



IN BENEFIT OF THE SCT JEAN THOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This is a special benefit to provide scholarships to select Strongsville High School seniors who wish to pursue studies in the performing arts at the university level.

IN MEMORIAM



George Leon Kiteley
1944 - 2025

We are greatly saddened by the recent passing of George who has been an integral member of Jim's Little Big Band and played in all our past "Tribute" shows. Throughout his professional career from Professor of Percussion at BW in the early 70s plus innumerable orchestral and band settings and playing for many pop stars, shows, and musicals at multiple theater venues, his gentle unassuming manner accompanied by his amazing talent has always been a blessed asset. George, we love and miss you.

A concert in celebration of George's life will be presented by the Strongsville Community Band and the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of the Performing Arts on Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 7 pm in Gamble Auditorium in the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory Kulas Musical Arts Building (96 Front Street, Berea, 44017). The program will include performances by former students and special friends.

SCT SINGERS

Scott Halm
Craig Hardy
Bernie Hisey
Char Morar

Debra Rose
Cindy Smith
Jake Sonnenberg
Dave Williams

JIM'S LITTLE BIG BAND

John Bohlen, *Trumpet*
Doug Day, *Bass Guitar*
Mike Elkins, *Keyboard*
Bob Gref, *Clarinet + Tenor Sax*
Dick Ingersoll, Sr., *Clarinet + Bari Sax*
Woody Hartman, *Drums*
Bruce Lehtinen, *Trombone*
Jason Livengood, *Guitar*
Ken Mehalko, *Clarinet + Alto Sax*
Reinhold Toerek, *Trumpet*
Jim Wonnacott, *Music Director + Arranger*

SPECIAL THANKS!

- To all the wonderful musicians who have volunteered their time & talent to making this benefit possible!
- Jim Heinrich for Sound
- Chris Tibbs & Liz Jones for Lighting
- SUN NEWS reporter Shirley McFarland for cover graphic & editorial support
- Strongsville United Church of Christ for rehearsal space
- BW Catering
- St. Adalbert Church
- Cliff Bemis

Read more about tonight's talented performers
at strongsvillecommunitytheatre.com/tribute

SCAN ME



ACT 1

I Feel the Earth Movemusic & lyrics by CAROLE KING
Performed by SCT Singers

SINGIN' THE 70s

Best of My Love..... music & lyrics by MAURICE WHITE & AL McKay
I Feel the Earth Movemusic & lyrics by CAROLE KING
Ain't No Mountain High Enough ... music & lyrics by N. ASHFORD & V. SIMPSON
Performed by SCT Singers

You Are the Sunshine of My Life music & lyrics by STEVELAND MORRIS
Performed by Dave Williams

You Are So Beautifulmusic & lyrics by BILLY PRESTON & BRUCE FISCHER
Performed by Jake Sonnenberg

Love Will Keep Us Togethermusic & lyrics by NEIL SEDAKA & H. GREENFIELD
Performed by Cindy Smith & Scott Halm

One Less Bell to Answer..... music & lyrics by BURT BACHARACH & HAL DAVID
Performed by Debra Rose

You Don't Have to Be a Starmusic & lyrics by JOHN GLOVER & JAMES DEAN
Performed by Debra Rose & Dave Williams

My Eyes Adored You..... music & lyrics by BOB CREWE & KENNY NOLAN
Performed by Craig Hardy

Close to You.....music by BURT BACHARACH, lyrics by HAL DAVID
Performed by Jim's Little Big Band

Evergreen music by BARBARA STREISAND, lyrics by PAUL WILLIAMS
Performed by Bernie Hisey

And All That Jazzmusic & lyrics by JOHN KANDER & FRED EBB
Performed by SCT Singers

♫ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ **INTERMISSION** ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

ACT 2

Gonna Fly Now (Rocky).....music by BILL CONTI
Performed by Jim's Little Big Band

The Way We Were music by MARVIN HAMLISH, lyrics by M. & A. BERGMAN
Performed by Char Morar

Don't Go Breakin' My Heartmusic & lyrics by ELTON JOHN & BERNIE TAUPIN
Performed by Char Morar & Craig Hardy

Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown..... music & lyrics by JIM CROCE
Performed by SCT Singers Men

Stayin' Alive.....music & lyrics by BARRY GIBB, MAURICE GIBB & ANDY GIBB
Performed by Jim's Little Big Band

I Am Woman music & lyrics by HELEN REDDY & RAY BURTON
Performed by Debra Rose

Bridge Over Troubled Water..... music & lyrics by PAUL SIMON
Performed by Scott Halm

