Greetings, New Horizons World!

By Ron Berry, President, NHIMA Board of Directors

I am pleased to greet you on behalf of the Board of Directors. We are a group of nine volunteers from all over the US and Canada, stretching from Nova Scotia to Arizona, from Oregon to New Hampshire, and from western Ontario to Virginia. I invite you to get to know us by reading our bios on our website, NewHorizonsMusic.org, under the NHIMA tab. We work together for the advancement of our New Horizons organization, side-by-side with Roy Ernst, our Founder, and with the support staff of our Treasurer, our Database Manager, our Webmaster, and our Newsletter Editor—in other words, we work for you.

Most of us on the board are/have been regular New Horizons participants in our home bands/orchestras. Others are founders or directors of those New Horizons groups at home. We each serve a three-year term, which means that every year, one-third of our Board retires, and three new members are added—those three new members come from YOU, our greater body of New Horizons members. (drum roll, please!) This is why I am asking each of you to consider stepping up and putting your name in to be considered for a term on the Board. (cymbal crash!) Any of us will be happy to answer your questions—simply contact us via our website 'Contact' buttons.

The Ireland Tour for 2020 has shaped up nicely with a well-balanced 70-piece band and 25 guests (our built-in audience). The application period has closed except for a few select instruments: bari sax, F horn, euphonium and tuba. We have started a wait-list. If a seat should be vacated and you would like to be considered, email me at the address below. You can check out the tour information on our website, under the Camps tab. And you can ask me questions directly at: IrelandTour2020@gmail.com.

Working together, we can get it done!
Introducing our newest members

Welcome to those who have joined New Horizons, since November 2018

Aaron, Phillip .................. University of Dayton New Horizons Program
Arno, Joan ...................... Salt City New Horizons Orchestra
Barber, Dave ................... NHB of Northern Colorado
Barman, Natalie ................ Ohio University NHB
Blanton, James .................. Naples NHB
Brubaker, Christine .......... Naples NHB
Deily, Jerry .................... Second Wind Band
Esposito, Claudia ............. Baldwin Wallace Community Music School NHB
Evans, Bud .................... Zion Music Ensembles
Gohn, Karen .................... None supplied
Graber, John .................... Zion Music Ensembles
Gray, Clyde & Marsha .......... None supplied
Hight, Christine ............... NHB of Cape Cod
Hill, Jim ....................... Algoma Conservatory NHB
Hudson, Carolyn ............... Congaree NHB
Jameson, Mark .................. Hagerstown NHB
Joseph, Erica Lynn ............ Western University NHB
Judnich, Frank & Sue .......... None supplied
Kelso, Scott .................... Salt City New Horizons Orchestra
Lazzar-White, Mary .......... Eastman-Rochester New Horizons Program
Leitch, Patricia ................. Pioneer Valley NHB
Leitson, Dave .................. Roswell NHB
McDaniel, Donna .............. Zion Music Ensembles
McKay, Ian ..................... Winnipeg NHB
Meifing, Yang .................. None supplied
Melnychuck, Karen .......... Tucson NHB
Mikolajczyk, Gene ............ Desert Foothills NHB
Miller, Barbara ................. University of Dayton New Horizons Program
Miller, Rebecca ............... Zion Music Ensembles
Neeck, Lawrence ............ Eastman-Rochester New Horizons Program
Peshek, Stephanie & Cliff .... New Horizons Band of Gulfport
Rabyne, Vicki .................. North Shore NHB
Rogers, Brenda ................. None supplied
Rosen, Steve ................... Roswell NHB
Schomer, Mary Elizabeth ... NHB of Tampa
Shannon, Paul ................. Cascade Horizon Band
Sharpe, Jack .................... Zion Music Ensembles
Smith, Doug ................... Roswell NHB
Smith, Steve ................... NHB of Cape Cod
Stubblefield, Bob ............. Desert Foothills NHB
Thurston, Rich ................. Second Wind Band
Whitingter, Susan .............. Carrollwood Cultural Center
Yocom, Neal ................... NHB in the Pines
MADISON NEW HORIZONS SWING BAND, MADISON, WI

New Years Eve Gig 2018

Submitted by Muriel Filer Gilbert

For several years, our Madison, WI New Horizons Swing Band has performed an afternoon New Years Eve program at a local nursing home. The nursing home residents look forward to the music, and the Swing Band loves to play for them. The band gathers at a local brewery for a meal together afterward, and that makes the day even more special for us. The camaraderie that comes with belonging to the band, is very important to the musicians and conductors.

