“Get Together”
Dr. Roy Ernst, NHIMA Founder

One of the joys of belonging to a New Horizons group is that it gives opportunities for getting to know many nice people. Here are some ideas for expanding beyond your local group:

Pick a group in your region and visit them during a rehearsal. Check our Website at www.newhorizonsmusic.org and look under the “groups” menu. You will find other groups in your region, their rehearsal times and dates, along with contact information.

Contact them and arrange for a visit. For the most fun, share a ride with others in your group and plan to stop for a meal during the trip. You will really get to know more about the people you travel with.

For an even greater experience schedule an exchange visit. The exchange would involve as many people as possible from both groups. Imagine how great it would be to play with twice the usual number of musicians!

Several groups have done this and found it to be great fun. The easiest method is to have a combined rehearsal at each location, with a meal or social event included. The host group needs access to a large room. Each group plays 30 minutes for everyone and then they combine to play a few numbers as a big group. Food always encourages good conversation, so be sure to have snacks and/or lunch provided for everyone.

Another good way to meet fellow musicians is to schedule an open rehearsal. Send out invitations to groups in your area. Ask them for names and instrument played so you can have some extra parts for them.

Be sure to invite other groups in your area to your major concerts. There just might be some people who would like to get together and make a short trip to hear you perform.

For a less formal visit, during vacation or business travel, check the New Horizons Website to see if there is a group along your route and drop in for a visit; you’re sure to get a warm welcome and have an enjoyable visit.

Write to Linda Johnson, our Editor, to tell us about ways that you have enjoyed getting together beyond your own group.

Make and Save Money
Your group probably owns music that you have played and won’t come back to. Sell it on our Website and earn money for it, while helping other groups save money.

In the “Library” section of our Website, John Morgan, our terrific webmaster, has made it very easy to list music for sale, rent, or loan. So easy, in fact, that I am in the process of listing most of the music I have conducted at camps in recent years.

Generally music is sold for half price. Your group could save or recoup hundreds of dollars by using this service. One caution: do not sell photocopies, which would be clearly illegal.

Hear Ye Composers and Arrangers
In my visits, I have heard some excellent pieces composed or arranged by New Horizons musicians. One of the things on my “Do List” is to find a way to make that music available to other groups in New Horizons. As a first step, I would like to identify as many New Horizons composers as I can. Please send me an e-mail at royernst@aol.com. At this point, all I need is a very brief description of your composing and/or arranging activities.

“Your compose because you want to somehow summarize in some permanent form your most basic feelings about being alive, to set down... some sort of permanent statement about the way it feels to live now, today.”
~ Aaron Copland

2012
For more details, go to: http://www.newhorizonsmusic.org and click on Camps/Events/New Horizons

- April 29 to May 3, South Carolina New Horizons Band Camp, Columbia, South Carolina ~ Registration is now open and will close on April 15, 2012
- June 3 to 8, 12th Annual Las Cruces New Horizons Band Camp, Las Cruces, New Mexico ~ Registration is now open with an application deadline of May 15, 2012
- June 4 to 9, NAZ Family Music Day Camp, Colorado Springs, Colorado ~ Registration is now open
- June 19 to 23, Encore Choral Institute & NH Band Camp, St. Mary’s City, Maryland ~ Registration is now open; registration deadline is May 15, 2012
- July 8 to 12, Brock NH Camp, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada ~ Registration is closed
- July 13 to 15, 6th Annual Carolina Band Blast, Greensboro Cultural Center, Greensboro, NC
- July 16 to 20, Central Oregon Band Camp, Bend, Oregon ~ Registration is now open and will close on June 10, 2012
- September 22 to 24, New Horizons Music Camp, Chautauqua, New York
Message from Our President
Dick Prettyman

As one of approximately 9,000 adults now participating in New Horizons ensembles, you represent one of the surest paths to continued membership growth - word-of-mouth. Why should you hog all the fun and joy of playing an instrument and performing with a band? Your friends and family both near and far, can also get involved with instrumental music in their own community.

If you will go to our Website and zoom in on the map of 200 New Horizons locations shown in the “Groups” section, you will most likely find that you know people living near some of these locations. Follow through by e-mailing your friends with the pertinent information on New Horizons and solidify a friendship for life.

NHIMA supports your activity by providing New Horizons promotional articles to 80 publishers of senior publications in the U.S. and Canada.

