NHIMA welcomes new board members: Ken Carper, Randy Kligerman, and Judy Rose!

The 2016 officer slate is as follows:
- Nancy Summers, President & Mentor to Planning Groups;
- Buddy Givens - Vice President, Nominating Committee Chair, & Membership Chair;
- Russ Gilmore - Secretary, Advisory Council Coordinator, & Development Chair;
- Bill Gates - Treasurer;
- Lori Schuett - Communications Chair & Mentor to Planning Groups;
- Laura Joss - Advisor to the President, Special Projects, & Mentor to Planning Groups;
- Bobbie Gates - Planning Member Chair & Special Projects;
- Judy Rose - Membership Committee & Special Projects;
- Randy Kligerman - Communications Assistant & Administrator of the Recycled Music Project;
- Ken Carper - Planning Member Committee & Assistant to the Vice President;
- Roy Ernst - Founder, Nominating Committee, & Advisory Council.

Click the box below for biographies of our Board.

One of the things I said when I started the first New Horizons program in Rochester, New York 25 years ago is, "Your best is good enough." I have heard these words repeated many, many times. I have also heard concerns about what they mean and I have been asked to share my thoughts on this subject.

First, some context is in order. I believe there is a general feeling in our culture, and especially in our schools, that performing music should be left to people who can do it at a level that approaches perfection. It is not uncommon to see a college music student playing a recital in an obvious state of stress, worried about imperfections. School music programs are often dominated by festival ratings in which everything must be done to get the highest possible ratings. Students often learn that their voices must be similar to professional classical models to be acceptable. I find all of that regrettable. Many people are left with the feeling that, "You shouldn't play music because you are not good enough."

Music performance is about much more than trying to achieve perfection or trying to emulate certain professional models. That approach often produces performances that are very correct, but devoid of feeling. Most of us want to hear music that expresses feelings. Our most valued popular artists and some classical artists convey feelings through their performances. New Horizons musicians are especially good at that because we have had a lot of life experience. We know a lot about sorrow, struggle, happiness and joy. Musical performances that expresses feelings are very rewarding to the performers and listeners, even if there are imperfections. New Horizons groups usually play music that they like and they play it with joy. Audiences like that.

You can play with feeling, even if your tone is "unique" and even if you make mistakes. I have heard, however, that some people interpret, "Your best is good enough," to mean that anything goes—never practice, talk in rehearsals, and play when you have no idea of where you are.

This is what I mean by "your best." You should practice on your own so that you improve. You're missing a lot of enjoyment if you don't. Practicing can be a relaxing and pleasant departure from your other activities. The old saying, "You get out of it what you put into it," applies to our musical activities. You will enjoy playing with your group more when you can play your part better.

Focusing your mind on the music during rehearsal instead of talking is basic. When you talk, you probably will miss instructions and make it harder for others to hear. If you miss the instructions, don't say, "What did he (or she) say?" If you're not sure, try to figure it out by seeing what happens and then try to listen very carefully the next time. Or, raise your hand and say, "I'm sorry but I'm having trouble hearing you."

I'm all for some humorous moments during rehearsal, but enjoy those and get right back to giving the music your best attention. I'm also all for a lot of socialization, but this should happen before rehearsal and during breaks.

I stand by "Your best is good enough," but think about what "your best" really means.

Dr. Roy Ernst
West Michigan NH Ensembles Honor Veterans
Dr. Nancy Summers – Director, West Michigan NH Music Ensembles, Grand Rapids, MI

The crisp autumn air signaled the coming season of Thanksgiving, the rush of holiday activities, every moment busy with celebrations and happy times together. Our West Michigan New Horizons Music Ensembles began the season with a show of thanks for our veterans in a program called “Moonlight Serenade, a Patriotic Revue,” presented on November 7th, 2015.

The variety show was a benefit for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans’ "Special Projects” fund and featured our own Ransom Street Big Band. We shared the stage with a local favorite singer of the American Songbook and had as our Emcee, one of the most well-known and connected radio and television hosts.

Dancers for the evening were members of the Flat River Dance Company, whose renditions of “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and “Hernando’s Hideaway” were absolute hits. It was a marvelous way to support our veterans, share our talents with others and collaborate with friends in the arts. How do you support your local veterans?

New Horizons of Northern New York
Cherie Baker- New Horizons Band of Northern New York, Potsdam, NY

New Horizons of Northern New York planned two musical events this past fall.

The first was a joint effort with two Canadian bands, Harmonie Nouveaux Horizons de Montréal (Montreal New Horizons) and Ottawa Horizons Band at DC United Church. The groups met at Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, NY on November 7, 2015. Six different conductors led us in sight-reading many different levels of music throughout the day, quite a learning experience for many participants. The day culminated in a wonderful potluck dinner at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Potsdam, a nice “reward” for everyone’s efforts!

