



Redcoat Band Alumni Association, Inc.

Benefitting the Redcoats since 1974

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RBAA Pep Band Coordinator*

*Nicole Schuster
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September 13, 2021

To the Alumni of the Redcoat Band:

We have been cautiously optimistic in planning to perform together as the 48th Annual Redcoat Alumni Band on Dooley Field at Sanford Stadium during the 2021 Homecoming game. Since announcing these plans, assessment of the situation has continued by the Redcoat Band Alumni Association "RBAA" Board of Directors and UGA officials ---with the goal of pursuing a performance while remaining ready to adjust plans if necessary, with enough notice to respect the burdens of those planning to attend.

Earlier this evening, the RBAA Board of Directors, with input from committee leadership and Brett Bawcum on behalf of the Redcoat Band directors, made the unanimous decision to adjust plans for this year's homecoming, including suspending planning and registration for this year's Alumni Band pregame performance.

The decision that the Alumni Band will not perform is the result of numerous hardships caused by the ongoing pandemic, including:

- the inability to provide wind instruments to those who need them without unacceptable risk to the health of students and alumni;
- complications resulting from SEC/Athletic Association COVID-19 safety guidelines that limit on-field personnel; and
- standing agreement to use bell covers (where applicable) and masks for all performers with proximity to student-athletes.

Though I am confident in this decision, it was a very difficult one for us to make. Countless hours were invested in identifying potential solutions that reflect the following:

- **Inclusivity: Provide opportunity for *all* registered alumni to perform together.** Under the apparent best-case scenario, nearly a quarter of registered members would likely be watching from the stands as the rest of the Alumni Band performed, because we were unable to safely meet their instrument needs.
- **Health: Consider the vital needs of current students and the UGA community.** We are alumni because of the work and sacrifice of those who came before us. We also have a responsibility to work and sacrifice for the heirs to the tradition that we were so fortunate to inherit.

Redcoat Band Alumni Association, Inc.

www.redcoatalumniband.com • email: info@redcoatalumniband.com

• Twitter: @RedcoatAlumni • Instagram: @ugaredcoatband • Facebook Group: UGA Redcoat Alumni Band Members

A registered IRS 501(c)3 and Georgia non-profit corporation



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- **Respect: Honor the burdens and disruptions that many experience to participate.** As the number of variables affecting our performance continued to grow, we wanted to decide early enough to allow our most distant to adjust their travel plans accordingly.

There is also very good news:

- This will allow more time to plan a **special gathering of Alumni at Redcoat Field the morning of October 16!** The Redcoats are planning a one-of-a-kind performance specifically for us! So unlike 2020, we'll still be able to gather. And unlike any time in recent history, we will be treated to a performance designed with Redcoat Alumni in mind.
- We will enjoy more dedicated **time to visit with each other** without having to maximize rehearsal time and rush to the field! Let's enjoy at least one Homecoming like all the other alums on campus with no responsibility and no place to be before the game. Be on the lookout for more information!

On behalf of the RBAA Board of Directors and Committee Leadership, THANK YOU for your understanding, willingness to adapt, and continued support and passion for the Redcoats!

Once a Dawg, Always a Dawg....how sweet it is!

Dave Hanson
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