

Candidate: Mike Lipe

Interview: September 23, 2014 @ 7:15 PM

1. What drew you to the Plano Community Band?  
He has known Denise and Tommy “forever.” He has wanted to do a community band for a long time. He thought about starting a community band in Wylie, but did not have the time to start a band from scratch. He is a good friend with George Jones who conducts the Richardson Community Band. He has a passion for music education and wants to see people keep playing after they leave school. He wants to be part of a group of adults who come and enjoy making music.
2. Have you heard us perform recently?  
He heard us at TBA and at Tommy’s memorial service. He came to our July 3 concert in the park with his wife, and they brought a picnic dinner.
3. What do you enjoy about conducting?  
Making music with people. He likes the variety of music you can do in a community band. In public school there is pressure to be the best. In community band you get to do fun concerts.
4. What to you is the ideal community band?  
A community of people who enjoy coming together and making music. He experience must be enjoyable. It will challenge some folks. He wants everyone to be able to relax and play and enjoy the experience. The audience needs to enjoy the performance too, especially since they are mostly our family and friends. Everyone is in it together; it is not the conductor against the group.
5. How does the Plano Community Band fit into your life as far as time commitment? (He is still employed.)  
The time commitment for his job is nothing like when he was a high school band director. He works 8-4:30 every day. He attends Wylie ISD concerts in the evenings by choice. He sometimes has Monday evening school board meetings he must attend, but he would have advance notice and Jim could work the band until he arrived at rehearsal.
6. What do you expect from the executive board?  
Honest feedback on how he is doing. Working with a board is new to

him. He wants us to work together as a team to figure out where we are going as a group and set goals.

7. What do you expect from the band members?

He wants them to have a good time and do the best their ability allows them to do. He doesn't get bent out of shape when things go wrong when he knows we are trying our best. He expects that we will improve along the way. He wants the band to enjoy being good and making good music.

8. How will you handle program selections for our established concert? For ad-hoc concerts?

He will look at the music we have performed in the past. He doesn't want to change everything at once. Keep similar programs but include variety in music. Use a mix of challenging music balanced with some easy, fun music. He will think about the audience and what they would like. Themed concerts are fun. He would throw in some special things occasionally.

9. How will you prepare the band for concerts considering the amount of rehearsal time and the volunteer status of band members?

Summer concerts are on the lighter side with a different audience than indoor concerts. He would repeat some band favorites and things we've done in the past. He likes marches. He liked it when we used the vocal soloist. He will be careful not to get hard headed. People still need to enjoy being there. You work the details at every rehearsal, but then just play all the way through something to show we are making progress. Keep goals in front of the group and plan next week's rehearsal in advance.

10. What are your plans for the band for the next 5 years?

- a. PCB has performed at national [ACB] conventions in the past
- b. PCB performed at TBA this summer

Where does the band want to go? He will help us get there. Goals like national conventions and TBA are great. He wants us to keep improving and use things like these conventions to challenge the group. He wants to create special opportunities like these for folks.

11. What do you anticipate will be your biggest challenge with conducting the Plano Community Band?

I am not Tommy Guilbert. The band has to have an open mind about that and give him a chance.

12. How do you feel about guest artists?

They are great! Guest artists are a uniquely “community band” thing that you can’t do in public schools. The variety is exciting.

Other notes:

- Percussionist
- He has no plans to relocate out of the area after he retires from Wylie ISD
- He had many questions for us regarding our relationship with PISD, the size of our library, what equipment the band owns, and how PCB fits in with ACB (we pay dues and our ASCAP rights are covered)