As part of your own continued growth in musicianship, consider joining one of the instrument associations (e.g., International Trombone Association, The National Flute Association, etc.) listed on our Website under “Forms/Links”. I have found the International Trumpet Guild to be a great source of information, primarily in the four 130-page journals they publish each year, and also at their annual convention. Imagine being in a room with 600 people who want to talk about embouchures and technique! As you can guess, the guest performers are outstanding.

Checkout Our Website’s New Look
www.newhorizonsmusic.org

Our webmaster John Morgan did a great job redesigning the Website. Click the site map tab for a good overview of the entire contents of the site.

New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA)

While NHIMA will periodically upload content, the primary purpose of this page is to allow you to share with each other.

If you are new to Facebook, ask a baby boomer band member or call one of your children, even better, a grandchild! It’s easy, and can be as much fun as you make it.

There is a link to Facebook on the NHIMA Website at the bottom of the menu bar on the left side of each page; there is also a small link at the right end of the quick links bar at the top of each page. Looking forward to seeing you on FB!

~

Trivia Question 1: What is the minimum number of musicians a band must have to be considered a “big band”?

Facebook is one of the largest Websites in the world founded in 2004 by Mark Zuckerberg when he was an undergraduate student at Harvard. With more than 845 million monthly users at the end of 2011 of which 80% are outside the U.S. and Canada. Facebook is available in more than 70 languages. The name derives from the traditional “facebook” which is a printed or online directory found at American universities consisting of individuals’ photographs and names. It’s published at the start of the academic year with the intention of helping students get to know each other.

Facebook is another way for our members to communicate. Our page has been up over 6 months now and has over 265 members, bands and friends who have “Liked” us. When a person or group “Likes” us, our new posts are automatically posted on their page.

The NHIMA Facebook page promotes what various bands are doing. You are invited to post concert announcements, cite new music you are playing, ask for music suggestions, etc. Half of Facebook’s users log on daily.

NHIMA Facebook Page at 6 Months
www.facebook.com/NewHorizonsMusic

NHIMA President
Dick Prettyman

~

Spring 2012
On February 3rd, Les Smith of the Peterborough New Horizons Bands celebrated a zero birthday. Yes, Les is 90. He is a much beloved member of the bands and plays mostly clarinet and alto sax but he’s also known to pick up the flute and the violin from time to time.

Les comes from England and started out his musical career on the violin but then as a teen he heard Benny Goodman and some other famous clarinet players so he got himself one and started playing. Along came WWII and Les joined the RAF where he worked doing radar in Africa, Italy, and way off on an island in Scotland.

After the war he returned to London and started working in an office. That was way back in the days when there were steno pools. There was a cute girl in the pool named Edna and Les made sure he called her to take notes and do his typing for him.

Les also organized a theatre group and he made sure Edna’s seat was always next to his. And so, of course they were married in 1950 and soon after that Les’ company transferred him to Montreal and they have lived in Canada ever since.

Along came three sons - Andrew, Philip, and Christopher and now there are five grandchildren. Les and Edna retired long ago and 20 years ago decided to move from Toronto to Peterborough, a great city for seniors with many fun activities available.

In August 2010, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a big party which included Les playing in a band with his sons. Edna enjoys line dancing and Les has been in the Peterborough New Horizons Bands for over 6 years playing in the Odyssey band, Swing Set, and Dynamics. He also likes to sing and has his own little Dixie group.

French horn player Hattie Stone, 93, is the senior member of the New Horizons Band of Sonoma County Concert Band. Hattie comes in just ahead of fellow French horn players Roger Anawalt, 92, and Judson Goodrich, 89, for a total of 274 years for the section.

“I’m Gonna be 90”
Harlene Annett - Peterborough NHB, Ontario

I’m gonna be 90 come this Friday
Ding dong I’m feeling in my prime
No one to bug me
Just come and hug me
And I will have a happy time.

I’m gonna be 90 come this Friday
No longer am I eighty nine
I’m so glad you met me
But please don’t forget me
And I’ll tell you that the pleasure’s mine.

I never thought I would be so old
But it’s all in the head, so I am told.

I’m gonna be 90 come this Friday
But I’m not shedding any tears
Full of elation
Just take the medication
And I’ll be around - Ho! Ho!
Yes, I’ll be around - You bet!
I’ll be around for a few more years!