We have been fortunate to have a ‘torch’ singer in our band who can really rouse the crowd with her songs. Bea Fox Christensen has been a member of our band for over twenty years and she lends an air of ‘class’ to our performances. In addition to a lovely singing voice, she usually interacts with the audience and they love the attention.

Bea plays a ‘hot’ sax in the band when she isn’t singing, and she sometimes plays duets with her husband, Lau, who is one of our trombone players. Lau has been a member of our NHB for over 25 years and he and Bea met and married while in the band. Sometimes you get more than you pay for when you join one of the New Horizons Bands!

SOUTH PUGET SOUND NEW HORIZONS BAND, LACEY, WA

Congratulations — SPSNHB celebrates 20 years

Submitted by Julia Jowders

The South Puget Sound New Horizons Band (SPSNHB) celebrated its twentieth anniversary in April. Seventeen eager instrumentalists, including a cellist, arrived for the first rehearsal in 1999. Most had not played their instrument for years and a couple of us had never played an instrument. In less than a year the membership had doubled and we now are a New Horizons Band of over seventy members. This was the second New Horizons Band to be organized and conducted by Victor Jowders. The Tacoma NHB, organized in 1996, was the twelfth NHB to be formed and continued as a separate band until it merged with the Olympia Band in 2014 and the name changed to South Puget Sound New Horizons Band. Only two of the charter members remain in the band today. Life events and age has its own timing. We honor those who have passed away by dedicating a score from our library that they especially enjoyed playing.

We have presented concerts at retirement centers, senior centers, churches, the state capitol and for other organizations. School performances were especially fun for the band. The school's band students were incorporated into our band. We played their music with them and they in turn played an intentionally easy selection from our repertoire. These were great opportunities to show how much fun and lifelong making music could be. Our second fund-raiser concert for the Thurston County Food Bank will be held in June.

Music medleys, overtures, contemporary compositions, band classics and, of course, marches are part of our music library. Vic has a keen awareness of the playing abilities of the band members, selecting music that can be challenging for the advanced players but also selections that less experienced players can master. This mix of the beginner's

SEE CONGRATULATIONS — continued on page 5
NEW HORIZONS BAND OF MELBOURNE, FL

The Better You Get, the More Fun It Is

Submitted by Kurt Schulenburg

Directing a community band is perhaps as difficult as the proverbial “herding cats,” but it certainly can be very rewarding.

My name is Kurt Schulenburg and I have been the director of the New Horizons Band of Melbourne, FL for about a year now. I have a degree in Music Education and have taught band at the grade school, high school and college level for many years. I was also the Associate Director of the Crystal Lake Community Band of Northern Illinois for about 20 years.

Our New Horizons Band has a bit of a dilemma that I’m sure many other New Horizons organizations have, too. On one hand, we are striving to be the best musical organization we can. We’ve got some very fine musicians in our group, many of them working on developing their skills on a second or even third instrument.

On the other, we have many players that put that horn on the closet shelf for ten, 20 or 30 years and are struggling to regain their Glory Days. We also invite newcomers to our band; people who have NEVER played a musical instrument are welcome in our group.

We struggle with trying to master increasingly challenging new music while not losing members due to their frustration at not being able to keep up. Our most demanding charts can be too much for our beginning members while the easier ones can be boring to our more experienced players.

For many years prior to my arrival on the podium, our group played at a Grade 2 level, with an occasional Grade 1 piece and the challenge of a Grade 3 piece now and again. In the last year, I have pushed the group to a level where Grade 3 is now the norm—with occasional visits to both lesser and more difficult works.

It’s a juggling act to find pieces that keep the majority of our players happy and involved.

Part of the conductor’s job is to try and find works that aren’t boring, for any instrument. Part of the players’ job is to breathe musical life into any selection of music.

One of the mantras that I share with my group is simple: The Better You Get, The More Fun It Is!

This amazing formula came to me by way of a fellow conductor several years ago who was quick to add that it’s not only true about music, but much of the rest of life, too.

I’m lucky to have a band that has a pretty good work ethic. My group, at every level, really wants to improve—and most of them understand that practicing is an essential part of our success. There is no shortcut to getting better at anything—I’ve always thought that the word “talented” was a euphemism for “dedicated work”—and my group takes their musical efforts pretty seriously.

