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Milton Concert Band back and ready to hit the stage

It's been an exciting year of firsts for the newly-formed Milton Concert Band.

And those milestones will continue as the band embarks upon the Christmas season, offering its first performance of its offshoot swing band, its first Santa Claus parade performance and its first ticketed concert.

Since rehearsals began in February, the Milton Concert Band (MCB) has entertained almost 1,000 people in just three performances. Now, after a brief summer break, the band is back at work and more determined than ever to make a big contribution to the community.

On Thursday, Nov. 22, the MCB

Swing Band will perform for residents, family and friends of Martindale Gardens.

MCB president Angela Rozario said organizers were disappointed to learn the venue wouldn't hold the entire band. They then realized it would make a great debut for the smaller swing band.

"It's a perfect fit," Rozario said. "The residents are sure to enjoy MCB Swing Band's smooth sounds and toe-tapping rhythms reminiscent of days gone by."

She added the swing band will allow opportunities for the band to respond to community requests for smaller ensembles.

"If successful, we hope to introduce other small ensembles drawn from the larger band," she said.

Sunday, Nov. 25 at 2 p.m., members of the MCB will perform in the Milton Santa Claus Parade. Band members will serenade parade-goers while being driven along the parade route on a float donated by New Mechanical of Milton.

"Everyone's really excited about this parade," said band member Len Black, who's in charge of co-ordinating the parade performance. "We're dusting off the old Christmas standards and can't wait to help the crowd get in the holiday spirit."

Lastly, the MCB will present its first Christmas concert Saturday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's United Church, 123 Main St. E.

Organizers say the church's acoustics provide the perfect venue to host the performance, which will include a selection of new and old holiday classics.

Karen Sexton, the band's concert co-ordinator, said the St. Paul's United Church Choir will be joining the MCB on stage and encouraging the audience to join in for a sing-along.

"This is sure to be an event that local residents will want to make a family tradition. It's the perfect way to get in the holiday mood," Sexton said.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors and are free for kids under 12. Call (905) 693-9886 or e-mail info@miltonconcertband.com for tickets.

The MCB is comprised mostly of amateur musicians from across Halton. The band's mission is to provide Milton and area residents with an opportunity to enjoy and perform great music in their own community.

The band plays a wide variety of music, from Broadway to big band, classical to contemporary.

Musicians interested in finding out about joining are asked to call (416) 508-6106 or e-mail miltonconcertband@gmail.com.