Secondly, on December 5th, the New Horizons Band of Northern New York, conducted by Ron Berry, performed a Christmas concert for the towns people at the Old Town Hall in Waddington, NY. Many selections were played from John O’Reilly’s Holiday Collection Book. The well-attended concert even had a visit from Santa Claus! Rounding out the event, local vendors sold Christmas items. A good time was had by all!
NHB Treats Siouxland Area to 9 Years of Music
Marv Crim – New Horizons Band, Sioux City, IA

The New Horizons Band of Sioux City directed by Dr. Lou Rossman, have entertained Siouxland area audiences for 9 years; that’s over 130 performances to various organizations in the area. What began with just six people in February 2007 is now 35 musicians strong.

The band is preparing for its first concert in April and will finish out the calendar year with holiday performances in December.

Our current members are: Flutes - Michele McKenna, Lela Bathurst, Bonnie Rossman, Lori Smith, and Linda Nahra; Clarinets - Ida Milligan, Mary Lou Haindfield, Joyce Bennett, Jean Turner, Linda Prescott, Fran Otool, Chris Olson; Saxophones - Jeanie Dunbar, Dave Drefke, Ed Nagel, Jacque Goettsch; Trumpets - Eugene Potter, Lynne Baller, Joe Haindfield, Sharon Oertel, Lynne Orr, Art Ashley; French Horn - Jean Peterson; Baritones - Henry Witte, James Travis; Trombones - Lucille Foster, Geri Day, Dennis Reinert, Mick Ashley, Terry Orr; Tubas - David Zirpel, Marv Crim; Percussion - Sally Reinert, Edward Winfrey and Brent Hoefer.

We look forward to a fun and challenging season!

Dr. Lou Rossman directs the band at Chris Larson (CL) Park in 2011

Master player Pastor Henry Witt on Baritone at CL Park in 2004

The band at Northwest Community College in 2013

We introduced our readers to Lifetime NHIMA member COL Bryan Shelburne back in 2010. COL Shelburne continues to support community bands of all types as the Community Band Representative on the National Band Association Board of Directors. He is also the Chair of the International Relations Committee of the Association of Concert Bands Board and is active in many other music performance and educational groups.

This past December Col. Shelburne gave his annual report on the status of community bands to the National Band Association (NBA) in Chicago. He reports the good news that both NHIMA and the Association of Concert Bands, being the largest organizations engaged in amateur community bands, are growing and healthy. You may read the entire report by clicking the link below.

Click the link below to read COL Shelburne’s complete report.

COL. Bryan Shelburne (USA, Retired)
~ 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

The 2010 band posed with a red corvette

The 2015 Community Band Report
Mark Johnson – NHIMA News

The band members gathered at the South Sioux City library following a 2013 Christmas concert.
For the third time, our band formed a Sunshine Band to take our music on the road. Not just any road mind you, but to a resort in Varadero, Cuba. During the week-long trip, our band of 54 playing members performed two one-hour concerts to the crowd at the Breezes Varadero resort, including the 53 spouses and friends who accompanied us.

We went on many excursions to nearby cities and attractions in the area, including a trip to Havana and the Tropicana Night Club; we got back to the resort at 3:30 a.m.!

One of the highlights of the week was a trip to the Music School in Cardenas, Cuba where a string band of 17 to 19 year olds put on a concert for us and they were just fantastic! Music truly is the universal language. The smiles and laughter between us was a bonding experience.

In 2014, we took our music to Cayo Coca, Cuba, and in 2012, on a Caribbean Cruise.

Peterborough New Horizons Bands has some 225 members playing in five concert bands, as well as in various ensembles.
The New Horizons Band of Western New York (NHBWNY) celebrates their 10th anniversary with several special events. The band, directed by Dr. Kate Levy, is part of the Musical Journeys Program, a community outreach project offered in the Fredonia School of Music.

**The Birth of a Band**

The New Horizons Band of Western New York began when French hornist Janet Stout went to her high school reunion and met a long-time friend and band member, Peggy Hall from Rochester. They shared their experiences about the Rochester NHB, and Peggy suggested that Janet contact Roy Ernst, founder of the NHB movement and that she come to Chautauqua New Horizons Band Camp.

After sending an email to Roy, Janet went to Chautauqua Band Camp and met Dr. Kate Levy, one of the camp conductors for Advanced Band and instructor for the horns. Janet talked with Kate and learned that she had just come to Fredonia as a professor. Janet asked her if she would help her start a New Horizons Band at Fredonia. Dr. Levy said she wasn’t able to do so at that time because she was new to SUNY Fredonia. The next year at camp, Janet asked the same question and Kate asked for more time. The third year was the charm when Eric Kroon joined the scene. He was driving the bus around the grounds at Chautauqua Institution for camp participants, had a background in French horn, and wondered, “Why are these people having so much fun?”

A meeting was arranged at the end of camp, and the group began the long process of organizing NHB of WNY.

In August of 2005, 25 participants met, and the NHBWNY was born. Ten years later, the band is comprised of approximately 70 members.

