

FROM THE PODIUM

Our Pioneer Jazz Band performed at the Firefly Club on the evening of December 10, 2007. Congratulations on a job well done. They sounded great!

"It was 20 years ago today"! Although I am not Sergeant Pepper, I did begin my teaching career twenty years ago (December 19th). Through that time, bands under my direction have traveled throughout North America performing in cities like Orlando, Virginia Beach, Montreal, Toronto, Chicago and New York City. They have traveled "across the pond" to Europe four times. Ensembles have performed at three (soon to be four) statewide music conferences, two university music conferences and two international music conferences. They have been honored by the Grammy Foundation numerous times including the Grammy Foundation's "National Signature School" award signifying them and their departmental colleagues as the finest in the country, and been applauded by internationally renowned composers for performing their music. Former students have gone on to become bank tellers (I just discovered a former Euphonium student working in the Dexter TCF Branch), doctors, lawyers, professors of engineering, triathlete, professional musicians, and yes, even a few band directors. I am proud of each and every student that I have had the privilege and honor of teaching and being taught by. As far as I am concerned, it is only the start!!! Some of the finest musicians that I have ever worked with are in front of me today! As we conclude this year I am honored, proud, and thankful to have had all of these experiences. I am eagerly looking forward to an amazing 2008, and beyond.

2008 is starting off with a bang with the Pioneer Symphony Band's performance as part of the Michigan Music Conference on Friday, January 25th, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in the DeVos Place's Concert Hall. As part of that performance we celebrate a big part of Pioneer's past. Pioneer Band Director Emeritus (and my 5th grade band teacher) **Robert Albritton**, will conduct the Symphony Band with guest soloist, and former Pioneer Band member and United States Marine Corps "President's Own" Euphonium Soloist, **Matthew Tropman**. We have also invited Michigan State University Director of Bands (who happens to also be the former University of Michigan Marching Band Director) **Professor Kevin Sedatole** to guest conduct.

Soon after that the Pioneer Bands will be having their annual Winter Concert on February 7th, district Solo & Ensemble festival February 9th and concluding that week with our fifth annual Pioneer Bands Fund raising spectacular "Gala" on Sunday February 10th. Won't you (and a few of your wealthy friends) please join us in helping the Pioneer Band Association raise funds to help current students and assure that future Pioneer band students have the same experiences that band students of the past so enjoy!

All the best,

David A. Leach Director of Bands



NEW YORK TOUR INFO for Symphony, Concert and Jazz Bands

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12/14/2007, 1/1/2008, 2/15/2008, and 3/14/2008 Final Payment.

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