Founders Honored at 15th Anniversary Concert
Linda Johnson – NHB of Northern Colorado

On February 2nd, the New Horizons Band of Northern Colorado celebrated its 15th anniversary at their winter concert in Fort Collins, Colorado. Director Glenn Shull recognized the 7 original members who are still active with the group. Thanks to their dedication, our band is thriving and looks forward to continued service to our members and the community. (Not pictured: Lou MacDonald and Eugene Brownwood) Read more about our band at:
http://www.fortnet.org/NHB/
A return to doing what he loves, playing the saxophone is just what the doctor ordered for stroke victim Charlie Borzillire, whose recovery has progressed steadily since joining Fredonia’s New Horizons Band more than a year ago.

Charlie’s rock-oriented saxophone wizardry was revered throughout Western New York for decades until a debilitating stroke sidelined him and silenced his tenor sax in 2004. He’s now back where he belongs: playing in bands. He’s a regular in the New Horizons Band of Western New York at SUNY Fredonia and three related ensembles. The band’s twice-a-week rehearsals are striking resounding chords with Charlie, whose more recent strides towards recovery have been linked to his return to a more active pursuit of music.

“I feel good. I feel proud,” the veteran saxophone player said of his part in the New Horizons Band, an eclectic collection of musicians — all over the age of 50 — whose talent and musical skills range from beginner to professional. “Charlie was a joy to work with,” Mr. Fackelman said. “I remember the first time we got together and played, he had tears in his eyes. It was very moving for all of us.” Over time, the pair developed the fingerings to cover most notes on the saxophone, as the stroke had left Charlie unable to use his right hand. But the natural, gorgeous sound of his sax was still there.

Since returning to music, his speech length has increased, from one-to-three words to seven-to-10. “As his playing decreased, his sentence length decreased. The more he plays, the larger his vocabulary is, the stronger is his confidence in his verbal communication,” Mrs. Borzillire explained. And he’s playing much better, too. Before joining New Horizons some 15 months ago at the urging of a Crino’s Music employee, Mr. Borzillire was content to play two octaves, his wife remembered. Now, he’s up to four octaves and has enough perseverance to reach high F-sharp.

Few musicians have gone on a musical odyssey that has been as far-reaching as Charlie’s. It all began with a fifth-grade music teacher’s assessment of perfect pitch. He formed his first band, the Princemen, in 1963, as a high school freshman and, within a year after graduating from Silver Creek Central High School, was playing tenor saxophone in the U.S. Army Field Band. “He was only the second person to be drafted into the band,” his wife said.

When that hitch was over, Charlie studied music performance and composition for four years at Berklee College of Music, a haven for contemporary music in Boston which counts prominent music producer Quincy Jones, Steely Dan co-founder Donald Fagen and film score composer Howard Shore as former students.

Mrs. Borzillire says New Horizons musicians have been wonderfully supportive of her husband, helping him to quickly find sheet music and write down director’s notes. “From our perspective, this is another way the New Horizons Band is different from other music opportunities in the community,” Dr. Levy said. “At the New Horizons Band, we want to sound good, but we have another mission: to be an entry point and a learning opportunity for the people in the band, and secondly, for our students who are learning to teach.”

Charlie also benefits from the social opportunities the ensembles offer, and enjoys playing again with a former high school band mate, Don Keddie, who retired as a music teacher from Fredonia Central School. Both played under Ron Sutherland, Silver Creek’s prized high school band director.

Dr. Levy said Charlie “seems to be thriving in our band, and he spoke to me last week about finding a way to adapt a flute, so he could return to playing that as well,” she said. “It’s good for Charlie to play with us, and it’s good for us to work with Charlie.”

The Borzillire’s long-term goal is to have a tenor sax custom-built so all notes can be played with the left hand.

Trivia Question 2: Who said, “I’m told that Wagner’s music is not as bad as it sounds”?
Old Dogs, New Tricks
David B. Evans – JMU Lifelong Learning Institute NHB (Harrisonburg NHB)

How hard can it be to learn to play a musical instrument as an adult? Let me tell you, it’s the most difficult adventure I’ve ever set out on in my relatively long and happy life. When I was en route to take my weekly piano lesson a little over a week ago, I heard a preview of an upcoming show on NPR’s Science Friday about Gary Marcus who has written a book on what I have been living for the last three and a half years, beginning with alto sax in the fall of 2008 and piano in the summer of 2010.