**Celebrations**

The Fall Concert performed on November 16, 2015 in the Harry A. King Concert Hall on the SUNY Fredonia campus was dedicated to Eric Kroon (1937-2015). Eric was the co-founder and a beloved hornist in the NHBWNY. He was excited about celebrating the tenth anniversary and had several ideas about it. The band is saddened that he will not be able to join in the celebration.

The Tenth Anniversary Committee has been busy at work preparing for a special celebration and on Wednesday, April 13th the band will attend a dinner at The Colony Restaurant in Irving, New York. The evening will start with a violist performing during the social time leading up to dinner. After the formal dinner, there will be an exciting program filled with surprises including honoring the Charter members and other people who have been very important to the longevity of the band. Each band member will receive a commemorative pin.

On Friday, April 15th the band will perform for the first time with the SUNY Fredonia’s Wind Ensemble. They will perform "Nordic Sketches" by Pierre LaPlante during the concert and play two movements of Ottorino Respighi’s “Pines of Rome,” arranged by Yoshihiro Kimura, with the Wind Ensemble during the finale.

And finally, a Spring Concert is slated for Tuesday, April 26, at the Harry A. King Concert Hall in the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center housed on the SUNY Fredonia campus. The band will perform "Song of Invisible Things for the New Horizons Band of Western New York”. Dr. Karl Boelter, SUNY Fredonia music professor, was commissioned by the band to write the music as part of the tenth anniversary celebration.
New Sonic Seniors Join Up
Dick Rader - Sonic Seniors New Horizons Band & Orchestra, Mesa, AZ

Mary and Stan Illich joined our Sonic Seniors New Horizons Band this month. Stan has played the trumpet for 58 years and taught each of their three children to play. They are all outstanding musicians; their son is a professional trumpet player in Denver, Colorado.

Mary, in her "Mom role," managed the education and lived through the successes of her children, as they all became excellent trumpet players and musicians.

Following retirement, Mary decided that since everyone else in her family plays the trumpet, she might as well join in the fun. She has been taking lessons from Stan for about a year and a half, and decided the time had come to expand her learning experience. Her concern was the fact that she is a beginner. Where could she find a place that would welcome someone who has no experience playing in any kind of organized setting, ever?

Since Stan had previous experience with two different New Horizons concert bands, she set out to find one in their new home of Chandler, Arizona. Researching the available options in the area, Stan found the Sonic Seniors New Horizons Band. Director Richard Rader welcomed them enthusiastically and were given the opportunity to play with the New Horizons Band and the Sonic Seniors orchestra. On December 4th, Mary played in her first ever concert with the band and combined orchestra.

Sitting in the middle of a band and orchestra has certainly challenged Mary’s beginner skills. It helps that Stan sits by her side in the band to offer guidance and encouragement as she experiences the ins and outs of playing with a group. She has learned much during that time; especially how different it is than practicing out of method books.

Stan and Mary are especially thankful for their Summit trumpets built especially for them by Jason Harrelson, master trumpet builder in Denver, Colorado. Last but not least, the people you meet in New Horizons Bands are wonderful!
The crowd grows still, and Santa Barbara mayor Helene Schneider looks on expectantly from the front row while our Conductor Emeritus and co-founder J.B. (Van) Vander Ark quietly raises his baton. At his downbeat the strains of “Mary Had a Little Lamb” (the culmination of his first rehearsal of the Prime Time Band 20 years ago) played simultaneously in at least 5 different key signatures, forces its way across the nearly full auditorium.

Of course our loyal followers at our 20th anniversary concert had a good laugh because Van had just remarked, “Thirteen of the original 33 members had never played an instrument before. They’ve just been trying to figure out how to put the instrument together.”

In 1995 a retired bus driver, George Pendergast, read an article about a band for seniors that Dr. Roy Ernst had founded in Rochester NY. George was enthusiastic and immediately knew that Van, a recently retired junior high school music teacher, was the perfect candidate to conduct. Van only asked, “How soon can we start?”

Together they enlisted the help of Nick Rail, owner of Nick Rail Music in Santa Barbara, to provide business guidance. As our 20th anniversary approached we wanted to ensure that we created special memories for our founders, charter members and followers. Jeff Peterson, our beloved conductor for the last 10 years, decided that we should perform our “greatest hits”; pieces that are favorites of band members and our audience.

The first half of the program included “Selections from Chicago” and “A Leroy Anderson Portrait”. Van conducted his favorite piece, “Ammerland,” to bring the first half to its conclusion.

Mayor Schneider then presented certificates of recognition to Van, George’s children and Nick to honor our three founders.

George passed away recently but his son (a drummer for the alternative-rock band, Dishwalla) and daughter had this to say, “How could he (Van) do this for more than 30 years? We have a community where you do something not for money; you do it for the community and for the change you can make in people’s lives, like this man here.”

Nick has provided strong but quiet leadership. It was great to have him say a few words, “It’s a wonderful privilege to have been of service to this fine organization. As a business man, as a music store owner, this type of outreach and opportunity to help, to work with these fine people will be something that I’ll always cherish.”

