MESSAGE FROM THE NHIMA PRESIDENT

Exciting new developments

By Ken Carper, President

I am thinking about how busy many of our New Horizons groups are this time of year. Many are busily preparing challenging spring programs. For many of our NHIMA members, it is similar to their high school and college experiences where the work of several months of rehearsal came into focus on a single night, with an auditorium filled with family and friends.

And some bands (like my local band in Naples, FL), rather than having the audience come to us in an auditorium setting, are taking their music out to retirement communities, clubhouses, and churches. It is sometimes physically exhausting, but it also gives an emotional high. I’ve always enjoyed rehearsals more than performances, but it is at a live program that our brains, fingers, and lungs are most active! And we, as performing musicians, are fortunate that we can watch the expressions and hear the comments from our audiences—not something that poets or painters can do so easily and frequently.

It is such an honor being President of New Horizons Music. And I’m fortunate to have such an experienced, cooperative, and self-motivated Board of Directors to work with. I will share a few of the most exciting and enjoyable things I am working with.

New Horizons group AND NHIMA. The target enrollment was 60 and we are now at just under 100. I am looking forward to my first trip to Dayton in late May.

NHIMA is planning its first chamber music camp—actually two camps. The three-day camps are made possible by a grant from the Associated Chamber Music Players. Three professional coaches will work with chamber groups of three to six players, rehearsing pieces chosen specifically for these groups. Two camps are planned. The first, in June, will be hosted by the Cumberland Valley School of Music in Chambersburg, PA. The location and date of the second are yet to be determined. I look forward to visiting both pilot projects. They will both inform NHIMA how to better serve senior musicians who enjoy playing chamber music.

THE FLORIDA OPEN HOUSE

Five NHIMA groups participated in the Florida Open House during the first week of March. (See separate report on page 2.) Musicians from other bands, as well as players vacationing and touring through Florida at the time, were invited to share in a
Pleased to make your acquaintance...

Hi there! Just a quick note to introduce myself as your new newsletter editor. My name is Nikki Attwell, and I'm writing from West Kelowna, British Columbia, where the crocuses are just starting to poke their heads through the rapidly melting snow. It's been an unusually long winter!

Like many of you, I am an amateur musician. My instrument, however, is handbells. I've been ringing handbells since 1977 and now direct the Alleluia Ringers at First United Church in Kelowna, BC, a program I started from scratch in 2006. Again, like many of you, at that time, almost without exception, my ringers had no experience with handbells, but they learned and progressed rapidly. It amazing to look back over the past 12 years and see how far they have come.

While I don't play a band instrument, I have been aware of the New Horizons organization for quite some time, because the thriving NH program at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University in London, ON began during the time I worked there.

I've been delighted with the healthy response to the call for submissions for this issue, and with the enthusiasm that NH band members obviously have for their organization. I'd like to thank Linda Johnson for her help in getting me up to speed and through the transition, and I look forward to getting to know many of you, and a long association with NHIMA. Cheers!

Nikki

CORAL GABLES, NAPLES, GULF PORT, GAINESVILLE, FL

A New Horizons First: Florida Open Houses
Submitted by Roy Ernst

Thirty-five New Horizons musicians participated in Florida Open Houses. Many people who play in one of the participating bands decided to visit other bands in their region.

There were several visitors from Canada and from other states. They all enjoyed the sound of the larger band, with the visitors and getting to play all new music with a different director.

One of the visitors to the Naples Open House said, "My feeling is that it couldn't have gone better! The playing was outstanding. Everyone was listening and watching very well. And the refreshments were over the top from the coffee and donuts to the lunch choices! Thanks, all."

New Horizons Bands in Coral Gables, Naples, Gulf Port, Jacksonville and Gainesville participated. There will be another Open House week in Florida in early March next year. There will also be Open House weeks in other regions, usually preceding a camp.

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Nikki
THANK YOU to the Naples New Horizons Band, the University of Miami Band, The New Horizons Conservatory Community Band and Orchestra (Jacksonville), the New Horizons Band at Gulfport, and Oak Hammock Chamber Players (Gainesville) for their participation.

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS Finally, I am looking forward to seeing big steps forward with business partnerships. The Sabian cymbal lottery has just concluded. And maybe it is OK for me to tease with a discount coming to our members from Hal Leonard. This is a GREAT time to be involved with New Horizon Music.

Thank you, all, for your sense of adventure. It's not easy putting yourself out there as a performing musician. It involves personal practice, making it to rehearsals and performances, and... WOW... keeping your eyes on the director! But the benefits are so great!

A band of musicians, playing as one, is a happening only humans can experience, and a joy for a lifetime.

The director, as he adjusts his microphone, calls us to order and starts enticing out the sounds he knows we have in our instruments. Some days the music flows effortlessly and harmonies are golden to his ear, but not always. Later, after the coffee and snacks are gone, it's back to work and the director reviews, suggests, encourages us and shapes the beautiful scores to make melodic sounds or sharp marches full of vigor and cadence, and then slow, mournful tunes with soulful pitches and heart wrenching beauty. Individually, we honk or toot, sometimes flat or sharp. Together however, under his direction, we play the music, enhance it, give it life and cloak the room with evoked emotions, which vibrate our senses in harmony.

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CATAWBA VALLEY NEW HORIZONS BAND, HICKORY, NC

Thoughts on our band
By Richard Bruns, trumpet

At 8:30 on Wednesday morning, people start arriving. First one in the door begins setting up the sound system, while another arranges the coffee and snacks. As that is happening, others come in to set out the chairs and music stands. More pour in the door in twos and threes, helping here and there, talking, laughing, greetings, then uncasng instruments, which lead to tuning and testing. Soon a cacophony of sound envelops everyone, with still more conversation, and mirth.

The director, as he adjusts his microphone, calls us to order and starts enticing out the sounds he knows we have in our instruments. Some days the music flows effortlessly and harmonies are golden to his ear, but not always. Later, after the coffee and snacks are gone, it's back to work and the director reviews, suggests, encourages us and shapes the beautiful scores to make melodic sounds or sharp marches full of vigor and cadence, and then slow, mournful tunes with soulful pitches and heart wrenching beauty. Individually, we honk or toot, sometimes flat or sharp. Together however, under his direction, we play the music, enhance it, give it life and cloak the room with evoked emotions, which vibrate our senses in harmony.