Marcus is a cognitive psychologist and researcher of learning at NYU who in an article in Scientific American (19 January 2012) described his own journey into learning to play music in his late 30s:

In the Scientific American article, he answers the question of “How?” Simple answer: Again, by practice. Practice spurs brain growth, he says. It causes the brain to take what it learns and shift it from explicit to implicit - a process he calls proceduralization. That’s why the beginning guitarist struggles to bend a string but a practiced player bends the same note seemingly without any effort. The whole exercise moves, thanks to the brain, to a deeper, visceral level - that’s the level at which great musicians play.

“Further on, he says it’s also the level that a young child reaches more quickly than an adult, but that doesn’t mean adults should give up. The fact is, Marcus says, “a musical mind develops only if we put in years of hard work...in which parts of the brain that evolved for other purposes such as language...are gradually co-opted into doing something new. More than just stating the obvious that “Practice makes perfect,” he looks far more deeply into the ways our brains rewire themselves and find ways to compensate for certain gaps or deficits in our abilities.” Continued at: http://www.fortnet.org/NHB/TeachOldDogs.pdf

Lost Camera Finds Owner
Jim Monroe, New Horizons Band of Northern New York

Several months ago I joined the New Horizons Band of Northern New York (Potsdam) as a novice French horn player. I attended all of the practices and concerts, made some progress with the horn and had fun. My wife Joyce took dozens of pictures of the Band and me in several concerts.

On New Year’s Eve, we took the ninety-minute trip from home into the Adirondack Mountains to visit Saranac Lake for their annual “First Night” celebration. As an aside, this is a wonderful national program, and in Saranac Lake it consisted of a dozen different professional performances: music, comedy, magic and story telling to choose from. We made our six choices and began moving from venue to venue—churches, a school, and the town hall. Somewhere along the way Joyce lost her camera.

Ten days later we got a call from a woman who started the conversation with “I found your camera.” Holly Huber of the First Night Committee, not a professional detective but a good one, looked at the pictures and saw our New Horizons banner on a 4th of July parade wagon, found our Website and called our director, Ron Berry, to ask the name of the male French horn player. And thus, a reunion of camera and owner was arranged.

The New Horizons Band has been a great learning opportunity as well as a wonderful social experience. Finding the camera was good luck. Finding the New Horizons Band was fantastic luck.

Trivia Question 3: One night during his tenure as leader of the Marine Corps Band, John Philip Sousa heard some of his comrades sing the “Marine Hymn”. This brought tears to his eyes and inspired him to write which famous march?
If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

~ Henry David Thoreau

The NHIMA Website has several ideas on “Successful Recruiting Strategies for New Horizons”. Go to Promotional Tools/Growing a Group.

If you have additional ideas to recruit new members, please send them to me at: LJohnscv@gmail.com

Positions:
~ Conductor Emeritus, the United States Army Band, “Pershing’s Own”
~ Former Conductor and Leader, the West Point Band
~ Community Band Representative, the National Band Association
~ International Relations Committee Chair, the Association of Concert Bands

“In my view, future medical studies are certain to validate the physical, mental, and emotional rewards of membership in such ensembles as those of the NHIMA.”

COL (ret) L. Bryan Shelburne, Jr.

The MSU Community Music School New Horizons Band presented a Chamber Recital on Sunday February 12, 2012 at the MSU Community Music School’s Auditorium. The members performed in small ensembles playing a wide range of music. Some of the selections included opening with “This Old Man”, a march for the trumpet, French horn, trombone and tuba quartet. Flutes were featured in “Gavotte” and saxophones were featured in “Serenade in Blue”. The students made up their own ensembles and picked their own music to perform.

CMS NHB members feel the New Horizons experience is good for the individual as well as for the community. One member said, “This is great fun. I should have started trumpet sooner.”

~

MSU Community Music School NHB Members

MSU Community Music School NHB Concert
Charlie Culton – Michigan State University/Community Music School NHB

New Horizons Bands ~ a Treasure for All
Colonel (Retired) L. Bryan Shelburne, Jr., Lifetime Member of New Horizons

It goes without saying that each band is unique in terms of its collective personality, the local culture it serves, the musical tastes of its audiences, and in how it is embraced and supported by local communities. Nevertheless, the traits held in common are greater than the differences. A New Horizons band is simultaneously a family, a musical group, a public relations entity, and a treasure within its community. Perhaps its greatest aspect is the opportunity it provides for continued growth as individuals - “self actualization,” as some health professionals call it. A New Horizons band also provides a valuable sense of community. In my view, future medical studies are certain to validate the physical, mental, and emotional rewards of membership in such ensembles as those of the NHIMA.

