

• THE CLARINET •

The clarinet is a relative newcomer among woodwind instruments. In the 1600s Johann Denner, an instrument maker from Nurnberg, Germany, had the idea to create a pipe (French: chalumeau) - an instrument looking quite similar to a wooden recorder. It had eight open holes with no keys, but like the clarinet, the chalumeau had a single reed and a cylindrical bore. [You can see this predecessor to the clarinet in our instrument display.] However, after noticing how short the range of the chalumeau was, Denner decided to make it longer. This allowed musicians to reach higher notes by playing partials, thus extending the range. But the chalumeau still could only reach an octave and a half, even with the longer pipe. In 1690, with the help of his son, Jacob, Denner added two finger keys to a chalumeau. The addition of two keys might sound like a small change, but it made an enormous difference by increasing the musical range of the instrument more than two octaves. Denner also created a better mouthpiece and improved the bell shape at the end of the instrument. This new instrument made such important changes that it really could not be called an evolution. The name of the new instrument was coined shortly thereafter, and although there are different theories about the name, most likely it was named because its sound was somewhat similar to an early form of the trumpet (*clarinetto* is an Italian word for "little trumpet").

Despite the invention of the clarinet, the chalumeau reigned supreme in orchestras and small settings alike, until about 1740. From 1740 to 1780, the clarinet began to gain more traction and by the late 1700s, composers were (finally) regularly writing clarinet parts.

UPCOMING CLARINET FUSION PERFORMANCES

- **June 8, 2025 - 3pm - St. Andrew's Chamber Music Series**
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill
- **June 12, 2025 - 7pm - Summer Concert**
Pleasant Hill Senior Center 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill

Check our web page/social media in January for additional 2025 performances

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CLARINET FUSION PLEASE
CONTACT US OR LOOK FOR US ONLINE.

(925) 818-2602 clarinetfusion@sbcglobal.net

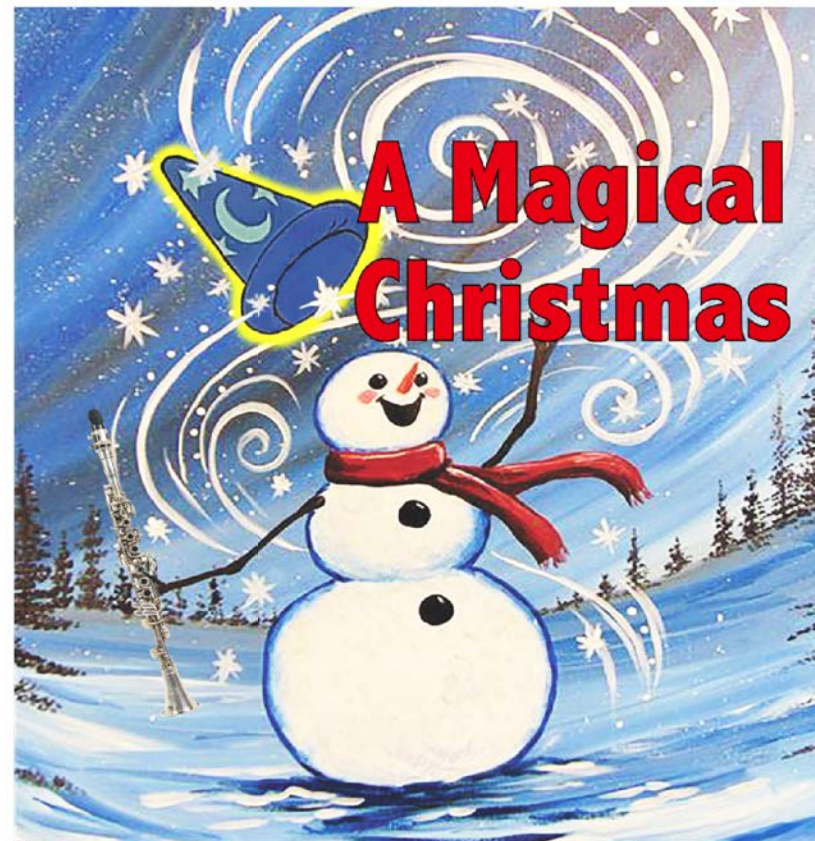
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Clarinet Fusion

presents



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

• 7:00PM •

PLEASANT HILL SENIOR CENTER
233 GREGORY LANE, PLEASANT HILL

Clarinet Fusion (kler-ə-'net 'fyū-zh'n) *n.* 1. The process of the sound of single-reed, tubular woodwind instruments merging diverse, distinct, or separate elements into a unified whole.



• PROGRAM •

The Lone Ar-ranger.....arr. Philip R. Buttall
 Over the RainbowE.Y. Harburg & Harold Arlen, arr. Wm. H. Challis
 Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson, tr. Anthony Brackett
 American Patrol F.W. Meacham, arr. David Burndrett
 Instrument Demonstration.....arr. G. March
 The Sorcerer’s Apprentice.....Paul Dukas, arr. Matt Johnston
 Clarinet Holidayarr. Henry Melnik
 Christmas with the Merry Gentlemen?.....Alun Cook
 Bill Bailey..... Hughie Cannon, arr. Paul Nagle
 Hanukah Medley..... Bill Malcolm
 Rudolph the Red-Nosed ReindeerJohnny Marks, arr. J. Christensen
 Frosty the Snowman.....Jared Faber, arr. Bill Malcolm
 Sleigh Ride..... Leroy Anderson, arr. Phillip Pollard



Tonight’s Announcer:
Greg Brown

• PERSONNEL •

Diane Maltester Eb Clarinet, Bb Clarinet
 Danielle Napoleon Eb Clarinet, Bb Clarinet
 David Rausch.....Bb Clarinet
 John Toyama.....Bb Clarinet
 Rita Zigas-BrownBb Clarinet
 Karyn Weber Eb Alto Clarinet
 Kathy Boster Bb Clarinet, Bb Bass Clarinet
 Sarah Hartglass Bb Clarinet, Bb Bass Clarinet
 George MarchBb Clarinet, BBb Contra Bass Clarinet

• ABOUT CLARINET FUSION •

Clarinet Fusion is the result of the inspiration, hard work, and determination of founder Karyn Weber. Begun as a quartet/quintet in the fall of 2009, Clarinet Fusion performed several concerts a year until the spring of 2012 when it expanded to a choir which includes the extended range of the harmony clarinets (Alto Clarinet, Contra Clarinets). On June 28, 2012 Clarinet Fusion held its debut performance as a full clarinet choir. Clarinet Fusion performs in the classical style of a chamber music group without a conductor. That is an ongoing challenge for the musicians as they must mutually, and continually, “agree” upon the numerous nuances of tempo, rhythm and blending tone during the performance of any given piece of music.



The group’s diverse music programming - spanning style, genre and international boundaries - has attracted attention from arrangers/ composers worldwide who have reached out to them to read their music. In January, 2018, Clarinet Fusion was recognized with the *2017 Arts Recognition Award* from the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission. In June 2022 the ensemble stepped up its visibility with a performance at the International Clarinet Association’s *ClarinetFest* in Reno, Nevada, and last July traveled internationally to perform at *ClarinetFest 2024* in Dublin, Ireland!

We appreciate being able to play for you today and hope you will come chat with the musicians after today’s performance. Thanks for attending!