You've Got a Friend music & lyrics by CAROLE KING
Performed by Bernie Hisey & Jake Sonnenberg

The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face.....music & lyrics by EWAN MacCOLL
Performed by Cindy Smith

70s DANCE PARTY

Boogie Wonderlandmusic & lyrics by JON LIND & ALEE WILLIS
You Make Me Feel Like Dancing..... music & lyrics by VINI PONCIA & LEO SAYER
Your Momma Don't Dance music & lyrics by JIM MESSINA & KENNY LOGGINS
Dancing Queen..... music & lyrics by B. ANDERSON, B. ULVAEUS & S. ANDERSON
Joy to the World..... music & lyrics by HOYT AXTON
You're the One That I Wantmusic & lyrics by JOHN FARRAR
Performed by SCT Singers

Music Arrangements: Jim Wonnacott, Shaun Evans, Kirby Shaw,
Paul Langford, Dan Higgins, Don Costa, Greg Gilpin & Dave Wolpe

STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE

TRIBUTE TO THE 70'S

BENEFITING THE SCT JEAN THOM SCHOLARSHIP FUND
OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2025



JOHN BOHLEN
TRUMPET



DOUG DAY
BASS GUITAR



MIKE ELKINS
KEYBOARD



BOB GRIEF
CLARINET & TENOR SAX



SCOTT HALM
SET SINGER



CRAIG HARDY
SET SINGER



WOODY HARTMAN
DRUMS



BERNIE HISEY
SET SINGER



DICK INGERSOLL
CLARINET & ALTO SAX



BRUCE LEHTINEN
TROMBONE



JASON LIVENGOOD
GUITAR



KEN MEHALKO
CLARINET & ALTO SAX



CHAR MORAR
SET SINGER



DEBRA ROSE
SET SINGER



CINDY SMITH
SET SINGER



JAKE SONNENBERG
SET SINGER



REINHOLD TOEREK
TRUMPET



DAVE WILLIAMS
SET SINGER



JIM WONNACOTT
MUSIC DIRECTOR & ARRANGER



30
YEARS
1995-2025

MEET OUR PERFORMERS

JOHN BOHLER (TRUMPET) – John is an engineer by day and active trumpet player most nights and weekends. He teaches privately and has played with many groups in the Cleveland area including jazz, rock, local theater, church and classical settings.

DOUG DAY (BASS GUITAR) – Doug is retired from his position as Band and Orchestra Director at Bay Village High School. Doug has played piano, trombone and bass professionally for over 50 years, including eight years as the bassist for the Harry Hershey Orchestra. Presently is the pianist for the Cleveland Tops Swingband, Backspin Rhythm and Horns and Avon Lake Presbyterian Church. He is married to Jackie and has two kids.

MIKE ELKINS (KEYBOARD) – Mike is a pianist, saxophonist, flutist and arranger. He is the music director and primary arranger for 3 Birds and the Wire, a relatively new musical group on the Cleveland music scene. He is or has been a member of several area big bands, including Swing Era Big Band, Strongsville City Jazz, Jim's Little Big Band, The Dan Zola Orchestra, and the former Swing City big band. He has performed in pit bands and done music direction at Beck Center, the Mandel JCC, Clague Playhouse, Cassidy Theater, and the former Berea Summer Theater at Baldwin Wallace University.

Mike and his wife, Linda, a retired elementary school teacher, have been married since 1975. They have two grown daughters and a three-year-old grandson.

BOB GREF (CLARINET & TENOR SAX) – Bob will be performing on tenor saxophone and clarinet with “Jim’s Little Big Band” at the Strongsville Community Theater’s “70’s” Tribute.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Bob went on to earn a Bachelor of Music Education from Baldwin Wallace and a Master’s Degree in Music Education from the University of Michigan.

He taught junior high and high school band and orchestra in Summit County for 15 years. He has spent 60+ years performing with a wide variety of musical groups, including the Front Row Theater, Blossom Music Center, and the Cleveland TOPS Band.

Today, Bob can be found performing with the Cleveland Guardians Dixieland Band at home games - a role he especially enjoys. He also loves sharing his music through performances at private venues and special events. Beyond music, he treasures time with his lovely wife, Aloise, his family, and travel. Bob is honored to be part of this production and looks forward to sharing the joy of 70’s music with the Strongsville Community Theater audience.

