



March 9, 2009

Dear Alumni Concert Band member,

I hope this message finds you well. Many events have occurred since last year's Commencement that I would like to share with you.

Commencement weekend has changed dramatically. As you are all aware, Reunion has been moved from Commencement Weekend to Reunion and Alumni Weekend in October. The bandstand and Ceremony box are no longer on Nickerson Field and the weekend's events have been modified.

Ever since Reunion weekend has been moved from Commencement weekend to October, it has been extremely difficult to field a true alumni concert band. Last year less than twenty Boston University Alumni participated in the Alumni Band and out of that number only eleven were alumni of the School of Music.

We see the new and improved Reunion and Alumni Weekend as a great opportunity for the Alumni Concert Band and we intend to take full advantage of everything that BU is planning for that weekend. In order to focus on the Reunion and Alumni Weekend we are going to shift the Alumni Concert Band's focus from Commencement weekend, to Reunion and Alumni Weekend.

Shifting the focus of the Alumni Concert Band from Commencement to Reunion and Alumni Weekend has many advantages. First and foremost is the fact that Reunion and Alumni Weekend was created to celebrate our Alumni. The Alumni Band definitely needs to be represented during this time. Additionally, there are so many other events for alumni over this weekend (sporting events, receptions, luncheons, etc.).

One of our major goals is to find a way to make participation in the Alumni Band more attractive to our recent graduates. Having us perform during Reunion and Alumni Weekend will give us a larger audience of current students. Our current music making students will be able to see and hear the Alumni Concert Band four times in four years rather than perhaps never hearing the band unless they attend Commencement their senior year. Speaking to young alumni I was surprised to hear that they would like to play in the Alumni Band but not at Commencement. In



speaking with some of you, I have found that members of the Alumni Concert Band welcome this change and opportunity as well.

Reunion Weekend is an exciting time with sporting events and class reunions. The following is taken from the Reunion weekend website:

*We've moved Reunion from Commencement weekend to the middle of fall semester so alums can come home to campus the way they remember it: buzzing with energy and bustling with students and faculty. And by separating Reunion (now Reunion & Alumni Weekend) from our largest student event of the year, we can devote all our efforts to giving alumni three days of classes, parties, and networking—a chance to meet new people and relive the old days with friends they've been missing.*

For the Boston University Music Organizations/BANDS, it will be much easier for us to host a true Alumni Concert Band at this time. We can schedule a shared concert with the BU Concert Band, or a combined band performance. For some alumni who may be interested, participation with the Pep Band at an athletic event over this weekend will also be an option and of course we will host a reception for all Band Alumni that will bring together music making alumni from many different decades!

I have spoken with the President and Conductor of the Alumni Concert Band as well as the Dean of the College of Fine Arts and other officers on campus. The response from everyone has been positive. I am now reaching out to all of you to let you know of this change, to thank you for the many years of amazing service to Boston University's Commencement Exercises and to officially invite you all to campus in October for Reunion Weekend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Parks".

Chris Parks  
Director