

An Eventful 2023/24 Season



Dear Friend,

Incredible progress is being made on the reimagination and expansion of the Hopkins Center for the Arts, set to reopen in fall 2025. In the meantime, both the Dartmouth College Marching Band (DCMB) and the Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble (DCWE) have been creatively utilizing alternative rehearsal and concert spaces across campus and are thriving.

The **DCMB** combined field and musical rehearsals into one long rehearsal on Fridays at The Church of Christ at Dartmouth College. Fall 2023 attendance remained high, peaking at over 40 members at one game, with an average game attendance of over 30. The band performed at five home games, including hosting the Princeton Band when they visited Hanover, and traveled to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the Harvard game. Twelve band alumni returned for Homecoming, joining the DCMB for a successful but wet bonfire on the Green.

In the winter, the pep band played a mix of eight men's/women's hockey and basketball games. In February, the band was honored to play at the topping-off ceremony for the building, marking a key milestone in the Hop's historic transformation. In March, the band gave a special performance marking the retirement of Professor Susan Ackerman after more than 30 years of teaching at Dartmouth.

The band remains a tight-knit community that socializes through events including an annual apple-picking excursion, Yankee swap, and intramural hockey. This year, the band entered the Winter Carnival ice sculpture contest where they carved a sinking ship. The band also raised funds by performing romantic "Bandygrams" on Valentine's Day, hiring themselves out to serenade Dartmouth students. In the spring term, they ended the academic year with the annual Senior Recognition Banquet at Jesse's Steakhouse.

Meanwhile, the **DCWE** was on the road in the fall 2023 and winter 2024 terms. They started the year with a fall performance at New England Conservatory's historic Jordan Hall. In the winter, the ensemble put on a wildly successful performance at the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA) Conference at Cornell with two-time Latin Grammy-winning cuatro player, Hector Molina. This was the first CBDNA selection and performance by the DCWE, an incredible honor for these Dartmouth musicians.

In the spring, the DCWE returned to campus for a concert in Rollins Chapel in memory of Max Culpepper. Director of the DCMB and the Wind Symphony (now the Wind Ensemble) from 1984 until his retirement in 2009, Max passed away in February at the age of 87. In attendance were alumni who played for Max as students, as well as Ginger Culpepper. The wide-ranging concert included guest conductors and artists from the US and Mexico, including Colonel Michael Colburn, 27th Director of the President's own Marine Band.



Stay Involved

We invite you all to return to Hanover November 1-3 for Homecoming 2024 which includes the usual parade, bonfire and football game, as well as lots of outdoor receptions and tailgates. You can find the College's full schedule of events at alumni.dartmouth.edu/homecoming.

Alumni are invited to play with the band for the Friday night parade and/or the Saturday march around Hanover and the football game. Visit tinyurl.com/msu95btc to register so we can get you music, an instrument if needed and food. Harvard will be our opponent on the football field this year on **Saturday, November 2 at 1:30 pm**.

Reach out to Sara Potter (sara_burbine@yahoo.com) or Brian Messier (brian.e.messier@dartmouth.edu) if you want to join the virtual meeting of the Friends of the Dartmouth Band (FDB), tentatively scheduled for December. This meeting includes fellow alumni, undergraduate DCMB leaders and representatives from the Hopkins Center to discuss ongoing band activities and ways the FDB can continue to provide philanthropic and leadership support. We'll also post reminders on the "Friends of the Dartmouth Band" Facebook page.

With gratitude,

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