SCOTT HALM (SCT SINGER) – Scott is excited to be a part of this great team of musicians, and he thanks you for supporting this show and all live music. Scott currently sings with the Baldwin Wallace University Men's Chorus and has sung with numerous groups over many years including the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, Blossom Festival Chorus, Cleveland Opera, Cleveland Pops Orchestra Chorus, and the Robert Page Singers. A particular highlight was singing with Andrea Bocelli when he performed at Rocket Mortgage Field House in December 2021. Scott and his wife, Karen, now live in Broadview Heights, but raised their family in Strongsville and were part of the Strongsville Follies many, many moons ago. Enjoy the evening!

CRAIG HARDY (SCT SINGER) – Craig has been singing for fifty years, the last twenty of which have been with the Southwest Community Chorus. Over the years, he has appeared in several productions of the Berea Summer Theater and has participated in the Strongsville Community Theatre's Tribute shows since their beginning. Craig is a lifelong resident of Cleveland and has lived in Strongsville with his wife Dana for 35 years.

WOODY HARTMAN (DRUMS) – Woody has been playing in bands with Jim since the ‘70’s. We first met in the band New Wave II. We played in the Cleveland Flats...when there was a “Flats.” We wore white pants and white shoes. Ha! Ha! I’m blessed to have had all that experience. 50 years.

BERNADETTE HISEY (SCT SINGER) – Bernadette has been in over 90 shows in 8 different counties. Favorite roles include Mama Rose (‘Gypsy’), Mrs. Lovett (‘Sweeney Todd’), Fraulein Schneider (‘Cabaret’) and Kate/Lilli Vanessi (‘Kiss Me, Kate’). She has a Bachelors and Masters in Music Education (vocal) and is now retired after a 30+ year career. She presently directs the Avon Lake Women’s Chorus, sings in the Steppin’ Out quartet, and is the pianist/organist at Vermilion UCCC and St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran in Berea. In her spare time, she has a knitting business and spends every moment with her dog Buster! She has come full circle with this show as she sang this music while in a band with 3 of her brothers in the 70’s. Yes, like the Partridge family.

DICK INGERSOLL, JR. (CLARINET & BARI SAX) – Dick holds a Bachelor of Music from University of Michigan, U.S. Army bands, and a Masters in Performance from Cleveland Institute of Music. He is a 50-year professional musician, including chamber music, orchestras, shows, big bands, and concert bands. Dick was a Mechanic, retired, after 25 years. His interests include the clarinet, history, homebrewing, mechanical and other projects, family and friends.

BRUCE LEHTINEN (TROMBONE) – Bruce is a retired control systems engineer at NASA Glenn Research Center. He is starting his 72nd year playing the trombone (high school, community bands and orchestras). He began performing professionally 39 years ago, primarily Dixieland, swing, big bands, and small dance bands and a 1920's "hot jazz" orchestra.

JASON LIVENGOOD (GUITAR) – Jason grew up in Berea, Ohio. He has been playing the guitar since age 14. He studied jazz and classical guitar at Cleveland State University. He has played in several local bands including Indecision, Juice, and BackSpin and Rhythm and Horns. He has also taught guitar for the last 20 years.

KEN MEHALKO (CLARINET & ALTO SAX) – Ken has been involved in music for the past 64 years in Strongsville as high school band director and as director of the Strongsville Community Band (last 35 years). His many honors and awards include: BW Conservatory Achievement Award; BW Outstanding Educator Award; Strongsville High School Distinguished Alumni Award as a former teacher; Cleveland South High School Hall of Fame and Ohio Band Directors Hall of Fame. He lives in Strongsville with his wife Beverly Wehr.

CHAR MORAR (SCT SINGER) – Over the years, Char has enjoyed singing at weddings and performing with Community Theatre, especially musicals. Her favorite is "It's a Grand Night For Singing." Char is so excited to be back for the fourth time to sing with the "SCT Singers and Jim's Little Big Band." What a fantastic privilege it has been to be performing with such talented musicians! Strongsville Community Theatre's Tribute Show is to benefit Strongsville High School students pursuing the performing arts after graduation. She is looking forward to seeing all of you at the Tribute the 70's.

DEBRA ROSE (SCT SINGER) – Debra is returning to Strongsville for a fourth year to share the stage with amazing singers and musicians for this wonderful Tribute Scholarship Fundraiser. She has a special love for music of the 70s era, reminiscent of her high school and college days.

In addition to SCT Singers, she has made several appearances with Strongsville Community Band and is part 3 Birds and the Wire (www.3birdsandthewire.com) a tight harmony vocal group, appearing at various venues throughout Northeast Ohio. Miss Rose also performs costumed portrayals of Marian Anderson, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday and others with Women in History (www.womeninhistoryohio.com) where she tells life stories through narration and song.

