

# Loudoun Border Guards Fife & Drum Corps



## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

## INTRODUCTION

The year is 1775, the threat of revolution is in the air, and townspeople throughout the colonies are preparing for the impending war. Through the streets of any of these colonial towns the sounds of the fife and drum can be heard. Its purpose is to gather (muster) the colonists to prepare for the fight.

After the beginning of the Revolutionary War, the fife and drum became an intricate part of the Colonial Militia, used to announce commands and to encourage the battered colonists on to victory. Seeing the importance of the fife and drum, following the war these units were absorbed into the military, thus becoming fife and drum corps. The sound of the fife and drum can be found in the background of every major conflict fought on American soil, and has served as the model for today's military bands.

The fife and drum also became part of the folk tradition of the newly formed country. It inspires a spirit of Americana and freedom to this day. There are over 150 Fife and Drum Corps throughout America today, some tracing their origins to units formed in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Loudoun County, Virginia has a fascinating history that predates the Revolutionary War. When researching this history, one can almost hear the musicians playing in the background – fifes and drums echoing through Virginia's border towns, fields and valleys.

The Loudoun Border Guards Fife and Drum Corps, beginning its 10<sup>th</sup> year, is composed of 9-18 year olds from Loudoun County and surrounding areas, and is based on a pre-Civil War Corps - the Hillsboro Border Guards, which was comprised of Loudoun County militia musicians. The Loudoun Border Guards program is designed to promote the study of both music and history among young people in Northern Virginia. It is **NOT** a Reenactment group, and does not attend reenactments as participants. The focus is on the musical performance.

Since its debut performance at the Oatlands Celtic Festival in June, 1997 the band has become a well known and much requested participant at local parades and festivals including: the Leesburg Halloween and Christmas Parades; the Warrenton July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade; Leesburg Hauntings; August Court Days; Harper's Ferry Olde Tyme Christmas; First Night Leesburg; the Alexandria President's Day Parade; Poolesville Day; Leesburg Martin Luther King Day Parade; Lewes, DE Memorial Day Celebration; Falls Church Memorial Day Parade, Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, Waterford Fair, Delaplaine Strawberry Festival and the Thomas Jefferson Thanksgiving Festival in Charlottesville, VA. In 2002, the corps had the honor of performing for spectators during the Olympic Torch Relay as it traveled through Leesburg, and participates in Leesburg's annual 9-11 Memorial Service. The corps traveled to New York during the summer of 2002 to participate in a special performance for the children of Rockaway Beach, an area that was not only deeply affected by the tragedies of 9-11 when 80 of its residents were lost, but also by the crash of an American Airlines plane in the heart of their community. The corps has adopted the theme "Spirit of Freedom" in remembrance of these tragedies.

In 1999, the corps participated in a special feature for FOX NEWS, which was taped at the Jefferson Memorial. It aired on the 4th of July that year and again in 2001. In 2000, 2003 and 2004, the corps appeared live on FOX MORNING NEWS in preparation for August Court Days, a local annual colonial fair. In the last 8 years, the corps has participated in many local events and parades and has traveled to several fife and drum musters throughout New England, New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. In 2000, the Loudoun Border Guards traveled to Florida to perform at the Kennedy Space Center and to participate in the Florida Ancient Muster in Palm Bay. In 1999, the corps sponsored its first muster, which was highly successful and repeated that success again in 2001 and 2003. More than 300 fife & drum musicians from all over the country participated in a weekend long celebration of American Spirit of Freedom as demonstrated through our country's martial music. The next is planned for May 2005.

Additionally, the corps has recorded their first CD "American Christmas". The CD is a collection of patriotic and holiday favorites interwoven to tell the story of the American Christmas holiday. The recording was made possible through a grant from the Loudoun County Restricted Transient Occupancy Tax Funds. Part of the proceeds from the sale of this recording is funding a Honorarium Fund for the Loudoun Border Guards

members. The Loudoun Border Guards has been recently designated as an "official band" of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and were honored to receive an invitation to represent Virginia at the American Music Festival in commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of D-Day on Omaha Beach, Normandy in 2004.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Loudoun Border Guards Fife and Drum Corps, Virginia is to perpetuate the American spirit of freedom, camaraderie and loyalty through the study of American Martial music. Based on documented history of the area (John Devine's "History of the 8<sup>th</sup> Virginia"), we are re-creating a fife and drum unit which existed in the area during the mid-1800s (pre-Civil War). Our goal is to create an activity that enhances one's knowledge of our proud historic traditions through out music, with a focus on self-discipline and decorum.

## ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION

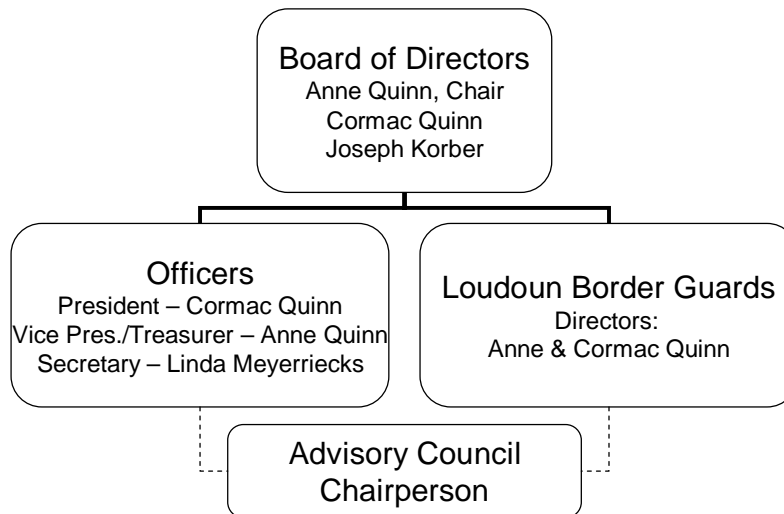
Loudoun Border Guards Fife & Drum Corps is a program of an independent not-for-profit organization, Music In Time Inc., which is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a 501(c)(3) organization. The Loudoun Border Guards supplies musical and historic education to the youth of the community, presented in a different, unique and enjoyable format.

Music In Time Inc. is structured as follows:

- Board of Directors
- Officers
- Advisory Council.

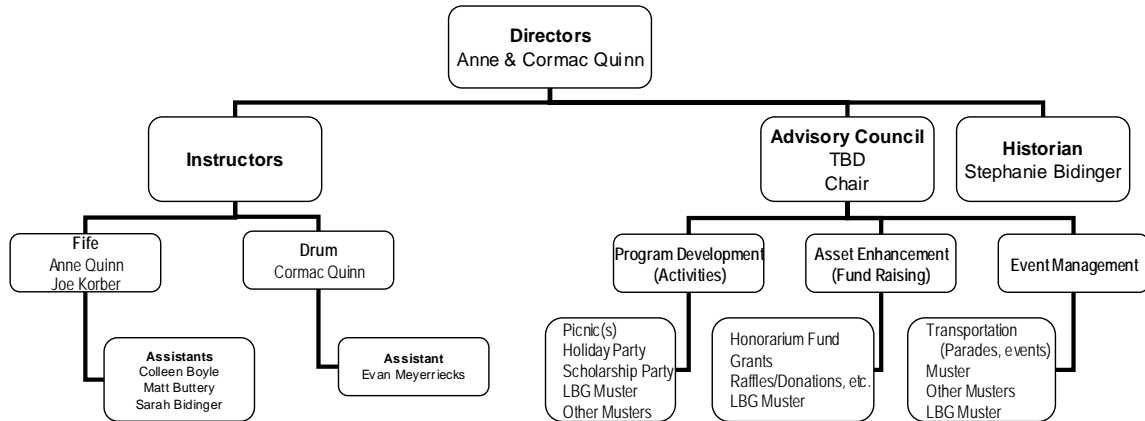
The following organizational chart illustrates how the organization is setup:

# Music In Time Inc.



The following illustrates the structure of Loudoun Border Guards program:

# Loudoun Border Guards



## PARTICIPATION

Participation in the Loudoun Border Guards program is targeted toward a youth group, ages 9 to 18. We accept beginners who will reach the age of 9 by the last day of the calendar year up to the age of 18. However, older individuals wishing to be a part of the band are encouraged to volunteer with the umbrella organization (Music In Time Inc.). Upon registration of a participant(s) to the program, at least one parent (or guardian) will be expected to participate on one of the Advisory Council's subcommittees. The Advisory Council subcommittees will be responsible for all administrative and fund raising activities, and will assist in the guidance of the Loudoun Border Guards program as requested by the corps directors.

It is the organizers hope that as the program grows, we will be able to maintain both a junior (under 18) and a Senior (over 18) fife and drum corps.

