



KUTZTOWN PIPE BAND



NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023

VOLUME 3



NEWS

HAPPY FALL!

The Kutztown Pipe Band had a busy summer season. Since our last newsletter, we have had five performances. Check out the last page for photos and videos!

We are looking forward to three more performances before settling in to our 'off season' when we will focus on honing our craft and learning new tunes. At our past few performances we added a fun feature of audience contests of activity booklets and best photos. We even had t-shirt giveaways!

The KPB would like to thank the Kutztown Area School District for hosting our rehearsals for the past several years and look forward to continued collaboration, but are excited to announce our use of the new facility, the Wells Rapp Center for Mallet Percussion Research, for our rehearsal space.



Bagpipes at the Bandshell



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thurs., October 5th - Educational Outreach at Reading Southern and Northwest Middle Schools (not open to public)

Sat., October 28th - King Frost Parade - Hamburg 7PM

Sun., November 5th - Jack Frost Parade - Robesonia 3PM

MEET *a Member*

Let's meet our Band Manager

- 1) **What is your full name?** *Andrew Mull*
- 2) **What is your current hometown?** *Blandon, PA*
- 3) **What is your vocation?** *I am a software developer in the Information Technology department at Kutztown University.*
- 4) **How many years have you been playing bagpipes?**
I began playing the bagpipes in 2017 when our band was first established.
- 5) **Why did you decide to play? What was your inspiration?** *Playing the pipes was something I always wanted to do, but back then, finding the right guidance or resources wasn't as easy as it is today with the internet. I discovered Celtic music in my late teens and early twenties. Watching Cillian Vallely play the Uilleann pipes during the original US tour of Riverdance left a profound impact on me. The haunting and beautiful sounds he produced inspired me to pursue playing pipes.*
- 6) **Have you ever been to Scotland?** *No, I haven't been to Scotland, but I had the opportunity to visit Ireland with my wife in 2001.*
- 7) **Do you play any other instruments?** *In addition to the bagpipes, I also play traditional Irish music on the fiddle.*
- 8) **What is your favorite pipe band tune?** *I don't have a single favorite tune; I'm always excited about learning the next one. However, as a band, one of the most exciting tunes we play at the moment is "Steam Train".*
- 9) **Tell us about your best and/or worst piping experience.** *My worst piping experience was the day I first received my Highland Pipes. I recall attempting to play them for the first time, producing an awful sound that left both me and everyone in the house wondering what I had gotten myself into. They seemed incredibly challenging, cumbersome and complex, and I had doubts about whether I could ever play them.*
- 10) **Is there anything else you would like to share?** *I'm grateful for the opportunity to spend one or more nights each week playing music with a fantastic group of individuals who share the same passion. It's a truly rewarding experience.*



New Feature!!!
In the last newsletter
we started this feature
to help you get to
know us better

RME
For the Love of Music

The Kutztown Pipe Band was awarded a 2023–2024 Special Project Grant by the Reading Musical Foundation. This grant will fund our Synergy Project. This project includes purchasing equipment needed to match concert pitch, which will allow the band to play with traditional instrumentation. This expansion will help the Kutztown Pipe Band present music in new ways to more diverse audiences. Special thanks to Diana Cook for leading the effort!

FUN FACT

Traditional Scottish Great Highland Bagpipes do not match the equal temperament of Western instruments. While the pitches of the drones and tonic note on the chanter are referred to as 'A', they are actually much sharper on the modern Great Highland Bagpipe. Standard frequency for A above middle C is 440 Hz. Modern pipe chanters tune between 470 and 480 Hz for low A. Because of this, the precise frequency of our notes on the chanter do not match those of a piano, guitar, or standard wind instrument.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

BAGPIPES AT THE BANDSHELL



9/11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY



WALL THAT HEALS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL



BERKS FIDDLE FEST





BAGPIPES CALLING KUTZTOWN UNIV.



DENOTES PHOTO CONTEST WINNER
 Congratulations to Lydia Currie of Reading and Missy Haderlie of Wyomissing for their superb photography at the Band Shell and Schaeffer"

DON'T FORGET

- *KPB has its own Youtube channel 
- *You can learn a lot about us on our website www.kutztownpipeband.com
- *We are available for educational demonstrations, parades, festivals, weddings, funerals and memorial services (and lots of other events, too!)
- *We need drummers!!!
- *We have a celtic session group - See KCS corner 

Questions/Comments -

friends@kutztownpipeband.com





Instruction/Educational Outreach -

laura@kutztownpipeband.com

Performance/band Manager -

manager@kutztownpipeband.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- ✓ Donate - We are a 501c3 non profit, so all donations are tax deductible. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn how.
- ✓ Spread the word about our band to family and friends Contact us if you're willing to carry our banner in parades!
- ✓ Do you know of anyone interested in receiving our emails? Have them contact friends@kutztownpipeband.com
- ✓ Learn to play the pipes or join our drum corps
- ✓ Subscribe to our Youtube channel here 
- ✓ You can follow us on  and  

KCS CORNER

Did you catch the KCS at the Bands Shell?

The Kutztown Celtic Session is a branch of the Kutztown Pipe Band which started in 2022 as a weekly session practice for our multi-instrumentalist band members. Our current session group members bring talent on acoustic guitar, fiddle, flute, smallpipes, uilleann pipes, vocals, whistle, and more! The KCS hosts weekly open sessions each Monday, welcoming anyone who has a love of Celtic music. Contact us at Laura@kutztownpipeband.com if you'd like more information about these sessions.

Catch us monthly at the K'Town Pub! Next date: 10/30 5-7PM
 Also 11/13 and 12/11

Watch a bit here!



PROVIDING ENTERTAINMENT, EDUCATION, AND INSTRUCTION WITH THE GREAT HIGHLAND BAGPIPES

Founded in 2017, the Kutztown Pipe Band is both a student group at Kutztown University and a non-profit community group in the Borough of Kutztown. Band members include faculty and staff from Kutztown University, staff and students from Kutztown Area School District, and residents of the Borough of Kutztown and nearby communities. Each band member is at a different stage in the journey to becoming proficient at the bagpipes and pipe band percussion. We are a learning and performing band that offers bagpipe and drumming instruction to anyone wishing to join the band and embark on the lifelong journey to mastering the Great Highland Bagpipes.