She has used music as therapy for senior and memory care facilities for more than 25 years, witnessing the healing power of music.

She has a degree in Vocal Performance, and has performed several seasons with Cleveland Opera Chorus, Oberlin Summer Theater, and other musical and non-musical theater productions. She would like to thank you all for attending.

CINDY SMITH (SCT SINGER) – Cindy is thrilled to be joining the Tribute cast for the 4th year. With a performance background rooted in musical theatre and opera, Cindy found a new passion singing jazz standards and the Great American Songbook with several big bands, including the Swing City Big Band, Strongsville Jazz, Don Kubec Big Band, Jim's Little Big Band and Swing Era Big Band. A life long Cleveland and Strongsville resident, Cindy is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace and spent 17 seasons as a member of the Cleveland Opera chorus. She is also a member of a new group called 3 Birds & The Wire, which is a female trio that celebrates vintage pop with tight harmonies. Cindy sends her thanks to her husband, George, for being wonderfully supportive. Thanks to all of you for supporting live music! (www.cindysmithsings.com)

JAKE SONNENBERG (SCT SINGER) – Jake is thrilled and grateful to be back with the Strongsville Community Theater for this year's Tribute to the 70's! A graduate of the Baldwin Wallace vocal performance department, Jake is currently a staff singer at Church of the Savior in Cleveland Heights, Fairmount Presbyterian Church, and can be heard as a soloist in various other churches and temples, as well as weddings. He has also performed roles with the Musical Theater Project, the Cleveland Opera, and American Musical Productions. Once a resident of Strongsville, Jake is thankful to currently be a full-time father and musician, raising his family in Chagrin Falls. Much love and thanks to his wife Kate for all her support and encouragement!

REINHOLD TOEREK (TRUMPET) – Reinhold is married to Joyce, with three grown married children and eight grandchildren. He enjoys playing with several local groups, and he is especially honored and grateful to play trumpet for SCT's Tribute show.

DAVE WILLIAMS (SCT SINGER) – This is Dave's first year with the Tribute Team and he's honored and humbled to be part of this amazing group of talented performers. Dave is a semi-retired CPA and a full-time American Idol wannabe. Over the past several years, he's had the pleasure of appearing on several local stages. Among his favorite roles have been the evil High Priest Caiaphas in Jesus Christ Superstar and the bumbling Junior Turpin in Dearly Departed at Strongsville Community Theatre. He's currently a member of the Southwest Community Chorus but his joy is singing in the Chancel Choir at Strongsville United Church of Christ (aka The Free Lunch Church).

He and his wife Heather (who puts up with him CONSTANTLY singing in the shower) have lived in Strongsville for 36 years. They raised their two children, Jasper and Mandy, here. Both kids are successful products of Strongsville City School System.

Thank you for coming this evening and supporting the Strongsville Community Theatre Annual Scholarship Benefit!

JIM WANNACOTT (MUSIC DIRECTOR & ARRANGER) – Jim is a 1964 graduate of Baldwin Wallace College (now University) and did post graduate work at Duquesne University (Pittsburgh) and Hart School of Music (Connecticut).

Jim has performed with many prominent bands and entertainers including The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, Liza Minnelli, Sammy Davis, Jr., Johnny Mathis, and toured with both the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra featuring the Pied Pipers, and with singer Al Martino. He was staff arranger for "Puttin' On The Glitz," a Strongsville variety show for 55 and over entertainers.

Awards include:

2009 BW Conservatory Alumni Achievement Award

2011 BW Alumni Association Merit Award

2013 Euclid High School Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame

In 2012, the Cleveland TOPS Swingband named Jim as its new Music Director. He is currently principal trumpet in the Strongsville Community Band and co-directs the Strongsville City Jazz Swing Band.



Jim's LITTLE BIG BAND
Wishes
STRONGSVILLE COMMUNITY THEATRE
another
SUCCESSFUL SEASON
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NIGHT**



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CELEBRATING

30 YEARS!

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COMMUNITY THEATRE**

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Net proceeds from this event (up to \$1,000) will be matched to help fund
scholarships for high school students following their passion for the performing
arts in college — whether in theatre, music, dance, or instrumental performance.

IN GRATITUDE



Strongsville Community Theatre extends its heartfelt thanks to all of you for supporting this very special benefit. We are proud to be celebrating over 30 years of bringing quality theater art productions to Strongsville and surrounding communities!

SCT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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SAVE THE DATE - SCT 2026 SEASON



Feb 20 - March 1, 2026



April 17 - 26, 2026