Participants are accepted from all the towns and communities of Loudoun County, as well as from the surrounding counties of Northern Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

## BASE OF OPERATION

Base of operation is Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia. Rehearsals are held weekly, on Friday, at the Leesburg United Methodist Church - Asbury Hall, located on Wirt Street. Recruits (beginners) rehearse from 6:30 to 8 pm and Cadets rehearse from 6:30 to 9 pm.

## INSTRUMENTATION & INSTRUCTION

Instrumentation is fife, drum and bugle. Also the corps sports a military color guard and drum major. Instruments used are traditionally crafted, for example, all drums are rope-tension wood construction; fifes are McDonough-style 6 and 10-hole wood; and bugles are traditional style (no valves). The color guard carries an array of historic flags, in addition to the 50-star American, and, depending on the size of the individuals involved, use period sabers, replica muskets or period rifles. The drum major is schooled in the use of the Military Signal Baton. Military bearing and marching is taught in accordance to the standards established by the United States Army.

## PARTICIPATION DUES & FEES

A Registration Fee of \$200.00 is required. This fee includes the cost of all start up materials and equipment. It also contains a "Commitment" bond, part of which will be returned upon completion of the commitment contract to be signed at registration.

The following table outlines all dues and fees:

| Description  | Initial Fee | Weekly Fees |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Registration Fee*  | 200.00      |             |
| Instructional Fee  |             | 2.00        |
| Uniform Bond**   | 150.00      |             |
| * Includes first set of practice sticks/practice fife, drum pad (if applicable) and instructional materials. |             |             |
| ** Due upon distribution of full-dress uniform. (See Uniform Section below)                                  |             |             |

Initial equipment is supplied, however if lost or broken, the following table outlines the replacement costs. Plastic fifes supplied at the beginning are only for practice, at the discretion of the fife instructor these are to be replaced with a "performance" fife which is currently the McDonough model. This fife is to be brought directly by the participant and will be their own personal instrument. Drums, both snare and bass, are supplied by the corps, but individuals are welcome to purchase their own. However, if to be used as the preferred performance instrument, they are to be purchased from the corps' designated supplier and must match existing drums.

The following table outlines any additional fees that may be encountered during participation in the program:

| Description             | Replacement/Additional |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Snare Drum Sticks       | 15.00                  |
| Bass Drum Sticks        | 20.00                  |
| Snare Drum Sling        | 15.00                  |
| Bass Drum Sling         | 25.00                  |
| Beginner Fife (Plastic) | 5.00                   |
| McDonough 6-Hole        | Market Price (~175.00) |
| McDonough 10-Hole       | Market Price (~200.00) |
| Fife Case               | 30.00                  |
| Snare Drum              | 400.00                 |
| Bass Drum               | 500.00                 |

## UNIFORM

There are two (2) uniforms currently used by the Loudoun Border Guards. The initial uniform, worn by recruits consists of a grey polo-style shirt (supplied by LBG), black pants, black socks, black shoes and baseball caps (supplied by LBG). Black pants are to be straight-leg trousers with no outstanding ornamentation (buckles, buttons, contrasting stitching, etc.). Black shoes should be Oxford style, we recommend investing in Bates standard military-style oxford in black leather (not patent) or something similar. Shoes should be comfortable and durable, **no thick soles or hiking boot styles.**

The formal dress uniform is supplied by the corps and is issued to the band participant upon elevation to Cadet status. Due to the cost of the dress uniform, a "bond" of \$150.00 is due when the uniform is issued. At separation from the corps, upon receipt of all uniform parts, the bond will be returned. "Bond" can be paid in 1 payment or in increments, however, uniform will not be released to band member until it is paid in full.

## AWARDS & HONORARIUM

Currently there are three (3) award levels – Beginners Level 1 Completion; Cadet Certificate and 5-Year award. These are issued to recipients annually.

In 2003, the Loudoun Border Guards established an Honorarium Fund from a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the "American Christmas" recording. Each year, the graduating seniors are presented with a monetary gift from the fund. The amount of the gift is determined by years of service to the organization as agreed upon by the Directors. Gift(s) are issued at a farewell party for college-bound members held prior to their departure.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Founders and Directors, Anne & Cormac Quinn, represent more than 50 years combined experience as performers, instructors and organizers in the fife and drum community. Both will gladly share their experience with anyone who requests it and are more than willing to provide references upon request.

