For the past 6 years, I’ve enjoyed being your newsletter editor. I’ve come to know many of you through your interesting articles and our discourses back and forth as I prepared your stories for publication. But, as I progress through my musical journey, I find the time has come to focus more on music and less on writing and editing. So, this is my last newsletter.

Thank you all for your contributions over the past several years. Your efforts have helped make this newsletter informative and always fun to read. I know you will continue to support the new editor with more interesting stories and I look forward to reading more about you!

I will continue to provide stories and pictures from my local New Horizons Band (NHB), the Northern Colorado NHB to keep you informed of our on goings here in Colorado.

So, thanks again, everybody and remember, keep on playing music…it lives in your heart and soul forever, keeping you young!

Signing Off
Linda L. Johnson, Editor, New Horizons News

On behalf of the NHIMA Board of Directors, we express our heartfelt gratitude to Linda Johnson for her exemplary work over these past six years as our New Horizons News Newsletter Editor. Her expertise, abilities and dedication have produced exceptional newsletters of the highest quality. It goes without saying, Linda will be missed as she transitions into “retirement” from this position to spend more time with family and her involvement with multiple music groups.

This newsletter is Linda’s final edition. Linda became NHIMA’s second newsletter editor, taking the post from Shirley Michaels who retired in 2011.

This is a great time for you to visit our website (www.newhorizonsmusic.org) and enjoy some of our past newsletters. Once you are at our website, you will find a tab on the left saying “NHIMA Newsletters”. You will find newsletters dating back to the Spring of 2011. You may see a lot of familiar faces there!

As we transition to a new editor, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Nikki Attwell of West Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada as Linda’s replacement. Nikki brings extensive directly relevant experience in newsletter production and editing, including 15 years as editor of the Don Wright Faculty of Music (Western University, London Ontario) alumni newsletter, as well as 13 years as editor of the BC Guild of English Handbell Ringers newsletter, “Quarternotes”. She also designs and prepares the layout for the annual newsletter of the International College of Dentists (Canadian section).

Welcome Nikki! We look forward to working with you for many years. Nikki’s appointment begins immediately, and she will produce the Spring 2018 newsletter. Articles can be submitted to her at: NHIMANews@gmail.com.
In June 2017, our Madison, Wisconsin New Horizons Band, celebrated our 25th anniversary. We were just the second NHB (formed in August 1992) after Roy Ernst started the first in Rochester, N.Y. in 1991. We decided to mark the occasion with a summer picnic.

We met at a local park on a beautiful Wisconsin summer day. Many former NHB members joined us and it was nice to renew those friendships. We celebrated with a delicious potluck dinner, followed by a decorated bakery cake, and four made from scratch cakes by John Gilbert (spouse of charter member, Muriel Filer Gilbert).

We then had short speeches by Peter Ziegler (our first director who is now retired and playing trombone with our NHB), Glenn Nielsen (our current director), Mick Falhauber (owner of Ward Brodt Music Store and our sponsor from the very beginning) and Bob Swan (now retired Education Director at Ward Brodt Music when our band was formed). Roy Ernst also sent warm greetings to both Peter and Bob for the many years they devoted to the Madison NHB. Our band feels very fortunate to have the continued support from these dedicated people.

A highlight of the day’s celebration was listening to the very first concert from December 1992, when our new band had been together for only about 16 weeks. Peter Ziegler described us as playing at about a 6th grade level. He was probably a little generous in that description as we were a band of about 18 people, some who had not played their instrument for over 30 years, while some others were new players, taking lessons at the time. We did have a few strong players which helped.

This dedicated group, combined with enthusiasm and a love of making music with ‘like-minded’ people, continued to grow, improve, support each other, and within a few years, sounded pretty good!

We now have about 65 enthusiastic musicians and feature a Concert Band and Swing Band. We have held a band camp in Door County, Wisconsin, for the past 23 years and early on, we formed a ‘booster’ organization called ‘Hooked on Bands’. We also have a strong and active board that takes care of band business.

Over the years to come, there will be other New Horizons Bands celebrating 25 years together. The longevity of these bands will be those fortunate groups whose growth and longevity began with a dedicated director and musicians who care about and support each other; those committed to a ‘band family’.
This is our 7th year hosting the Adult Strings Weekend at the University of Alabama and we had a great time with our 24 musicians who came from Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. Several have come every year – most are “repeaters.”

In addition to orchestra, we have chamber groups and classes in music theory, sight reading and improving technique. And don’t overlook the social times – we all have lunch together, included in the tuition, plus an optional dinner at a restaurant on the river, which most everyone attends.

It’s a wonderful gathering and we would like to have even more people next year – August 24-26, 2018!

Welcome to the Palmiters…Guest Players in Northern CO NHB

Linda L. Johnson – President, Northern Colorado New Horizons Band, Fort Collins, CO

David & Marty Palmeter
Members of the Flathead Valley New Horizons Band in Kalispell, MT

David & Marty Palmeter from the Flathead Valley NHB in Kalispell, Montana, recently spent one month in Colorado visiting their daughter and family in Denver.

Prior to their visit, they contacted our director, Glenn Shull, about sitting in on the Concert Band rehearsals to help them stay proficient with their instruments and to have some fun while doing it.

They said they enjoyed playing with our group and highly encourage others who travel across the country to look for similar opportunities.

Band members also thoroughly enjoyed having David & Marty join in and we look forward to more of their visits! We hope others will do the same!
My Introduction to New Horizons
Ken Carper – President, NHIMA Board of Directors

Each morning at about breakfast time I think about what chores or activities that I want or need to accomplish that day. Since I became President of the New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA) two months ago, I vowed to write a few paragraphs for the website and newsletter but, unfortunately, there have always been too many other things on the list ahead of it.

As I look around and see that the rooms are all painted, the lawn is smooth, the garden and houseplants look good, and my desktop is relatively clear, I realize that today is the day to write about my entry into the New Horizons fold.

I enjoy writing…I love it! It’s just that writing about myself feels awkward. Fortunately, my New Horizons story can be told by writing about two friends.

Teaching Children
In 2003, I was teaching music at an elementary school in Naples, Florida, that served about 1,000 children. Most students were from economically impoverished immigrant families and qualified for free breakfast and lunch meals each day. They may have been economically poor, but they were culturally rich. They loved to sing!

The school had a large staff of volunteers; many were “grandparent-age” retirees who enjoyed helping our children learn their letters and numbers. And, to show our appreciation, we often “paid” them with entertainment.

I learned that the best way to retain control of 30 wiggling young kids was to keep them singing. So, we put their beautiful voices to work and sang as we entered the room where the volunteers were assembled. We sang as we got into lines, we sang to say “Thank you,” and we sang upon leaving the room.

Saint Alice
I did not grow up knowing the names and stories of different saints. In our family, we tended to call anyone (especially a woman) a saint if they seemed very humble and kind. By that definition, my “Alice” is rightfully called a saint.

Alice was a regular volunteer at my school. And her husband, Eric, had recently cajoled about 12 of his friends into learning (or relearning) to play instruments and start a New Horizons Band.

When she telephoned me, Alice said something like, “If you can keep 30 squirming children on task, I think you might be able to keep this group on task, too.”

“What group?” I asked. Then she explained that her brother-in-law founded an organization called New Horizons that focused on giving adults opportunities to play in bands. And that one of these bands had been started in the community that neighbored our school.

Now, let’s rewind 20 years ago when I obtained my master’s degree in music education from the Eastman School of Music. My favorite teacher there, hands down, was Dr. Roy Ernst. In the 20 years that passed between Eastman and Alice, I had been in touch with Dr. Ernst a couple times and had followed his founding of a music education program called New Horizons that was especially aimed at senior musicians.

So, back to my phone call with Alice. When she said her brother-in-law had founded this organization, I corrected her and told her that my old professor, Dr. Ernst, had actually founded the organization.

She said, “Yes, my brother-in-law founded it.”