Learning to simplify a piece is an essential part of learning to play at every level. Certainly, when sight-reading, even the most accomplished musicians occasionally skip over a note or two in order to keep the tempo going. They also learn to spot those tough parts pretty quickly and know that much of their practicing will focus on those trickier areas.

I explain to my band every week that learning to sim-
CONGRATULATIONS — continued from page 3

Eagerness and advanced player's skills continues to sustain the harmonious goals of making music while making friends.

We are fortunate to have dedicated members who manage our website, set-up and tear-down for rehearsals, serve as board members and continually encourage and support fellow members. The same core group has planned and hosted six band camps in Lacey.

Vic retired from a public-school music career in 1989. He has conducted at several NHB Institutes. This fall, after twenty-three years, he will no longer be in front of the band as its conductor but at the back of the band playing percussion.

We are grateful for Vic's leadership and confident that the 'beat will go on'.

THE BETTER YOU GET — continued from page 4

Ply a part and then playing it well aids the group far more than simply struggling through those difficult parts. Certainly, there are instances (and exposed passages!) where leaving out notes or simplifying rhythms won't be the best choices musically, but there are many times that cleaning up an ensemble can be brought about by some judicious musical editing on an individual's part.

Many members have told me that simplifying a part for several rehearsals actually helps them to learn the written part a lot quicker. Imagine that...

At the other end of the spectrum, being "bored" by a piece can indicate that a musician is not finding the complete musicality of the work. Is every accent, every articulation, each crescendo being played? Is each player aware of blending in with their section, playing in tune with the group? How about playing the instrument in tune with itself—and within the key?

Yes, there ARE boring parts out there. Part of the conductor's job is to try and find works that aren't boring, for any instrument. Part of the players' job is to breathe musical life into any selection of music.

Ultimately, many things are utilized to keep this "herd of cats" heading along in the same direction. I try to keep a large variety of musical styles, tempos and challenges in our folders at all times. We offer sectionals and even private lessons to help get all of our players to improve. We utilize Chorale Books and Rhythm Studies. We work on getting a little better with every rehearsal.

Perhaps it's because I heard somewhere that the better you get, the more fun it is!

What is Music?

Music is a miracle.
Anon

Music is the eye of the ear.
Thomas Drake, 1616

Music is that which cannot be said but upon which it is impossible to be silent.
Attributed to Victor Hugo

Music is a method of employing the mind without the labour of thinking at all.
Samuel Johnson, quoted by Boswell, 1785

Music is the thing of the world that I love most.
Samuel Pepys, 1666

Musick helps not the tooth-ach.
George Herbert

One music dictionary defines music as: The Art of combining sounds for reproduction by the voice or various kinds of instruments in rhythmic, melodic and harmonic form so as to express thought or feeling and affect the emotions. Here are some other thoughts from Words about Music: a Treasury of Writings by John Amis and Michael Rose.
OTTAWA NEW HORIZONS BAND, OTTAWA, ON, CANADA

Cathy Wilcox Receives Mayor’s City Builder Award
Submitted by Jody Gomber

A large group of ONHB musicians, friends and supporters filed into the Ottawa City Council meeting in October 2018 to cheer as Cathy Wilcox, the founding director of the Ottawa New Horizons Band, was presented the Mayor’s City Builder Award. The Mayor’s City Builder Award is a civic honour created to recognize an individual, group or organization that, through outstanding volunteerism or exemplary action, has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to making our city a better place today and for the future. Cathy received the award in recognition of her contribution to Ottawa through music and outreach.

Cathy has steered ONHB from its humble beginnings as an outreach program of Dominion Chalmers United Church ten years ago. It began with one band of about 60 adults; today it is an independent non-profit corporation with eight bands including more than 250 adults.

In Cathy’s acceptance speech, she talked about the impact of Roy Ernst, saying, “I, along with thousands of new adult musicians, recognize the leadership of professor Roy Ernst of the Eastman School of Music, for founding a small band class for adults, which grew into the New Horizons International Music Association, with some 200 associate groups throughout North America and around the world. This organization provides guidance for any music teacher who would like to start a music program for adult learners. Roy was such an inspiration… he even came to Ottawa to meet with me in 2009 and share some words of wisdom and encouragement.”