The Loudoun Border Guards Fife and Drum Corps serves as a representative/ambassador of not only the Leesburg and Loudoun County, but the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, therefore it maintains a high standard of professionalism amongst the administration and expects the same in the participants. However, we never lose sight of the real purpose of this type of organization and that is to give the opportunity to any young person to learn about life through the music and history of our land. If we, in some way, positively affect the future of a person then we have accomplished our goal. The leaders of tomorrow are the children of today! To effectively lead in the future, our youth today must learn from where our great country came and what better way to do this than through the music that has been present throughout our entire history!

All participants are expected to adhere to the Basic Rules of Behavior and the Members Rights & Responsibilities outlines in Attachment A.

The Loudoun Border Guards is a proud member of the Company of Fifers & Drummers, a nationally and internationally recognized organization that maintains head quarters in Ivoryton, Connecticut.

## ATTACHMENT A

### BASIC RULES OF BEHAVIOR

Our goal is to be a well-trained musical organization with solid knowledge of the history of our area and the music we perform. Also to make this an enjoyable venture for all involved. To achieve this goal the following are some basic guidelines (rules) and general information. These rules serve as our basic guide, and are meant to maintain order and discipline without becoming too constricting.

### GENERAL

Parents are always welcome to attend any rehearsal/performance, but we ask that you not interfere with the Directors/Instructors. Should you have a concern, please discuss it **privately** with the Directors/Instructors.

We communicate all activities in two (2) ways: via email; and through announcements at the end of rehearsals. We distribute calendars 3 or 4 times a year, however these are always subject to change. All changes will be communicated as mentioned above.

### COMMUNICATION

It is imperative that accurate, proper communication take place at all times. To this end, the Point of Contact (POC) for the corps in all matters is the Directors ONLY. When at performances all questions/comments from event organizers are to be directed to the directors as well as any questions from parents concerning the performance criteria.

It is also important that the Directors be informed promptly if a member is unable to attend a rehearsal or performance. Except in case of emergency, twenty-four (24) hours notice (via email or telephone) is required for non-attendance at rehearsals. Non-attendance at performances is to be indicated when the performance/event is announced and placed on the schedule. See Member Rights & Responsibilities for additional information regarding this. Be aware that most performances are "contracted" for a fee, we are therefore legally bound to appear with the number of people guaranteed to receive the remuneration.

### REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are held weekly. We start promptly at 6:30 PM. We must strive to achieve good habits regarding time, therefore tardiness without good reason will not be tolerated. All members are to be in position, ready to begin no later than 6:40 PM

Each member is responsible to be prepared for each rehearsal. This means that they are to have with them the following items: instrument (fife, drum sticks, drum, sling, and drum pad), music book and dues. Members are responsible for completing the home practice lessons as assigned. Dues (\$2.00) will be collect at each rehearsal during "roll call". Members are to remain in place until dismissed by the Drum Major or Directors.

In case of inclement weather, you will be notified by the Directors if rehearsal is to be canceled. *USE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT WITH REGARD TO BAD WEATHER, WE DO NOT WISH TO PLACE ANY CHILD IN JEOPARDY.*

### PRACTICE

Each member is required to PRACTICE every day. The minimum time to be allotted is a ½ hour daily.

## **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES**

Reporting time for performance/events is designated by the directors. The times indicated are to be strictly adhered to. Unless the directors have been notified in advance, anyone arriving late to a performance/event or after the designated "warm-up period will not be permitted to perform. Once band members have been warmed up and are in the staging "area", they are under the direction of the corps directors ONLY, and are to remain so until dismissed at the conclusion of the performance. The directors request that the members are adequately nourished and have taken care of all physical necessities prior to arrival in the warm up area.

## **UNIFORM GUIDELINES**

All members are expected to be in full uniform at the designated "warm-up" time. Anyone missing any part of their uniform will not be permitted to perform.

Unless otherwise instructed, band members are not to travel to and from performances in uniform. Uniform parts are to be transported in cases supplied. Adequate time will be allotted to dress upon arrival. Uniforms are to be clean and wrinkle-free. Until the dress uniform is distributed, black "dress" pants/trousers are to be worn. These pants are not to have any noticeable contrasting stitching/buttons/zippers. Pants are worn at the waist and secured in that location with a belt if necessary. Baggy-style and tight-fitting pants are unacceptable.

Eating and drinking of any beverage, other than water, is strictly prohibited while in uniform.