I was determined to correct her and said that perhaps her brother-in-law had started a band or two, but that it was actually Dr. Roy Ernst in Rochester who had started to over-all organization.

Again, she patiently said, “Yes, my brother-in-law.”

It was at about that point that I asked her to repeat her name and heard her say “I’m Alice Ernst. And my husband, Eric, is Roy Ernst’s brother!”

Have you ever seen the look on a child’s face when they “get it”? That was my look!

Alice and Eric became two of my very dearest friends. And, in the process, I re-established contact with my mentor from two decades earlier…a mentor who would also become like a fun and wise brother to me. When that kind of serendipity occurs in your life, it is good to jump on the train and ride.

Both Alice and Eric passed away just a few months ago, but their offer to try to keep that old group of players on task changed my life and I’m eternally grateful to them. Had it not been for that phone call from “Saint Alice,” New Horizons might still be a mystery to me.

Ken Carper

Alice and Eric Ernst

Eric, Roy, and Ken

Page 4 Fall 2017
It has begun! The Pioneer Valley New Horizons Band in Western Massachusetts was a start-up band last spring, beginning in March and ending the semester in early June. Now it is autumn and our first band gathering numbered 22 musicians, almost twice what we had last spring.

This band is a model of collaboration. The Northampton Community Music Center provides the base for the band. The University of Massachusetts (UMASS)-Amherst Music Department sends students two days a week to provide lessons and give sectional support. Our director, Sara Jones, is a Professor of Music at UMASS-Amherst. The Northampton Senior Center provides space for band rehearsals and a local music store offers reduced rental fees on instruments. Lathrop/Kendal Independent Living Community has given start-up money for the band as well as providing the venue for our first concert (of six pieces!). NHIMA gave $500 to help get the program started, as well as providing a guidebook of useful information on how to begin, phone advice from Roy Ernst and an assigned mentor, Ron Berry.

The local paper ran a three-page spread of text and pictures in a weekly insert showcasing our new band. How could any undertaking with that much backing and enthusiasm fail? It can’t!

So, what do we have? A very excited group of budding musicians who make up in enthusiasm and mutual support what they lack right now in musical ability. As one musician said, “I’ve never before worked so hard and had so much fun… with so little results.”

New Horizons Bands are certainly a special place for maturing musicians and the Pioneer Valley New Horizons Band is excited to be a part of this movement.

Another Band Begins…The Pioneer Valley NHB
Carol Neubert – Pioneer Valley New Horizons Band, Northampton, MA

The Pioneer Valley NHB (formed in Mar 2017) gather for a rehearsal

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Sioux City NHB Stays Active Year Round
Marv Crim – New Horizons Band, Sioux City, IA

The Sioux City NHB never slowed down over the spring and summer months. They performed two or three times a month in the Siouxland area. One of our big highlights was playing at the Lewis and Clark Center by the Missouri River. We presented our Americana Concert with over 100 people attending.

We will soon play a collage of tunes for a German Dinner including polkas “Beer Barrel Polka,” “Pennsylvania Polka,” “Jenny Lind,” movie themes “Can You feel the Love Tonight” (from the Lion King), ”The Bare Necessities” (from the Jungle Book), rock tunes “Grease” and the Beatles’ tune "Twist & Shout". We’ll cap the program off with a Halloween tune called "The Haunted Carousel".

November begins our preparations for our Holiday Concerts. Director Dr. Lou Rossman selected some new music (“A Christmas Spectacular” and “A Jazzy Christmas”) along with some old favorites such as “Oh Come All Ye Faithful” and an audience sing along, "Christmas Pop Sing-a-Long"!

We always enjoy playing the great variety of tunes that our director selects.

To all our New Horizons friends, enjoy the rest of 2017 and continue making music come alive!
The Fargo Golden Notes New Horizon Band traveled to Grand Forks to join our Second Wind Band for a fun day of music, food and fellowship. Popplers Music Store was the super host to showcase "old" people having fun! Thanks to everyone for making this happen!

Composer and Arranger, John LaBarbera
(Video and Text by Miguel Monroy, Modern Drummer magazine)
Linda L. Johnson – Editor, New Horizons News

As I was reading the October issue of “Modern Drummer” magazine, I found this video interview with well-known arranger, John LaBarbera.

According to Wikipedia, “John (born in NY on November 10, 1945) is a trumpet player and arranger who worked with the Buddy Rich Orchestra during the late 1960s.

He has performed and written with many big bands. His works have been recorded and/or performed by Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Sammy Davis, Jr., Mel Tormé, Chaka Khan, Harry James, Bill Watrous, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Al Cohn, Bill Perkins, and Phil Woods. He is a two-time recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts award for Jazz Composition.

He currently teaches jazz and music industry courses at the University of Louisville. He has also started his own big band, which has released two CDs, On the Wild Side and Fantazm, the former of which was nominated for a Grammy award in 2004.”

You may recognize his name from many of the Jazz Big Band and Concert Band arrangements you probably have played, at one time or another.
“Our NHB looks forward to their CVSM Chefs Walk performance. This was the third year we were asked to play. It is a great opportunity to ‘trumpet’ what we do!” director Keith R. Smith said.

Under the tent pitched on the lawn belonging to CVSM executive director Paula Hepfer and her husband, Sam, the NHB members look out each year on an event that is a cross between dinner theater and a picnic. Dubbed a “food and music crawl,” the event transforms the wide street and beautiful residential neighborhood that is otherwise known as Alexander Avenue into a food paradise with the sounds of pleasing music.

Planning the entire event takes months and combines the talents of over 50 local musicians, the school’s dedicated board of directors, staff, assorted volunteers, and the six to eight chefs from the area. By the time everything is ready to start, performers will each have a one-hour time slot for the three-hour event at a total of four stages.

Dropping by the tent during the NHB’s 4 p.m. slot that day, walk attendees heard the band playing: “The Star-Spangled Banner”; “Andromeda” by David Shaffer; “Adagio” by Tomaso Albinoni, arranged by Jacob de Hann; “Cumberland Cross” by Carl Strommen; and “Rock Around the Clock”. Everyone was asked to join in a “God Bless America” sing-a-long. While listening to music, the audience munched on attending chefs’ signature dishes.

Food for the event is styled each year by a variety of chefs who either slice, dice, cook, pour, bake or freeze their way to highlighting their specialties at separate stations along the avenue. Once musicians are done performing, they too can stroll through the gamut of food and beverage offerings. And stroll they did, while listening to the other musicians performing classical, pop, jazz and folk tunes.

Residents in the neighborhood often take advantage of the entertaining atmosphere and host gatherings of family and friends on Chefs Walk day. Dance groups, a car show, and a silent auction are among the side-servings of fun that have been added to “fill in” the walk between food and entertainment stations over the years.

Tickets sales for the annual Chefs Walk begin at the school’s website, www.cvsmusic.org, each spring.

Director Smith began directing the NHB in 2013. At that time, he was newly retired from 37 years of teaching public school band and orchestra. In various settings, he has instructed students from ages 9 through 99. A professional trombonist and a promoter at heart, Smith said that he is happy to witness the program slowly expanding.

A New Horizons Orchestra was added in 2015, which is now under the direction of professional violinist and instructor Deborah Stotelmyer. The NHB beginning group is just getting started, and, recruiting efforts are underway for a New Horizons Chorus.

Another venue that the Chambersburg NHB performers enjoy is an annual CVSM-sponsored Encore Musicians Concert in April, which features varied senior citizen instrumental and vocal groups. NHB also performs at a few nursing homes, public and private schools.

The band is also known to encourage interest in music by demonstrating their instruments to youngsters during an “Instrument Petting Zoo” as part of an all-day event CVSM hosts during Chambersburg’s annual February Ice Fest, and, at the invitation of other interested groups from home school organizations to seasoned citizen gatherings.
The Frost School of Music New Horizons Band directed by Dr. Don Coffman, recently was honored to perform at the Coral Gables Adult Activity Center this past June. The Center is directly across the street and affiliated with “The Palace,” the #1 Senior Living Community in the U.S. as voted on by the National Association of Homebuilders in the country. (Thanks to saxophonist Joan Valdes for coordinating this event.)