My own membership in NHIMA is a direct result of having met both Laura Joss and Professor Roy Ernst more than ten years ago at an evening performance by a New Horizons ensemble. I was immediately fascinated with the brilliance of the New Horizons concept as it has evolved in this country and beyond. There are lots of things to love about this wonderful organization.

In an earlier article I wrote on the subject of community bands, I noted that some of the most cogent reasons for the rapid proliferation of community bands are related to the “legions” of former school, university, and even professional musicians who want to continue performing in their later years. And, for every one of them there are probably twice as many individuals who have never taken music lessons of any kind, but who would love to do so. Now, and not a bit too soon, we are fortunate to have the “New Horizons International Music Association” - a brilliant concept whose time has certainly come. We all thank you, Roy.

~

MSU Community Music School NHB Members

Spring 2012
Back in the Band:
Group of adults find friendship, fun and a musical outlet
Peggy O’Neill, Lifestyles Editor, Independent Record, Helena MT (Reprinted with Permission)

Nancy Trudell, assistant director for Helena New Horizons Concert Band, directs the band as Jim Kirby, director, gets ready for his clarinet solo during a rehearsal at St. Paul’s United Methodist Church recently. A cacophony of random musical notes emanates from the choir room in the basement of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. At the front of the room stands Jim Kirby. He’s rolling his shoulders and stretching his arms. He walks to a music stand, picks up a baton and wields it in the air. The room goes quiet. “Let’s have a C,” he says. The group of about 30 blows into their instruments. The sound is not quite right. “Let’s try that again,” Kirby says. The musicians comply. It sounds a little better this time, but still not perfect. “Well, it will only improve,” Kirby says and laughs. It’s the second to the last rehearsal before the New Horizons Concert Band’s Fall Concert. There’s less than a week left before the big show, but the band members are relaxed and having fun. They launch into a rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Then they work on “Viktor’s Tale,” a piece from the movie “The Terminal.” The song features a clarinet solo, which Kirby performs and which means he must hand over the conductor’s baton to assistant director Nancy Trudell.

Trudell steps up to the stand with confidence. The band was her idea. She has played the flute since she was a child. After playing in a New Horizons band in Florida, the 69-year-old brought the concept to Helena. New Horizons is a national music program for adults. With 200 bands across the nation, the program encourages adults to pick up an instrument and play. No experience is necessary, but experienced musicians are also welcome to join the band. And that’s what it is, a band you join, not one you audition for.

Last winter, Trudell hung up signs and ran notices in the newspaper looking for recruits to join the band. A group of about 15 showed up for the first practice. “Then every week it would grow,” Trudell said. By the end of spring, there were about 40 members. It was also Trudell’s idea to get Kirby to conduct. “I guess I kind of bullied him into it,” Trudell said. Trudell and Kirby had worked together for the Federal Aviation Administration and knew of each other’s musical inclinations. Kirby, 67, had been a high school music teacher and band director at one time and has played in several bands and orchestras, including Jeddah Light Opera in Saudi Arabia, the Helena Symphony and Grandstreet Theatre.

“I told Nancy, I’d have to think about it,” Kirby said. “But then I thought what the heck? It might be a great adventure. I hadn’t conducted since 1972; I thought it might be like riding a bicycle.” Kirby said the toughest part of conducting is not getting people to play, but getting them to listen. “It’s a big communication project — getting everyone’s attention and getting my ideas to make an impression — that’s the art,” he said. “It’s a lot more than flapping your hands around.” As Trudell conducts “Viktor’s Tale,” Kirby changes focus. The piece is an ambitious undertaking for the band, but it’s clear it’s one of the favorites in the concert lineup. When it’s time for Kirby’s solo, he plays as if he’s dancing with his clarinet. The song ends and the band members smile at each other, satisfied.

The saxophone players start cutting up and cracking jokes. Trudell says: “Every organization has troublemakers, ours are the saxes.” Steve Oren, one of the sax players, has been playing since he was 8 years old. The 55-year-old played professionally in California until the mid-1990s. “When I came here, I heard of New Horizons and I thought it would be fun,” Oren said. As it turned out, it was fun. “You go to New Horizons and you see people who have played on a professional level and beginners,” Oren said. “I sit beside a lady who hasn’t played for 50 years; it’s neat she has a place to go. It’s probably more fun for me to play with someone who hasn’t played in decades than playing with people who play every night.”

