

**New Horizons Program Council Meeting
Minutes**

May 9, 2024

Attendees: Danielle Abramson; Velma Campbell; Johanna Casciano; Ellen Correll; JoAnn Kane-Demott; Daryl Kaplan; Petar Kodzas; John Liebschutz; Paula Liebschutz; Susan Miller; Patrice Ristuccia; Shirley Scripture; Paula Sousa; Gwenn Voelckers; Peter Webster; David Weiss; Roxanne Willard

Absent: Sue Ames; Laural Harrington; Nancy Stocker; Ron Uhlig

Welcome (Paula Liebschutz)

- The NH Program Directors would like to hear from each Program Representative of their respective ensemble if there are any new items to share with the NH community besides performance dates.
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Report from ECMS (Petar Kodzas, Director)

Enrollment

- New Horizons (NH) enrollment is favorable with a total ensemble member count of 335 in Spring 2024 compared to Spring 2023 with a total of 333.
- Enrollment is on the rebound from the pandemic.
- NH enrollment is 15% of the overall ECMS enrollment.
- Posters/ brochures/bookmarks have been very helpful in marketing NH.
- Question – what else can we do for advertising NH? Suggestion was offered to have a presence in the Rochester 55+ Magazine and local YMCA's.

Financials

- An effort is always made to negotiate NH tuition that does not increase as much as staff increases.
- Adding more members would bring in more revenue for NH.

NH Endowed Fund Report (Danielle Abramson, Director of Advancement, UR Development)

- ECMS maintains three funds for the NH program.
 - NH Endowed Fund – A University invested fund with the goal of ensuring community access to lifelong collaborative music. This fund, along with future contributions, is invested and will be available to provide ongoing financial support to the NH program.
 - Fund Functioning as an Endowment – Funds set aside from prior donations to the ECMS that are being invested by the University for growth and which will be available to provide financial support for the NH program. This fund is “closed” meaning that no further donor contributions can be added to this fund.
 - NH Annual Fund – a current use (operating) fund. The annual tuition and operating expenses for the program are received and paid out of this fund. Donations to NH that are not specifically designated for endowment (see above) are added to this fund and may be applied to support the costs of the program annually. This fund is not invested in growth.

NH Holiday Party (Johanna Casciano)

- Interest has surfaced to reinstate the holiday party.
- It is suggested that each Program Ensemble Representative take a count of their respective group to see how many would be interested.
- Two locations have been mentioned as a venue – Midvale Country Club or Locust Hill Country Club.

Roy Ernst Scholarship Recipient (Sue Miller)

- This scholarship will be awarded to Jayla Johnson from School #15. Jayla has been described as a “model student and dedicated musician.”

Ensembles – Special Issues or Concerns

String Ensembles - (1) Improve communications between ECMS, the Program Council and String and Symphony Orchestra conductors (i.e., confirmation of performance dates); (2) Recruit String Orchestra members. The current Rochester NH recruitment poster omits mentioning strings.

Chorus - this ensemble would enjoy collaborating with other ensembles – such as singing with the Orchestra or Symphonic Band for one or two selections.

The above comments will be shared with Dr. Kodzas.

[NOTE: Performance dates/locations for each ensemble are listed on the New Horizons website at www.rocnewhorizons.org. Select the tab labeled MORE; select FUTURE PERFORMANCES in drop down menu.](http://www.rocnewhorizons.org)

Ensemble Reports

Chorus (JoAnn Kane-DeMott)

- New Horizon Chorus currently has 25 active members. Added to this number is our Director, Juli Elliot (who has returned from her one-year sabbatical) and our accomplished Accompanist Ming Hu (new to the group this year).
- PLAY BALL!! The chorus will be singing the National Anthem at the Red Wing Ball Game at Innovation Field on August 13 at 6:45 p.m. (This performance date has not appeared yet on the NH website).
- NH Chorus would like to partner with other NH ensembles to rehearse together on some selections and share a concert. The chorus is appreciative of the instrumentalists who have accompanied us at our concerts. (Perhaps program representatives from the other ensembles could let their directors know that the chorus is open to collaborating).

