

# Marist High School Band



## Band Alumni Bulletin

Issue #1

September 12, 2022



## A Letter from the Director

Dear Marist Band Alumni Members,

I would like to welcome all of you to the first issue of the Marist Band Alumni Bulletin! This bulletin will be used to help keep alumni band members updated about what is currently happening with the band program at Marist.

My name is Andrew Creagh and I am the Band Director at Marist High School in Chicago, IL. I went to Marist as a student and graduated in 2004. I played tuba and bass in the Marist Band, under the direction of Mr. Frank Manna. I graduated from VanderCook College of Music with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, and received my Master's in Teacher Leadership from the American College of Education. I have been working at Marist since 2006. I was the Assistant Band Director for two years, under the direction of Mr. Rocco Carioto. I became the head director in 2008 and have worked at Marist ever since. I currently live in Orland Park with my wife, Julie, and my daughters, Evelyn and Audrey.

I have always wanted to find a way to communicate directly with our alumni band members about what is currently happening with the band at Marist. We have so many alumni band members, and I am looking forward to connecting with everyone. Hopefully, we can all share memories of the great experiences we had, and how the band has helped shape our lives.

The band has a lot of upcoming events and performances. We are happy to announce our first overseas trip to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland in March 2023! We will be in Ireland for a full week in March, where we will be performing and seeing different areas of the country. This is truly the most ambitious tour that we have ever planned, and we are excited to share the good news with everyone. There is a feature later in this bulletin with more information regarding the trip.

For our first issue, I thought that it was important to feature Mr. Frank Manna, the former Marist Band Director from 1963-2006. Mr. Manna was and is a Marist icon who led the band to honor, glory, and fame throughout his many years at Marist. It was great to catch up and interview Mr. Manna for our first alumni bulletin. I hope you enjoy the feature!

I want to thank you for interest in the band, and I look forward to communicating with all of you. We plan to release this bulletin on a seasonal basis. If you know of any other Marist Band alumni who would like to receive this bulletin, please have them contact me directly via e-mail at [creagh.andrew@marist.net](mailto:creagh.andrew@marist.net). Thank you again for all your support!

Sincerely,

Andrew Creagh '04

Band Director, Marist High School

## CURRENT STUDENT FEATURE

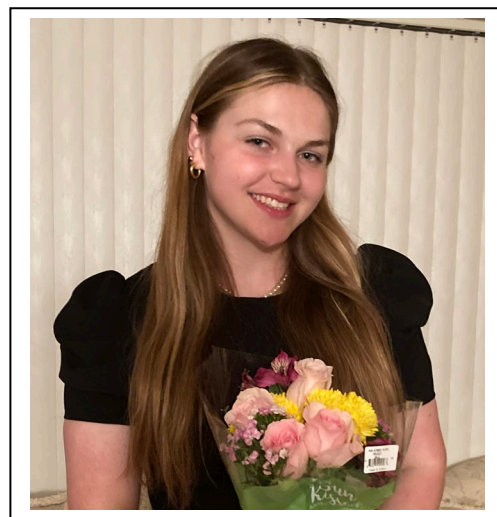
**Graduation Year-2023**

**Grammar School?** Prairie Junior High in Alsip

**Instrument?** Marching Band-Drum Major

Concert Band-Bb Clarinet

Jazz Band-Bass Guitar



**What is your favorite thing about band?**

My favorite thing about band is the community. So far, the three years I have been in band, I have met many friends and have made many memories that could not be achieved elsewhere. The amount of inside jokes and variety of personalities in the band make each moment spent together memorable.

**What are some other clubs, activities, and sports do you participate in?**

I participate in Spanish Club, Polish Club, and the Investment Club. I play softball for Marist and for a competitive travel team. Lastly, I am a member of the National Honors Society, and a Captain for the Spanish National Honors Society.

**What is your favorite band moment so far?**

My favorite band moments are watching the reactions and hearing the crowd at football games.

I believe the Marist Band is truly appreciated by parents, faculty, and students. Another highlight of band was being a part of drumline's homecoming performance with baby powder and LED lights.

## Ireland 2023



The Marist Band is excited to announce our first overseas trip to Ireland in March 2023! We will be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, as well as exploring different areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The students will be in Ireland from March 12-March 19, 2023.

Here are some highlights of the upcoming trip:

***-Belfast-**Tour of Shankill and Falls Road, Belfast City Hall, The Titanic Museum, and Belfast Castle.*

***-Galway-**Explore Galway City, the Arts Capital of Ireland. View the Cliffs of Moher.*

***-Dublin-**March in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Panoramic Tour of the city, visiting The Irish Emigration Museum, go to Phoenix Park, go to Christ Church Cathedral, learn hurley from professional players, attending Collins Barricks and enjoying the opening festivities for the parade.*

***-Kilkenny-**Tour the medieval city, tour St. Canice's Cathedral, performance at Kilkenny Castle, attend a traditional Irish Night show at The Merry Ploughboy.*

This is an incredible opportunity for the band! We are blessed and fortunate to be able to still tour every year. We know that these tours would not be possible without the hard work and dedication that our alums showed while they were members of the Marist Band.

# Interview

## Mr. Frank J. Manna

### Marist Band Director 1964-2006



#### **How are you doing? What are you doing now?**

I'm doing incredibly well at this time, however, I am fully recovered from a long hospital stay that developed into serious infection after a kidney stone surgery that required ICU for 5 days. After 6 weeks in a rehab center I returned home on March 11. I am continuing swimming as a rehab and I have completely returned to 100 %.