Our group was founded in 2009 and is comprised of professionals from all walks of life, from PhDs, to jet engine mechanics, and to everything in between.

During the intermission, band members introduced themselves to the audience and shared their playing and learning experiences as part of New Horizons. Audience members then asked questions about music and the organization and some even showed interest in joining.

Overall, it was a very rewarding evening for both the band and the audience and, who knows, we might even get invited to play across the street at the “Palace”!

Editor’s Note:
George Early recalls that in 2015, the group was invited to play at the Miami Beach Convention Center for AARP and the Cabot Cheese Company. They even received a stipend! It was at this function that the group met and were inspired by Dr. Roy Ernst.
The New Horizons Band DuPage directed by Maryann Flock enjoys a busy schedule and wishes to share a few of their memorable moments from the past season, as well as those that the band members are looking forward to in the upcoming season.

This past May, the band performed its Spring Concert at the Benet Academy (St. Daniel Hall) in Lisle, IL. This annual free concert is always well-attended by the local community. Band members provide an assortment of great appetizers, desserts and refreshments for everyone to enjoy after the performances by the Concert Band and all its ensembles.

In the Village of Warrenville, IL (a neighboring suburb of the band’s home base in Naperville), the town’s tradition is to host a “Friends of the Fourth” parade in July. And, once again, the NHB DuPage participated as they have for the past 18 years, providing music and riding on a float provided and decorated by its members. In true, dedicated fashion, the band played continuously, no matter how hot the day or even when sprinkles occurred (such as was the case this year). About 40 band members climbed aboard and enjoyed making music during the approximate 1.5-hour parade route which meandered through the residential areas of Warrenville. The streets and lawns were filled with residents who broke out in applause and cheers when the band passed by with its patriotic music.

This October, the band will be back at one of its most cherished events – their annual Halloween-themed concert at the Misericordia Home in Chicago playing for one of the largest audiences of the year. At past performances, the crowd was literally dancing in the aisles enjoying popular band music and we expect the same this year!

The band turns the big “20” in 2018 and we will celebrate this occasion at the band’s annual Spring Concert on April 21, 2018, 3 p.m. at Benet Academy in Lisle, IL. This event is being looked forward to with great anticipation by all, especially by those members who have been with the band since its inception.

(NB’s note: We look forward to more news about the celebration!)

NHB DuPage consists of approximately 50 members who participate in: Concert Band, Me Too (Beginners Band), Intermediate Band and various ensembles such as the Brass Choir, German Band, Jazz Band and Woodwind Consort. Many individuals participate in multiple groups and several are competent on an instrument other than their main instrument.

A good time is always had by all – whether it be a parade or concert participation or merely joining each other weekly for the pleasure, challenge and camaraderie of making music together. As the band says, “It’s never too late to toot your own horn.”
NHIMA Membership…Why Join or Renew?
Judy Rose – Membership, NHIMA Board of Directors

Ever wonder why it’s important to join the New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA)? Your individual membership dues support the goals of NHIMA in several ways. Since its founding in 1991, your funds have enabled the nine-member Board of Directors to continue to broaden the New Horizons Music programs both in the U.S. and internationally, so that more and more adults are given the opportunity to play music after many years of a lay-off, or to those who never had the opportunity to play as a child.

How is this done? We provide start-up grants to new groups to help with music and instrument purchases or rentals. We also provide a Web site to give members more current and detailed information.

We also conduct a “lottery” to provide camperships to those who’ve never attended a music camp before. (Our ability to do this also comes from a bequest gift from Melinda Jacobs, a long-time NHIMA member.) To maintain this practice and sustain NHIMA for our children and grandchildren, we need dues revenue to support and continue growing our organization.

The Board of Directors are volunteers and are not compensated. We do provide a small stipend for the treasurer, newsletter editor, and data base manager.

Individual membership is only $10 per year; couple membership is $15 and lifetime $150.

When you think about the positive effect New Horizons has had on your lives, this small annual donation helps contribute to the well-being and musicianship of so many others. (If you wish to avoid the annual “membership due” notice, you may pay a few years in advance by sending in a payment for multiple years. Simply annotate how many years the payment is for.) The data base manager will keep track of the expiration date of your membership and renewal notices will be emailed at the appropriate time.

NHIMA group membership is also available and is only $25 per year. This type of membership is often overlooked, particularly if all members in your group have individual memberships. A group membership offers participating New Horizons groups visibility on the national stage. Groups listed on the web site and in our member directory helps attract new members, you have access to the music library, and can find many tips, studies, etc. on growing groups, media support, etc.

FOR JUST 3 CENTS A DAY, YOU...
* earn discounts for music camp
* support our informative website;
* receive spring and fall newsletters online
* receive a membership directory;
* help maintain a centralized listing for existing and new groups
* enable scholarships for first-time campers;
* enable assistance to new New Horizons 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 here to email Judy Rose (Chair of 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.

Judy Rose
From its humble beginnings in October 1997, when 16 adventurous souls showed up in response to an ad in the local newspaper, the Rapid City New Horizons Band has grown to 60 (mostly older adults), making music in venues as varied as Mount Rushmore National Monument and the South Dakota Bandmasters Association.

Milo Winter, a legend in and around the Black Hills and all of South Dakota, now retired from a distinguished career in the Rapid City School system, has been the only director (except for a few folks who subbed now and then) and is one of a handful of remaining founding members.

Milo, 83, was inspired by a presentation about New Horizons Bands by Roy Ernst at a music convention and decided to give the citizens of Rapid City and beyond an opportunity to participate. He reminisces about the Band’s modest beginning, with the help of Haggerty’s, the local music store, and how it grew to a group that has far exceeded his expectations, both in numbers and skill.

Milo says, “The vitality, enthusiasm, and energy of the Rapid City New Horizons Band continues to amaze me, and the community’s support has been and is very rewarding and deserved by the musicians in the Band. Each rehearsal and performance continue to be an exciting and fun musical event, and I am blessed and thankful to be a part of the Rapid City New Horizons Band. The old adage ‘You can’t teach an old dog new tricks’ may be true for animals, but does not hold true for senior musicians!”

Leslie Brookes, 76, signed up for New Horizons on her 56th birthday, and on the recommendation of Milo, she picked the flute to learn to play. She had a background on piano and organ in her childhood, but never had the opportunity to play in a band as there was no band in her all girls’ high school or college. Still working when she started, she learned how to play the flute on her own, and still doesn’t play all the high notes, but appreciates those who can.

Leslie says, “We are most fortunate to have Milo as our director. I’m sure he enjoys directing us now as we play ‘real’ music compared to the simple songs we played in the beginning!”

She further adds, “New Horizons Bands and Orchestras provide a wonderful opportunity for adults to begin playing an instrument, resume playing one or play a different one. Playing music is not only good for the brain, but the heart and soul as well.”

Another octogenarian, Jon Boone, 80, started tooting on the trombone in eighth grade in a small Midwestern school with, as he says, “one of those not so great bands.” After high school, the trombone and band took a 40-year hiatus. Jon resurrected his trombone after hearing a concert by the Rapid City New Horizons Band that had just been formed a month

(Continued on page 13)
The world's most expensive musical instrument, a Stradivarius violin, was sold in 2011 for US$15.9 million.

George Del Monte, a vocalist with the Villages Swing Band and Master of Ceremonies (MC) for all the Villages New Horizons groups, began trumpet lessons at age 9 in Paterson, N. J. with Professor Selleti at a weekly charge of 50 cents. In 1944, the local church, Our Lady of Lourdes, started a drum and bugle corps and George became a charter member.

Drum and Bugle Corps became an important part of George's life as he continued playing from 1944 until 1982 - the last 25 years with the Drum Corps Associates (DCA) champion Hawthorne Caballeros as their featured soloist. After his time with the corps, George was inducted into the New Jersey Drum Corps Hall of Fame and the National Buglers Hall of Fame.