One of the largest sections of the band is the flute section. Flutist Kathy Igielski has played in the band since January. But before that, she hadn’t played in 20 years. “There is something wonderful about playing with people who enjoy playing as much as you do,” Igielski said. “It is such a wonderful group of people. We’re all in the same boat — looking at our fingering. But it’s an incredible feeling, knowing you practiced and worked really hard and then seeing people appreciate what you are playing. It’s euphoric.”

The toughest part of conducting is not getting people to play, but getting them to listen.”
Jim Kirby

Never look at the TROMBONES it only encourages THEM!
-Richard Wagner
Band Buddy Book Reunites College Friends
Linda Johnson – NHB of Northern Colorado

Beth (left) & Carol at their 1958 Graduation

What if the first college reunion you attended was your 50th; would you recognize your classmates? In a sense, two members of the New Horizons Band of Northern Colorado got to answer that question.

For about 3 months, at twice a week concert band rehearsals, Carol Monahan (clarinet player) and Beth Sommers (French horn player) were seated about 8 chairs apart from each other. Little did they realize that they were former classmates and friends in college—53 years ago! It wasn’t until a Band Buddy booklet was passed out, providing short summaries on each musician’s background that they finally recognized each other!

Carol and Beth were juniors at Illinois State University when they first met, attending several classes together. As Carol relates, “…the music department was small enough that we saw each other a lot”. Both sang in the music department choruses. Not living geographically close to each other after graduation, they corresponded with each other for a few years, but their communications fell by the wayside with demand of young life.

It was Carol who first recognized Beth after reading in Beth’s biography that she graduated from Illinois State University in 1958! After a closer look, she’d realized that her college friend now sporting a head of beautiful white hair was the same brunette she used to pal around with!

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Oh No! I’ve Reached a Plateau
Peterborough New Horizons Bands, Ontario

The example of the Olympic torch runner in the sidebar at left gives us a plan to overcome plateaus, it will take work, it’s incremental, you must have a plan to follow and you must set a goal. Consider where you are, that is how well you are playing now, compared when you started. To move forward, make a list of where you want to go and how to get there. Here is an example:

“I want to develop a better tone”:
1. Work on tone development – play long notes in the different registers, listen for tone, intonation and richness. Train yourself to play pianissimo and hold those notes 32 beats (first step hold them for 16 beats, then 20, etc.). When you get a nice tone be aware of how your embouchure feels so you can replicate the feeling at will.
2. Choose someone you want to sound like. Listen to them, then using long notes, try to sound like them. Buy one of those tune books that contain a CD of the tune. Listen to the tunes, then slowly at first try to replicate the sound.
3. Private lessons with a good teacher can help, but you can do this by yourself.
4. Find a buddy that wants to work on the same goal as you and practice together.
5. Join a small ensemble where you are the only one that plays that part, i.e., duet, trio, quartet.
6. Learn a recital piece that includes long/slow/ tuneful passages and perform it in a recital or just for a few friends.
7. Include long, slow, tone development work every time you practice.
8. Practice every day.