Cathy’s creation of ONHB and her continuing leadership and dedication to its success has made a difference in many lives in the city of Ottawa and surrounding regions. As she said in her acceptance speech:

“New Horizons means meeting new people, learning a very challenging new skill, leaving your work/stress/sadness at the door as you enter the space where music and friendships are made.

“At the door to the rehearsal, the accountant, and AI specialist, the father, the wife, the mother, the caregiver… these disappear and we become our alter egos, a saxophonist, a bass player, a percussionist, a flautist…

“And we leave the rehearsal wearing our new persona, and a BIG HUGE SMILE, which we carry back home.”

Two new articles by Amy Nathan

Click here for a blog essay, “How singing in a choir can improve life for seniors.”

Click here for an article, “Don’t fall for the myth that you ‘can’t sing’.”

The first one is online at the Oxford Music Blog. The second one was published in the Chicago Tribune in March.
Davis Scott: Poet Laureate

Submitted by Myla Alsaker

Davis “Dave” Scott wears many hats in the Fargo-Moorhead Golden Notes New Horizon Band. He anchors and arranges music for the horn section, holds the title of oldest member at 90 years, and is also our poet laureate. The band is often treated to “ditties” fitting the time and place of our musical endeavors. Below are three samples of the Scott ditties.

In preparation for a new musical season:

**Round-up Time in Fargo**

Yipee-ki-yay!
Soon comes the day
We gather together once more

To blow our horns,
In all their forms,
Producing good songs as before.

So grease the slides,
Oil values besides;
Be ready to show what ya got.

Happy we’ll be
Again to see
Our time with the band hits the spot!

In gratitude to our musical director, Peter Schiefelbein:

**Directeur Extraordinaire**

“Hip, hip, hurray!” is all one can say
For the man whose stick makes us play.
Whether a march or waltz
Or some show tune or such,
He puts up with our faults
And our goof-ups too much!
For a guy like that, we’d play any day.

And finally:

**Announcement**

Calling every hand:
Time to start the band
Making music grand,
Shaking winter’s bland!

Between the F-M Golden Notes and Davis Scott, we are guaranteed that our cold, icy North Dakota winters are never bland.
The Denton New Horizons Band was formed in 1998 by Dr. Debbie Rohwer, a professor of music education at the University of North Texas. The first band had 30 beginners. Today there are 70+ band members. The band meets on Mondays at the Denton Senior Center. There is a beginning band playing from 2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and an advanced band made up of more experienced players meets from 3:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. University of North Texas doctoral students in instrumental music education work with Dr. Rohwer, giving time to beginners and directing the advanced band. One clarinet player was in the beginning band in 1998 and continues to play with the advanced band today. Another clarinet player in the advanced band just turned 94.

2018 was an exciting year for the Denton New Horizons Band. On March 26 we had a 20th Anniversary Concert at the Murchison Performing Arts Theater on the University of North Texas Campus, which was attended by a capacity crowd. It was an amazing night. We played the song, “Young at Heart,” a musical homage to great times gone by, which was commissioned for the concert and dedicated to the New Horizons Band of Denton and written by William Owens.

In honor of Dr. Rohwer’s dedication over the past 20 years the Dr. Debbie Rohwer Music Education Endowment was established by the band at the University of North Texas, which will provide funding for future music students.

In April we performed at the Denton Arts and Jazz Fest at the Denton Senior Center, an annual event for the band.

To finish off the year, on Monday, December 3 the Denton New Horizons Band performed a Christmas Concert at the First Presbyterian Church in Denton as a benefit concert for the Denton Christian Preschool, which serves low-income children at risk for not succeeding in public school without early intervention. The Denton New Horizons Band has done a benefit Christmas concert for the past five years, but this year we surpassed previous donations, receiving over $4000. Everyone was thrilled.

What a great way to end the year!
In 2008, at the request of Carl Cuthbert of Dexter, ME, a small band was formed of volunteer musicians for Western Days, a local festival. Carl had played with that band’s predecessor, the Fayscott Band, but as happens in many small towns, the group had dissolved. Concerned about this lack of a town band, Carl put out the word and a handful of musicians responded. After the Festival’s concert, the volunteers just stayed together, gathering momentum and musicians and began playing for other local functions; the Dexter Community Band soon became the reality Carl had envisioned, a community band back in Dexter.

