

# The Dodworth Saxhorn Band



Bringing America's Musical Past to Life

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band (DSB), based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is living history, with musicians performing on authentic brass and percussion instruments made in the 1800s. Their performances delight audiences with authentic interpretations of middle-19th Century American music for 21st Century appreciation.

When the Dodworth Saxhorn Band begins a set, the 17-piece ensemble of this interpretative group usually starts with the Dodworth arrangement of the "Star Spangled Banner." A powerful soprano strolls down the center aisle dressed as a Southern Belle and asks the audience why they're standing. "That's just an old British drinking song – nothing special," she insists, and the education begins.

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band, comprised of more than 50 professional musicians, exceeds the pull of time and memory. Members play antique brass and percussion instruments made in the 1800s, performing original music from the 19<sup>th</sup> century for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences. The arrangements they play come from public and private collections, such as the Library of Congress and Smithsonian Institution, and are specially tailored for 19<sup>th</sup> century brass band arrangements set to a different pitch than contemporary instruments. The Dodworth Saxhorn Band library features more than 400 arrangements, some of which appear in the Ken Burns documentaries *Baseball* and *The Roosevelts: An Intimate History*. The band tours nationally, including a special concert on the White House lawn at the invitation of President Bill Clinton.

But the true gem of the Dodworth Saxhorn Band is the way they make seemingly make ancient history relevant for contemporary audiences. Combining storytelling with song, familiar themes come to life: race relations, women's issues, state's rights vs. central government, the ethics of political debate. Performances by the Dodworth Saxhorn Band link generations in conversation about issues that continue to matter as the years unfold.

*"If you ever hear the Dodworth Saxhorn Band is coming to your area, go to see them. I can personally guarantee a unique group which puts on a performance you will never forget".  
On Staff Magazine*

Modeled after the original Dodworth Band of New York, the premier American brass band from the 1840s to the 1880s, today's

Dodworth Saxhorn Band recreates the direction and passion of brothers Allen and Harvey Dodworth. In authentic 19<sup>th</sup> century attire, they perform the lost music of America, telling stories and singing songs about issues from the middle 1800s that are not fully resolved today.

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band brings history to life. Audiences are riveted by the band's unique narrative shows, featuring well-researched, historical vignettes that explore 19<sup>th</sup> Century life, focusing on the temperance movement, women's suffrage, immigration, peace and war, loyalty and party lines, among other topics. During and between songs, performers act as characters from history, guiding audiences through lighthearted scenes and grave dramas.

*"It was terrific! We all agreed we would like to try to get this band back as soon as possible".  
Brimley and Van Riper State Parks*

This music argues the unanswerable questions. The band is a living museum presenting audiences with authentic, antique instruments, themes, and perspectives that, while historical, align with 21<sup>st</sup> century explorations. The Dodworth Saxhorn Band makes a period of history uniquely accessible to modern audiences. It brings history to life.

## Ensemble

DSB offers a variety of options to best serve your event ranging from full 16 piece band concerts to our Dodworth Duo for more intimate gatherings.

## Authenticity

DSB is committed to bringing America's musical past to life:

Authentic instruments – All of our instruments were made between 1840 and 1880.

Period costumes – The band uniforms and singers costumes are typical of the latter half of the 19th century.

Authentic music – All of the music and many of the arrangements are true to the period.



*"...an excellent variety of showmanship, music and a most unforgettable parade. What a day"!  
Fayette Historic Townsite*

Authentic issues – Programs deal with social and political issues of the time through music and dialog.

## **Indoor and Outdoor Performances**

DSB performs in many types of venues to a broad range of audiences. We do parades, patriotic and historic ceremonies, balls, holiday events, strolling, and school programs.

**Educational Performances** – K-12, universities, and teacher workshops.



**Community Events** – Community celebrations throughout the eastern half of North America.

**Music Festivals** – Early music and brass band festivals in the U.S. and Canada.

**Historic Theaters and Opera Houses** – Century-old opera houses and Chautauqua community theaters.

**Historic Baseball** – Every Saturday during the summer at Greenfield Village.

**Victorian Experience** – From balls with dance instruction to full weekends of 19th century immersion.

**Dedications and Commemorations** – From the Baseball Hall of Fame to lighthouse dedications.

**Presidential Presentations** – From Baseball at the White House to Presidential Libraries and Museums.

**Outdoor Cultural Tours** – Concerts in parks, gazebos, band shells and iron casting houses.



**Religious Institutions** – Secular and worship music in churches and synagogues.

DSB is listed in the Touring Arts Directory, if you are a Michigan-based non-profit presenter you can apply for a grant of up to 40 percent of our performance costs. Apply at:

<https://www.michiganhumanities.org/touring-grants/>

“Thank you for a wonderful, memorable evening. Your expertise is admirable and the program was delightful”!  
*Madonna University*



For more information, visit [dodworth.org](http://dodworth.org).

The Dodworth Saxhorn Band is represented by Great Lakes Performing Artist Associates. For additional information, go to [greatlakespaa.org](http://greatlakespaa.org)

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