After a swinging rendition of Sammy Fain’s “Secret Love,” Jeff called Lorraine Vander Ark to the stage to thank her for all her years of service to the band. She was our first band manager setting the path for all band managers to follow. Six of the 33 charter band members are still performing with the band: Bill Callahan (clarinet), Jim Harvey (alto sax), Don Bennett (trumpet), Carol Anderson (flute), Roger Anderson (trombone), and Dick Nielsen (bari sax) and Jeff recognized each one of them. Recognition is always strongest when performed in front of our peers, so we held a special DVD screening of early performances at our next rehearsal.

“Glenn Miller in Concert” kicked off the rest of our anniversary performance. We sprinted to the finish line with “Latin Celebration”. I don’t know if the audience or the band had more fun.

“Mary Had a Little Lamb” may have been the beginning for our band but with the inspiring leadership of our conductors Van and Jeff, the guidance of our founders and the enthusiasm of our supporters we look forward to the next ten years of exciting music and fellowship.
The Cincinnati New Horizons Orchestra (NHO) began in January of 2014. Now in our second full year, we have grown from 12 students to over 30 members. Just over 20 members are in an “advanced” string orchestra and we just started 11 beginners, including 4 bassists!

Last year we were invited to perform as part of a local “Music and Medicine” conference. In the summer, we had a mini summer camp during which we included an afternoon chamber music session. The summer session culminated with a concert on the lawn for friends and family. A few weeks later, we played as part of the preliminary festivities for one night of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra’s “Luminocity”!

In the fall, our orchestra performed at an art exhibition, did a demonstration for the Osher Life-Long Learning Institute and for a University of Cincinnati Health and Wellness Fair, and played for a collaboration with the Cincinnati Art Museum.

Orchestra members have developed a fun musical community and wonderful friendships. They formed their own practice groups that meet outside of our normal rehearsals, as well as for other activities.

During class, we have a wonderful time working on technique and making music, and they keep coming back even though I do my very best to “strain their brains.” Working with the Cincinnati NHO members is definitely the highlight of my week, and field teaching opportunities have motivated my undergraduate music education students to become involved as teaching assistants. This year, we have four undergraduate music interns as well as a local strings teacher assisting with the organization. Learning, laughter, community, and music-making abound here in Cincinnati!

Cincinnati New Horizons Orchestra Grows
Dr. Betty Anne Gottlieb – Cincinnati New Horizons Orchestra, Cincinnati, OH

Yogi Berra Explains Jazz
By Steve Chalke - Published: September 24, 2015 - allaboutjazz.com

In memory of the man who came to the fork in the road, and took it

At the museum

Interviewer: Do you understand it?
Yogi: No. That's why I can explain it. If I understood it, I wouldn't know anything about it.

Interviewer: Are there any great jazz players alive today?
Yogi: No. All the great jazz players alive today are dead. Except for the ones that are still alive. But so many of them are dead, that the ones that are still alive are dying to be like the ones that are dead. Some would kill for it.

Interviewer: What is syncopation?
Yogi: That's when the note that you should hear now happens either before or after you hear it. In jazz, you don't hear notes when they happen because that would be some other type of music. Other types of music can be jazz, but only if they're the same as something different from those other kinds.

Interviewer: Now I really don't understand.
Yogi: I haven't taught you enough for you to not understand jazz that well.

This interview took place in 2004. Yogi Berra was born in May 12, 1925 and died in September 22, 2015. Yogi was a professional baseball catcher, manager & coach who played 19 seasons in Major League Baseball, all but the last for the New York Yankees.

He is well known for using an incorrect word that sounds like another, resulting in nonsensical, humorous quotes. This short interview is priceless!
Band Design Team Creates Logo
Carol O’Neal – Valley of the Rogue New Horizons Band, Medford, OR

The Valley of the Rogue New Horizons Band, founded in 1999 and conducted by Lisa Thomas, is one of the most active in the Rogue Valley, with 45 members performing annually at over 25 events from Ashland to Grants Pass. With such a huge presence in the area, we wanted to develop a logo that represented the majesty and beauty of our Rogue Valley to use on our posters, programs and stationery.

We organized a design team which included band members: Jon Kimball, Daurel Carhart, Carol O’Neal, and Preston Mitchell. Our vision was to incorporate iconic Rogue Valley landmarks along with our musical presence. After deciding on Table Rock, Mount McLoughlin, and the Rogue River, we turned it over to our “artist in residence,” Preston Mitchell to do his magic.

Not only is Preston an artist, he is a conductor and a flute, tuba, string bass and ocarina player. He also plays in the Rogue Valley Concert Band, Recorder Consort, Brass Quintet, German Sauerkraut Band, Sally and the Guys, and the Rogue Community Concert Orchestra. Our 98 year-young Preston also had a 40-year career in commercial photography. He used these exceptional skills to bring our new logo to life!

