band charms local audience

«



THE 15-PIECE WINDHAM SWING BAND performed at the Tioga Pavilion in Belmont on Saturday night to an appreciative audience. (JIM CLARK/CITIZEN)



By JIM CLARK
jclark@citizen.com

BELMONT — The Windham Swing Band swung into town on Saturday night and gave a rousing performance to a very appreciative audience at the Tioga Pavilion on Mill Street next to the Belmont Mill.

The summer weather was perfect for live swing music in the open air pavilion, and the audience, mostly

senior citizens, enjoyed every minute of it.

The Windham Swing Band is a 15-piece unit out of Windham. The band consists of musicians throughout southeastern New Hampshire and northeastern Massachusetts. The band consists of all-volunteer musicians who get together once a week to rehearse.

The group is led by Rob Daisy, a veteran musician and performer. Daisy is an accomplished saxophone, clarinet and flute player.

Daisy received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh. He played professionally in the Pittsburgh area, and later in Germany and Hawaii, before relocating to New Hampshire in 2001. In addition to his duties as leader of the group, Daisy also is actively involved in teaching music to individual students. The assistant director of the group is drummer Rob Fogg of Concord.

Daisy conducted on Saturday night and left the playing to his band — 13 male musicians and two women.

The band performed two sets of about an hour each in length consisting of 25 songs. Vocalist Amy Harkins sang on 12 of the selections.

The band's song lineup consisted of many familiar classic big band tunes, as well as selections from the "Great American Songbook." There also were a number of songs in a more progressive band swing style, a couple of pop tunes, two Brazilian salsa numbers and one tango selection.

The band kicked off with a driving rendition of the Glenn Miller classic "In The Mood." Other well-known songs followed, including "Save the Last Dance for Me," "Fly Me To The Moon," "Stompin' at the Savoy," "Blue Skies," "Don't Get Around Much Anymore," "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

Harkins delivered strong vocals on all of the songs, including "Georgia On My Mind, which was written by Hoagy Carmichael and made famous by Ray Charles, "Orange Colored Sky," a hit for Nat King Cole with the Stan Kenton Band, "The Lady Is A Tramp" and "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You."

Harkins finished with a moving rendition of the Judy Garland classic, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

There also were songs by noted jazz composers and arrangers, including Sammy Nestico (famous for his work with Count Basie), Quincy Jones, Benny Carter, Bill Cunliffe, as well as the legendary Duke Ellington.

The performance ended with a classic Benny Goodman song, "Sing, Sing, Sing," made famous in a 1938 concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City. However, Goodman did not write the song. It was composed by the famous trumpeter, bandleader and Las Vegas showman Louie Prima.

One of the musicians who performed has a local connection. Baritone saxophonist Brian Oberti served as a music teacher at Belmont Middle School and High School from January to April of this year,

substituting for two music teachers who were on leave. He resides in Litchfield, but in September, begins duties as a music teacher at Berlin Middle School.

The Windham Swing Band consists of Ken Santarelli, Bob Deluca, Greg Mackenzie, Dave Jones and Brian Oberti on saxophone. In the trombone section are Jonathan Goldfield, Dana Hedrick and Mike Carchia. The trumpet section consists of Mike Greenfield, Mike Kulik, John Petro and Rob Cary. Ann Cope Cary plays the Yamaha electric keyboard. Gil Bristol is the bassist, and Rob Fogg is the drummer.

Formed in 1997, the Windham Swing Band is but one of three musical units — the others are the concert band and a flute ensemble.

The Windham Swing band has a performance scheduled in Londonderry on Wednesday, June 29, and dates in Windham and Bedford in July. In August, the group will perform in York Beach, Maine and in Londonderry.

More information about the group can be obtained at its website —windhamcommunitybands.org.

[Return to top](#)

[Login](#) to post comments