



# Kingsburg City Band

A SUMMER TRADITION UNDER THE STARS

FOUNDED 1887

## News Release

May 13, 2020

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## COVID-19 Pandemic Prompts Cancellation of Kingsburg City Band's 134th Season

**B**ecause of public health concerns and restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 virus, the Kingsburg City Band's 134th season this summer will be one of only silence. Cancellation of the band's popular six-concert summer season in Memorial Park because of the pandemic was announced today (MAY 13) by the City Band's long-time director, Dale Engstrom. In a letter to musicians that Engstrom said was written "with a heavy heart," the bandleader added, "This has been a very difficult decision but we are sure it's the correct one. Your health and well-being are our highest priority."

Reggie Gierke, president of the sponsoring Kingsburg Media Foundation, said the decision was made Monday By members of the City Band's steering committee. "Naturally crowded conditions resulting from accommodating more than 60 musicians on the Memorial Park Bandstand stage as well as audiences that number in the thousands simply make it impossible for us to meet state, county and local requirements as well as public distancing guidelines," said Gierke. "It would not be safe." Concert venues under the state's COVID-19 response plan, he pointed out, are not to reopen until Phase 4. California's response plan is currently in Phase 2.

It will be the first season since 1943 and 1944, during World War II, that the Kingsburg City Band will not perform. The band was established in 1887. It is recognized as one of the West's oldest community bands.

Engstrom, who has directed the band for more than 42 years, told City Band members, "We believe it is prudent and in the best interest of all involved, both you as musicians and the ever-faithful audience, to follow the best current public-health guidelines and practices as well as governmental policies and mandates regarding the coronavirus. Unfortunately, that means we must exhibit an abundance of caution and forego this season. We hope that this early decision will allow you sufficient time to rearrange your summer schedule accordingly."

There will, however, be Kingsburg City Band music available on-line during each of six typical concert nights June 18-July 23. Engstrom said live-stream highlights of previous performances, complete with pre- and post-concert commentary and interviews, are being planned with the cooperation of the City of Kingsburg, Kingsburg Media Foundation and Kingsburg Chamber of Commerce. Details will be posted soon on the band's Facebook page and on its website, [www.kingsburgband.com](http://www.kingsburgband.com). Planning and producing the programs technically will be Gierke, Len-nis Scheline and Chamber of Commerce Manager Jeff Dodd. Engstrom and Randy McFarland, City Band announcer, are focusing on content. The band website always has many past concerts available to view and enjoy.

Engstrom said plans are already being made for celebrating the Kingsburg City Band's 135th anniversary season from June 17-July 22, 2021.