This past December Preston took our annual group picture seated in our local gymnasium. Much to our amazement and appreciation, he Photoshopped that picture onto our new logo — and then printed out copies for each band member for Christmas!

For those of you who have never been to the beautiful Rogue Valley in southern Oregon, we invite you to visit and sit in with us as we prepare for one of our many concerts. We will even include a tour of logo landmarks as a bonus!

New logo

Helena NHB Entertain Intermountain Children's Home
Nancy A. Trudell - Helena New Horizons Concert Band, Helena, MT

The Helena New Horizons Concert Band visited Intermountain Children's Home for a special holiday concert. The Band played a number of holiday favorites as well as popular songs the children knew including "Jingle Bells" which had the children singing along.

After the concert, band members shared their instruments with the children for a musical version of a "petting zoo". Members took time with every child and showed them how their instruments worked.

Many of the children’s eyes lit up when they learned that they would get a chance to play trumpets, tubas, trombones, and other instruments. After creating some notes with a flute, a boy shared, "I didn't know I could do that until now!"

Another young lady had a fun time playing a tuba. Her face was beaming after playing the instrument that was bigger than her.

It was very clear that the band members enjoyed themselves as much or more than the children!

Helena NHB perform holiday concert for children
Dorothy Reed thought her days as a musician had ended when her employer merged with a Kansas City firm, forcing a "reluctant" move from Greater Cincinnati to the Missouri city in the fall of 1996.

For 20 years, Dottie had enjoyed playing flute in the Sycamore Community Band, or "Pete's Band," led by longtime Sycamore High School bandleader Pete Metzger. But after moving, she couldn't connect with a Kansas City band, and felt herself losing the skills honed since she began lessons as a fourth grader in upstate New York. At the same time, a neurological problem was weakening her hand muscles, threatening to end her flute playing altogether.

"I thought I'd never play again," concedes the pleasant 74-year-old fellow members call Dottie.

After her pharmaceutical job ended late in 2004, Dottie moved back to Madeira, where she and her husband had lived before their divorce. However, she discovered that she "felt like a stranger" when she returned. Many of her friends had moved and her son Dana, a 1991 graduate of Madeira High, was studying engineering in California.

Because she hadn't played flute during her years in Kansas City, she was hesitant to rejoin the challenging Sycamore Concert Band. But a friend from that band, Helen Rhoad, understood her reluctance. Helen herself had to switch from flute to trombone as arthritis restricted her ability to finger the flute keys. She encouraged Dottie to try the New Horizons Band founded in Cincinnati as part of a growing national network for seniors.

As her medical condition was stabilized with the help of a new treatment, Dottie began attending the twice-a-week rehearsals. The warm welcome she received encouraged her not only to join the band but to remain in Cincinnati.

Now in her ninth year with the flute section, she remains touched by the friendliness and supportiveness of the band's nearly 50 members.

"We work hard to make music, but it's done in a relaxed atmosphere," she says. "It's a wonderful group."

Like other members, she also speaks highly of the band's director -- Pete Metzger, who now leads both the NHB and the Sycamore Concert Bands.

"Pete always insists that we do things right musically," Dottie says. "But he also helps make it fun."

The Northern Colorado New Horizons Band (NHB) under the direction of Glenn Shull and associate director Kay Broughton, were honored with an invitation to perform for the Tri-M Music Honor Society students at the Colorado Music Educators Association 2016 Clinic/Conference (CMEA) this past January at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

The band was the demonstration group for a study on lifetime music participation developed by Dr. Nancy Glenn from the University of Northern Colorado. Dr. Glenn gave a 25-minute presentation of the characteristics of these musicians (us), with descriptions of how we adapt so that we can continue to play our instruments as we age. She also discussed the other benefits derived from playing in an organized band including the social aspects which are so vitally important to seniors.

We performed for 250-300 high school students of the Tri- M Music Honor Society’s 2016 Convention which was held just prior to the CMEA kick-off. This is a highly prestigious honor as only a select few throughout the entire state of Colorado are given this opportunity. Music performed included: “Savannah River Rhapsody” by Robert Sheldon, “The Iron Horse Across America” by David Bobrowitz, "Thunderscape" by Erik Morales and "Amparito Roca" by Jaime Texidor.
Charter Member Mike McCoy Retires
Muriel Filer – Madison New Horizons Band, Madison, WI

Our band in Madison, Wisconsin was the second New Horizons Band formed in the world. Robert Swan and Roy Ernst got us organized almost 23 years ago. Robert, who in 1992 was the head of Ward-Brodt Music Mall’s education department, got the band up and running. Mike McCoy, a trumpeter in the band, is one of our charter members and he announced his retirement (due to medical issues) shortly after our Christmas concert in 2015.

Mike, a member of the Toastmaster’s Club, has been the music announcer for most of our concerts during the past 20 years. In addition to announcing the music to be played, he gave background information on the music and composer, and always managed to find facts about each piece that would be interesting and often very funny. Our audiences loved him, and we band members were appreciative of the time it gave us to ‘recover’ between each number.

