

# MEET THE HAVIN' FUN BAND



The Havin'Fun Band is comprised of eleven pieces: three saxes, two trombones, three trumpets, piano, bass, and drums. Ruth Elliot who plays piano and sings, (at the age of 97!) occasionally joins the band and is a crowd favorite.

In addition to the Elks Lodge, we've played at the Beatitudes for their Valentine's Day Ball, as well as Veterans Day. We've also played at two K through

8 elementary schools in the Catholic Archdiocese. These are two inner city schools and we were asked to introduce big band music to a largely Latino group of students. The kids were great and we'll be doing more of this next school year.

## **Tom Williams - Co-leader - Trumpet**



Tom began playing the trumpet in the fourth grade, and studied privately with a Julliard graduate through high school. He started playing in his high school band as a sixth grader and continued playing while in the U.S. Navy, playing in the ship's band, (USS Ticonderoga), and serving as the ship's bugler.

After the Navy, Tom finished college and grad school with an MBA and began a career in banking as a commercial loan officer in New Jersey and moved to Arizona in 1982, working at several different banks, and started playing the trumpet again. Tom played in the Salt River Brass for eleven years, local community college bands, and was principal trumpet of Arizona Winds for many years.

Tom has played in many big bands around the valley, including Jack Merlin, Ruth Elliot, and the Ron Carrow Big Band. When Ron died about six years ago, Tom took over the leadership of that band, which plays every Monday at the Professional Musicians Union Hall.

Tom bought a landscaping business 22 years ago, which he operates with my wife of 30 years, Sherry. They have two daughters living in N. Carolina, and our oldest, a sax, trumpet, and guitar player, is getting married there this June. Tom's Monday band just recorded several songs she'll be using at her wedding, and she played sax on them!

### **Ron Goodwin - Co-leader - Trumpet**

Like most of the people in the Band, Ron has had two (or more) parallel careers. His "day" job was building and testing jet engines, rocket motors, high explosives and other things that go "boom". He has published hundreds of technical reports and given presentations in four countries on two continents. His musical career really started when he began singing in a mixed quartet at age five. He played trumpet and sang in a nationally-televised show when he was nineteen. He later led an 18-piece Big Band for KLFF radio. He also was a member of the Southwest contingent of the Guy Lombardo Orchestra for several years. In addition to the Havin' Fun Band he currently plays in an 18-piece Big Band at Chandler-Gilbert College, and (during the season) in the Myron Summerfeld Band, the Resorters Big Band, and a 59-piece symphonic wind orchestra at Mountain Brook in the Gold Canyon area.



### **Ken Fauland - Drums**



Ken has been playing in the Havin' Fun Band for almost fourteen years. He spent 25 years as an Army Bandsman, active duty and Guard, as a percussionist/guitarist/bass player. Ken has played in many bands over the years, and currently plays in three other groups that perform for the 55+ mostly Easy Valley crowd.

### **Pat Irwin - Clarinet**

Pat is originally from southern California and played there with a variety of big bands including the Esquires, the Christopher Williams Big band, the Armand Blais Big Band, the Keith Boutte' Big Band and backing up various performers over the years including Frank Sinatra Jr. Pat has been a resident of Arizona now for 30 years and has played with various bands throughout the greater Phoenix valley and currently co-lead the DK Orchestra, a 6 piece dance band out of the east Mesa area. Music has been a hobby for Pat since high school and his main instruments are Alto and Tenor sax. Pat worked for Boeing for 30 years starting as an applications programmer and retired as a senior IT manager in 2014.



## **Terry McFee - - Trumpet/Trombone**



Terry McFee is a multifaceted musician and arranger. He plays trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, and keyboards as well as providing vocals and doing the musical arrangements for his orchestra.

Terry graduated from North Texas State University and served in the Strategic Air Command Band and the Southern Command Band. During this time, he played throughout the United States, Canada, and Central and South America.

Terry has also performed with the Les Elgart Orchestra, Tiny Hill Orchestra, Ted Weems Orchestra, Claude Gordon Orchestra, Russ Carlyle Orchestra, Guy Lombardo Orchestra, Jan Garber Orchestra, and has worked in the backing orchestras for such performers as Diahann Carroll, Jim Neighbors, Robert Goulet, Jerry Vale, and Dick Dale.

