

## LIVING MUSIC: A Glimpse into the Professional Lives of the Musicians of the KSCC

By Monica Buffington

It's 10 minutes before the start of the KSCC concert. You settle into your seat and hear the sounds of musicians warming up on stage. You watch final preparations, conversations between colleagues, oboists working on their reeds. The lights dim, the music begins, and you enjoy the art of the orchestra. Ever wonder about the people behind those glorious sounds? Join us this season as we peek inside the professional lives of the musicians of the Kennett Symphony of Chester County.

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KSCC principal timpanist **William Cain** comes from deep musical roots – the kind that take hold in families over generations, grow to encompass many musical genres, and joyously enliven many a community.

Bill traces his musical roots back to his great-grandfather who founded the Lime Ridge Cornet Band (PA) in 1885. The band would prove to be a unifying musical force through generations of Bill's family with great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother, aunt, father and son playing in the band at some point in history. A particularly intriguing story passed down through Bill's family is the remarkable account of great-grandfather conducting the band in a parade during which he suffered a heart attack. The band respectfully pulled off course to await word of their leader's condition. They subsequently marched themselves to the nearest watering hole where they honored their fallen founder with a number of toasts, after which they continued on the parade route. When the very sad news came that their leader had not survived, Bill's grandfather took the helm as director. Many years later, Bill's first hands-on musical activity would be in that same band, keeping time on the bass drum while standing on a big box so he could reach the instrument. He was 7 years old.

Like all great stewards of familial history, Bill has taken the strong roots he inherited, and has branched out in many musical directions including performances in classical, jazz, big band and classic rock genres. A graduate of Temple University, Bill is principal timpanist with the KSCC, and has played section percussion with the Philly Pops, The Strauss Orchestra of America, Delaware Symphony and Princeton Chamber Symphony. He has performed as a member of the USO Big Band, plays vibraphone in jazz trios, and plays drums and provides vocals for Cherry Lane, a classic rock band known for their covers of the Beatles, Steely Dan, The Eagles and Van Morrison. Bill is also an educator, and has served as Director of Bands for Wissahickon Middle School for 26 years. He has built a strong music education program where he conducts a full curriculum including wind ensemble, concert band, parade band, two jazz bands, and multiple chamber music groups.

When not teaching or performing, you will find Bill out on the open road, either riding his Harley-Davidson Road King motorcycle, or driving his red Corvette convertible. When asked where he gets his *joie de vivre*, Bill again points back to family roots saying he gets it from his father, who at 83 still rides his motorcycle, too.

**ESPECIALLY FOR YOU:** Here's what Bill would like our KSCC audiences to know about LIVING MUSIC:

“I bring everything I have to every performance. I want every time I play to be magic. I make sure that I'm true to whatever I do, and that I have fun along the way.”



**KSCC principal timpanist Bill Cain**