

## ***The Hometown Band is a family affair for Gavin, Kaelan and Edie Kavanaugh***

By Mary Gleysteen

Gavin first joined the band in 2015, as a trumpet player, a versatile musician, having played the piano, tuba and trombone in his youth, Gavin was convinced to switch to the French horn by director Jas Linford and now he also plays the horn as a member of the Poulsbo Community Orchestra.

At the outset, Gavin's daughters Kaelan and Edie, then ages 10 and 4, accompanied their dad to Hometown Band rehearsals where they sat under the table in the band room and enjoyed the music (and the cookies at break time!)

Kaelan (having fallen in love with the flute at age 6 when she found she was able to get a sound from it at an instrument petting zoo in conjunction with a performance of the Nutcracker) took a crack at playing with the Hometown Band as an eleven year old but determined the repertoire was a little too advanced for her. She was struck, however, by the kindness of one of the flute players who provided her with sheet music and encouragement. According to Gavin, starting in the 5th grade Kaelan would take her flute out to play at the bus stop and anywhere she had a few minutes. Continuing on through high school, Kaelan was seldom without her flute and her adventures with flute resulted in multiple trips to Linford's instrument repair shop. Her father enjoyed accompanying her on the piano when she performed solos and with school flute ensembles. Upon graduating from high school, Kaelan immediately joined the Hometown Band.

By the time Kaelan joined, Edie had been playing the trumpet for 2 years. At age 11, she was too nervous to play with the band until she had more experience. But, by 2023, Edie had become a full-fledged member of the trumpet section, participating not only in the music but also the repartee of her fellow trumpet players. At Christmas concerts she embellished her instrument with twinkling lights. In 2024, demonstrating considerable versatility, she followed her dad's footsteps and joined the French horn section of the band.

Weekly band practice is a commitment and not always easy to accommodate for this busy family, but they show up because they like the series of the Hometown Band's programs – Christmas, Oktoberfest, and spring and summer concerts in a variety of settings. They delight in the band's occasionally random and obscure musical selections and appreciate the group's collegiality and its members' collective sense of humor.

The Hometown Band meets weekly for practice from 7-9pm at the Silverdale Lutheran Church. Newcomers are always welcome. Although the group boasts a number of accomplished and professional musicians, according to the band's website ([www.hometownband.org](http://www.hometownband.org)), members "don't have to have any formal requirements or qualifications and don't require an audition. It might help if you've been in some sort of a band before and can read music!"

If you'd like to play in a friendly and supportive environment, enhancing your musicianship while offering performances of challenging music that enrich the local community, we invite you to join the Hometown Band family.