And that’s how. And that’s how you move upward from your plateau.

~~~

“Once, in my former life as an elementary school principal, I invited an Olympic torch bearer to speak to the school. What she said is very apropos of the topic of ‘plateauning’. She took stock of where she was and where she wanted to be and drew up a list of what she had to do to get there. Her list was 100 steps long. Hard as the first step was, each other step seemed to get harder as it went along. But she completed her list and became a runner holding aloft the Olympic torch.”

Sal Castiglion

This is an excerpt from a much larger article on overcoming plateaus with contributions by three conductors of the Peterborough NHB -- Jon Knights, Gord Thompson, and Sal Castiglion. For the complete article go to: http://www.fortnet.org/NHB/STUCK

Editor’s Tip:
In a large group it takes a long time to get to know everyone. Try publishing your own Band Buddy booklet and watch the conversations flow. If you would like more information on how we did it, contact me. *Thanks to Peterborough NHB, Ontario for the inspiration for this book through their “Band Buddies” quiz.

Oh No! I’ve Reached a Plateau
Peterborough New Horizons Bands, Ontario

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Showing Students that Music Lasts a Lifetime
Linda Johnson – NHB of Northern Colorado

One of our favorite activities in the NHB of Northern Colorado is to perform at local elementary schools. The kids are a wonderful and appreciative audience and we get immense satisfaction by knowing we are introducing many of these children to a path of lifelong music enjoyment.

A few days after each performance we always get letters from the kids, which remind me of the old Art Linkletter TV show “Kids Say the Darndest Things”. In one of my favorite recent letters Vanessa writes, (misspelling and other mistakes included):

“Thankyoo for coming!!!! Your Music was sooooo good, I loved the varity of music you played. All the instruments looked so complicated it takes a smart cookie to play those instruments. No wonder you want to go to schools and play because you always bring smiles to everybodys faces all the time.”

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First grader Arabella sent us this picture and writes: “When you played the Tuba I LOVE it so much it is so lawd it is good”.

Tubas were very popular!

Brady drew this picture of our gong (no we don’t have a square gong). He wants to play the gong when he grows up because “it has cool sounds.”

Your Editor made an impression on one little girl. She sent this picture of Linda playing the bass drum as Glenn Shull directs.
How Old Do You Have to Be?
Samantha White – Sudbury Valley NHB

I’m not talking about being old enough to vote, buy alcohol, get married, have children, or serve in the military. I’m talking about claiming the gifts that are held back until we’re much, much older, have “paid our dues” and are ready to receive and appreciate some rewards.

How old do you have to be to perform in a band for the first time in your life, on an instrument you’ve never played? The answer: The age you are, right now, whatever that is!

I am having some of the most fun in my life, in my mid-seventies, doing something I always wanted to do – playing the marimba in a big concert band. I rehearse once a week, early in the evening, with some of the nicest, happiest people I’ve ever found gathered in one place. Most are somewhere around my age, and we’re all learning new things. One member of the percussion line is a middle-aged professor learning to read music for the first time. A retired teacher in the horn section is mastering her brand new bass clarinet. The string ensemble practicing in the next room started out sounding like the beginners they are, but their music has become distinctly sweeter over time. When the band rehearsal ends, a few of the horn and percussion folks stick around to practice playing jazz arrangements. The bonus: I’m home and ready for bed before 9 p.m.

At our winter concert the local middle school auditorium will fill up with spouses and the grown children whose school concerts many of us attended long ago. Younger children will get to see Grandma and Grandpa play in a cool-sounding band. After the lavish homemade refreshments buffet, we’ll break for a month so folks can spend the holidays with their families.

This brain-sharpening activity is part of a world-wide organization of bands created for retired people, called The New Horizons International Music Association, by Roy Ernst, Professor Emeritus at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, in 1991. Although it’s targeted at the over-fifties, adults of all ages are welcome. The only requirement is that you be willing to have fun and try something new. I am especially grateful for my band’s motto: “Your best is good enough.”

Did anyone say that getting old is the end of having fun? For me, it’s a new beginning!

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Samantha White is a member of Sudbury Valley NHB in Wayland MA. Her complete article is posted on her blog at:
http://www.peacepurposeandjoy.blogspot.com/

Join or Renew
Why should YOU join NHIMA?
Because you will:
* earn discounts for music camp enrollments
* support our informative Web site;
* receive spring and fall newsletters and a membership directory;
* help maintain a centralized organization for existing and new groups; and most importantly,
* keep the New Horizons vision alive for future generations.

For information about becoming a new member or to renew your current membership, contact Ardis Phillips Membership Coordinator arphilaz@aol.com

Please note that while NHIMA welcomes group membership, which has its own set of benefits, only individual membership in NHIMA qualifies one for a discount in the registration fee for a band camp.

Peterborough New Horizons Cruise Band
Harlene Annett - Peterborough NHB, Ontario