George taught theater and served as director of theater for over 110 plays and musicals. While teaching theater, Del Monte entered his groups in several play performance competitions. He was named "Best Director" three times consecutively and his students were selected as Best Actor an equal number of times. He was also used by many organizations as a "Theater Doctor" to come and watch pre-opening night shows to advise on the quality of the effort.

In 1972, George was inducted into the American Society of Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) for his children's musical play, "Santa's Magic Boots". A recording of one of the tunes was released by Dionne Warwick's production company and George and Ms Warwick sang together as background "elves."

Writing has been a love of George's since high school. His poetry has won several prizes and he continues to write. In 2002, George and his wife Carole moved to The Villages, Florida and soon thereafter, George became involved with theater and bands.

George currently serves as the MC, narrator, and/or vocalist for The Villages Concert Band, The Villages Hometown Band, The Villages Swing Band and, of course, The Villages New Horizons Band. As a charter member of Hometown and New Horizons, George looks forward to several more years with them in order, as he says, to "make my heart sing!"
You Can Join the Studebaker Band
Glenn Shull – Director, Northern Colorado New Horizons Band, Fort Collins, CO & Director of the Studebaker Drivers Club Band

1929, there was a group called “Studebaker Champions” led by Jean Goldkette. This group included Jimmy Dorsey, Bix Beiderbecke, Russ Morgan, Frank Trumbauer, Pee Wee Hunt, Charlie Spivak and Glenn Miller, to name a few.

We try to perform much of the styles of music that would have been performed by the factory bands. We include marches, overtures, show tunes, featured soloists, and make music that means something to the area where the meet is help. How could we not play “Back Home Again in Indiana” when we are in South Bend (headquarters of the Studebaker Company and home of the Studebaker museum), and the “1899 Studebaker March” every year.

From the late 1990s, there have been over 120 SDC members who have participated in the band. From that number we have about 15 to 20 who play regularly. John Cosby is the only active charter member of the band and has played ever since 1992. Larry Swanson, also a charter member, played every year except this past year.

Most of our members play in community bands in their home town and several are present and past school and community band directors. Directors of the band have included Brad Kuchan, Larry Swanson and current director Glenn Shull.

SDC Meet Locations
The location and dates for the Meet present different challenges in organizing the band each year. One of the smallest bands was in 2016 in Warwick, Rhode Island where we had nine players. This meant that instead of the usual “Concert in the Park” type concert, we played Dixieland and Polkas. The largest band that I recall was in Rapid City, South Dakota in 1999 where we had a lot of help from the local New Horizons Band.

Local area help is encouraged each year to fill out our instrumentation. This is not unprecedented, as Studebaker enlisted professional musicians for various performances, including a Radio show. In

Play in the 2018 Studebaker Band in Tacoma Washington!!
(August 29 to Sep 1, 2018)
This is your chance to participate in a free New Horizons-type music mini-camp and to experience the Studebaker Drivers Club.

Open to all who can play at least at a High School Band level. You don’t have to be a Studebaker Drivers Club member to participate. Rehearsals and performances take place during the International Meet. Music is typical band and especially NHB variety of music.

Click here for the meet details and contact Glenn Shull - g.shull@centurylink.net for information on the band.

Many of you know Glenn Shull from the many NHB camps he has helped staff all over the country. You may not know that he is also an accomplished old car restorer and collector, specializing in Studebakers. Glenn is the director of the Studebaker Drivers Club band. Any New Horizons musician playing at the High School Level is always welcomed to perform with this group.

The Studebaker Band on Stage in Indiana at the National Meet last May

Car Company Musical Opportunities
Many of the large manufacturers at the turn of the twentieth century had opportunities for their employees to participate in bands, choirs, and other recreational activities. Studebaker was no exception. Longtime member Larry Swanson said there was a Studebaker employee band dating back to 1900-1910 and they were not disbanded until prior to WWII.

According to Andy Beckman, archivist at the Studebaker National Museum, Studebaker had choruses that performed up until the 1960s. Contests and festivals were held that included competition with company groups from other factories. These activities were held to boost morale of employees.

The band that performs at the Studebaker Drivers Club (SDC) International Meets is a “throwback” to these early bands and serves much of the same purpose. The group entertains for Meet functions, adding another dimension to the festivities. Like the factory employees, the present band adds an enjoyable activity for our SDC musician members.

Studebaker Band in 2008 at Lancaster Meet

Many of you know Glenn Shull from the many NHB camps he has helped staff all over the country. You may not know that he is also an accomplished old car restorer and collector, specializing in Studebakers. Glenn is the director of the Studebaker Drivers Club band. Any New Horizons musician playing at the High School Level is always welcomed to perform with this group.

The Studebaker Band on Stage in Indiana at the National Meet last May

Play in the 2018 Studebaker Band in Tacoma Washington!!
(August 29 to Sep 1, 2018)
This is your chance to participate in a free New Horizons-type music mini-camp and to experience the Studebaker Drivers Club.

Open to all who can play at least at a High School Band level. You don’t have to be a Studebaker Drivers Club member to participate. Rehearsals and performances take place during the International Meet. Music is typical band and especially NHB variety of music.

Click here for the meet details and contact Glenn Shull - g.shull@centurylink.net for information on the band.

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Researchers found that when jazz musicians improvise, their brains turn off areas linked to self-censoring and inhibition, and turn on those that let self-expression flow.

The New Horizons Band Indy meets in the Kids’ Wing of the Northside Baptist Church. Sometimes we blame our behavior on our location (the Kids’ Wing); other times we just misbehave.

Whenever there is hustle and bustle and whispering going on there’s bound to be mischief of some type being planned and nobody but nobody is safe. There was one of those super-large cookies on the table decorated with the actual music to “Happy Birthday.” And there were cupcakes with flags of musical signs. John walked right by them and commented that they were cute not realizing that they were for him. After all, his birthday was a few days before, the day of a concert.

We went through our usual warm-up routine without incident. Bob, also a director, was sitting off to the side and John figured Bob just wasn’t feeling well. John didn’t think much of it.

John started directing “The Star Spangled Banner.” We played several measures, almost a whole line, before he realized something wasn’t quite right.

And why wasn’t it right?

Because while John was directing “The Star Spangled Banner,” Bob was at the same time directing and we were playing, “Happy Birthday.”

As Colonel “Hannibal” Smith of the A Team would say, “I love it when a plan comes together!"

No No No. That’s not right.

“Oh No! Ya Got Me!”

Editor’s Note:
Carol Wiker’s story is indicative of the fun times many New Horizons groups experience during their rehearsals. Be sure to share your interesting rehearsals and performances for future newsletters!
The leaves are changing colors here in Dexter, Maine, and fall comes with its own music, “music ringing through the autumn magic that is Dexter.” To add to that magic and music, the Carl R. Cuthbert Community Band Foundation again sponsored the Harold J. Crosby Band Camp, September 15-17, 2017.

This year’s camp followed on the success of its inaugural year in 2016, “celebrating the music of Maine composers and arrangers.” The arrangers and composers selected for 2017 were Dexter native Harold Josiah Crosby, Heywood S. Jones, and this year’s guest conductor Ed Madden.

The camp convened on Friday evening with musicians from across the state and nation, rehearsing for four sessions and concluding with a free public concert. The group read through the 12 pieces which included three original compositions by Ed Madden: “Kindersong,” “Victor Herbert,” and “Diamond Jubilee-Spirit of the Yankee Division”. These pieces presented a challenge to the band, but under Ed’s direction and tutelage, the band rose to the challenge and played the music as he intended it to be played by a New Horizons community band with minimal practice. He applauded the group’s camaraderie and abilities, and reminded the band members that the fun of playing was playing well, playing musically, and playing together.