Under the direction of Dr. Earl Lord, the band continued to attract musicians and soon grew to an average size of 25-30 players of all levels of musicians, from seasoned “old-timers” to locals who dusted off instruments pushed to the back of their closets to folks who just wanted to join the band, having never played before. Instruments and lessons were provided; no one was turned away. Now, besides a busy summer program throughout the region with outdoor concerts and festival appearances, the band performs a Holiday Concert and a spring cabaret concert.

As the band’s notoriety grew beyond the state of Maine, the band discovered they shared their name with a Dexter Community Band in Michigan, a problem, for both bands. In 2014, the Dexter (Maine) Community Band voted to change its name to the Harold J. Crosby Community Band, to avoid some of the confusion and to honor Harold Josiah Crosby (1886–1920), a composer of regimental marches during WWI, born and raised in our little village, Dexter, ME.

Although Carl Cuthbert passed away in 2011 at 101 years old, his legacy continues in the Harold J. Crosby Community Band. Following his death, the Carl R. Cuthbert Community Band Foundation was formed with a mission “to promote music education and training with performance opportunities for any ages at any stage of musical experience or competence.” The Foundation gives its support not only to the Crosby Band, but other local community bands and musical groups. This 501(c)3 non-profit provides funds, instruments, instruction, and music wherever there is a need. It was important to Carl to continue community bands in the small towns of Maine, and the Foundation is doing its part to keep community bands alive and playing in the local communities, a long tradition in many small towns throughout the USA.

Carl also dreamed of one day starting a community band camp, where a collective of musicians would come together to play the music of Maine composers and arrangers, to include Dexter’s own Harold J. Crosby; Heywood S. Jones, a Bangor, ME, band director and composer of songs that honored Maine and music for the Shrine Bands; Frank Church of Rumford, ME, who composed for Walt Disney Studios, best known for the score of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves; and other Maine composers and arrangers.

SEE A BRIEF HISTORY — continued on page 10
His vision came to fruition in 2016 when the first Harold J. Crosby Community Band Camp convened in September 16-18, “on the shores of Lake Wassookeag” in Dexter, Maine. This inaugural band consisted of 27 musicians, mostly local, but a few came from “away,” as we say in Maine, from New York, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and Oklahoma. The program of Maine composers and arrangers consisted of pieces by Crosby and Jones, The State of Maine Song, and the University of Maine Fight Song, The Stein Song, under the direction of the Harold J. Crosby Band’s conductor, Dr. Earl Lord.

This success was followed up by a second band camp the following year. That year, the band added a guest conductor, Edward J. Madden, the arranger of Maine’s official song, The State of Maine Song. The 2017 Crosby Band Camp increased its numbers to 35, to include local musicians from across the state and across the nation. Many of the players had attended the previous year and wanted to continue the tradition of celebrating Maine composers and arrangers. As in the previous year, there was no charge for the band camp, with all meals provided by donations from the local community: good food, good friends, good music.

Another successful band camp fueled the third year, Band Camp 2018. The guest conductor for this camp was Dr. Christian Wilhjelm, Conductor and Music Director of the Ridgewood (NJ) Concert Band, widely recognized as one of the leading wind orchestras in the United States. An accomplished musician, he performed with the band’s accompaniment a French Horn solo, Le Basque. The twenty-eight musicians who comprised this year’s band camp were thrilled by the opportunity to play with and under Dr. Wilhjelm who patiently guided the band through a variety of challenging pieces. Band Camp members left having learned valuable skills to take back with them to their respective bands.

Now, with winter nearly over and spring right around the corner, the Carl R. Cuthbert Community Band Foundation is starting to get ready for Band Camp 2019, scheduled this year for September 13-15, in Dexter, ME. The Foundation’s board has already selected this year’s guest conductor, Master Sergeant Sam Woodhead, Principal trombonist of the United States Army Concert Band, Pershing’s Own, Washington DC. MSG Woodhead hails from Northport, Maine, with a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Southern Maine, a Master’s from Yale University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Beside playing with the Army band, he is also chairman of the Eastern Trombone Workshop, founder and director of the Washington Trombone Ensemble, and is currently serving on the board of advisors for the International Trombone Association. His background and various experiences as a musician will make him a valuable asset to this year’s band camp program, Band Camp 2019.

