

NEWS ARTICLE



Community Band with Allison Roots Celebrates 70 Years of Music

Indianapolis, Indiana, United States - October 28, 2019

Many times a celebration warrants musical accompaniment. When a band is celebrating its 70th year of making music, that melody is even sweeter.

The Allison Military Band, currently known as the Indianapolis Municipal Band (IMB), began in October 1949 as an employee activity for members of Detroit Diesel Allison, a Division of General Motors. The IMB is one of the oldest community bands in the country.

Membership in the Allison band was open to Allison employees and initially had about twenty members. The group rehearsed in the Powerama (which is now the Admin building's cafeteria and Bob Clark Auditorium). They performed at Allison functions such as bond drives, company sporting events, fish fries and picnics. The band was known to help celebrate company milestones by playing music as they walked through the plant. (See photo below.) They also performed at community events in Speedway and the surrounding area.



In the early 1980's, GM discontinued its support of employee activities, including the Allison Military Band. The band's leadership and its members decided to keep the band alive as an independent group called the Circle City Concert Band.

In 1983, the band reorganized as the Indianapolis Municipal Band and became incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The first performance of the newly organized band took place at the Eagle Creek Park Amphitheater.

The IMB has grown over the years and is now at 82 members. They perform 10-15 concerts a year at places such as Garfield Park and the Marion County Fair. The band currently practices at Lawrence Central High School on Monday evenings and is available to perform at events.

Two members of this band will perform at the upcoming Allison Transmission Veterans Day Celebration to be conducted on Monday, November 11th, from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm, in the Bob Clark Auditorium.

Visit www.Indianapolismunicipalband.org for more information.