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PRESIDENT Continued from page 1

rehearsal. By knowing ahead of time that they were coming, groups were able to prepare music for each player and plan some social time to meet other New Horizons musicians. THANK YOU to the Naples New Horizons Band, the University of Miami Band, The New Horizons Conservatory Community Band and Orchestra (Jacksonville), the New Horizons Band at Gulfport, and Oak Hammock Chamber Players (Gainesville) for their participation.

PRESIDENT Continued from page 1
NEW HORIZONS MUSIC NORTH YORK, ON, CANADA

Second season underway
Submitted by Susan Baskin, Director

New Horizons Music North York is thrilled to celebrate the beginning of its second season. Founded in February of 2017, NHMNY currently has two concert bands. The addition of more ensembles, including ukulele and guitar, is planned for the fall of 2018.

The ensembles of NHM-NY held their first ever holiday concert, on December 11, 2017. Despite a raging snowstorm, attendance was terrific (we are Canadians after all!), the venue was warm and cozy, the mulled cider was nice and hot, and the playing was excellent. An appearance by Ludwig van Beethoven (actually our talented MC, Paul Babiak), featured in the novelty piece, “Christmas With Beethoven,” performed by a combined effort of the beginner and intermediate concert bands, brought down the house.

New Horizons Music North York is looking forward to its spring concert, on Monday, June 11, 2018, featuring special guest Jonno Lightstone, clarinetist extraordinare and director of ‘Klez Konnection’.

Check us out at: www.newhorizonsmusicnorthyork.ca

NEW HORIZONS BAND OF SIOUX CITY, IA

Tenth Anniversary
Submitted by Marv Crim

Once again the NHB of Sioux City is getting ready for the 2018 season. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary as an organized band. In February of 2007 we started out with five members and in 2018 we have 35 members. The band had a decorated cake with the NHB logo and pictures were taken.

Our director, Dr Lou Rossman, has our schedule made out for the entire year beginning in March and ending in December. The band has 20 play dates! We have been practicing on new music: “Selections from Chicago,” “Gospel John,” “Peace Jubilee,” “Amparito Roca,” “Celebration & Tribute,” Concerto For Drum Set & Concert Band, “Songs of Aloha,” “The Jazz Me Blues,” “The Billboard March,” and “More Cowbells.” Dr Lou always tries for a variety of music to present to various organizations in Siouland.

TOP LEFT: New members Pam Jochum, Arlene Lewis, Frank Moss, Darlene Moss and Linda Davis.

BOTTOM LEFT: Founding members Jeanie Dunbar, Lynne Boller, Michele McKenna, Maru Crim, Eugene Potter.
The New Horizons Bands of Northern New York annually host a gathering of musicians and music directors from New Horizons groups in the area. This year the Ottawa and Montreal New Horizons Bands joined us in Potsdam, and the fun is reciprocated each spring in Canada. This past fall brought together the largest group of New Horizons musicians since the tradition began in 2014; approximately 85 musicians of all ages, including seven conductors, enjoyed the thrill of sight-reading a wide variety of music.

In preparation for the event, volunteers gathered, organized and copied folders of music. Patricia Reichhart and JoAnn Schwob are captured at top left making sure all the folders were set. They also spearheaded the after-glow pot luck dinner that has become a staple for each of these gatherings.

During the afternoon, music directors from each of the hosting and visiting bands conducted the music they had selected for the festival. Directors rotated on the podium, with 15 minutes to introduce a piece of music. And then the next director took the podium. In total, 18 bandsets were read. Pictured at bottom left is Cathy Wilcox of Ottawa conducting one of her pieces.

The joy of music transcends borders and cultures, and the power of that transcendence is never more clear than at these band gatherings.

Trombone Silliness

David Finlayson is a trombonist with the New York Philharmonic. Click on the image at right to watch a video he created with a GoPro camera attached to the slide of his trombone. He says, “I don’t recommend trying this on music that has a faster tempo!” Click here to read his blog about how he created it.
BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT — A NEW BAND!
The Ohio University New Horizons Band has launched and we had our first rehearsal on January 23, 2018! We had 13 people show up with instruments and a few indicated following that day that they would join the next week.

My thanks to Roy Ernst and the folks at NHIMA for providing excellent resources as I worked to get our NHB up and running. Since our first rehearsal, I have been contacted by the local news station and they are ready to come visit us and run a story. I’m sure that won’t hurt recruiting! I’m looking forward to the possibilities of this group and am excited about the music-making we have ahead of us!
Matthew D. Talbert, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Music Education
Ohio University School of Music

The Peninsula Symphonic Band and the Community Choir of Door County joined together on November 5, 2017 to present an evening of patriotic music to honor our veterans and their families. The concert was at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Sturgeon Bay, WI. A free-will offering was taken in support of the musical organizations and the local veterans council.

VFW Post 51, Joe Heilman commander, presented the colors for the evening.

The combined groups performed a musical salute to our Armed Forces, and a moving selection from the movie “We Were Soldiers” titled “The Mansions of the Lord.” The program ended with “The Ultimate Patriotic Sing-Along.”

The groups also performed “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” “America the Beautiful,” “You’re A Grand Old Flag,” “God Bless the U.S.A.,” and the “Star Spangled Banner.” The band played stirring marches and familiar tunes from WW2, “The Rolling Stones on Tour,” “Loch Lomond,” a collection of folk tunes, and a march dedicated to the U.S. Navy titled “Guardians of the Sea.” Additionally, the choir performed “In Flanders Fields.”

The Peninsula Symphonic Band is led by Director Paula Eggert, and the Community Choir of Door County is led by Cheryl Pfister and Judy Thompson.

MAKING MUSIC AT 93
This picture is from the New Horizons Band of the Community Music School’s (Centerbrook, CT) Adult Musicale in December. Our band played concerts in 2017 at several senior centers as well as Essex Place, a neighboring residential condominium. Our members include an alto sax player who just turned 93 as well as several octogenarians. We have been making music together since 2009, often collaborating with the NH Band of Southeast Connecticut, in Groton, CT.
Patricia Hurley, Director
Bob Gaston, proud director of the CASI New Horizons Band in Davenport, IA, for 22 years.

