



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a community band?

Quite simply we welcome anybody from the St Albans area who can play an instrument, at least a bit, and who wants to simply enjoy playing music in a relaxed environment.

2. I'm interested in joining, do I need to have passed any music exams?

No – the only qualification needed is enthusiasm for the music and some familiarity with your instrument. As a guide if you've passed any exams and reached Grade 3 or above then you'll fit right in straightaway.

3. How much does it cost?

We ask members to pay £2.50 each rehearsal which goes towards our modest running costs.

4. What commitment do I have to make?

We do not expect members to attend a minimum number of rehearsals or put pressure on people to perform at gigs. Hopefully you'll want to come along as much as possible simply because it's hugely enjoyable.

5. What kind of instruments do you have in the band?

We have a full rhythm section of piano, drums bass and guitar. In front we have flutes, clarinets, alto saxes, tenor saxes and trumpets. And to complete the group we have 2 singers.

6. Are you looking for any particular instrumentalists?

At the moment we would like to add at least 1 trombonist, and also find a drummer to share responsibilities with our current stickmeister. However please don't be put off if you play another instrument as we will happily try and fit you in. If you play piano please be aware we currently have two regular pianists.

7. How do I book the band?

First of all get in touch with some details about the event you are planning. We will confirm if we are available to play and discuss any preferences you have.

8. What music do you play?

Our repertoire is fairly broad – there are familiar songs such as Fly Me To The Moon, some funky ones including Chameleon and several fabulous blues songs like Respect. At the end of the FAQs is a sample set list from one of our previous gigs.

9. How many of you are there in the band?

There are about 15 active players in the band. When we play at a gig the numbers in the band will vary depending on who is available but typically it will be between 8 and 12. We can also perform as a smaller group for more intimate events.

10. If I book you what do I need to do?

We need a space to play and if we are outdoors a gazebo or something similar to protect us and our equipment from the weather. You need to provide one power point near to where we are playing and we'll do the rest.

11. Do I really not have to pay anything to book you?

As one of our aims is to be part of the community we like to give something back to other community groups and charities by not charging when we play. Some groups do give a small donation to help cover our running costs but there is really no obligation to do so.

12. I am planning a big private party, can you come and play for me?

Strictly speaking no but do get in touch because some members of the band may be interested in forming a group to play at your party. If that's the case any arrangements will be directly with that group.



Sample Set List

First Half

In The Mood
Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue
Blue Moon
Canteloupe Island
Ain't Misbehavin
Have You Met Miss Jones
Mandela
I Wish I Knew What It Meant To Be Free
Route 66
Satin Doll
Sunday Afternoon
Soul Bossa Nova
I've Got You Under My Skin
Midnight Hour

Second Half

Take Me To The River
All Of Me
My Funny Valentine
Fly Me To The Moon
Don't Get Around Much Anymore
Watermelon Man
I Don't Mean A Thing
Brown Eyed Girl
St Louis Blues
Respect
Summertime
Cherry Pink
Pennsylvania 65000
Mustang Sally