Terry played in the Arizona Big Band and traveled with the band in Europe, playing at the Montreux Jazz Festival, and the Wiggen International Jazz Festival.

## **Gary Myers - Bass Guitar**

Gary was born 1938 in Piqua, Ohio and started playing trumpet at 9 years old and was a member of his High School band at 10 years of age. He was sent back to junior band at eleven when they realized he could only play the marches by ear and couldn't really read music.



At fifteen Gary played trumpet in his first dance band, "Phil Smith and the Moonlight Serenaders". This was a six piece band that played big band charts mainly Glenn Miller music. Phil Smith went on to become "Blade Smith" of the Hell's Angels and wrote a book "Rebels on Wheels" in 2001 detailing his experiences.

Gary graduated from Milton Union HS in 1956, aged seventeen. He attended General Motors Institute 1957-1959 majoring in Mechanical Engineering and University of Dayton 1962-1963, graduating with a BSEE in Electrical Engineering

In 1957 he took Connie Wirrig as his bride and worked at Monsanto Chemical Co 1959-1961 as lab tech. Gary and Connie have four grown children.

Gary's work background includes Motorola Military, Motorola Semiconductor and he played in the Motorola Band off and on from 1963-1969. Gary formed his own company "Sun State Technical Inc." 1989 representing semiconductor manufacturers such as NCR and retired in 2003.

Gary also performs in various big bands such as "Leisure World Big Band" "Sun Lakes Big Band" and "Swinging Resorters Big Band"

### **Ray Potter - *Alto sax***



Ray began his music training at eleven years old and played through high school. After a thirty year break he started playing again in the early 1990s. Ray has played in half dozen big bands; currently in two bands. Ray's been part of the Havin' Fun Bank for over fifteen years and plays all saxophones, clarinets, and flutes. He also participates in number of hand drumming circles. Ray is a Viet Nam vet (USAF) with B.S. and M.S. degrees and is retired from commercial real estate appraising business

### **Joseph L. Savard - *Trombone***

Joseph has been playing trombone professionally in the Phoenix area since 1983. He first began playing in 1965 at Pasadena California. He studied jazz at Oakland University, Rochester Michigan under Marvin "Doc" Holiday. In 1980, he was a featured soloist on an album recorded by the group "Revelation". From 1989 to 1995 Joseph performed with the 108th Army Band as lead trombonist. He currently plays with several small groups and big bands in the valley.



Joe also played with Dizzy Gillespie and Clark Terry and once lost his place looking at Dizzy's glasses lift up from his puffed out cheeks.

### **Lloyd Shaffer - *Piano***



Lloyd started classical piano study at age six and played his first professional dance band job seven years later. He worked with his own bands and others through high school and college at the University of Pennsylvania, in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and in the Catskill mountain resorts in New York. After two years of service in Army bands, he left music to devote his time to a career in investment management, returning to the piano after

retirement in Phoenix where he performed, among other groups, with Cheryl Stevens Vintage Jazz Band, the Jack Merlin Orchestra, the Desert City Six and his own Deja Vu Orchestra. Lloyd currently is the pianist with the Sun City Stomperz and leads the Deja Vu Legacy Band.

### **Steve Weinberg - *Tenor Sax***

Steve started performing at about fifteen years of age when he joined the DeMoley show band and played concerts around northern California and also did two tours around the United States in the summers including playing at the World Fair in New York in the 1960's. Steve played in union dance bands around the Sacramento area until he enlisted in the Air Force band during the Viet Nam era. Currently Steve plays in several dance and concert bands in the Mesa area including the Phoenix musicians' union jazz band. If you follow the Danny Kealy band on the internet you can come to our dances and listen to us.



### **Earl Weisbrod, DMD - *Trombone***



Earl was born in a miniscule farming town in southeast Missouri. From these humble beginnings, he rose to the pinnacle of the dental profession (at least according to an obscure fellow who goes by the name Tom Williams). He earned his BA and DMD from Washington University in St. Louis and a MA in molecular biology from the University of Utah. Earl

picked up trombone again in 2010 after a 36 year hiatus. And the rest, as they say, is history.