



City of Kamloops

RUBE BAND

Prospective Members Guide

Welcome to the City of Kamloops Rube Band!

By now you have figured out that we practice each Monday evening, except for holidays, at the Yacht Club, located at 1140 River Street. In the fall we move to the Valleyview Hall, 2288 Park Drive until spring.

Practice times are generally from 7:30pm to 9:30pm. Band set-up starts soon after the doors open at 7:00pm. There is a break halfway through the evening to give 'The Chops' a rest; break time is at the discretion of the Band Master. During the break period there will be announcements from the Executive on upcoming jobs, shows, performances or commitments; more on this later.

In the Rube Band we believe that if the music is practiced and rehearsed well the fun stuff will naturally happen by itself. Monday night practice is the time for us to work on upcoming show music, play some old favourites or try a piece that challenges us to learn something new. We may or may not use it, so don't become discouraged if we only play it once and it gets filed away. The Band Master is in charge at all times during the practice. Please respect him/her and the Band by keeping side chit-chat to a minimum, or working on your specific section piece of music while he/she is conducting and leading a practice.

IMPORTANT

There are a lot of inside jokes in this Band. Most come from the years that we have been playing, performing and travelling together. Some come from a trip or function 20 years ago or 20 months ago or 20 days ago. But, trust us, the person being 'needled' deserved it and is taking it in stride, which is a part of being a "Rube".

Musical Ability and Proficiency

The Rube Band welcomes any musician who is beyond the beginner level of musical competency to attend Band practice.

WARNING - CAUTION - Read this carefully...

- * A moderate to advanced Level of Competency and Skill on a musical instrument is required. (fingering and equipment care).
- * A Basic Knowledge of Musical Terms, ability to read music, follow Band Master's direction, etc. is required as well. Moderate sight reading skills are an asset
- * As much as we grow together by playing together, we are NOT a Beginner Instructional or Teaching band.

Rube Band Executive for 2025

- Bandmaster - Bill Erlenbach, trombone.
Leads the Band, selects the music.
- Chairman - Jim Twamley, trombone.
Manages the motley crew in the Executive.
- Corresponding Secretary - Heather Cayen, alto saxophone.
All external corospondance, informs members of job details, etc.
- Treasurer - Jim Johannson, baritone.
Manages all the financial stuff, budgets etc.
- Recording Director - Pat Johannson, clarinet.
Records all meeting minutes and attendance at practices, jobs, etc.
- Personnel Director - Blair Fraser, baritone
Band Ombudsman, media contact, etc.

If you have any questions at any time, see one of these folks and they will be more than willing to help out.

Section Leaders

- Drums - Sandy Gregson
- Trumpets - Len McDonald
- Clarinets - Larry Sill
- Saxophones - Dick Parkes
- Trombones - Jim Twamley
- Bass & Baritones - Bob Eley

``Happy Days and All `Your Music``

We often use the term ``Happy Days and All Your Music``. It's one of those `long-standing` - `Don't try to understand it` - `What are they talking about` Rube Band sayings or traditions. Basically, what it means is that we are not sure what we are going to play; but be prepared to play absolutely anything that we (The Rubes) have ever played in the last 75 years.

The Rube Band is unlike any other musical organization, and that is probably one of the things that attract many of us to this group; beyond any other band or organization. It is the `free spirit` nature that keeps it alive, fresh and new.

We certainly have `old favourites` and standards that we always play. For example, we end every show with `Happy Days are Here Again`; so learn that one `by heart`. For an impromptu performance or quick number we all know 13-15-16 (you'll learn what these musical numbers are later), or that old favourite `The Saints`. You are responsible for your music or arranging for someone in your section to read off of their music.

`ORIGINAL COPIES SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED FROM MUSIC LIBRARY`.

Also, do not expect to show up to a Band practice and have someone hand you a folder with that evenings music to be played. It does not work that way with the Rube Band. Sit down with a musician in your section, find out who is playing 2nd or 3rd and they will gladly help you out with the evenings music. We rarely or ever play a piece of music as it is written. You may have studied music in the past, know when to `return to coda` or play a sustained pause after a ritard...but this is The Rubes. We have adapted the music to suit our style and the audiences we are playing for, just go with it and you'll have the most fun.

Performances - Jobs - Costumes

At Monday night practices during the break time we discuss upcoming jobs and performances. We talk about where to be, when to be there, a brief idea of the crowd and length of the job. The Bandmaster will most likely practice a few numbers for upcoming shows in preparation for those performances.

In addition, the Rube Band does not have an equipment manager. If you need a music stand, a prop or anything else for the show you are responsible to bring it along. Arrive at the performance or job location a minimum of 15 minutes ahead of the show time. That allows the Bandmaster to quickly review the show lineup and discuss any last minute changes.