CORNWALL NEW HORIZONS BAND, CORNWALL, ON, CANADA

First Public Performance
Submitted by Raymond Lacroix

Sunday, June 11, 2017 marked the historic event of our FIRST public concert. BRAVO!

This concert was held at Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School where we have our classes and we especially invited family and friends along with a few Facebook ads to bring in the general public.

We attracted approximately 35 in the audience and found this to be very good for a very first performance.
The New Horizons music program came into existence at Memorial Drive United Methodist Church in Houston ten years ago with the right combination of timing and talent. Jerry Davis, who first suggested the program, recalls, “The synergy was there.”

Jerry first heard about the New Horizons program from his friend Ward Lott, a former MDUMC member. Friends since high school, they kept in touch after Ward moved to Austin. Though Ward has never studied a musical instrument before, he began playing with the New Horizons Band of Austin, a community wind ensemble of musicians over fifty years of age.

On his Houston visits, Ward brought his new coronet and played for Jerry. He told him, “I’m having a good time doing this, and you ought to do it, too.” Though skeptical about playing an instrument, Jerry was intrigued with the idea of starting a New Horizons group in Houston. “I’ve always loved orchestral music, especially string groups.”

When Ward moved to Colorado Springs, he joined the Pikes Peak New Horizons band and invited Jerry to their performances. Jerry was impressed with their skill and the generous rehearsal facilities at Bethel Bible College. Back in Houston, he suggested a New Horizons program to Terry Tullos, who directed the Agape youth choir at MDUMC. Terry was well qualified to direct an orchestral program. A well-recognized trumpet player and studio musician, he had instructed and directed prize-winning orchestras in the Baton Rouge, LA school system.

Initially, the timing was not good for Terry, but he didn’t forget the suggestion. He eventually contacted Dr. Roy Ernst, the New Horizons founder, and was greeted with open arms. Dr. Ernst was delighted to have someone stepping forward in Houston. He invited Terry to a meeting in Florida where he instructed directors on the “how to's” of starting New Horizon groups.

Terry was ready to get started. He and Jerry visited the New Horizons Band of Austin, TX, to find out how they started their program and how to avoid the pitfalls in setting up a new organization in Houston. Terry made a proposal for starting a New Horizons organization to the church leaders and found a receptive audience. With his background in instrumental performance, Dr. Charles B. Simmons, MDUMC senior minister, stepped forward to support the new endeavour along with MDUMC orchestra members and Keith Craik, strings teacher.

The first organizational meeting was held April 30, 2009. The new Board of Directors met July 3, 2009 with Pat Weeks, chairman; Terry Tullos, vice chairman; John Rhebergen, secretary; Art McGimsey, treasurer; and Jerry Davis, at-large leader. Constance Rhebergen, an intellectual property attorney, filed for their non-profit status August 31, 2009. With its incorporation the official name was granted as Energy City New Horizons Music (ECNHM) and it was affiliated with the New Horizons program ten years ago.
International Music Association (NHIMA), an organization dedicated to expanding music opportunities for adults with about 150 bands, orchestras, and choruses throughout the United States, Canada and Ireland.

The next step was getting the word out to attract the players. Jerry recalls making the pitch: “We will create this group, and here is your opportunity. Whether you played before or not, we want you here.” He posted notices at the area music stores and sent notices to local publications.

Greg Groogan of the Fox television affiliate in Houston featured the group in a December 14, 2009 television show entitled, “Adults find joy in childhood instruments.”

“I particularly enjoyed visiting the Lisle Violin Shop on Bissonnet Street,” Jerry said. Though he had never played a musical instrument, he loved the classical string repertoire and wanted a string group to be formed. It may have been coincidental that he found his grandfather’s violin in the family troves.

**FORMATION OF TWO GROUPS**

The New Horizons program took shape with a symphonic band and a string orchestra. Their first concert was given February 28, 2010 with a few players and a generous table of hors d’oeuvres. By its May 1, 2011 concert, 37 instrumentalists performed in a program built around “A Return to the Sixties” with arrangements by Jerry Goldsmith, John Moss, Neil Diamond, Michael Brown, Jonnie Vinson, and Rodgers and Hammerstein. The program has become more creative each year with graphics and videos projected on large screens. Last year, the groups accompanied live dancers on a stage in the church’s main sanctuary. The audience has more than doubled since its first concerts.

The program has been realized through Terry’s volunteer efforts, squeezed out of his busy schedule conducting the Agape Singers and other musicals performed in the church youth program. Jerry points out “the church has benefited from having the orchestra perform at church services throughout the year.” A jazz ensemble has been a popular feature of the annual Mardi Gras pancake supper. Other ensembles include brass, wind or string players who seek opportunities to perform in community assisted-living facilities and hospitals.

**A NEW ENDEAVOR**

As the groups began practicing on Tuesday and Thursdays at the church, Jerry decided to join them. The sessions help new learners and others brush up their skills in the tutoring sections. Several well-qualified instrumentalists assist as section leaders.

Jerry stuck with his lessons and tutorial sessions for over three years. While he had accomplished so much in getting the program started, he wasn’t satisfied with his progress on the violin. “My background as a mechanical engineer didn’t help me with all the sharps and flats,” he admits. One day, he called it quits, though he occasionally picks up his violin at home. He no longer serves on the Board, but he’s always in the audience, an enthusiastic supporter of the program he helped start ten years ago.

**AN INVITATION TO HOUSTON AREA MUSICIANS**

Those in the Houston area who want to resume playing an instrument or learn a new one are invited to contact Terry Tullos, terrytullos@mdumc.org. The Energy City New Horizons orchestras practice at the MDUMC Music and Arts Center, 13184 Memorial Drive, Houston, 713.579.7655.
New Horizons Great Yarmouth Inaugural Concert
Submitted by Ian Dracup

On December 16, 2017 five musicians from the Great Yarmouth New Horizon’s group gathered with trepidation, and fairy lights on their music stands, under the specially designed New Horizons Christmas Tree designed by Margaret Tammas, a member of the group, for their first public performance.