The band also played several selections by the camp’s namesake, Harold J. Crosby. These regimental marches, written during World War I, reflected the patriotism of the time period. One piece, “Battleship California,” was commissioned specifically by the United States Navy. Other marches the band played included: “For the Freedom of the World,” “Landing of the Troops,” and “Queen of the Fleet”. At the end of the camp, these marches were made available to the community bands represented by the band members who attended. The marches are also available for purchase through the Carl R. Cuthbert Community Band Foundation and can be tailored for the size, abilities, and composition of the band.

The program was rounded out by two compositions by Heywood S. Jones, a lesser known Maine composer: “Music Camp,” which pays honor to a second, more established music camp in Maine, and a novelty piece called, “The Honeymoon Express,” combining the thrill of a honeymoon train trip with the potential “disaster” that could ensue.

The band camp culminated in the final concert on Sunday afternoon combining the efforts of Ed Madden and Harold J. Crosby Community Band Director Dr. Earl R. Lord. The concert was well-attended by the community, who throughout the band camp had lent their support through meals, lodging, and donations to fund the camp, for the Foundation prides itself on not charging anyone to attend band camp: “NO ONE will be refused registration for any monetary reasons—we believe in sharing.” This year, too, the band camp was recognized by the Governor of Maine, Paul R. LePage, for its efforts to celebrate and promote the composers and arrangers of Maine, a well-deserved honor.

And now, everyone has returned home, renewed and regenerated and a little bit tired, celebrating another successful year of the Harold J. Crosby Band Camp.

As one camper put it, “I never cease to be amazed at the magic of strangers coming together to read black marks on a page and making them into music.”

And even now, the Cuthbert Foundation begins work on the 2018 version of the Harold J. Crosby Band Camp. The Foundation hopes many of you will join the band camp in Dexter, Maine, in September 2018, for another season of the “autumn magic that is Dexter.”
A Man of Few Words, Prestigious Awards & Colorful Socks!
Carol Wiker – New Horizons Band of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

Sam Rhinesmith

Director Sam Rhinesmith is a special man whose accolades include the “Sagamore of the Wabash” recognition. What in the world is a “Sagamore of the Wabash”? It is a very special honor given only to a very special few Hoosiers by the State of Indiana for outstanding service, loyalty, friendship, wisdom, and inspiration in leadership. Among those who have received Sagamores have been astronauts, presidents, politicians, ambassadors, artists, and musicians who have contributed greatly to our Hoosier heritage. Sam was presented with this most prestigious award at the Christmas Concert in 2014. It was signed by now Vice President Michael R. Pence who was Governor of Indiana at the time.

Sam grew up in Pennsylvania and started directing music before he graduated from college. He served in the Second Army Band and Dance Band. Then he came to this Hoosier State where he started high school music programs, taught and directed not only high school but also college music courses. He has received recognition from the Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Mu with the Outstanding Bandmasters Award and was inducted into the Indiana Bandmasters Hall of Fame; received the Robert A. Phillips Service to Music Award from the Indianapolis Symphonic Band; and the James B. Calvert Award as the Outstanding Music Educator of the Year from the Indiana Wind Symphony.

Upon his retirement from North Central High School in 1992, Warner Paige, President of Paige’s Music, asked him to organize and direct the New Horizons Band of Indianapolis which was begun in the Fall of 1994.

You would think a person with numerous awards such as these would have a lot to say, but Sam is a quiet man, a man of few words. He does most of his talking with that little white stick—and it can say a lot. Lately, he has been making ‘quiet’ statements. His daughter has a good sense of humor. She gave him several pair of comical socks which he proudly wears.

Sam really does have a lot to say — you just have to know where to look for it...
Flowers can grow faster by listening to music.

On a muggy 100-degree afternoon, the Rochester, New York New Horizons Clarinet Choir arrived at the Doubletree Inn, Orlando for the 2017 International Clarinet Association’s (ICA) Clarinetfest. There were 19 of us: Tom Ashby, Wendy Bachhuber, Ann Brown, George Brown, John Caselli, Rivka Chatman, Lori Cyr, Peggy Egan, Patricia Ensman, Linda Knight, Jeannie LaBarbera, Barbara Lovenheim, Mike McKain, Jeanine Oosterveen, Judy Rose, Ed Rummler, Roxanne Woy, plus our outstanding conductors Al Woy and Ken Scott. After many months of preparation, the group was excited to be part of this international festival of clarinetists, taking place from July 26-30.

The Clarinetfest was the third time the clarinet choir was accepted to play at the international conference. We had also played at in Austin, Texas (2010) and in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (2017).

On Thursday morning, dressed in black pants and our signature light blue shirts, the group gathered in the Seminole room for our concert. We played Holst’s “First Suite in E-flat: March,” Bill Evans’ “Children’s Play Song,” Harry Warren’s “Chattanooga Choo Choo” with Rivka Chatman on the whistle, Mancini’s “Pink Panther,” and Holst’s “Two Songs Without Words: Marching Song”. The appreciative audience took lots of pictures and gave us an enthusiastic ovation. Our performance this year was dedicated to the memory of Elaine Brigman, who helped organize the Rochester, NY New Horizons clarinet choir and was an enthusiastic player and supporter of the group until her death. We salute her with our continual dedication to excellence in our clarinet choir.

We celebrated after our concert with a lunch at The Oceanaire where we were joined by Roy Ernst who praised our commitment to music and our fine playing. It was a joyous day!

In addition to our concert, we rehearsed and played with the Festival Clarinet Choir, a group of amateur clarinet players, some professionals, and some professors from across the country. Under the baton of maestro Al Woy, the choir gave a concert on Sunday, the final day of the Clarinetfest. Among the pieces played were Mozart’s “Overture to the Magic Flute” arranged by Anthony Brackett who was in the audience at a rehearsal. Saint-Saens’ “Pas Redouble” was played as well. It was arranged by Matt Johnston who also attended the conference. The Festival Clarinet Choir’s concert concluded the festivities and was an exciting finish to a fabulous Florida festival.

There were also numerous concerts to attend throughout the festival. One was on Wednesday evening with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra where such amazing players as Stephen Ahearn, Milan Rericha, Julian Bliss, Richard Stoltzman, and Eddie Daniels shared the stage with the orchestra. There were smaller venues as well. Some notable performances were by the Claribel Clarinet Choir Guido Six from Belgium and The Licorice-Sticks Clarinet Orchestra. It was a busy few days, and the delight of being part of Clarinetfest 2017 is still with us.

Next year in Ostende, Belgium!

Editor’s Note: The International Clarinet Association (ICA), now in its 44th year sponsors these annual Clarinetfests throughout the world. For more info on the ICA, click here.
How Making Music Can Boost Your Brain Power
Dr. Roy Ernst – Founder, New Horizons Music Program

Dr. Roy Ernst

For people who like to do brain “exercise,” working crossword puzzles or playing computer games is pretty standard fare. But you’ll likely get a better brain workout by picking up a guitar, cello or clarinet instead—and, for good measure, joining a band or orchestra.

CREATE YOUR OWN NEURAL SYMPHONY

Why is music so great for brain health? Scientists know that it’s one of the few activities that engages many areas of your brain at the same time. When you read a musical score, for example, your brain processes several notes per second, taking in each note’s pitch, duration, intensity, volume, articulation and tone quality. Then the brain sends out signals to your nerves and muscles, so you can physically turn those notes into a melody.

If you’re playing in a band or orchestra, you must listen even more carefully, blending your sounds with those of your fellow players. This involves constantly making small adjustments to stay in time and in tune—a process that requires total focus and engages even more areas of your brain.

Scans show that parts of the brain that govern auditory, visual, sensory and motor and emotional function are all engaged when musicians practice and perform. It’s not surprising that scans have also revealed that musicians have superior memories and executive function—brain processes tied to planning, solving problems and focusing.

The perks are more than cognitive. Playing an instrument requires your undivided attention, giving you the same stress-reducing advantages as meditating does.

There are also health benefits—music-making can lower your heart rate and blood pressure, according to a study from the Netherlands. Plus, your body pumps out extra oxytocin, a hormone that can make you feel less anxious and more connected to your fellow players.

