

REDCOAT BAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

Fact Sheet

MISSION

The mission of the Redcoat Band Alumni Association (RBAA) is to actively assist, enthusiastically support, and aggressively promote the University of Georgia Redcoat Band programs and The University of Georgia through all reasonable and appropriate means. To accomplish these purposes, the Association shall vigorously pursue the following objectives:

1. Raise money through regular membership contributions, special solicitations for donations, and other appropriate methods so as to provide band scholarships and other meaningful financial support to students participating in the University of Georgia Band.
2. Assist in the recruitment of prospective students.
3. Communicate regularly with the alumni, friends, and financial supporters of The Redcoat Band programs.
4. Act as the primary spokesperson organization on behalf of the alumni and friends and act as a positive advocate for the interests of the organization.
5. Support the ongoing work, policies, and objectives of the Director and staff of the Redcoat Band.
6. Cooperate with the appropriate University of Georgia Foundation on fundraising activities.

VISION

The vision of the RBAA is to create life-long supporters of music and the University of Georgia Redcoat Band.

FOUNDING

Founders: The Redcoat Alumni Band was the idea of Mr. Roger Dancz, Director of Bands at the University of Georgia from 1955 to 1991 (Director of The Redcoat Band from 1955 to 1976). Mr. Dancz proposed the idea of an alumni band to the student leadership in late 1973, and in February 1974 Redcoat Reflector, Mr. Dancz included a letter to alumni proposing an alumni band. The first Redcoat Alumni Band then performed at the following Homecoming on September 14, 1974.

- Dates:
 - Letter to alumni in Redcoat Reflector: February 1974
 - First Alumni Band Performance: September 14, 1974

MEMBERS/PARTICIPANTS

The RBAA communicates with over 4,000 Redcoat alumni through e-mail and social media. The highlight for many alumni is participation in Redcoat Alumni Band, which performs the pregame show at the University of Georgia Homecoming game each year. In 2022, 436 Redcoat alumni participated in the pregame show before the Vanderbilt game.

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ALUMNI BAND ATTENDANCE LAST 6 YEARS

- 2023 Participants: 406
- 2022 Participants: 402
- 2021 Participants: 175 (reunion; did not march)
- 2020 Participants: Totally virtual due to COVID
- 2019 Participants: 317 registered; rained out
- 2018 Participants: 330

RBAA CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE REDCOAT BAND

The RBAA has provided funding to the Redcoat Band that has funded components of the Redcoat Practice Complex, to include major contributions to the teaching tower, the speaker system, and teaching tools, such as a drone allowing for aerial recording capabilities from all angles. RBAA funds also go towards assistance to auxiliaries for competitions and scholarships for musicians, auxiliaries and leadership. Total financial contributions by the RBAA to the Redcoat Band have exceeded \$350,000 since inception.

REDCOAT ALUMNI PEP BAND

While Redcoat alumni have always been available to fill in for the Redcoats' Derbies pep band when the Redcoats were traveling, in recent years the Redcoat Alumni Pep Band has become a performing band in support of our mission and vision. The pep band is available to play for birthdays, anniversaries, grand openings, and many other social or business gatherings, and has even played several times at the start of the Peachtree Road Race. Since 2015, the pep band has played at over 70 events and has raised over \$31,000 for the Redcoats (donations, please!).

INTERESTING FACT

Dr. Brett Bawcum (BMus 1997, MM 2000, DMA 2017), the current director of the Redcoat Band, is the first Redcoat Alumnus to lead the band in this capacity. Dr. Bawcum was in the Redcoat Band from 1992 to 1997, first marching alto saxophone (1992-1993) and then as drum major (1994-1996). While earning his MM, Bawcum was a teaching assistant with the Redcoats. Prior to serving as director, he was assistant director from 2000-2005 and again from 2010-2019. In 2019, he was made Acting Director of Athletic Bands, and then named Director of Athletic Bands in 2020.