This was not a concert performance, but more of a ‘Palm Court’ orchestra to provide seasonal background music for visitors to the Christmas Tree festival in Great Yarmouth Minster.

Several of the five-strong group had not performed on their instruments for several years. Some of these bravely took on solo parts, raising their levels of confidence, which was one of the aims of the session along with raising awareness of the group and hoping to recruit new members.

The feedback from visitors was encouraging and although we did not recruit any new members on the day the overall experience was a positive one.

OTTAWA NEW HORIZONS BAND, OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Band on the Move
Submitted by Jody Gomber

For the first nine-and-a-half years of its life, the Ottawa New Horizons Band (ONHB) was an outreach program of the Dominion-Chalmers United Church. Beginning in January 2008 with one beginner concert band, we have now grown to over 200 musicians in seven bands, both concert and jazz. The Church, housed in a large, historic stone building with lots of rehearsal space and a fantastic performance venue, was a warm and nurturing home to us through those years. But the Church’s congregation is dwindling, and so the Church entered into negotiations for the sale of the property. Now the ONHB is on the move — in more ways than one!

As an outreach program of the Church, ONHB had enjoyed many advantages — being covered by the Church’s insurance, audited by its auditor, helped by its office staff, etc. The prospective sale of the property meant that starting last spring:

- ONHB had to find and rent alternative spaces for our rehearsals and storage needs;
- We had to incorporate as a not-for-profit corporation to meet requirements of space providers;
- We had to develop a set of bylaws, get insurance, set up a board of directors and make myriad other administrative arrangements.

Our band members and band leaders are settling in to our new incorporated life. And we’re also on the move in another, more literal, way: a group of about 40 ONHB members and their partners will be travelling to Ireland in June for a combination performance and tourism trip. The band will perform in Belfast, Galway and Dublin, and is looking into a joint performance with the New Horizons Band in Dublin.

And we’re still growing! This January we added a new Beginner Jazz Band to our growing selection of bands for adult musicians. We call it the Jumpin’ Jazz Band and encourage our concert band musicians to “jump in” to jazz.

Finally, this session marks our tenth anniversary and an anniversary concert is scheduled for April 15. We’re excited to be celebrating ten years of learning, re-learning and sharing the joy of music.
The Cobb New Horizons Band Finds New Home

Submitted by Dr. Charles R. Jackson

Now celebrating its 13th year, the Cobb New Horizons Band was started in 2005 under the direction of Marla Feeney with ten members. After her two years with the band, she was followed by director George Broom who directed the band until 2016. Upon his retirement as director, George’s son, Wayne Broom, commissioned a piece titled “Overture to A New Horizon” by Robert Sheldon. In April of 2016, Dr. Charles R. Jackson, Assistant Part-Time Professor of Music at Kennesaw State University, was appointed as the Director of the Cobb New Horizons Symphonic Band. Over the past 13 years the Symphonic Band has grown to its current size of 75 members in 2018. Several members of the band form the jazz Band known as Memory Lane — a very active ensemble performing for dances and events throughout the Cobb County community and surrounding areas. Trumpeter Carl Merwin serves as the director of the jazz band.

EXPANDED OUTREACH The Cobb New Horizons Symphonic Band has expanded its outreach in the community by having the group listed on the approved list for the "Performing Arts in the Schools" program. Situated in Cobb County, GA, one of the nation’s leading communities for music education, the Symphonic Band now presents over 20 performances each year. These performances include concerts at local public schools in Cobb County, local senior living communities, local church events, and civic events such as Lunch on the Marietta Square, and ceremonies celebrating Memorial Day and Veterans Day. One of the public schools provided a wonderful lunch for the entire band in the band room during the break between two performances at the school. We are most fortunate to be surrounded by a community that is very supportive of music and the arts. In the third photo above, pictured to the right of director Dr. Charles R. Jackson, is Supervisor of Instrumental Music for the Cobb County Public Schools, Mr. Chris Ferrell, who attended one of our school performances. At left is retired band director Candy Still, who recently joined our flute section. The band’s roster currently includes 20 retired music educators. As seen in the accompanying photo, the band performs an annual Christmas concert in the beautiful Lassiter Concert Hall in Marietta, GA, with a long list of traditional Christmas and Hanukkah favorites (see photo on next page). Membership includes instrumental musicians who haven’t played their instrument in over 40 years, retired professional musicians and music educators who have played through—
out their lifetime, and everything in between.

The band maintains an active schedule throughout the year and takes a brief break from mid-December to mid-January. Rehearsals are currently held at the Maple Street United Methodist Church in Marietta, every Monday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The group takes a 15-minute break at noon to socialize and grab a doughnut (or two) before wrapping up the rehearsal. Many members make it a day and meet in small groups for lunch after rehearsal. We are fortunate to have several tech-savvy members to help us maintain an active website and communications system. Trombonist Frank McLeod takes care of all matters dealing with our website and does a magnificent job. Trumpeter Joel Swanson helps the group maintain efficient communications through our email system and works hard to add new members each month while maintaining an accurate up-to-date roster.

THREE GENERATIONS Our most senior member, Boyd McKeown, celebrated his 93rd birthday this year. Boyd was the high school band director of several of our current members... and some of those members have their former students in the band as well. Three generations! Boyd McKeown has been performing on his trombone for 79 years. He played in high school, college and military bands, directed the Marietta High School band for 14 years, and then served as coordinator of instrumental music in Cobb County’s schools.

The band performs a varied repertory to fit any occasion. The band maintains a well-stocked music library to provide literature for concerts suitable for patriotic events, elementary/middle/high school audiences, lunch-in-the-park programs, Broadway music showcase, big band era highlights, folk music from around the world, Christmas and Hanukkah favorites, and movie themes for all generations. The group celebrates the close of each year with a huge potluck luncheon the week following our annual Christmas concert.

