

LINCOLN MUNICIPAL BAND

Keith Heckman played tuba and bass guitar with the Lincoln Municipal Band for nearly 30 years. His earliest recollection of the Lincoln Municipal Band is from the early 1950's, when he could hear the band from his grandmother's front yard as they performed on Sunday evenings. After this early introduction to the music of the Lincoln Municipal Band, Keith was called by director John Shildneck to perform with the ensemble in approximately 1966. Keith continued playing with the group and also performed as a soloist until 1995. During these years, he recalls the Lincoln Municipal Band played for many community events such as the dedication of the Teachers Fountain at Antelope Park, dedication of artwork at the old City/County Building, Elks Club Christmas parties, and 4th of July celebrations at Holmes Park.

Some of the soloists who performed with the band while Keith was playing were Terry Rush on trombone, Dean Haist on trumpet, Wes Reist on clarinet, Duane Schulz on a variety of instruments, Morris Collier on violin, Bob Snider on vibes, Art Curtiss on trumpet, Herb Dregalla on clarinet, and Dennis Schneider on trumpet. For Keith, the most memorable Lincoln Municipal Band musician was Jim Splichal. As Keith describes, "Jim was a drummer. One Sunday morning he knocked his stand over and it hit Jack Snider on the back of the head, causing Jack to cut his lip on his French horn. Jack had to get a sub [for that evening's concert]."

During Keith's time performing with the band, he says that director John Shildneck did "everything" involved with producing the concerts. In 1975, he took over the hiring of musicians for each concert and the fundraising, and he also did the music library work. In 1982, the Lincoln Municipal Band purchased Shildneck's extensive music library, creating a permanent store of music for the organization.