

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail this completed form with payment to  
1169 Belle Meade Island Drive, Miami, FL 33138-5253

OR APPLY ONLINE AT MYWJU.ORG

*We use your information solely for communications regarding the activities of "WJU" and will never sell your information to anyone or any other organization.*

FIRST NAME MI LAST NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER MAY WE TEXT YOU?  YES  NO

EMAIL ADDRESS

I am supporting and joining Windjammers Unlimited, Inc. as a

PLAYING MEMBER OR  NON-PLAYING MEMBER

Instrument(s)

## FULL YEAR MEMBERSHIP: \$50

*Membership includes one copy of each issue of Circus Fanfare published during membership period.*

CHOOSE ONE Circus Fanfare delivery option:

Circus Fanfare via email OR  Circus Fanfare via US Mail

I will also support the Mission and Legacy of Windjammers Unlimited, Inc. by making the following donation:

\$10  \$15  \$20  \$25  \$50

\$100  \$250  \$500  OTHER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL:  CASH  CHECK (NO. \_\_\_\_\_) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



WJU performed a special concert at the John and Mable Ringling Museum during the 2024 Winter Convention in Sarasota/Venice, FL. Photo: Andy Rawls

## JOIN WINDJAMMERS TODAY!

Here's your chance to join the circus, and enjoy some of the most exciting music ever written! You don't have to worry about muddy lots, crowded trains, leaking tents, or three show days. Instead, it's blue skies, enthusiastic audiences, and terrific music giving you a thrill every time you hear it. Don't think you can "cut the mustard"? The large circus bands assembled for our biannual meets welcome a wide range of ability levels, from amateur to professional. In fact, many of our members don't play an instrument at all! Instead, they enjoy the circus music history found in our magazine, they record the music played at our meets, and they help with various research and preservation projects.

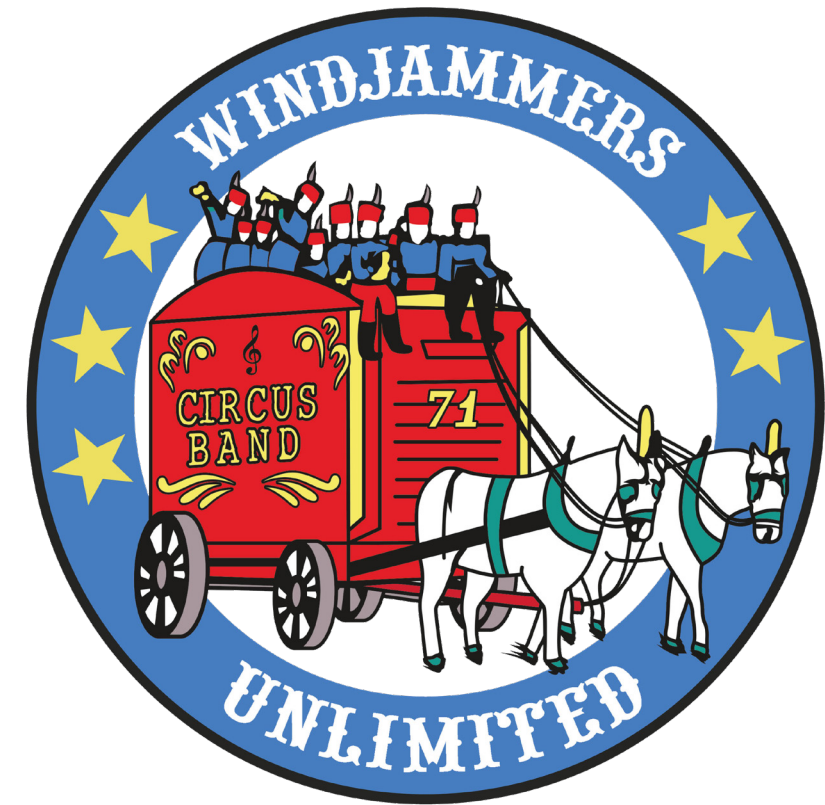
### MEMBERS FULFILL THE MISSION OF WJU...