OUR NEW HOME After having outgrown the current rehearsal space, the band was just informed that they will be allowed to rehearse on the campus of Kennesaw State University in the same 113,000 square foot facility that houses rehearsals for the KSU Marching Band and University Concert Band. The band will now have room for unlimited growth and will be able to serve the ever-growing population of senior musicians in the Cobb County community.
Not a concert goes by that Director John doesn’t tell the story about having to stop half way through rehearsals for a coffee and doughnut break. Is this what is meant by the Kettle Band? The coffee kettle?

No, this Kettle Band is a conglomeration of wind instruments playing parts 1, 2, 3, or 4 rather than flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, baritone, etc. And this band varies from day to day, depending on which players are available. And coffee and doughnuts? No way! Absolutely no doughnuts with Director Bob. Strictly performances.

Last year our Kettle Band played Christmas Carols for the Salvation Army instead of ringing a bell. Each Friday between Thanksgiving and Christmas our Kettle Band played for two hours, in a chilly walkway adjoining the parking garage and the Circle City Mall.

On Christmas Day the Kettle Band played Christmas Carols for the Wheeler Mission for Homeless Men. The homeless were multitasking watching a basketball game, listening to, and singing with the Kettle Band. It was a new experience and greatly appreciated by the men and Mission.

All in all, the Kettle Band provided over 100 service hours during the month of December and collected over $700 for the Salvation Army.

NEVER SMILE AT A CROCODILE

“Never Smile at a Crocodile, no you can’t get friendly with a crocodile, don’t be taken in by his wicked grin, he’s imagining how well you’ll fit within his skin...” Those are lyrics from Disney’s Peter Pan.

This is Michelle Carroll, one of our younger band members and a stay-at-home mom who is very devoted to her Eagle Scout sons. So when one of her boys wanted to earn a special National High Adventure Grand Slam Award Boy Scout patch by attending several “high adventure” camps she supported him, like any good mother would. But she, her husband and one other son went one step further by accompanying him on what turned out to be a trip of lifetime: paddling 63 miles in a canoe through the swamps of Louisiana!

While the overnight accommodations were good (on-shore cabins, and as the only female, she had one to herself), the typical Boy Scout campfires each night were a highlight, and they enjoyed beautiful scenery, sunrises and sunsets, they also contended with Tropical Storm Cindy, which delivered 25 MPH winds and one to two foot swells for four hours of difficult paddling.

And then there were the eyes peering up from under the water. Can you guess why “Never Smile at a Crocodile” is Michelle’s new theme song? We even played part of it in “Disney at the Movies,” but she declined to stand and be recognized.

Michelle, whose hair, makeup and dress are always perfect, doesn’t look like someone who would spend a week in a canoe and contend with alligators, but she was brave and did it for the love of her son!

180 COMBINED YEARS

These two members represent what New Horizons Band is all about. Both are 90 years young and keep the rest of us hopping.

Clarence White recently See COMBINED YEARS continued on page 22
Retired from conducting, but not from performing. That best describes the status of Ron Phillips, who on December 16, 2017, conducted his last concert as Founder and Director of the Desert Foothills New Horizons Band (DFNHB). “Retirement” for Ron Phillips only means he will return to one of his other loves — playing music as a master trumpet player for the full DFNHB and its jazz ensemble.

Ron Phillips’ retirement from conducting is the Coda to a distinguished conducting career. He received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music from Michigan State University where he was the principal trumpet player in the MSU band and orchestra. Ron's first memory of being attracted to music was through a grade school friend who had a coronet. Ron would make it a point to visit the friend when he knew it was practice time. Ron was “inspired” just listening to his friend practice scales.

When he was about 10 years old Ron got his own coronet. His first recital was when he was about 12 years of age. One of the reviewers was Leonard Falcone, the legendary Director at Michigan State. Ron still has Leonard Falcone's written appraisal: “You are the kind of student we want at Michigan State.” He was right.

Ron's music path was not pre-ordained from an early age. While in high school he pursued his other love — track and running cross country. He was good, winning the Michigan school championship in the 440 yard (1/4 mile) run. Ron resisted pressure from his track coach to forget the band and concentrate on track, and he also resisted the pressure from his band director to abandon track and concentrate on the coronet. Ron insisted on doing both. “I wanted a rounded, not a focused experience. I think it paid off later in life.”

When Ron started at Michigan State he was still torn between his first academic love (biology) and his two extracurricular loves (track and music). “When I began at MSU, I was either going to be a biology teacher, a coach or a band director.” Music won out and he excelled, serving as first chair trumpet player for the MSU band and orchestra.

After graduation Ron decided to stay in Michigan to teach music. He passed up the easy path. “I was offered several positions upon graduation to be the assistant director at various large schools. I did not want to work for someone else. I had my own ideas what I wanted to do and I wanted to be my own boss.” Ron took a series of jobs in small towns in Michigan where he was the sole music director. He taught in public and private schools in Michigan for over 12 years.

Ron was not only a good teacher, but he found a way for his students to see the greater benefits of a music education. Although one town where he taught was over 100 miles from Detroit, Ron organized bus trips for his students to attend the Detroit Symphony and other top quality performances. He must have succeeded in conveying his message, for in a small town of just over 2,000 residents, Ron had a school band of 120 students. He still gets calls (and occasional visits) from students from his primary school teaching days.

Ron eventually relocated to Arizona and began an extended relationship with Grand Canyon University (GCU) in Phoenix. Ron’s association with GCU included 25 years as Director of Instrumental Ensembles and five years as Music Department Chairman. During his tenure, he was given the Distinguished Professor Award and the Faculty Award of Excellence. Other awards included the O.M. Hartsell Excellence in Teaching Music from the Arizona Music Educators Association in 1993 and the William Richardson Retired Music Educator Service Award in 1999. In 2004 Ron Phillips was presented with the title Professor Emeritus from GCU.

That was Ron’s first “retirement.” Upon retiring from
active teaching at GCU, Ron was approached by one of the founders of New Horizons International Music Association, Dr. Roy Ernst, Professor Emeritus of the Eastman School of Music. Dr. Ernst had a concept — form a loose-knit association of bands and orchestras dedicated to teaching music in a group setting for older adults. All would be welcome — beginners, those with experience either as youths or as adults, and all the way up to teaching and performing professionals.