Mike was also one of the members who helped organize our band booster organization, “Hooked on Bands”. He has been a faithful member of both the concert and swing bands.

At our annual holiday party in January 2016, we honored Mike and thanked him for all his many contributions to the band. Peter Ziegler, our former band director and now a trombone playing member of our band, gave a very nice appreciation speech and we all had time to share our memories with Mike.

We will miss having Mike playing with us in the band, but he promises to attend our concerts when he is able.

Pensacola Bay Band Celebrates 1st Anniversary
Greg Vannoy – Pensacola Bay Concert Band, Pensacola, FL

The photo above shows how our group has grown in just one year! We are almost twice the size of our debut photo. We have recently added “take it on the road,” mini-performances to area assisted living, retirement facilities, and nursing homes.

We have separate woodwind and brass ensembles that do this regularly with future plans to combine ensembles at some facilities that can accommodate both of our groups at same time for joint performances.

We’re preparing for our May 23rd indoor concert and have been invited to perform in our first outdoor concert this summer at an amphitheater located on Pensacola Bay which is part of the Blue Wahoo’s baseball stadium complex.

A Reminder...Fund Raising for New Horizons Groups

It is typical that New Horizons groups have a need for funds at start-up and at various times during the growth of each organization.

NHIMA prepared a short summary of how individual groups can develop their own funding strategy.

Click below to check out the section on Development at the NHIMA website.

Russ Gilmore Development Chair
http://newhorizonsmusic.org/fundraising/
Join or Renew
Why should YOU join
NHIMA?
Because you will:
* earn discounts for music
camp;
* support our informative
website;
* 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, click the box
below to email the
Membership Committee.

While NHIMA welcomes
group membership, which
has its own set of
benefits, only individual
membership in NHIMA
qualifies one for a
discount registration fee
to a music camp.

And, taking the
Saline Band’s
suggestion one
step further, perhaps the local
high school band
director would
consider “advertising” your
band’s
performances via a
letter to band
parents, too!

Robert Albritton, Jr. (Saline New Horizons
Band Music Director) and Nate Lampman
(Director of Bands at Saline High School and a
friend of New Horizons) came up with a creative
way to promote our New Horizons Band. They
realized that adults connected with the Saline
Schools music program would likely be a
receptive audience to the New Horizons
message. Nate sent out the following email to
his band parents and band alumni. A little
preparation, a little creativity, and a terrific way
to promote the band was born!

"Dear Band Parents,
Did you used to play an instrument in high
school? Maybe in college? Maybe not, but did
you ever think it might be fun to learn. Either
way there is a great opportunity for you right
here in Saline. The message below is from the
Saline New Horizons Band Director Robert
Albritton. The group is open to all levels of
experience, and all ages. Contact them and get
involved if you are interested."

"Participating in a structured music ensemble
for adult musicians is an engaging and
rewarding experience. Happily, there are many
opportunities for participants of different levels,
but there is one special program founded in
1991 for the amateur musician that has become
very successful – the New Horizons Program.
The New Horizons International Music
Association (NHIMA) is a worldwide organization
comprised of over 200 New Horizons groups
whose 9,000 members are mainly over the age
of 50. Some played music during their school
years and then put away their instruments while
the demands of work and raising children took
center stage. Others dreamt of being a
musician but never had the opportunity or the
money to pay for lessons and instruments when
they were school age. Both groups find
themselves as older adults with children
grown and gone, fewer responsibilities, but
just as much desire. The New Horizons
philosophy captures the positive spirit
necessary for senior musicians to engage
and succeed.

The Saline New Horizons Band,
established in June 2004 by Joe and Mary
Labuta with only twelve members, is
affiliated with NHIMA. It quickly grew and
now has over 60 musicians. The band is
open without audition to all adult players,
no age requirement, from every level of
experience. The philosophy of New
Horizons is to provide an entry or re-entry
point to musical education and experience
for all. The SNHB is a volunteer, non-profit
organization supported by member and
community donations.

The band in Saline meets for full band
rehearsals in the Liberty School Band
Room, 7265 N. Saline-Ann Arbor Road in
Saline on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.
The concert band performs 3-4 concerts a
year. In addition, there are smaller
ensembles that form for enjoyment and
performances on a regular basis."

For those New Horizons Groups that
meet in the evening and don’t have any age
restrictions to participate, taking advantage
of your child’s (or grandchild’s) school
music program and letting the parents in on
a wonderful opportunity, may help increase
members of your band.

Promoting Your Band—the Saline Way
Jim Cubberly – Saline New Horizons Band, Saline, MI

Saline New Horizons
Band

http://newhorizonsmusic.org/contact-the-vice-president/

Spring 2016
Lawrence Kansas NHB Featured in Local Paper
By Kevin Groenhagen, Kaw Valley Senior Monthly

The Lawrence Kansas NHB and their director John Tower were recently featured in a local monthly newspaper targeting Seniors in the area. This is a great example of possible outreach to a primary demographic of NHB members.