AGE IS AN ADVANTAGE

Many people assume that they’re past the age when they can learn how to make music. But that’s not true. Adult learners actually have an edge over children in several ways. For example, adults tend to...

• **Practice more effectively**. Adult learners take their goals seriously and often have more discipline, thanks to years in the workforce.
• **Draw on experiences**. A lifetime of ups and downs lets you create music in a richer, more emotional way than younger folks.
• **Have been lifelong listeners**. Years spent hearing different genres of music make it easier to grasp music’s basic structures, such as chords, phrases and form.

HOW TO START AND KEEP PLAYING

To succeed when learning a new musical instrument, follow these steps...

• **Choose your instrument**. Don’t base your decision on instruments you may have stored in your attic (for example, an instrument your child used to play). If

(Continued on page 20)
How Making Music Can Boost Your Brain Power - continued

you just love the sound of a particular instrument, that should be your first choice. However, it's best to rent initially instead of buying in case you change your mind.

Note: Medical issues or physical limitations can impact your instrument choice. For example, if you have arthritis or dental work, certain instruments may not be advisable. Check with your doctor if you have any questions.

• **Practice, practice, practice.** Once you have some basics down, pick a few songs that you love and play them repeatedly. When doing so, focus on making your music more creative and expressive.

• **Expect plateaus.** You may well reach a point when you feel you are no longer improving. Don’t get frustrated. Instead, go back and review the basics that got you this far. Keep polishing those skills, and you may find that you break through to the next level.

For example, maybe you are discouraged because you can’t play high notes on your instrument. If you are patient and keep playing the notes you can play comfortably, the higher notes will probably eventually come.

• **Don’t let an ailment set you back.** Poor vision, hearing or mobility isn’t an obstacle to playing music. You can get your eyeglass prescription tweaked or read your music from an iPad so you can enlarge the notes. A hearing aid might help.

Find out from fellow players what they’ve done to overcome physical challenges. They may have ingenious solutions. And with practice, your fingers are sure to get nimbler and those music-centric areas of your brain will wake up.

• **Look for inspiration.** Listen to music you love...as often as you can. There’s nothing like a rousing rendition of your favorite melodies to keep you motivated.

**Helpful:** Go to YouTube.com and search your favorite songs and/or performers. Whether you want to play sax like Charlie Parker or violin like Hilary Hahn, you’ll find hours of enjoyment—and inspiration!

**JOIN A MUSIC GROUP!**

New Horizons Music, a nonprofit organization that encourages adults to get together to make music, sponsors more than 200 ongoing music groups in all regions of the U.S. as well as several locations internationally. Most of these musicians are beginners, though others are returning to skills learned in childhood.

To find a group in your area, go to: NewHorizonsMusic.org. If you don’t find one in your specific location, New Horizons can help you start one. The cost to join a group ranges from zero to several hundred dollars, depending on the particular group. Music camps are also available for a fee that covers the cost of instruction, room and food.

**Another option:** Check out community and church choirs and orchestras. You can also search online with your hometown and the word “band” or “orchestra.” You can check local music stores or community centers for leads on an individual teacher. **Helpful:** Look for someone with a pleasant personality, patience and a good sense of humor.

**Roy Ernst, PhD, founder and adviser to the board of directors of New Horizons Music, a nonprofit organization dedicated to music education for older adults. He is also professor emeritus at the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester, New York, where he taught music education and conducting courses for 25 years and chaired the music education department for 12 years. He is a former flute professor and, at the age of 79, is learning to play the ukulele and string bass.**

**Music, painting, poetry, literature and architecture, all used to be part of the modern Olympic Games from 1912 to 1948.**

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**WHEN YOUR CAR HORN IS BROKEN**

[Image of a person holding a car horn]

[Caption: When Your Car Horn is Broken]
Losing its founder and longtime music director could cripple many community bands, but the New Horizons Band (NHB) of Cincinnati was so blessed with musical talent that when Director Pete Metzger stepped down in December, they were able to recruit three directors to share the podium!

The NHB Band Council formalized the replacement decision after the three musicians took turns leading the band over a period of several months. Each demonstrated his or her qualifications; they lead everything from high school to concert or military bands. With the trial runs complete, council members decided that instead of trying to choose between three such highly qualified candidates, they would invite them all to alternate at the podium. The candidates readily agreed. This novel approach became official when the band ended its summer break and resumed the twice-a-week rehearsals in September.

The co-directors (who play with the NHB concert and Dixieland bands when not conducting) are Jack Conway (trombone), Bruce Knapp (tuba) and Susan Schirmer (clarinet). All three are experienced music educators living in the Greater Cincinnati area and are long-time NHB members.

Jack Conway has been professionally involved in music education for 33 years, having served as band director at Moeller High School in Cincinnati and Badin High in Hamilton. He retired from the Lakota School District, where he served as a sixth grade band teacher and taught jazz band, choir and other music courses.

Bruce Knapp counts more than 40 years as music educator at secondary schools, colleges and military bands. He is a graduate of University of Cincinnati’s (UC) College-Conservatory of Music and the U.S. Army’s advanced courses. He led the UC summer band for three years and annually conducts the Cincinnati Tuba Christmas program. He plays tuba with the 275 Brass and is principal tubist with the Cincinnati Community Orchestra.

Susan Schirmer has more than 30 years’ experience in public schools, including 27 years in the Lakota district. Her career includes teaching elementary through high school students. She has played clarinet with the Southwest Ohio Symphonic Band, Seven Hills Sinfonietta and Cincinnati Metropolitan Orchestra. A founder of the West Chester Symphony 20 years ago, she has been its conductor ever since. She has conducted both student and faculty musicals at Lakota High as well as musicals for other groups and churches.

The 50-member Cincinnati band was certainly saddened by the retirement of its respected director, Pete Metzger, but they will still be able to benefit from his musical contributions as he continues to lead the Sycamore Community Band. And, with three experienced directors to lead the group, one can only imagine the musical opportunities that await band members!

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Judy Rose (NHIMA Board of Directors), had these HEALTH NOTES to share...

I would like to offer my husband’s summer struggle with Shingles. Bill had a mild case of Shingles about 20 years ago and was told he didn’t need the vaccine because he couldn’t get it again. The first of June, a rash formed around his left eye and in the scalp. Shingles had resurfaced and for two months he suffered severe pain and sleepless nights.

After weeks on opioids, pain management doctors finally settled on Gabapentin to lower the pain level. Doctors were also concerned he could lose vision in the eye and he may have lost some hearing. Vision tests showed he no longer measures the exceptional 20/30.

Shingles on the face is the most common location when it reoccurs. It often affects persons in their 70s and 80s and for some, the pain and burning type symptoms may never completely go away. The pain was so severe he didn’t work for 12 weeks and is currently, though not feeling well, forcing himself to take back his life. He has been advised to have the vaccine when he’s well again since he could get it a third time!

Please…spread the word, get the Shingles vaccine even if you’ve had Shingles. If you suspect you have Shingles, getting the vaccine within 72 hours will lessen the symptoms and duration. After that window of time, the vaccine is not effective.
Music has a way of forging new friendships. Such was the case with my meeting Cameron Gordon Peck. Cameron is quite a special lady whose friendship I treasure.

Her Journey

Cameron grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan, a suburb on the north side of Detroit. During her grade school years, she began to explore the world of music with involvement in children's choir, piano lessons and the discovery of her love for playing the French horn. By middle school she was taking private lessons on French horn, attending local music camps and a two week residential music camp on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. By high school, Cameron was playing French horn in her high school top band and orchestra, high school chamber orchestra, and two community orchestras in the Detroit area.

In September of 1970, Cameron began her four-year studies as a Horn major at Butler University in Indianapolis. While pursuing her Bachelor of Music Degree, she played with various college ensembles, brass quintet, woodwind quintet, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, the Indianapolis Brass Choir, Indianapolis Symphony (as substitute and extra) and taught private lessons.