Ron embraced the challenge, and in early 1995 founded the DFNHB, the ninth of the now 200+ organizations that comprise the New Horizons International Music Association. Ron loved the concept. “It was an opportunity for members to learn and perform in a ‘no pressure’ environment.”

The early years were filled with challenges. The local Cave Creek, AZ high school allowed the newly formed DFNHB to use its practice room when school was not in session. In return, the group promoted itself and gained exposure by performing in Christmas parades and other voluntary activities for the town. The band had a steady gig on Saturday mornings playing at the Cave Creek Rotary Club Pancake Breakfasts. We did it for the “joy of the whole experience.” Ron described these as some of the “best years.”

There were also challenges. Some of the early members needed to polish their skills. While Ron conducted rehearsal, another member gave free lessons to some of the more inexperienced members. The next week they would trade — Ron would give the lessons while a band member with conducting experience would run the rehearsal. Ron admitted that sometimes it was a little “painful.” “We gave lots of lessons. I was not doing it for me. It was for the players and their enjoyment.”

Ron’s efforts have paid off. The DFNHB is the primary New Horizons Band in the Phoenix area. It accommodates many winter visitors who bring their experiences with other New Horizons bands to the Valley of the Sun. Visitors from other New Horizons bands sit in on sessions. A common comment: I told my director I was coming to Phoenix for the winter and will be part of the DFNHB. The response they receive: You are so fortunate; you will be working with Ron Phillips.

Ron’s love of music and his efforts to share that love with others has not been limited to academia, performing or conducting. Ron has nurtured many private students over his career and credits such efforts with introducing him to the love of his life, his wife, Ardis Phillips. They have been married for 63 years.

Ron has taught music classes to Elderhostel (now Roads Scholar) groups through its Lifetime Learners program, and has been a clinician and guest conductor of both the Music Educators National Conference and the International Trumpet Guild. Ron has also been an active performer, having formed his own “Fanfare Brass” quartet and has played with numerous other ensembles.

Outside of the music world Ron has two retirement goals: finish restoring the 1963 Corvette that he started years ago, and renewing his interest in sail planes (gliders). A few hours of sail plane time have stimulated the interest, although he doubts that he will work up to a full license to fly solo.

On December 16, 2017, Ron Phillips conducted his last concert with the DFNHB in an event attended by many of his students, family, friends and fans. He passed the baton to one of his former students from GCU, Jeff Chariker, who serves as music and choir director for a local church. Another of his GCU students, Liz Carnes-Wight, took over as Director of the jazz band several years back.

Ron will miss conducting. “All of my conducting experiences will be missed. They all stand out. [Not conducting] will be a void in my life.” When asked if he preferred conducting or performing, Ron did not hesitate: “Conducting, of course.” In high school Ron refused to be limited, and insisted on different experiences like track and music. That approach set the stage for his conducting career. “Conducting gives you a broad vision. You experience the band, the individual musicians, the audience, the venue and of course the music. It’s the broad experience that makes me prefer conducting to performing.”

Ron will be missed as a conductor, but he will not be forgotten for he now takes his seat as master trumpeter for the DFNHB general band and the jazz band. As one of his students put it: “Ron will finally get to relax, but only a few measures at a time.”
Music Through the Ages: Peninsula New Horizons Band Makes Musicians, New and Old
By Jackson Parr, Door County Living – November 14, 2017

At some point in your early school years, you probably walked into music class to see an array of instruments laid out before you. One by one, with the help of your music teacher or band director, you tried them all and picked one. Some put it away after the first rehearsal. For others, it developed into a lifelong skill and hobby.

With the Peninsula New Horizons Band, those instruments are belting new life decades after their last performance.

“Music, like all the arts, is what makes us human,” said Paula Eggert, director of the Peninsula New Horizons Band. “It gives us a chance to express ourselves in a lot of different ways where words might not be appropriate.”

Eggert and her growing group of bandmates are giving that chance to the county's older population, one that sometimes struggles to participate in society and be heard.

The Peninsula New Horizons Band, a chapter of the New Horizons International Music Association, provides lessons and performance opportunities for adults with little or no music experience. Eggert, like those she instructs, had no idea how much the group would mean to the health and wellbeing of its members.

“When you retire from something, that is your whole social structure sometimes,” said Eggert, who helped found the group after more than 30 years as an accompanist and instructor of the Sturgeon Bay High School music program. “There’s another part of New Horizons that really meets that need about socialization and friendships. You’re making friends with people you wouldn’t have any other contact with except you have this common desire and joy for music.”

“I needed an outlet,” said Rozanna Gerdman, who joined shortly after her husband died. Gerdman played clarinet from 7th grade through college, but the 83-year-old hadn’t picked up the instrument in 60 years.

Eggert’s enthusiasm for the program and music in general would be parodic if it weren’t so genuine; her bright eyes and pitch rising with excitement between sips of her decaf latte. She reserves most of this enthusiasm for her belief in the power of music to extend and improve the life of her retiring students.

Eggert recalled stories such as Gerdman’s or the man who had a lifelong dream of playing in a band but no way to achieve it before he found the group.

“Paula has the patience of a saint with all of us,” Gerdman said. “Her enthusiasm continues through everyone else.”

“Tackling something new is part of this whole awareness of how important it is to be active as an older adult,” Eggert said, recalling a series of studies showing an active and musical brain can help stave off dementia and Alzheimer’s while continuing development of speech recognition and cognitive function. “Within the New Horizons music concept, not only are you being challenged physically, because you have to think new thoughts and learn how to coordinate what your brain is telling you... breathing, counting and concentration.”

Eggert attributes much of the group’s success with the structure of the national organization, founded in 1991 by Professor Roy Ernst at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. After Eastman, the University of Wisconsin — Madison started the second chapter.

“We have our little chapter but there are band camps all over the country that are open to all New Horizons students,” Eggert said. The national organization provides a
Changes in the way band music is published has helped the group sustain a wide variety of abilities. As more schools cut funding for their music programs nationally, schools began consolidating age groups. Music publishers were faced with the task of providing sheet music that would be challenging enough for eighth graders but not too difficult for the fifth graders sitting in the row behind them.