In 2003, Clyde Bysom, a longtime music legend in Lawrence, invited John Towner, also of Lawrence, to play with the city’s New Horizons Band.

“I played one number with them, and Clyde said I might as well direct,” Towner said.

Towner has directed the band ever since then, although Bob Wolfersberger, of Topeka, has shared the responsibility as a co-director since the 2012 - 2013 season.

Now in its 20th year, the New Horizons Band of Lawrence was founded after Dr. Roy Ernst visited Lawrence in 1997 and presented a video to a group of interested musicians and directors of the Lawrence Senior Center.

Click below to read the entire article online.

Publishing Notes
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Articles must be no more than 600 words. Always send photo(s) to accompany the article, if possible. Be sure to provide a caption for each photo, identifying the people or activity. You can also send just a photo with caption in lieu of a full story.

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Send stories, pictures, and comments to: NHIMANEWS@gmail.com

Our next firm deadline is October 1, 2016, but feel free to send articles and/or queries before then. New Horizons News is not copyrighted; we encourage you to make copies for family, friends, and other interested parties.
Jazz Legend Nestico Still Making Music at 90

Pam Kragen - Reprinted courtesy of the San Diego Union-Tribune

During his 60 year career, he arranged music for the Count Basie Orchestra (1967-1984), the U.S. Air Force Band (15 years) and the U.S. Marine Band (5 years) both in Washington DC. In addition, he played trombone in the big bands of Tommy Dorsey, Woody Herman, Gene Krupa and Charlie Barnet.

Many of us are fortunate to have played some of his many arrangements...over 600 numbers published just in the education field alone!

Portrait of musician Sammy Nestico at his Carlsbad home. He began his music career playing the trombone, but switched to composing and arranging.

LA COSTA — Big band icon Sammy Nestico turned 90 Thursday, and he spent it like he does every other day — at the keyboard.

The La Costa-based composer and arranger is still writing music, has two albums in the works and will be the guest of honor at two concerts of his work this weekend in Carlsbad. Retirement is not an option.

“My life has been very good. I’ve been blessed to live this long and I’m still working,” he said Tuesday. “Sometimes I get up in the middle of the night and I hear the orchestra playing in my head so I need to get up and write it down. It’s just something I have to do.”

It’s not a stretch to describe Nestico as a living legend of music. He has composed or arranged more than 630 pieces, spent 14 years as composer/arranger for the Count Basie Orchestra, directed the White House orchestra under two U.S. presidents, did 63 albums for Capitol Records and wrote, arranged or conducted the scores for more than 50 television shows. He has also released six CDs of his own music and written two books, an autobiography and a textbook on orchestrating.

His many collaborators read like a who’s who of big band, jazz and pop music — Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Steve Allen, Stan Freberg and Johnny Mercer, to name a few. Toni Tennille is a good friend and producer Quincy Jones sends lavish presents to Nestico on every birthday (this year, it was a boxed set of Sinatra’s Las Vegas recordings).

“Sammy Nestico is probably the most well-known big band arranger in the world,” said Gary Adcock, trombonist for the Coastal Communities Concert Band, which will present concerts of Nestico’s arrangements and originals on Saturday and Sunday with the First Division Marine Band. “Whenever we play his arrangements, musicians just love him. His arrangements lay down right. Some things you play are herky-jerky but his are always smooth and they sound right.”

Nestico rises every morning at 6 a.m. to head out on a walk with his iPod. Neighbors have grown accustomed to seeing the white-haired man in headphones waving his arms in the air like a conductor as he walks. He uses the time to listen to his latest compositions to figure out how to edit and improve them. Next, he and his wife, Shirley, make breakfast to the music of Rachmaninoff and Rimsky-Korsakov (which fires up his creativity) and then he sits down at his computer, where he uses Sibelius software to work on his music until he naps at 1 p.m.

“Some days I look at a blank monitor until noon and other days the ideas are firing and I can’t put the notes down fast enough,” he said.

Since he was 17, Nestico has been arranging music for orchestras. An arranger takes a simple melody sketch and concept from a composer and writes out all the musical parts for each instrument in a band. It’s a skill he learned over the years through a system of “hit and miss.”

“More miss than hit a lot of times,” he jokes.

The son of an Italian immigrant, Nestico grew up in Pittsburgh, where he discovered the trombone in the eighth grade and was playing six nights a week in a nightclub.

See "Nestico" continued on page 14
combo a year later. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Band, then spent 20 years with the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps bands, where he served in the administrations of John F. Kennedy (for whom he arranged an album of Irish songs) and Lyndon B. Johnson (whose tyrannical office staff made life miserable for the band).

During his military band years, Nestico became known for what he calls the “Sammy Treatment” — warm jazzy arrangements that paint pictures with sound and enhance the lyrics. Those skills brought him to the attention of jazz pianist Bill “Count” Basie. Together, they recorded 10 albums (four of which won Grammys).

