

Adopt – A – Band

Adopt – A - Band is a program that was created by Army Reserve LTC Cheryl McAuley. McAuley has a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from West Chester Univ. PA., a Master of Public Administration from George Mason Univ. VA., and a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, PA. She currently resides in New Market, AL.

I was reading McAuley's blog on her website, which you can check out at <http://www.wish-you-were-here-inc.com/adoptaband.html>, and thought that what she did was really wonderful. You can also check out another article written by Kim Campbell at http://blog.al.com/living-times/2010/07/the_band_plays_on_soldier_beat.html, where she did a report on McAuley's Adopt - A - Band for the Huntsville Times. I want to share with you some of the great things I read about LTC McAuley's Adopt – a – Band program.

While McAuley was in the Reserves, she was deployed for a year in Iraq. During her stay there she heard the Iraqi Ceremonial Band. She went to speak to the musicians, with a translator, and was told that most of the instruments belonging to the band were in very poor condition. The musicians were in desperate need for instruments. McAuley decided that the Ceremonial Band needed some assistance and wanted to do what she could to resolve the issue. Once she arrived back home in the US, she started "Adopt – a – Band" and has gained press coverage for this cause in the *Huntsville Times*, the *Redstone Rocket*, *Warrior* magazine (Army Reserve Magazine), *The Sentinel*, the TN Valley's Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, and was interviewed by Boston's National Public Radio (WBUR) *Here and Now*. After tons of advertising and a lot of hard work, McAuley was able to acquire 1 Piccolo, 4 Flutes, 13 Clarinets, 1 Oboe, 1 Eb Clarinet, 1 Bassoon, 1 Alto Saxophone, 2 Tenor Saxophones, 3 Trumpets, 3 Cornets, 5 Trombones, 2 Snare Drums, Drumsticks, and Valve Oil. These instruments were shipped out September 2nd along with (a wonderful personal contribution) McAuley's own baton which she's had since 1988 when she was an Army Band Master. In addition to all the fund raising and instrument collecting, she also purchased Brahms' "Academic Festival Overture" so the band members would have something new to practice. She wrote that it would be great if they were able to work it up by the graduations taking place in August 2011.

McAuley has done a remarkable job organizing this cause. In addition to instrument donations she also collected monetary donations to use for instrument repair and to go towards purchasing used instruments which she may not be able to acquire through instrumental donations such as the tuba. A list of things McAuley still needs to obtain are 2 French Horns (double), 2 Tubas, 2 Euphoniums, 2 Bass Trombones, Reeds, and Cork Grease.

While she is finishing up this project for the Iraqi Prime Minister's Ceremonial Band, she has also joined in on another project with Dan Pfiefer, President of the Board of Directors, TN Valley Winds, in Murfreesboro, TN. Pfiefer is in the process of collecting musical instruments to replace school children's instruments that were destroyed by the flooding. McAuley has requested that any instrument donations be made to this cause. Dan Pfiefer's email is tubadude@dtccom.net.