It was during her college years that Cameron met composer and future husband, Russell Peck. Russell's musical journey was then integrated into Cameron's musical journey. In 1974 when Russell accepted a teaching position at Northern Illinois University, Cameron began playing with the Rockford Symphony while also attaining her Master's Degree in Horn performance at NIU. Also during this time, she became more involved in Russell's life as a composer and learned to be a music copyist, which in time evolved into computer music engraving and editing for publication.

In 1977, Cameron and Russell spent six bitterly cold months in Rochester, NY while Russell was a guest faculty member at the Eastman School of Music. Not particularly liking the non-stop snow and the constant howling, blowing wind, they relocated south when Russell accepted a faculty position at the North Carolina School of the Arts. This gave Cameron the opportunity to play with the Winston-Salem Symphony, the Greensboro Symphony, a brass quintet and a woodwind quintet, in addition to continuing to teach private lessons.

North Carolina became home and life was good. Both Cameron and Russell were deeply involved in the music community and Russell's talent as a composer flourished as did their publishing company, Pecktacular Music.

In 2004 Cameron was confronted with a condition called Focal Embouchure Dystonia, which "affects the muscles of the lower face, tongue, jaw and pharynx used to control the flow of air into the mouthpiece of a brass or woodwind instrument". Cameron had to retire completely from playing French horn. It was very difficult for her to withdraw so abruptly from the life she had known as an active musician.

Cameron said, "I missed the people, I missed being in the midst of the orchestra with its powerful and magnificent sounds, and I missed our brass quartet that played together so beautifully."

Cameron continued running the music publishing business—working with orchestra conductors and librarians regarding scores and rental of the orchestra and band parts, and printing and selling wholesale material of Russell's chamber music to retail stores—and remained active in Russell's composing career.

After having Russell front and center in her life for 37 years, Russell died suddenly and tragically on March 1, 2009. Cameron was devastated.

She describes, “I was horribly shocked and nearly incapacitated. (Continued on page 23)
The camp proved invaluable, so spring of 2017 found me there again, and I was delighted to see Cameron there also. I was even more delighted when we both ended up in the 1st violin section! As we were setting up to start our first rehearsal, I noticed something quite remarkable about Cameron—she did not have a fully formed right hand. There were no fingers and only a very small, unusually shaped thumb. I was amazed, for two reasons. First of all, I was amazed that she was playing violin. Secondly, I was amazed that the year before at SCOR I had not even noticed!!!! How could that be?

Well, this is how that could be. Cameron has never, ever made an issue out of the fact that she was born without a complete right hand.

She said, "I've spent my life trying not to be defined by my right hand. . . . I would want to be encouraging to people with a disability who want to learn to play a musical instrument. Because with determination and creative problem-solving, remarkable solutions can be found. But not everything can be made possible. So just a heads-up for people not to be lured into 'exaggerated positive thinking'. It's not helpful, and doesn't recognize the struggles and limitations that people with disabilities live with every day."

Cameron accomplished playing violin with "creative problem solving". When she began taking lessons, she and her teacher realized the limitations (just as her piano teacher did) and did not know how far she might progress. Cameron even questioned the practicality of starting a classical-music instrument in her early 60's, but she forged onward. She did come to realize that the right-hand issue was preventing her from being able to reach the tip of a full-length violin bow, so she changed to a ¾ length bow. Problem solved!

Cameron is becoming an accomplished violinist. She is now at the end of Suzuki Book 4 where she is working on the Bach double-concerto. We have stayed in touch since our most recent SCOR camp and she has been my guest at our Catawba Valley New Horizons Orchestra practices several times. If she lived closer she would officially join, but that is not practical. We love having her play with us as she raises the bar! Although she and I started violin about the same time and we are working on the same piece of music, I feel that Cameron's proficiency and intonation are far beyond mine. I aspire to achieve her level and work ethic.

I love Cameron's summation about tackling a new instrument at this stage in life…

"You know. . . old dog/new tricks'. . . Along with the expected incredible frustrations of learning to play the violin, I'm having a great time. It's really fun to be playing music again! Even at my non-advanced level . . . As I continue to remind myself frequently, it's about progress, and the pleasure of playing the instrument. Frustrations and all!"

What a person. What a musician. What an inspiration. And such is the music of life and the extraordinary journey of Cameron Gordon Peck.
Surrounded by nature, nestled between trees, rivers and mountains—this was the site of the first Mount Orford Music camp, located near Montreal in Quebec, Canada. The camp sold out in record time, and much of that had to do with the wonderful variety of classes made available by the camp organizers and directors.

Part of the fun of music camps is listening to all the different bands perform for each other on the last day of camp. With the exception of the concert bands which performed in the main concert hall, our camp organizers arranged an evening where we could all gather to listen to the small ensembles perform, enjoy a glass of wine and socialize with new friends. You will never find a more welcoming, supportive environment to play in.

No music camp would be complete without experiencing something new, and this camp was no exception. Campers were greeted every morning at 7:00 a.m. by Dan Kapp playing his Alphorn in front of the residences. We even had a conch shell class which was conducted by Justin and Mark Hiscox. Add an impromptu evening ukulele sing along led by our NHIMA president, Ken Carper, and you have the perfect camp experience.

But don’t take my word for it, read the accounts of some of the campers in this newsletter (see the following pages).

Wikipedia: “The alphorn or alpenhorn or alpine horn is a labrophone, consisting of a wooden natural horn of conical bore, having a wooden cup-shaped mouthpiece, used by mountain dwellers in the Swiss Alps, Austrian Alps, Bavarian Alps in Germany, French Alps, and elsewhere. Similar wooden horns were used for communication in most mountainous regions of Europe, from the Alps to the Carpathians.”

Dan Kapp serenades campers with his Alphorn

Conch shell class

Ukelele singalong shenanigans
I Found More Than Great Music at the Orford Music Camp
Annette Lalonde - New Horizons Band of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

I was one of the very lucky members to win a NHIMA campership and I found more than a great musical experience at the Orford Music Camp. I finally found Beth Cada who plays the French horn with the New Horizons Band in London, Ontario. She didn't know me, but I knew her from a Toronto Star article written about her retirement goal of playing music with others. It’s how she came to join the New Horizons band and reading that article is how I came to find and join the New Horizons Band in Toronto! We even spent our childhood in the same area and now our worlds have a musical link.

If a fortune teller would have told me five years ago that I would be playing the alto sax with others in my home in the near future, I would have laughed it off, but the prediction would have been right on.

Among the many happy musical moments that I’ve had since joining the NHB in Toronto are the practice sessions that I’ve had in my living room with other sax players to prepare for small ensembles. It’s like a dream come true.

Band Camp or Boot Camp?
Carol Katz – New Horizons Band of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Lucky for me, I won a campership to the Orford Music Camp. That first night, I was reduced to tears when I held the percussion score in the Intermediate Band.

I recall thinking, “What had I gotten myself into? This surely was a big mistake. I’m going home tomorrow! How is everyone else playing such music that they’d never even heard before?”

I froze when I picked up my drum sticks. I was playing the bass drum, cymbals, and ukulele. Ron Berry, our percussion teacher, advised us not to look at the score all the time but also to look at him. Well, I took him literally and began to play my own rhythms on a bucket with drum sticks, while trying to follow the antics with his hands! Roy’s laughter spurred me on and I got louder and louder to the chagrin of the saxophones and tubas in front of me.

I now decided that the mental challenges here should also involve some fun. So, I jammed with my ukulele, sang a song called “Dirty in Hawaii,” did rhythm calisthenics on snare, and played kazoo in the middle of our ukulele concert without warning Ken, our conductor. I also had my solo debut when I hit the bass drum in our band after the piece was finished. I can’t remember the last time I had such fun and learned so much!

Thanks for this wonderful, never to be forgotten experience!
"String" My Trombone

Jane Springer – New Horizons Band of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

I was nearing the end of my first year at the New Horizons Band of Toronto, Ontario, having not played since high school, when I applied to go to the Eastman-Rochester New Horizons’ Orchestra Camp in Chautauqua, New York.