Green Band (Velma Campbell)

- The Green Band rehearsed with the Green Strings in March 2024 for the second year.
- Green Band collaborated with French Road School in April 2024 – for the first time since the pandemic. There were 80 French Road students and 35 Green Band members for a total of 115 – a delightful combination of young and mature musicians.
- Director, Debbie Parker will retire from Green Band.
- Candidates Eva Regan and Jeremy Stoner will audition concert pieces of Debbie's on 5/8/24 with the Green Band.

Symphonic Band (Sue Miller)

- Symphonic Band has had a busy year. During the first semester we played a Fall Concert at Willink Middle School in Webster and a Holiday Concert at Brighton High School.
- During the second semester we had two guest conductors, Mark Scatterday of ESM and Jherrand Hardeman, RPO Assistant Conductor. Both conductors gave us helpful comments and told wonderful stories.
- During the winter, 10 band members rehearsed with Beginning and Intermediate bands at School 15, the Children's School of Rochester (CSR), and played in their concert at Morning Briefing. The CSR Intermediate Band musicians came to our band rehearsal and played side by side in our sections with Symphonic Band in April.
- The annual State of the Band meeting will be May 28, 11:15 am in room 110. Members are invited to hear our conductors' review of the year and goals for next year.

Green Jazz Band (Shirley Scripture)

- This has been the second year for the newly formed Green Jazz Band in 2023.
- The group has been working out of the book "Jazz Ensemble Method" for group or individual instruction as noted in the syllabus. Next year instruction will continue with different band arrangements.
- All are welcome to enroll but should have some instrumental music experience above a beginner level.

Jazz Ensemble (Gwenn Voelckers)

- The Jazz Ensemble will be performing at seven different venues for their 2024 concert series. All performances for the Jazz Ensemble are listed on the NH website.

Green Strings (Patrice Ristuccia)

- Green Strings currently has 31 members and continues to grow.
- Two separate groups performed at Spring Fling this year.
- This group, for the second year, collaborated with The Children's School of Rochester by attending three rehearsals with the students at their school in February and culminating with a performance in March.
- In May, the students from the above school came to a Green Strings rehearsal. The orchestra played two pieces for the students and then we all played pieces together. Dress code chosen was: jeans/flannel shirt/and appropriate hat.
- For the second year, March saw the collaboration of Green Strings and Green Band. Each group played pieces for the other and worked on a piece that would be performed together. Green Strings will, for the first time, partner with the Full Orchestra to perform two pieces of music at the final 2024 concert in May.

String Ensemble (David Weiss)

- In the New Horizons organization, 24% of members play in one or more of the String Ensembles:
 - ❖ Green Strings for beginners – led by Cheryl Guth
 - ❖ String Orchestra – led by Serena Reuten
 - ❖ Symphony Orchestra – led by Nancy Strelau

Since the current Rochester NH recruitment poster omits mentioning strings, we will add the words “strings ensembles” to the poster when the current supply of posters runs out.

Full Orchestra (Daryl Kaplan)

- Nancy Strelau was welcomed as the new conductor. Nancy recently retired from Nazareth University where she was Associate Director of the Nazareth School of Music. She is a violinist and composer and the founder and conductor of the Greater Rochester Women’s Philharmonic.
- The Full Orchestra currently consists of 31 members.
- Green Strings will be joining Full Orchestra for two selections at the Spring Concert in May.

Recruitment/Poster Location Work Session

We have a list of 50 locations in the greater Rochester community with the help of our NH members! The purpose of this “work session” was to have each Program Representative and other willing members be responsible for FIVE locations throughout the year.

HOW WILL THIS WORK?

- If you have signed up for locations, please make sure to put up a NH poster in each of your locations. Include other members who live near the assigned locations to help.
- Locations take down posters periodically so please check every 2-3 months and renew the poster.
- Poster locations are listed on the website under About Us.
- Let the Program Directors (Paula/Ellen) know when you need more posters.

NOTE: Dave Weiss has a similar list of strings poster locations. If you have additional locations to include or would like some Strings posters, please email Dave at dweiss2@rochester.rr.com.

Your commitment to Eastman Rochester New Horizons is vital and appreciated. Our hope is to grow these ensembles back to pre-pandemic levels! Thanks for your help.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Scripture
Program Council Secretary
5/15/24