

EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS

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BREAKING NEWS ONLINE AT WWW.EDENPRAIRIENEWS.COM



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EDEN PRAIRIE COMMUNITY BAND

The Eden Prairie Community Band performs at the Staring Lake Amphitheater regularly throughout the summer.

A BAND FOR ALL AGES

Eden Prairie Community Band spans generations

BY EDEN TELLER
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When Lorna Livingston picked up a mallet to audition for a Richfield community band in 1999, she hadn't played music for over 50 years. Her husband had wanted her to focus on their family and forbade her from playing the instruments she'd loved since she was 9: Piano, violin, accordion, tympani.

"I raised my family and when he went to the nursing home, that was my chance

to be my own boss," Livingston explained.

Twenty years later, she's a member of six bands across the Twin Cities metro area, including the Eden Prairie Community Band (EPCB). At 93, Livingston is the oldest member of a band whose members range from 24 to nonagenarians, from former professional musicians to hobbyists who love to perform.

"Music and sports have been my greatest loves, and I'm too old for sports," said Tom Muehlbauer, 74. He joined the EPBC 30 years ago and became its conductor in 2016 after a career as a house musician at Diamond Jim's Steakhouse in St. Paul.



PHOTO BY EDEN TELLER

Lorna Livingston is 93 and plays percussion in six community bands, including in Eden Prairie

He and Livingston were connected even before she joined the EPCB three years ago. Livingston's daughter, Melanie, runs a salon and barber shop where Muehlbauer got his hair cut, and at the first performance Melanie attended, Livingston surprised her with the identity of her conductor. The sense of community is what sets the EPCB apart from Livingston's other bands.

"That's what makes that band special to me," Livingston said.

The mix of ages adds musical variety to

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