“He was a big teddy bear,” Nestico said of Basie. “Everyone who worked with him, loved him. And being with him was a great stepping stone to get my name exposed.”

In the late 1960s, Nestico and his first wife Marge moved their family to Los Angeles. He hoped to break into the recording industry but struggled for months until landing a job at Capitol Records. Working with composer Billy May for five years, they orchestrated and rerecorded 63 old monophonic albums into stereo sound for the Time Life Records label.

Nestico worked on film scores, commercial jingles and dozens of TV show themes and incidental music (“Hawaii Five-O,” “The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” “M*A*S*H” and “Emergency”), but the work was so high pressure that he calls that era “the Rolaids years.”

He also composed and arranged for numerous vocalists. He was so nervous at his first recording session with a singer that he spilled coffee all over his score on the first day. Fortunately, the singer, Toni Tennille, was understanding and has become a close friend.

Some singers Nestico idolized as a young man were disappointing to work with in the studio. Crosby wouldn’t sing live with the musicians and Sinatra would only communicate through an agent. The night before the first Sinatra recording session, Nestico got a call from the singer’s producer, Quincy Jones, who had some strange instructions for the arrangements.

“Quincy said, ‘can you put a little cinnamon on it?’ I asked him what he was talking about and he said, ‘you know, add a little garlic salt.’”

Although working for the studios was lucrative, Nestico said he longed to produce his own records, so in 1985 he went solo and gradually released six albums that made very little money but were personally satisfying.

In 1994, Nestico’s wife of nearly 50 years, Marge, died of cancer. It was a dark time, but a few years later, what Nestico calls his “miracle” occurred. He met and fell in love with the former Shirley Frazier. They married and moved to La Costa in 2000. Shirley Nestico said she does whatever she can to support her husband’s musical efforts because she’s convinced they’re the key to his longevity.

“Music keeps him alive,” she said. “Recording breathes life into him and he’s absolutely ageless when he gets up in front of a band.”

Adcock said Nestico will be invited to conduct his arrangement of “Stars and Stripes” at this weekend’s concerts.

“He’s the nicest guy but he doesn’t like to draw attention to himself, so he may need some coaxing to come up,” Adcock said. “But once you get him onstage under the spotlight with the baton, then ... wow, you’ve got Sammy, and that’s really something.”
Those of us who have spent our entire career bringing music into the lives of many young people cannot just give it up and fade into the sunset. There must be another challenge. What about readjusting from youngsters to oldsters? Yes, indeed, there are new horizons out there.

When my wife, Sandy, came home from a visit with her tenor sax playing chiropractor with the plaint that his band in Rio Rancho needed a trumpet player, that piqued my interest. It was a band called New Horizons. What trumpet player isn’t inbred to feel needed?

So I went to a rehearsal and enjoyed the camaraderie of this fledgling group of senior musicians. Following a few sessions, it became obvious that the current music director would appreciate having a second conductor so that she could do her first love of playing horn rather than conducting all the time. Having retired after 35 years in band classrooms did I need to dive into a new conducting assignment? Of course! So I signed on.

The founder of this unique band is Rio Rancho resident and physical therapist, Christine Sargent. She had been playing the piano at home for pleasure and the handbells at her church for about eight years and decided to return to playing her clarinet after many years.

After six months back on the clarinet, Christine was interested in playing in a band again. She then thought that it would be nice to have a senior adult band, specifically for people interested in returning to playing their instrument, or for those who have never even played an instrument before. She also felt this would provide many benefits for the older adult such as engaging in ensemble music again, providing a new skill learning opportunity, a social outlet and just plain fun.

She did a Google search about this concept and found the New Horizons International Music Association, which fit exactly what she was looking for. And so, the New Horizons Band of Rio Rancho was begun in May 2009.

The band started with under a dozen individuals, most having played in the past, some brand new and a few more experienced musicians. Finding experienced band directors was the next challenge, but in time this was accomplished first with Leslie Jacobs, retired from Washington State, public schools and then to our current directors of Ron Lipka and Frank Rivera.

Ron, now 81, has 35 years in the classroom at elementary, junior high, high school and university levels and is a member of the New Mexico Music Educators Association Hall of Fame. Frank served New Mexico students for 38 years in band classrooms in addition to notable military experience.

With careful direction, hard work and determination by all, our band has grown to over 40 members today. Of particular note is the band’s attraction to retired music educators; there are currently 10 former music teachers as members supplementing the widely varied professions of the group ranging from medical doctor, chiropractor, therapist, nurse, classroom teacher, military officer, municipal official, etc.

A recent airing on PBS entitled “Music for Life,” sparked a new wave of interest, and, this past fall we welcomed seven newer musicians to our ranks.

In the seven years since its founding, the Rio Rancho band has concentrated on preparing and performing concerts in our area. We began with simple tunes from a standard band method book and, as our instrumentation and skills grew, we now have added some standard band classics to our repertoire.

The strength of our group remains the love of making music together in a relaxed atmosphere where every individual enjoys being together with friends in music.
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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