As has been the custom of the previous band camps, band members from across the state and the nation will convene again “on the shores of Lake Wassookeag” to celebrate the music of Maine composers and arrangers under the direction of MSG Sam Woodhead and Dr. Earl Lord. This year’s camp will continue to be at no cost, except lodging, to anyone wishing to attend, with all meals, music, and facilities provided by civic groups and private donations from the community and the Cuthbert Foundation. For more information or to register for Band Camp 2019, you may visit the Foundation’s website at cuthbert-foundation.org.

The Carl R. Cuthbert Community Band Foundation is extending an invitation to all adult musicians, regardless of ages or musical experience or competence, to join the Harold J. Crosby Community Band and Band Camp 2019 in Dexter, Maine, “rural Maine at its best, quiet, quaint, and picturesque, the perfect backdrop for a weekend of music” to celebrate once again the season and the music of Maine.
Greetings from Rome. Rome, Georgia that is! Rome New Horizons Band is in the process of reforming. Rome had an active NHB for a number of years, but due to various circumstances it became inactive. That was a sad day.

Rome, a small town in Northwest Georgia, is really quite unique. It boasts three colleges — Berry College, Georgia Highlands College and Shorter University. Rome also has an excellent symphony and a large volunteer community band called North Georgia Winds. Shorter University is known for its musical programs, especially its nationally renowned vocal music program. What is lacking in this vibrant community? — a New Horizons Band.

Fast forward to 2019. Dr. Duane Warfield, director of bands at Shorter University in Rome, had prior experience with New Horizon Bands while studying at the University of Iowa. Last fall Dr. Warfield met with Dr. Roy Ernst to explore ideas of how best to reincarnate the band. Dr. Ernst emphasized the need to always have a beginner band going but also said just "start doing something" and it will grow.

A small group of players, many of whom had been in the previous Rome NHB, had been meeting together regularly just to play—mostly hymns, easy jazz and dixieland. The group however was lacking several needed instruments for jazz and dixieland. As it turns out, Dr. Warfield was organizing a jazz band at Shorter University. Dr. Warfield suggested combining both groups with the hope of eventually attracting more “new horizon players.” Thus far it has been a great success. The students and the “NHB” members are both enjoying the jazz band. The cross age group sharing has been terrific. Everyone is learning and sharing the joy of making music together.

There are now plans for a beginner group to begin this summer. In the fall when the students return for classes, plans are to involve students in teaching and conducting. It will be great experience for the students and fun for all. It’s the hope that soon the phrase “all roads lead to Rome” will have a modified version that says “all new and aspiring musicians—lead yourselves to the newly reinstituted New Horizons Band of Rome!!”

Rome New Horizons Band: A place where “your best is good enough!”

For more information about the New Horizons Band in Rome, contact Dr. Duane Warfield at dwarfield@shorter.edu or Dr. Dee Russell at drdrussell60@gmail.com (706.346.6318).
The Hagerstown (Maryland) New Horizons Band has become a fixture at patriotic ceremonies and other community events. Organized in 1997, it draws members from three states, 30 miles roundabout the City, and gives 15 to 20 annual performances within the same radius.

The Band has approximately 40 members. It fields two units: a “Concert Band” which plays high-school-level arrangements of the standard repertoire and a “Pops Ensemble” which plays easier arrangements of contemporary music.

This New Horizons band is unusual in that it has no institutional sponsor. Most of the 150 or so New Horizons Bands worldwide are affiliated with colleges or schools of music. We are fully independent, charge no fees, and use rehearsal space donated by the YMCA and a church. Everyone who likes to play a wind instrument is welcome, because “your best is good enough.” If that sounds good to you, visit our website: newhorizonsbandhagerstown.org

Over the years, we have developed an annual cycle of events: Many concert appearances are at nursing homes and retirement villages. These are always appreciated. Other recurring jobs are for community celebrations such as the Hagerstown “Wings and Wheels” exposition at the former Fairchild Aircraft fighter-plane manufacturing plant. While not the main attraction at these events, we’re a welcome part of the “atmosphere.”

The Band includes many Armed Forces veterans, and our third reliable source of bookings is patriotic observances. We will be playing on March 29 at the dedication of a monument honoring veterans of the Viet Nam War, on the 50th anniversary of the beginning of that conflict.

One of the airliner crashes related to the 9/11 2001 terrorist attack occurred just a few miles from Hagerstown, in Somerset County, PA. Our patriotic programs feature a memorial composition commissioned by the Somerset Community Band, Swearingen’s “Flight of Valor.”