“They’ve developed music that is four or five parts and that works really well into the New Horizons concept,” Eggert said.

After a few months of lessons and practice, Eggert is adamant about getting on stage, whether that means the grocery aisle of Econo Foods or sharing a concert with the Sevastopol choir. Music is a performing art, after all.

The performance makes some of the newcomers nervous but Eggert, with the same zeal she used to cajole her stubborn high school students, reassures them.

“You have to be very brave,” Eggert said. “This doesn’t have to be perfect. It’s just the idea of tackling something new.”

About one-third of the students in the Peninsula New Horizons Band have never played an instrument before. They start from scratch reading music and finding an instrument they want to play. They master simple tunes first and stumble through traditional marches, always learning.

For some, it develops into a lifelong skill and hobby.


This is Nathan’s third book on music for Oxford University Press. The others might also interest New Horizons members — with advice they can share with their kids and grandkids!

THE MUSIC PARENT’S SURVIVAL GUIDE (2014) Click here to order

THE YOUNG MUSICIAN’S SURVIVAL GUIDE (2008) Click here to order

And here is a blog post Nathan wrote for the Oxford Music Blog recently on the value of making music:

“Involving Kids in Music: A Lifelong Gift” Click here to read
EASTMAN-ROCHESTER NEW HORIZONS CONCERT AND SYMPHONIC BANDS, EASTMAN COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

NH director inducted into National Hall of Fame
Submitted by Beverly Maville-Letter

On March 11, 2017, local music educator Bruce Burritt, who is one of the co-directors of the New Horizons (NH) Concert and Symphonic Bands, was inducted into The Bands of America Hall of Fame, which recognizes those who have had a positive and life-changing impact on its “Music for All” program and music education.

Mr. Burritt, who has been a long-time adjudicator for Bands of America, began his career as an elementary band director, then high school band director in the West Genesee Central Schools (central NY) in 1964. Under his direction, the marching band, symphonic band and wind ensembles thrived for the next 16 years. Then as District Supervisor of Music at the West Genesee Central Schools, he spearheaded the growth of not only the band program but also orchestra and chorus. He set the standard for high school marching bands, orchestral and choral music in New York State.

In 1982 Mr. Burritt made the leap to the administrative side of education, serving as assistant principal, high school principal and finally superintendent of schools in the Avon School District. He retired in 1998 from the Avon school district.

His role as music educator has touched the lives of thousands, encouraging the love of playing music from grade school children to high school teens and now touching the lives of retired seniors (and other adults) who rehearse nine months of the year, two or three times a week in New Horizons.

Despite his retirement, his influence continues to reverberate across the nation. Every five years, a call goes out to West Genesee alumni. They gather in their hometown over Memorial Day weekend to reminisce, rehearse and perform in the Memorial Day Parade. In 2016, 643 West Genesee High School band alumni converged to celebrate the 50 year anniversary of their first competition by organizing what they believe to be the largest high school alumni performance ever. The alumni band was a quarter-mile long, nearly four and half football fields in length.

In addition to Mr. Burritt’s continuing involvement as adjudicator in The Bands of America competitions, he has been on the faculty of the Eastman Community Music School as co-director of the Eastman-Rochester New Horizons Bands and as director of NH Brasso Profundo Brass Ensemble since 2010. His role as music educator has touched the lives of thousands, encouraging the love of playing music from grade school children to high school teens and now touching the lives of retired seniors (and other adults) who rehearse nine months of the year, two or three times a week in New Horizons.

Eastman-Rochester New Horizons band members celebrate this distinctive honor given to Bruce.
Valentine’s Day was extra special for the kids at Bauder Elementary School in Fort Collins, CO this year as they were treated to two performances, one by the full Northern Colorado New Horizons Concert Band and the other by our Dixieland Band! Our band loved performing for this well-mannered and enthusiastic crowd.

There were at least four favorite tunes the students commented on in their follow-on thank you notes to the band: “Disney at the Movies,” “Highlights from the Phantom of the Opera,” “Trolls,” and by far, the most popular tune was “Sponge Bob Square Pants.”

During the “Phantom of the Opera” tune, Glenn Shull directed the band as the Phantom and I (Linda Johnson) provided the authentic shrill scream, as one could envision the chandelier falling!

Associate Director Kay Broughton also led the band in an exciting “Trolls” number, once Barbara Shull introduced the piece by explaining to the students what trolls were.

The Dixieland Band rounded out the groups’ performances by playing traditional jazz tunes in the center pod area of the school. Students going to lunch in the cafeteria heard us playing this style of music, which was unfamiliar to most of the children. It was a great feeling seeing the happy faces as the kids bopped into the lunchroom as they passed us by!
The Sutherland New Horizons Band operates in a southern suburb of sprawling Sydney, Australia, and began after a visit by John & Carol Brandman to observe NH bands operating in Manhattan and in Rochester, NY in 2012. They were so impressed by what they saw that they immediately began to investigate options for starting a band at home and, after considerable difficulties finding an appropriate venue, the Sutherland New Horizons Band began in August 2014.

Starting with a modest group of six, about half of which were “returning” players and half new to music, the group has gone from strength to strength. We now have about 70 members in three concert bands ranging from a beginners band to intermediate, and a performing band that regularly performs at retirement villages, market squares and wherever music can be appreciated. We also have a ‘jazz ensemble’ of about 16 players who had expressed an interest in playing some of the classic stage band repertoire.

From the outset, some of the new members were competitive, making statements such as, "Oh I haven’t played for 25 years," with others "outbidding" them with “it’s been 35 years for me!"

That all ceased when Tonia, our 91-year-old drummer came along, informing us that it had been somewhat over 70 years since she last played, having been 13 when World War II broke out in her homeland of Holland. She survived the war by playing in dance bands and joining the Red Cross as a volunteer.

She is now Australia’s longest serving Red Cross member and drives herself to rehearsals each week. She is truly an inspiration, but many others have great life stories to tell, so our morning tea/coffee breaks and “band on tour” trips have proved very popular occasions in which to learn about members’ experiences and stories. Who knows, some of them may even be true!