I am enjoying retirement with my wife Betty Ann in downtown Chicago. We attend the theaters, the Lyric opera, The CSO and the Grant Park Music Festival in the summer. We have also traveled every year to many wonderful places throughout the world. This September, we will celebrate our 64th Wedding anniversary.

#### **How did you get into music?**

My father wanted his Italian son to be involved in music. He had me study accordion like so many Italian boys. I eventually matriculated to play saxophone in the Leo H.S. band.

#### **How were you hired at Marist?**

I applied for the band director position the year Marist began (1963) but Br. Pius did not want the band to begin until one year later. It began as an extracurricular activity... 3 days a week. I finally was able to convince Br. Anthony Iazetti that band had to be included in the curriculum. The rest is history.

#### **What were some of your favorite tours?**

That is a very difficult question: The first tours were totally concert tours at many Marist schools and venues of all types. Our very first tour was to Alton IL. A very memorable concert tour was to Montreal Canada and the band experienced the Maple Syrup Festival. We enjoyed the Hollywood Christmas parade and were extremely proud to receive the "best marching band"

award in the in the New York St. Patrick's Day parade. Once the various bowls began offering bands opportunities to compete and participate, the Marist band went to very many bowls, the first being The Liberty Bowl and followed with almost all the major bowls with the crowning glory of the Rose Parade in Pasadena CA. on Jan. 1, 2002.

**What were some challenges you faced while you were teaching?**

My biggest problems existed in the early years trying to keep students in the band. Br. Anthony Iazetti agreed to place band into the curriculum. We grew and prospered to a "Super Band," 185 marching men strong.

**When Marist went co-ed in 2002, how did that affect the band?**

It was not a problem for me since I had always taught girls in Grade School Bands but the addition of females finally allowed our woodwind section to grow and prosper and we finally had flutes and all the woodwinds. The morale was always very high but the teaching methods that I used became more moderate.

**What were some highlights of your career leading the band?**

I was the MHS Band Director for 42 years and there are so many unusual performances that it would be impossible to name just one but I will always be especially proud of our performances on the Washington D.C. mall and the Lincoln Center mall in N.Y. city.

**What were some of your favorite pieces that you performed with the band?**

I wish my memory was better so I wouldn't leave any out because there were so many. The 1812 Overture I could still conduct from memory. We twice performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue with Marist bandsmen performing the piano part. I wanted every edition of The Marist Band to have one composition in common, consequently, I always loved performing Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival" as the finale of every Christmas concert. I always tried to perform the latest Broadway Musical collection..."Oklahoma", "South Pacific", "Sound of Music", "Oliver" all the others including "West Side Story." Many of the outstanding pieces were original compositions for H.S. and college bands and I have lost the names somewhere in the corners of my mind.

**What would you like to pass on or share to our current Marist band students?**

It has been 16 years since I stood in front of the MHS band and it would always be a thrill for me. Musicians have a sincere dedication to their performance and always want to present the composer's composition to the best of their ability. All students, past and present are dedicated to the band members who came before them and established such a remarkable standard of excellence. Your present band members have a tremendous responsibility to preserve and improve that Marist Standard of Excellence. You and I are MARIST BAND and we will always be proud of our name.

## Upcoming Band Performances & Events

**8/27/22**-Home Football Game vs. Glenbard West

**9/23/22**-Home Football Game vs. Marmion (Homecoming) *\*If you would like to perform with the band at homecoming, please see the information below.*

**9/30/22**-Home Football Game vs. Loyola (Grade School Band Night)

**10/14/22**-Home Football Game vs. Carmel Catholic (Senior Night)

**11/24/22**-Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade

**12/15/22**-Christmas Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the Main Gym at Marist.

*Playoff Football Games TBD*

## Homecoming Band Performance

**We want YOU to perform with the Marist Band  
at our Homecoming football game!!!**

**What:** Marist vs. Marmion Academy Homecoming Football Game

**When:** Friday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. Call time for alumni band members is 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** Marist Football Field. Meet in Band Room.

**Attire:** Comfortable

**Music:** "Locked Out of Heaven"-Bruno Mars. *\*If you would like to see the sheet music ahead of time, please e-mail Andrew Creagh and he can send it to you.*

**RSVP:** Please RSVP to Andrew Creagh via e-mail at [creagh.andrew@marist.net](mailto:creagh.andrew@marist.net). Alumni band members can still perform on 9/23 if they were not able to RSVP.

## Ways to Give to the Marist Band

Would you like to help support the Marist Band on our upcoming tour to Ireland? If so, please click on the following link for more information:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marist-high-school>

## Thank You!

Mr. Larry Tucker '79

Mr. Tom Inzinga '84

Mrs. Meg Dunneback

Mrs. Irene Halko

Father Tom Hurley '85

Ms. Jen Luzzo

Mr. Frank Manna

Ms. Noelle Trainor

Mr. Marion Klatka

Ms. Kristine Kavanaugh

Mr. Marty Wirtz '72

Ms. Patti Derdzinski

Mr. Pat Dunne '98

Ms. Rita Hoffmann

Mr. Patrick Keelan '04

Ms. Alex Brown

## Alumni Updates

Have you moved? Do you have a new job? Did you get married? Is there a new addition to your family? Let us know! <https://www.marist.net/alumni/alumni-update/>

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Do you know a Marist Band alum who would like to receive these seasonal Marist Band bulletins? If so, please have them e-mail Andrew Creagh at [creagh.andrew@marist.net](mailto:creagh.andrew@marist.net).