I was unsure about making the transition from band to orchestra, so I wrote to Camp Director Ron Berry. I answered his questions a little tentatively about how often I practiced (four times a week was hopeful) and whether I thought I could keep up (again, very hopeful) but responded decisively to the question about whether I could handle a solo (no!).

Ron was encouraging and invited me to join the camp. He suggested I get used to playing more sharps than usual but assured me that there’d be other experienced trombonists there for backup. To make it even better, and make the decision much easier, was that I won a campership – so there was no turning back!

Ron was right about the sharps, and about the other people in my section. I was seated between two highly skilled and affable trombonists who in New Horizons-style, supported me in every way. We started rehearsing on Friday afternoon and played a concert Sunday morning. It was intense, but by the end, thanks to their help, I was handling most of those sharps and high notes and difficult rhythms.

The camp would have been exhilarating anywhere, but in the gorgeous Chautauqua setting it was breath-taking. My husband came along for the weekend as a “music critic,” and loved exploring the historic Chautauqua cultural scene. And, of course it was delightful to hang out with the musicians including the two who had wanted to play cello all their lives and had learned the instrument with New Horizons.

Many thanks to New Horizons for the fabulous Chautauqua orchestra camp and to the campership that helped make this learning experience possible.

Mother & Daughter BOTH Campership Winners

Carol and Erika Kissam - NHB of Northern New York, Potsdam, NY

When the two of us heard about an orchestra camp at Chautauqua, we both had our interest piqued. Neither of us had been there before, and both of us had heard wonderful things about the place. We were not disappointed!

The setting for the camp was wonderful, and when our Sunday concert was over, we made sure to take time to wander around the area before leaving.

We both enjoyed our experiences at camp. The rooms and meals were wonderful. We appreciated meeting new people, attending the educational sessions, and preparing for the concert in our sectionals and full-group rehearsals. It was a fun and memorable weekend for us, and we would highly recommend it to others!

Erika Kissam (mom)
My First Camp Experience Made Possible by NHIMA
Teresa Poltronetti - New Horizons Band of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

I started playing music only a few years before retiring, and quickly realized that the opportunity to play with a band was remote. So, I was quite thrilled when I heard that the Montreal New Horizons Band accepted older musicians with little experience.

I had also heard early on of NHIMA Music Camps but thought they were typically addressing a more experienced group. Then two great things happened...I found that not only could I attend, but I had actually won a campership! I still can't believe it!

I was impressed with the number of directors and organizers at the Orford Camp in the Montreal area. I met fellow musicians from near and far in Canada and U.S., all gathering to make music happen, and each bringing their own flavour, special touch, knowledge and experience. They all shared one main goal...to make music and have fun doing it, where your best is good enough!

I was truly touched by the generosity, the kindness, the readiness, the helping hand of each and every director I had the pleasure to play with. Same goes for fellow musicians, regardless of level. You could feel the warmth throughout!

Teresa Poltronetti

Mother - Daughter Weekend at NH Orchestra Camp
Deborah Hicks Abell – Eastman-Rochester New Horizons Orchestra, Rochester, NY

Long ago, Sharon dutifully attended all of Deborah's lessons and concerts, and more recently, Deborah has been regularly attending Sharon's various concerts, documentary premieres, etc.

The New Horizons orchestra camp at Chautauqua provided the perfect setting for a mother-daughter music weekend, which we both enjoyed immensely.

We are looking forward to a repeat performance next year! Receiving a campership was the frosting on the cake!!

Sharon Hicks & Deborah Hicks Abell
(mother & daughter)

Sharon Hicks and her daughter, Deborah Hicks Abell, have been playing flute and violin, respectively, for a total of 113 years.
Their passion for music led 64 musicians, along with four music directors and nine spouses (music critics) and one camp director to gather at the Chautauqua Institute on the shores of the beautiful Chautaqua Lake in western New York (between Buffalo and Jamestown) for the first New Horizons Orchestra Camp, dedicated strictly to orchestral music. Most of the campers hailed from states nearby but several came from further away: Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Texas, and from Toronto, Ontario.

Easy registration and efficient check-in, well-planned rehearsals and activities, coupled with bountiful food and the gorgeous late spring weather made the camp an experience not to be forgotten. For 10 brand new campers—those who have never attended a New Horizons music camp before—the experience was doubly pleasurable since they each received a $100 campership.

Some attendees brought family along. We had three mothers and their daughters playing in the orchestra (see photos) and camera-shy brothers, Paul Ness (cello) from Eastman-Rochester Orchestra and his brother, David Ness (violin) from Bellaire, Texas. Paul and David thoroughly enjoyed their time together.

After campers checked in on Friday and following lunch, all orchestra members gathered for their first full rehearsal and to discover what the music directors had selected for the concert on Sunday. Musicians know that rehearsal time is essential for a polished performance and, consequently on Friday, there were two full orchestra rehearsals and three on Saturday, (one in the morning, one in the afternoon and one at night). We also had a quick run through on Sunday before the final concert. Each rehearsal was 2.5 hours long. There were also sectionals and breakout sessions for the wind instruments and the strings.

Following the full rehearsal, the evening was free to visit and to get to know one another. Some campers prepared musical numbers for the Saturday Evening Talent Show and several attendees shared their many gifts. Jaime Madrigal led one group in jazz improv and Deborah Hicks Abell played her own stunning arrangement of “O Danny Boy” on the violin.

There are always those who lead and whose ideas and inspiration make things happen. First and foremost is Judy Rose (NHIMA Board member) who conceived of and approached the Eastman-Rochester Orchestra about the possibility of hosting an orchestra camp. Then there are the Eastman-Rochester Orchestra members who responded and became the camp committee: Susie Truesdale, Dave Teegarden, Paul Ness, Dave Stern. Vital support was provided by Ron Berry, Camp Director and Abby Stern, Librarian, and the New Horizons International Music Association. Their vision was executed perfectly.

Finally, there are the music directors, extraordinaire: BettyAnne Gottlieb (Director of the Cincinnati Conservatory New Horizons Orchestra), Jaime Madrigal (Director of the New Horizons String Ensemble of Summit and Stark Counties in Ohio), and Alexander (Alex) Penia (Director of the Eastman-Rochester New Horizons Orchestra). Alan Woy (Co-Director of the Eastman-Rochester Concert and Symphonic Bands), led the Wind instrument sectionals. He selected and conducted a very beautiful rendition of “Amazing Grace” for the Sunday concert.

(Continued on page 30)
the directors brought energy, grace and fun to the weekend with their wit and musical high style.

Camper Comments

“All our conductors (teachers) and bandmates were so friendly and encouraging, the availability of camperships seems in tune with the tone of the entire camp—like a celebration of new-comers.”

“. . . I had such fun at the Chautauqua Orchestra Camp—I had just started playing my horn again in February of this year and am excited for about any opportunity to join with other musicians. I especially enjoyed the camp because it immersed us in playing for several days in a row, with a variety of conductors and conducting styles—and definitely a variety of music.”

“I was so fortunate to win a campership. Thank you so much. It was easy to apply, and I appreciated the help with the tuition. However, I must admit, I would have attended anyway. I love New Horizons!”

Mother and Daughter Attend NH Orchestra Camp
Marion DeBrosse – Baldwin Wallace University New Horizons Programs, Berea, OH

My daughter Suzanne exhibited a love of music early. She was involved in music programs since age 4. She's played the viola, piano, pipe organ, French horn and more recently violin, mandolin, cello and classical guitar.

Besides music, her other passion is medicine. Today, she is a busy specialist at Cleveland's University Hospitals.

Unfortunately, her days run way too late for her to be able to attend any orchestra rehearsals. A few years ago, I could indulge in a long-time dream when I discovered the New Horizons orchestra program at a nearby university. I now play viola with that group.

One of Suzanne’s greatest pleasures is to be able to play in an ensemble and the New Horizons camps not only make that possible for her, but it allows us to share the experience and play in the same orchestra. It's a priceless opportunity for us, if only for a few days.
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 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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