We all owe a debt to Roy Ernst for introducing us to this wonderful concept and for keeping music inspirational for the retirees living in the Antipodes. We hope to meet many of you in a NH band camp one year. We’re just working on the logistics…

TOP: In-house concert for our beginners’ group

CENTRE: “Blue Horizons” Jazz Group Performing at a local Nursing Home.

BOTTOM: Some local media coverage.
Recently, while flipping through cute cat videos on Facebook instead of practicing my baritone sax, I came upon a quote by Stan Getz. He was an American jazz saxophone player. An interviewer asked him, “How did you become a proficient musician?” Stan answered, “You can read all the textbooks and listen to all the records, but you have to play with musicians that are better than you.” Wow! The solution is easy, but implementing the solution can be difficult.

For many adults, the solution is to join a New Horizons music program. As we progress, we may decide to join additional musical groups — seeking common musical interests and/or increased opportunities for social interaction. One of the best is a self-directed small group numbering under eight people.

My small group story is typical of many. My skill level was about a level 2 player and I wanted to improve my skills. So, I talked my way into a saxophone quartet with others at a level 3 and up. They nurtured me, instructed me, and cared about my ego. They definitely exemplify the Golden Rule, as they “do unto others, as they would have others do unto them.” After three years of rehearsing with musicians that are better than me, I can say — I have improved. Stan Getz was right. Plus, our group is tight! We care about each other and look forward to rehearsing/performing together.

Our organization understands the value of small groups and is determined to give others an opportunity to increase musical proficiency, social interaction and self-satisfaction. An added benefit is the likely correlation that small group membership tends to reduce member turnover and discontent, which has often been the case in other organizations.

At present, our six small groups are: The Golden Saxophone Quartet, The Licorice Stixs (clarinet), The Trill Seekers (flute), The Oom Pah Band (German band), plus two sections that practice together weekly: the sax section (Concert Band) and the trombone section (Jazz band). Each of these groups are defined as small groups because they are self-directed. Further, some small groups are defined as Open (all are welcome to join) and some are defined as Closed (membership is selective).

Our four Staff directed groups are NOT defined as small groups. They are: The Advanced Concert band, The Intermediate band and The Rising Stars (Beginning), plus our Jazz band. Note: Our concert bands are “self-selected membership” and the Jazz band is selective membership.

The good news: Our NH Board recognizes the value of small group development and recently formed a committee to study and implement improvements. All of our existing groups are in demand for performances, individuals are growing and learning — plus social bonds have developed.

The bad news: Some small groups struggle with appropriate music selection, money for sheet music, dealing with challenging personalities, a good rehearsal space, time constraints of participants and self-direction techniques. And the most difficult to solve is the thorny issue of managing the selection process for a closed group — as our NHIMA motto coined by founder Roy Ernst is “your best is good enough.”

In closing, PLEASE HELP us get better! We want to hear from you. What do you suggest? Tell us about your success stories. Please email me at gearmark@aol.com. I promise to share. Thank you.
celebrated his 90th birthday. As a child he did not have an opportunity to play an instrument. As an adult and parent he made sure his children were able to play as he watched with envy. Clarence has conquered the tenor saxophone through the New Horizons Band.

Clarence has quite a history of his own. He is a retired Indianapolis Police Department Officer (now known as the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department). He was the first black uniformed officer within IPD/IMPD. He still carries that special public servant sense of humor and keeps us roaring.

Mary Zinkin, on the other hand, is a retired music teacher from the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, Indianapolis, and a graduate of Butler University, Indianapolis. Her husband was a composer. Together they gave many performances, playing as well as singing.

We cannot keep up with Mary. She swims, plays tennis, rides her bicycle, line dances, and demonstrates proper rhythm by dancing for us.

In a nutshell, this is what it’s all about: learning, teaching, laughing, enjoying, playing...

A FANTASTIC DONATION In December 2017, CNHB received, only weeks apart, approximately 25 boxes of band music from Richelieu High School in Quebec (through "Musicare inc" in the Ottawa region http://musicare.ca/) and another donation (ten boxes) from the Brockville Concert Band. Most of this music is brand new and has never been played. Raymond calculated approximately $17,000 worth of music. After sorting the level of difficulty, ten boxes of music (about 350 band pieces) went to the Seaway Winds, 32 selections went to l’Orchestra à Vent de Suroît http://ovs.ca/wp/, close to Montreal, and the rest was kept to be used by CNHB.

For sure, we will not need to purchase new music for many years to come.

It is to be noted that the Cornwall New Horizons Band is under the umbrella of the Seaway Winds and has become a training ground for that community band. In exchange, all insurance coverage, rehearsal area and library resources are automatically supplied to the CNHB by www.seawaywinds.ca.

Now, that is working together for a better community!

COMBINED YEARS continued from page 13

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Upcoming NHIMA Music Camps  Click here for further details or to add your camp or event.

MAY 20–23, 2018  |  University of Dayton/NHIMA Music Camp, Dayton, OH
JULY 12–14, 2018  |  Carolina Band Blast, Greensboro, NC
JULY 23–27, 2018  |  Cascade Horizon Band Music on the Deschutes Band Camp, Bend, OR
AUGUST 24–26, 2018  |  Adult Strings Weekend, Tuscaloosa, AL
SEPTEMBER 23–27, 2018  |  NHIMA Music Camp at Chautauqua, Chautauqua, NY
MARCH 31–APRIL 5, 2019  |  Roswell New Horizon Band/NHIMA Music Camp, Helen, GA
JUNE 13–16, 2019  |  New Horizons Orchestra Camp at Chautauqua, Chautauqua, NY
JUNE 23–29, 2019  |  New Horizons Band Camp, Santa Rosa, CA
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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Submissions — updates, reports, stories, photos, articles from other sources (with permission to reprint if applicable) — are welcome and encouraged. Please send MS Word or TextEdit files (rather than PDFs or Publisher files), and be sure to include your location and state. Limit stories to 600 words, and provide a caption for photos, identifying the subject or activity. Send pictures or images (high-resolution photos if possible) as separate graphic files rather than inserted into a Word document.

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