On Sunday, March 4, 47 members of Peterborough New Horizons including friends and family boarded the Nieuw Amsterdam, the newest ship in the Holland America fleet. Some arrived by plane, some by car and others by train, yes by train to make up the 29 piece Cruise Band. This joyful band under the leadership of Mark Hiscox and consisting of members from all our groups, Green, Pine, Oak and Odyssey had one rehearsal a month in 2011 beginning in September and has rehearsed weekly since the first of January. The final week before the cruise we rehearsed daily. It is hard to believe that this eclectic group could produce such wonderful music. But they do! We’ll let you know how it turned out!

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Make a difference in the New Horizons musicians’ lives and honor the memory of a family member, a friend or a fellow New Horizons participant with a memorial gift. To talk directly with someone about making a gift, contact Barbara Belbeck, NHIMA Board member (Development) at bbelbeck@sympatico.ca or 519-439-3999.

You may also find the donation information online at: [Donations/Donations]

In memory of her mother, Jean Taylor, Barbara Hill made a gift to NHIMA so that others could have as much fun and joy as Jean did. Here are some of Barbara’s memories of Jean’s time with the Rochester New Horizons Band.

“My mom was in the original New Horizons Band with Roy Ernst in Rochester. She had wanted to play flute since childhood and this created a wonderful opportunity for her to pursue a dream. She had played flute a short time as a child but stopped when she chipped a front tooth in a sledding accident the day her braces were taken off.

The next week John Philip Sousa came to town to work with the children and perform. The kids lined up to parade by him and he noticed she didn’t have an instrument. He had her step aside and said he would have an instrument for her in a minute. He gave her the bass drum to play. She told him she couldn’t lift it up and play it. He recruited a boy to hold and walk backwards while she beat on the drum. Mom always said how nice Sousa was to children.

Occasionally, the band ventured on long distance trips. Roy found great deals in the off seasons but oops...What was he thinking? Here are some examples:
- Wisconsin at 103 degrees
- Windy Vale, CO at what altitude?
- Palm Springs, CA where it was so dry no one could get any spit
- San Francisco where Mom pinned on an anniversary flower my Dad had sent, not knowing it was a local sign of attraction to those of the same sex! Sweet, innocent, happy Mom.

Mom cherished the many friends in the band; the friendships are priceless when it comes to the end of life. The New Horizons Band gave great meaning and energy to my Mom’s life. I hope this gift does the same for somebody else.”

Tom Miller, Tri-County New Horizons Band

Diana Jonen and the Tri-County NHB, Wisconsin mourns the passing of its founder, Tom Miller, on February 5, 2012 at the age of 64. Tom was a dedicated music educator in the public schools for over 32 years, and when he retired, one of his first projects was to expand his horizons to teaching adults. Tri-County NHB is now 7 years old, and has grown to about 22 members who are eternally grateful to Tom for pursuing this worthy cause. Along with Diana, the band’s co-founder, Tom has helped to either reacquaint many people with the instruments they played many years ago, or to play an instrument for the first time. We will always miss his unique musical insights, encouragement, and bad puns. We love you, Tom!

Oscar Butler, Founder of the Las Cruces NM Symphony

Millie Conrad of the New Horizon’s Symphony at NMSU passes on the news that their beloved director Oscar Butler has died at 94.

“Oscar took over our fledgling orchestra and made a symphony out of us building from about 20 players to over 60. He took us (sometimes screaming and kicking along the way) to heights we never dreamed we could play. It was a wonderful 5 years that none of us will ever forget.”

A resident of Las Cruces since 1953, Oscar was also the Founder of the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra! He was also a key figure in the development of the New Mexico State University music department and choir.

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Making a Difference ~ Remembering Our Friends

Jean Taylor, Rochester New Horizons Band

In memory of her mother, Jean Taylor, Barbara Hill made a gift to NHIMA so that others could have as much fun and joy as Jean did. Here are some of Barbara’s memories of Jean’s time with the Rochester New Horizons Band.

“Oscar was all about the passion of music. He hated for music to be played without passion.”

Mary Butler

Oscar Butler

“Oscar was all about the passion of music. He hated for music to be played without passion.”

Mary Butler

Tom Miller

Publishing Notes
New Horizons News is published twice annually—spring and fall—by the New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA), 201 Pine St., Corning, NY. Please send calendar events, directors’ choices, feature articles, social activities, 90+ stories, and comments to: Linda Johnson, Editor 5929 Palmer Court Fort Collins, CO 80528-8865, 970-226-0188 Ljohnson@gmail.com. Our next deadline is October 1, 2012, but feel free to send articles and/or queries before then. Thanks to all of you who sent in photos and articles for this issue. Please send complete articles in Microsoft Word if possible (please no .PDF files) and always send a picture (.jpg is the preferred format) if available. New Horizons News is not copyrighted; we encourage you to make copies for family, friends, and other interested parties.
Support Our Business Members

Since the founding of the first New Horizons Band in 1991, Dr. Ernst's continuous organizing efforts have attracted the interest of businesses in the music field. Our board of directors seeks to cultivate business memberships alongside the individuals who support the organization. Business memberships in NHIMA enrich the environment for New Horizons players by bringing us tried and true instrument techniques, useful products, study methods, printed music, and all sorts of ancillary support goods and services. All of the companies below are listed on NHIMA's Web site. NHIMA would like to thank these business members for their participation.

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