Costumes are an important part of being a `Rube`. Tasteful and colourful costumes are `The Norm`. They should be easy to get into and flexible for all weather conditions. We avoid contraversial costumes or costume themes and NO masks. If you are unsure what to wear or looking for help in pulling a costume together, ask your section leader for help with ideas and suggestions.

Formal Performances and Dress Attire

For formal occasions like Remembrance Day or other important Civic Ceremonies we have formal dress and attire. This includes a red Rube Band dress blazer. There is a limited supply in our back storage area. With this red blazer we wear navy blue dress pants, a white shirt, navy blue tie, black socks and black shoes.

Application for Membership

As per the Rube Band Constitution, potential members are welcome to apply for full membership after a six month period of continued attendance at Rube Band practices. A written application for membership should be presented to the section head and he-she will forward it to the Chairman who will hold a secret ballot vote at the Annual General Meeting or at any regular Monday night practice. The written application does not need to be elaborate or overly formal. We have received them written on a piece of cardboard from a beer box...you get the idea. The Rubes always enjoy an application that is read aloud by the applicant; it gives everyone the chance for more guffawing and good natured ribbing.

History of the City of Kamloops Rube Band

RUBE: An awkward, unsophisticated and gullible rustic, ignorant of urban ways. (Webster)

The Kamloops Rube Band was formed in 1949 when a young Chamber of Commerce member named Ginger Clow put together a marching band to promote a Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic. Ginger didn't play an instrument, but he provided the impetus that got the band from 1949 into the 1960's and beyond. Since then we look back only in nostalgia. From an original group of as few as half a dozen assorted (and often incompatible) instruments, the Band evolved into the 35 piece group. As preparation for Expo '67, the Band deliberately evolved from a strictly marching band to include some fairly slick and comprehensive comedy show routines as well. And to be really accurate, we actually march only in formal parades such as Remembrance Day; on the rest we do a sort of casual saunter or stroll appropriate to our name and costumes.

In 1969 the Band incorporated as a non-profit Society and still operates that way.

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Although most of the original members from 1949 have passed away, a number of them and other Charter members from 1969 are still with us in active service. The list include Gary Fillinger, Claude Richmond, Ken Bechelli and Dick Forde.

As our oft-published Post-Cards claim, we are available for Weddings, Coronations, Bar Mitzvahs, Cremations, Barn Raisings, Wigwam Warm-ups and Tattoo Removals. In our pursuit of musical fun, we have travelled the World, playing in World-Class events. as the following list of satisfied customers will attest:

Exo `67 in Montreal
Expo `70 in Osaka, Japan
Expo `72 in Spokane
Mardi Gras `74 in New Orleans,
a nine mile long parade with crowds in the millions
Klondike Days `75 in Edmonton Alberta
Seafair `78 in Seattle
Sister City Exchange `79 in Fontana, California
35th Liberation of Holland Anniversary 1980 in Nijmegen
Worlds Fair `82 in Knoxville, Tennessee
Aloha Days 1984 in Hawaii
Expo `86 in Vancouver BC
Fiesta de la Vaqueros 1988 in Tuscan Arizona
Oktoberfest in Kitchener Waterloo 1994
Carnaval 2000 in Mazatlan Mexico, two five hour parades
with 500,000 celebrants
Oktoberfest in Kitchener Waterloo 2005
Hawaii Aloha Days 2014, Waikiki Parade, Royal Grove Show
70 th Anniversary of Newfoundland and Labrador andt the
City of Kamloops Rube Band - 2019 in St. Johns NFLD
Countless PNE parades in Vancouver, Nanaimo Bathtub
Races and Grey Cup Parades.

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We are an amateur Band whose membership ranges in age from early 20`s to the ripe old age of 89. The occupations vary from mill workers to retired cabinet ministers, teachers to physicians and private business owners to retirees. Many of the members have had professional or semi-professional music experiences and virtually everyone in the Band had their first musical training in High School bands. Consequently, we have always included performances in support of school music programs as an important part of our community responsibility. The Band practices every Monday night. except holidays and plays an average of thirty performances each year, fully half of which are for charity or non-profit public service. And although we are `Rubes`, we have always tried to follow the idea of `look funny and act funny, but PLAY GOOD.`

Because of the volunteer basis of the Band, work schedules and family commitments prevent all members from attending all performances, so we occasionally end up with what we call `The Dirty Dozen`` - a smattering of the basic instruments which reasonably represent the Band and the City of Kamloops and acquits itself reasonably well. Besides our colourful costumes, we do have formal uniforms for events such as Remembrance Day and we do officialy and proudly serve as official Ambassadors to the City of Kamloops.

So. that`s a brief history of the Band. There are many more stories and tales to tell and many more to be a part of.....WELCOME!



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