



Our Sounds

AUGUST 2026

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

Great Falls Municipal Band

2026 Summer Concerts

133rd Season Wednesdays at 7:00 PM
Gibson Park Bandshell

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Sponsors

Dr. Donna Zook, Exit JK Reality, J&K Real Property Management,
Miss Linda's School of Dance, & Terrie Simonich

Our Season's Conductors

Dusty Molyneaux, John Gemberling, Jeff Skogley, Fred Wenger,
Chris Kloker, Lisa Sundquist, Gordon Johnson, and Dennis Granlie.

Upcoming | Community Band Begins

First Rehearsal will be Thursday, 17 September 2026, in the Fireside Room at New Hope Lutheran Church, 3125 5th Avenue South, Great Falls. The Community Band has a conductor for the Fall and Spring Seasons. The Community Band is open to all community members with no audition, and they maintain attendance requirements.

Great Falls Municipal Band, Inc.

Municipal Band • Community Band • Community Jazz Band

525 Central Avenue Suite L9
Great Falls, MT 59401

www.greatfallsmunicipalband.org
(406) 899-9982

OUR CONDUCTORS FOR AUGUST

Gordon Johnson has been recognized by the League of American Orchestras, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), and the Carnegie Hall Foundation for his contribution to the musical arts.

During his tenure as conductor of the Great Falls Symphony, Gordon Johnson has been known for his energetic performances and dynamic leadership. In addition to his responsibilities in Great Falls, Maestro Johnson maintains a busy schedule, having guest conducted orchestras throughout the United States, Canada, England, Japan, Germany, and France. In February 2009, Johnson was invited by the United States State Department to conduct an American music program with the National Philharmonic of Moldova.

Gordon J. Johnson is currently president of the Conductors Guild, an organization dedicated exclusively to the advancement of the art of conducting and to the artistic and professional needs of conductors.





Dennis Granlie worked for GFPS for 26 years and retired in 2005. However, he has remained a major force in the GFPS music department.

As the music supervisor for Great Falls Public Schools, he has conducted and played in Great Falls bands and says he enjoys both aspects.

“Helping others enjoy making music together is a huge reward,” he said. “I enjoy seeing and hearing the progress from the first reading of the music through the concert and seeing the growth in musicianship as a result. Plus, I like the personal growth that comes with relying upon my score study and conducting skills to make sure the limited amount of rehearsal time is as efficient as possible.”

Granlie also likes that the community band concerts are free to the public. “While the band is made up of amateur musicians, the concerts have real musical quality,” he said. “Live music is rewarding to both the listeners and the performers and can be wonderfully uplifting.”

Granlie will be conducting the Concert Band’s fall session.



THREE GENERATIONS AND FIVE JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA BAND AWARD RECIPIENTS. I RECEIVED THE AWARD IN 1966, AND 60 YEARS LATER, GRANDDAUGHTER FINLEY (FAR LEFT) RECEIVED HERS. HER MOTHER, DIEDRI (NEXT TO FINLEY), RECEIVED IT IN 1990. OUR DAUGHTER CARRIE (FAR RIGHT) WON THE AWARD IN 1988, AND SON TYSON IN 1992. MY AWARD WAS FROM DAWSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL IN GLENDIVE. OUR THREE KIDS AND FINLEY WERE ALL AWARDED AS STUDENTS AT C.M.RUSSELL HIGH SCHOOL IN GREAT FALLS.

The Great Falls Municipal Band was originally known as the Black Eagle Band. Sponsored in its infancy by the Boston and Montana Smelter Company, the band reorganized in 1905 and acquired its current name. Over the years, the Municipal Band has been in demand to play for assorted dignitaries, special events, and dedication ceremonies. In the late 1930s, the band played at the dedication of Fort Peck Dam, which was attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Dedication ceremonies in Great Falls have included the dams on the Missouri River, the Warden Bridge, and both the old and new airports. The band also performed for the visits of John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan.

FEEDBACK TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

president@greatfallsmunicipalband.org	President	Phil Burton
newsletter@greatfallsmunicipalband.org	Newsletter	James Rickley

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