Each year, we furnish incidental music at the annual Veterans’ Day observance of the City of Hagerstown. Brass and percussion players can wear their mittens, but the woodwinds—well, they grin and bear it. And don’t forget your seat cushions: Those metal folding chairs get pretty cold on November 11!
The end of work, the beginning of the rest of my life!

by George Early

The day started out just like any other work day in Florida, nice and sunny, a real Chamber of Commerce day. Out of the corner of my eye I could see two of my supervisors approaching. I didn’t think much about it because I was working getting ready to balance turbine parts. I didn’t think much about them coming over until they asked to talk to me; needless to say, then I got a bit nervous. “George, we have some bad news for you, we’re eliminating your job so you’ll have to find employment somewhere else.” At the time I had just turned 61 years old and had 31 years on the job. I was going to retire the next year any way, plus I was starting to having medical problems (blood vessels, heart, back, knees etc. — typical elderly problems). My cardiologist had told me a year earlier that I would qualify for disability but I was trying to make it to 62. Now had to leave at 61. So be it!

In 1988 the general manager of WLRN Radio and TV at the time (Mr. Don McCullough) asked me, a volunteer, to accompany him to Washington, DC to a “Just Say No” convention that was hosted by Mrs. Nancy Reagan at the White House and I accepted. I had a business at the time and nothing was happening with it, so I left the station and promised if I lived long enough to retire I’d go back and rejoin the WLRN volunteer family which is exactly what I did… the next day.

The leader of the WLRN Radio Reading Service (Mario Lozada) knew that I was interested in playing an instrument. As well, another WLRN reader is a member of the New Horizons International Music Association and had brochures. She gave me one six years ago and the rest as they say is history. The story is similar with the North Miami Pops. A friend who’s a judge, Victoria Sigler, asked me to join the “Pops” and I’ve been there three years. I’m no Louis Armstrong but I’m working on it.

People who are part of community organizations, especially musicians, are generally very patient and understanding and — you can research this — medical schools like recruiting musicians because of their studiousness.

New Horizons Band Open House 2
Victoria Sigler and George Early

The New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA) has instituted an open house to promote fraternity and camaraderie among the various groups and to increase interest in the organization. The Frost School of Music’s New Horizons Band, directed by Dr. Donald Coffman of the University of Miami, was selected to host one of the affairs on March 3, 2018 at the University of Miami in Coral Gables.

Top picture: Dr. Coffman discusses a piece of music with the band and guest members from Naples and Michigan.

Middle picture: Dr. Roy Ernst (NHIMA founder) and Dr. Coffman discuss the open house.

Bottom picture: This is the “after affair luncheon” at “Titanic,” a restaurant in Coral Gables. Although not everyone could make occasion, you can tell by these smiling faces that a good time was had by all.

Hopefully there’ll be more in the future.
As a teenager growing up in the 60s and 70s, many of us dreamed of being on stage playing the music we loved; to an audience that shared the same adoration for the sounds that soothed, invigorated, and inspired us. Some of us took up instruments that allowed us to make music our own way—whether it was good or bad, alone or with friends, professionally or as an amateur. The rest of us just carried with us forever the fond memories that music helped to create— they have never left us.

Fast forward to today, and I will bet that my first paragraph has rekindled those memories to at least some glowing embers, if not a burning desire to experience the music we have always yearned to perform. Those dreams can now become a reality, thanks to the New Horizons Band programs that are flourishing across North America.

In Sault Ste. Marie, ON, the New Horizons Band program came to fruition about four years ago. The program was offered through the Algoma Conservatory of Music, which was fortunate enough to acquire the services of Ed Dickey as its inaugural director and concert master. An accomplished flutist (flautist) in his own right, Ed was the music director/teacher for the Elliot Lake High School before retiring to Sault Ste. Marie. His energy and vivacity would not let him remain fully retired. His leadership and enthusiasm has allowed the local New Horizons Band program to develop a group of willing yet demure protégés into proud and confident musicians who are eager to showcase their musical skills to anyone willing to listen.

Anyone can join the New Horizons Band program regardless of their musical prowess. The program is designed to channel participants into a level of learning to play a musical instrument that will leave them feeling comfortable and confident in their progress toward greater success with their instrument. The program is particularly aimed at older or senior people who may have “learning to play a musical instrument” on their lifelong bucket list. That having been said, the program has also benefitted and helped to develop several younger musicians who are looking for additional opportunities to play and learn a musical instrument.