## **TRAVEL GUIDELINES**

When transportation has been arranged for the corps (via bus or vans) to performance/events, all band members will travel together along with the directors and the designated adult chaperones. All others are welcome to follow the bus/vans in their own vehicles to the performance. unless otherwise instructed, once the band members have assembled to travel to a performance/event, they will remain together as a group until dismissed by the directors upon arrival at the designated pickup/dropoff location.

When performance/event requires an overnight stay, the corps will only be responsible for securing lodging for the band members and designated chaperones. All others wishing to travel with the band will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging.

## **BEHAVIORAL GUIDELINES**

The Directors/Instructors insist on proper behavior at all times from the band members. Shouting, being disrespectful, running around, fighting, etc. is not appropriate behavior and will not be tolerated. Misbehavior of any member will be brought to the attention of the member's parent for disciplinary action and will be notated. The three-strike rule will be enforced – three notated behavioral infractions will result in dismissal from the corps.

As a member of the Loudoun Border Guards Fife & Drum Corps, we must be aware that we are representing the Town of Leesburg, Loudoun County and the Commonwealth of Virginia when performing and traveling, therefore we must follow these basic rules.

## **MEMBER RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

The following list of "rights & responsibilities" and the resulting action was created by the section leaders. The directors and sections leaders are responsible for enforcement.

1. You must be present for rehearsals unless you inform the directors at least 1 hour prior to rehearsal. You must give notice of inability to attend performance at the time the performance is scheduled, otherwise attendance at all performances is MANDATORY.
2. Missing two or more consecutive performances and/or rehearsals without prior notice will result in the loss of your performance privileges for a duration to be determined by the section leaders.
3. Talking in line will result in standing at attention for five (5) minutes.
4. When necessary disciplinary actions must be taken, they may include volunteering at a number of activities around the town/county, to be determined by the directors.
5. Every member is required to bring the necessary equipment to rehearsals and performances. Fines will be charged for each missing item. Amount of fine is at the discretion of the directors.
6. All dues are due at rehearsal, including dues for rehearsals missed unless excused by the directors prior to absence. Missing a full month of rehearsals/performances without valid excuse will result in the member being placed on probation for a period of one month and will be required to pay all current and back "dues" for missed rehearsals.
7. Members missing rehearsals and/or performances while on probation will be asked to return all equipment/uniforms and will be dismissed from the corps. Back dues will be deducted from any "bond" money to be returned.
8. Disrespect of Directors/Instructors and/or fellow band members, insulting, arguing, fighting and lying will not be tolerated. The 3-strike rule will apply. (See Behavioral Guidelines in previous section).

This form can be filled out online. Click on first field to be filled in, type response and press <TAB> to continued to the next field. When completed, Print & Sign and bring to initial meeting.

(To be Completed by the Child's Parent/Guardian)

Parent E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Member E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

School Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Information:

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from child's) \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from child's) \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Guardian (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (if different from child's) \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Background Information:

Health (Please identify any problems that we should be aware of, i.e., asthma)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance information \_\_\_\_\_

(Please supply copy of Medical ID Card at 1<sup>st</sup> Rehearsal for our records)

Previous Musical Training (Check One)  YES  NO

If YES, What Instrument? \_\_\_\_\_ How Long? \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Marching Training (Check One)  YES  NO

If YES, Where? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Contract**

A Registration Fee of \$200.00 is payable upon receipt of the application and signed contract. Part of the fee will be returned upon completion of the following criteria:

| CRITERIA   | AMOUNT TO BE RETURNED |
|--|-----------------------|
| Completion of 1 year of membership with an attendance rate of 85% or better                    | \$25.00               |
| Completion of 2 years of membership with an attendance rate of 85% or better each year         | \$50.00               |
| Completion of 3 years or more of membership with an attendance rate of 85% or better each year | \$100.00              |

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree to activity participate in the Loudoun Border Guards Fife &  
*(Insert New Member Name)*

Drums Corps and adhere to all the rules and regulations as outlined in the General Membership Information booklet.

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of New Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ parent/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby  
*(Insert Parent/Guardian Name)* *(Insert New Member Name)*

give permission for the above named child to participate as a member of the Loudoun Border Guards Fife & Drum Corps. I acknowledge the responsibility to have the above named child at all regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances, and will guarantee payment of registration fee, all dues and any additional fees in a timely fashion per the fee schedule outlined in the New Member Information Booklet.

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature of Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

*To be completed by Loudoun Border Guards Director(s)*

**Accepted:**  YES  NO **Instrumentation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee of \$200.00 to accompany this application - Make checks payable to: Music In Time Inc.-Loudoun Border Guards**