**PRESERVATION** — We collect and digitize traditional circus music, maintaining a library of thousands of compositions written specifically for the circus. The Society's journal, *Circus Fanfare*, documents circus music history including composers, musicians and events. An online audio archive provides members and historians access to historic recordings of actual circus performances as well as concert performances of circus music.

**EDUCATION** — Windjammers Unlimited believes that, with our help, traditional circus music can be introduced to a new generation of students, music educators and scholars. Continuing education programs emphasize the importance of circus music as a cultural heritage. Scholarships enable student musicians to participate in Society events.

**PERFORMANCE** — Windjammer musicians share their love of circus music through live performances. Windjammer bands have performed in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, in concert halls, museums and festivals; and, yes, of course, we have performed under circus big tops. A highlight of the annual convention each winter is a Windjammer band accompanying a performance of the Sailor Circus.

**SUSTAINING DONATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS** — Windjammer members and supporters enable the Society to fund research projects, provide scholarships and explore opportunities to enhance the understanding and appreciation of circus music as a part of America's cultural heritage. Windjammers Unlimited is a 501(c)3 educational organization. As such, your donations may be tax deductible.



EST. 1971

THE CIRCUS MUSIC HISTORICAL SOCIETY™

PRESERVATION • EDUCATION • PERFORMANCE

 WWW.MYWJU.ORG  WINDJAMMERSU



Windjammers Unlimited, Inc.  
1169 Belle Meade Island Drive  
Miami, Florida 33138-5253



# WELCOME TO

# WINDJAMMERS

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is the preservation, promotion, and performance of traditional circus music as it existed during the “golden age” of the American circus. Windjammers Unlimited, Inc. (“WJU”) is a 501(c)3 circus music historical society in the education category.

## A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT OUR NAME

It was the toughest possible job for a professional musician. It required constant playing for a show lasting at least two hours with only a 10- or 15-minute break for intermission. There were two shows a day during the week, and three on weekends. You were also required to play in the parade announcing the arrival of the circus, as well as in a center ring concert preceding the actual show. It was high energy music, and you had to play loud enough to be heard throughout the big top. It required leather lungs, iron lips, and highly developed technical skills. Why were circus musicians called “windjammers”? No one knows for sure, but it might have had something to do with the musicians “jamming wind” through their instruments underneath the billowing sail-like canvas of the tent.



A select band of Windjammers re-create the era of live music each year for the Sailor Circus at the Winter Convention. Photo: Andy Rawls



1954 RBBB Band, Merle Evans, Bandmaster. Photo used with permission from Illinois State University's Special Collections, Milner Library.

## CIRCUS MUSIC: THE HEARTBEAT OF THE CIRCUS

### FOUNDED IN 1971

Our organization observed its 50th anniversary in 2021. Since 1973, we have been fulfilling our mission by holding biannual meets (conventions). At each meet, WJU members perform public concerts, play and record 60–70 tunes (some of which haven't been heard in 100 years), and host educational seminars for school music instructors, members and others.



Windjammers with the United States Bandwagon at Macy's Parade, November 2007. Photo: Don Covington

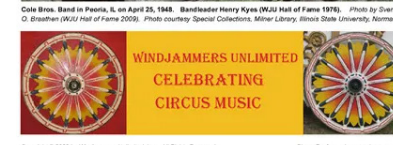
### SAVING TRADITIONAL CIRCUS MUSIC

As the circus has evolved, circus music has changed dramatically. Electronic systems now provide the soundtracks for many shows. While there are still some shows using live musicians, the musical score they perform may have little reference to traditional circus music. Consequently, circus goes today may be unaware of the rich heritage of the past.

We applaud innovation in circus music but feel that it is important to preserve the heritage of what has gone before. Young musicians and the music educators who are mentoring them can benefit from exploring traditional circus music. Windjammers provides a resource for anyone interested in understanding and appreciating traditional circus music.



Scan the QR code and join Windjammers today to make a difference.



### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Windjammers Unlimited currently publishes *Circus Fanfare* for members four times a year. The magazine is a historical journal covering informative topics related to circus bands, their music, composers, bandmasters, and musicians.

Each issue includes current information on the organization's activities in accomplishing its mission. It is available in print or as a PDF.