The New Horizons Band program has a couple of ensembles in which members can participate, while still keeping within their skill and comfort levels. The program is sprinkled with couples who are able to share their musical experiences with each other, whether or not one is just learning an instrument while the other is honing old skills—the joy is in the journey. You don’t even have to own your own instrument to partake in the New Horizons Band program. If you are unsure which instrument you will most enjoy or excel at, arrangements can be made so that you can rent an instrument to use in the program.

Above all else, the greatest enjoyment of participating in the New Horizons Band program is the camaraderie and new friendships you develop or rekindle that have lasted or will last a lifetime. We get a chance to become a few years younger as we perform a musical portfolio that includes popular, classical, jazz, swing, blues, folk, and rock arrangements. There is nothing more uplifting than watching several sexagenarians and septuagenarians lightly bouncing in their chairs as they perform music by Queen, John Williams, or Leonard Cohen.

There is nothing more uplifting than watching several sexagenarians and septuagenarians lightly bouncing in their chairs as they perform music by Queen, John Williams, or Leonard Cohen.

Music is in all of us, and I hope by now I have nudged you enough to want to give the New Horizons Band program a try. Locally, more information can be found by contacting the Algoma Conservatory of Music, or just Google for a New Horizons Band program in your area. It is never too late to become a Rock Star!
NCNHB Ignites Student Dream

By Linda L. Johnson, President & Publicity

One of the Northern Colorado New Horizons Band’s missions is to perform at local elementary schools to introduce students to band instruments and to hopefully spark their interest to take up an instrument in middle school. At our December concert at Carrie Martin Elementary School in Loveland, Colorado, Director Glenn Shull did the usual instrument introductions, and both he and Associate Director Kay Broughton, conducted the band in several musical numbers.

A few days later after this concert, Glenn received a letter from Carrie Martin Elementary School Music Teacher Lori Smeltzer. Here are her words:

“I wanted to tell you something that happened at Carrie Martin after the New Horizons Band came and played in December... one of my 5th grade boys wanted to have lunch with me the following day and wanted to know what the conductor was communicating to the band through the baton. We had a mini conducting lesson and he asked for a conducting baton for Christmas. He got one and now when we have our spring performance, he’s going to conduct one of our songs.”

She continued, “Just wanted you to know that your performance made a huge impact on this young man. 😊”

Who would have thought this student’s dream was ignited by a simple conducting baton!
Director Glenn Shull is at it... Again!

By Linda L. Johnson, President & Publicity

The members of the Northern Colorado NHB come from all backgrounds, places, have enjoyed various occupations and hobbies over the course of their years. Our director, Glenn Shull, is no exception and has a particularly unique hobby: he makes lamps out of used instruments!

These interesting lamps have been donated to a local music group as part of their annual fundraiser silent auction. Last year, it was a trumpet table lamp and this year was a French horn night light! The on-off switch is the first valve. This year’s lamp fetched $280! Wonder what next year will bring... a tuba flood light?

Top left: Director Glenn Shull in front of the French horn night light at the Foothills Pops Band’s Silent Auction fundraiser and dance.
Above left: These French horn players take a chance on a bid to win the French horn night light. Above right: The French horn night light

The Benefits of Playing Music Help Your Brain More Than Any Other Activity

Brain training is big business. Companies like BrainHQ, Lumosity, and Cogmed are part of a multimillion-dollar business that is expected to surpass $3 billion by 2020. But does what they offer actually benefit your brain? Researchers don’t believe so. In fact, the University of Illinois determined that there’s little or no evidence that these games improve anything more than the specific tasks being trained. Lumosity’s maker was even fined $2 million for false claims.

So, if these brain games don’t work, then what will keep your brain sharp? The answer? Learning to play a musical instrument. CLICK HERE TO READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE AT WWW.INC.COM

Upcoming NHIMA Music Camps

Click here for further details or to add your camp or event.

JUNE 23–27, 2019 | New Horizons Wine Country Band Camp, Santa Rosa, CA
JULY 11–13, 2019 | New Horizons Carolina Band Band Blast, Greensboro, NC
JUNE 1–10, 2020 | New Horizons Ireland Tour
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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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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