

# Clarinet Fusion



7:15PM

Thursday, December 6, 2012

The Waterford at Rossmoor

**Clarinet Fusion** (kler-ə-'net 'fyü-zh'n) *n.* **1.** The process of the sound of single-reed, tubular woodwind instruments merging diverse, distinct, or separate elements into a unified whole.

## Personnel

**David Rausch** (Martinez)..... Clarinet  
**Dave Sandusky** (Danville) ..... Clarinet, Bass Clarinet  
**Danielle Napoleon** (Martinez)..... Clarinet  
**George March** (Martinez)..... Clarinet, Eb Clarinet, Bass Clarinet  
**Karyn Weber** (Pleasant Hill)..Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet

**Clarinet Fusion Manager:**

**Karyn Weber** (925) 372-8847 [karyn.weber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karyn.weber@sbcglobal.net)

## Program

*Will be Selected from the Following:*

Ave Maria  
Carmen Overture  
Carol of the Bells  
Christmas Medley III  
Deck the Halls  
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - 1st Movement  
Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas  
Misty  
Moon River  
Oh, You Beautiful Doll  
Sentimental Journey  
Singing in the Rain  
Sleigh Ride (Troika)  
Summertime  
Time Goes By  
Up on the Rooftop  
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

## About Clarinet Fusion

The members of *Clarinet Fusion*, collectively, boast more than 350 years of clarinet-playing experience. In addition to the clarinets being played today, various members also have experience playing other instruments too, such as: A Clarinet, C Clarinet, Flute, Oboe, Sarrusophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Baritone Horn, Tuba, Electric Bass, and the Saxophone family: Soprano, Alto, Bb Tenor, C Melody Tenor, and Baritone. These musicians also play for a number of other music and performing groups, including:

Danville Community Band  
Walnut Creek Concert Band  
Diablo Valley College Symphonic Band  
Quintaire Woodwind Quintet  
Ohlone Community Band  
Ohlone Wind Orchestra  
Ohlone Clarinet Choir  
Livermore-Amador Symphony  
Brentwood Concert Band  
West County Winds  
Star Struck Theater (Fremont)  
California Repercussions Marching Band  
Contra Costa Wind Symphony  
Oakland Civic Orchestra

## Clarinet Trivia

When talking about “the clarinet” you generally mean the **Bb (soprano) Clarinet**. It is one of the younger woodwind instruments, having been invented around 1700. All clarinets have a bore which is basically the same diameter along the body of the instrument. This cylindrical bore differs from the saxophone’s conical bore and gives the clarinet its characteristic tone. Prior to 1820, the reed went on the top lip. Romantic Era composers like Carl Maria von Weber, Schumann, and Brahms really showed the full potential of the clarinet as a solo instrument. It wasn’t until the start of this period, that the reed was turned around to be played on the bottom lip. Both in sound and playing techniques, the clarinet is one of the most flexible of all instruments - which is one reason why it is often substituted for violins in band arrangements of orchestral works. A typical Bb soprano clarinet is 26 inches long.



The **Eb (sopranino) Clarinet** is the smallest of the standard clarinets and is only 19 inches long. Although the Eb is somewhat of a rarity in middle and high school bands, it is a staple instrument in college and other wind ensembles.

The smallest clarinet is the **\*Ab (piccolo) Clarinet** checking in at 14 inches long. Not quite an octave higher than the Bb, it is the highest pitched clarinet produced.

The **Eb Alto Clarinet**, at 43 inches long, is said to be the modern form of the bassett horn. You find alto clarinets in wind or symphonic bands, but rarely in classical symphony orchestras.

The **Bb Bass Clarinet** was developed some 60 years after the ‘clarinet,’ though it was not until the 1830s that Adolphe Sax developed one with significant acoustical improvements that became the basis for current design (about 10 years before Sax developed the saxophone.) The bass clarinet is 4.5 feet long, and has a tone range that is wider than any other wind instrument.

**\*EEb Contra Alto Clarinet** sounds an octave below the Eb alto, and 2 octaves below the Eb clarinet. It is used mostly in concert bands and clarinet choirs where it usually, but not always, plays the bass line. At 7 feet long, it is the second-largest member of the clarinet family in regular use, larger than the more common bass clarinet but not as large as the BBb contra bass clarinet.

The **\*BBb Contra Bass Clarinet** is the largest of all clarinets in regular use - about 9 feet in length. It is one octave lower than the bass clarinet, 2 octaves lower than the “regular” Bb clarinet, and almost 3 octaves lower than the Ab piccolo clarinet.

Both the EEb contra alto and BBb contra bass clarinets are built in two configurations: a ‘straight’ clarinet style, looking much like a longer version of the bass clarinet (made of wood and metal; or all metal); and an all-metal version known as a “paperclip” due to its tighter, folded shape.

[\* Instruments not being played today]



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