

Eastman Rochester New Horizons Program Council
Meeting Minutes October 29,2020

Present: Susan Miller, Daryl Kaplan, JoAnn Kane-Demott, Paula Sousa, Petar Kodzas

Absent: Carol Krause, Elisa Root, Nancy Stocker, Ron Uhlig, Patrice Ristuccia

Committee Reports:

Chorus – JoAnn Kane-Demott:

The New Horizon Chorus meets on Thursday mornings at 11:30 am. Since September, we have been meeting outside whenever possible weather permitting, 12 feet apart singing with masks on at the Unitarian Church. Juli has been recording our sessions for those members not able to meet with us either on zoom or in person. We also have a Smart Music account and Juli has provided exercises and pieces for us to listen, sing along with and record our various parts.

Our numbers have dwindled a bit since last semester and we have been averaging 15- 20 members each week. A few of our members from last year have not joined us, sadly probably most likely because of the technological challenges that we are facing. The chorus has become a strong group, moving forward with our new situation of emphasizing the joy of singing. Hopefully, recording some of our pieces in the future will be our next goal.

Orchestra- Daryl Kaplan

The Full Orchestra has been meeting on Wednesday mornings from 9 - 10, using Zoom and SmartMusic. Approximately 20 members participate each week. I recently sent out an email requesting feedback on how members feel about our rehearsals. I have heard back from several members who expressed frustration with the technology at first, but praised our director, Maurice Cohn for his patience and creativity in helping us adjust to our “new” way of rehearsing and practicing. Some members, who find the technology too challenging, have chosen not to participate. In addition to playing through repertoire, Maurice has devised practice tools, such as rhythm exercises and scales to enhance the experience. He has also shared YouTube performances of our repertoire by professional orchestras as listening tools to help our appreciation of the pieces that we are learning. We are hoping to eventually take advantage of the SmartMusic feature whereby we will record ourselves and upload the individual videos to be combined with the orchestra as a whole. All in all, the orchestra members who are participating are grateful for the opportunity to continue to play music and to socialize with one another but are looking forward to the day when we can make music together again in person.

Green Strings – Patrice Ristuccia

1. GS has gotten off to a good start using Smart Music. We are all helping each other become more familiar with the computer programs.
2. We have fifteen consistent members participating in the on-line program.
3. Our cello coach, Zack Litchfield, is also helping out this semester. Zack’s involvement allows us to have break out rooms on Zoom. Cheryl, our conductor, works with upper strings while Zack works with lower strings. This has been effective in helping participants work more specifically on their individual needs.
4. Despite the distance learning participants are enjoying themselves and continuing to grow musically.
5. Cheryl has been helpful and supportive in her explanation of the computer programs we are using. She is also patient as we work to achieve our learning curve to be at the same knowledge level

utilizing the technology so that we are able to improve musically.

Green Band - Paula Sousa

Green Band lacks coordinator at the present time. Therefore, I sent an email to a couple of members asking for feedback. Velma Campbell and Diane Emmons both responded to my email. Velma joined after watching our documentary on WXXI, never having played music before. I believe she's been a member for at least two years and has found the band to be a challenge, yet fun and engaging. She feels having both Priscilla and Don as conductors was a blessing. She's enjoying working with Tierney and Smart Music. She also mentioned that she was encouraged by Donna Gates to pursue NH. She joined with the intention of learning how to play flute.

Diane Emmons was involved with starting a NH band in Houghton when the country shut down. She was excited to join us via Zoom. She echoes the frustrations of many of us in that we can't hear each other and the conductors are unable to critique our playing. She feels that Tierney offers helpful general comments. Diane enjoys using Smart Music, exploring its various features, especially for practicing on her own. She said that her experience has been a positive one due to Tierney's expertise and the friendly participants.

Jazz Workshop- Paula emailed Mike McKain asking for his feedback.

I'm taking the Jazz workshop with Charlie Carr. It has been very instructive and challenging. Carr is very good and teaches well. Students are asked to record and submit assignments on a regular basis. His use of Smart music is smart. And he knows how to share screens effectively. I'm learning a lot.

Band – Susan Miller

Our NH spring semester 2020 ended with a State of the Band meeting conducted via reports from each subcommittee and our conductors then written into minutes emailed out to all members. Larry and Bruce described a very successful year for the band program right up to the sudden, disappointing early ending in March. During the lock-down we did a mail-in collection for conductor and sexton gifts, and members kept in touch by phone and email. In June we celebrated Bruce's retirement after 10 years as our conductor with a surprise 50-car drive-by parade and presentation of a memory book of photos and letters written by band members and mentors. Play It Forward funded eight children from the RCSD for summer instrumental or vocal lessons at ECMS and 8-10 children during fall semester. When fall semester began, Larry, our new co-conductor Tom Indiano, and mentor Tierney McLean held zoom tutoring sessions to explain the SmartMusic program. Our Concert and Symphonic Bands continue to meet separately one day a week with a second day of mentor led sectionals. Occasionally both groups rehearse together as Full Band. SmartMusic keeps us playing together while rehearsal coffee break time via zoom lets us visit together and stay in touch.

Gifts and Legacy – Elisa Root

Late in August Elisa met with Paula, Daryl Kaplan and Jean Weaver. Jean and Daryl explained the procedures involved in handling Gifts and Legacy. Elisa reported that in October there were five donations given in memory of Patrick SanFillipo.

Social Media – Nancy Stocker

Facebook is ongoing as she tries to post something at least every other day. She's working on getting information about the mentors and our ensembles as well as music themed pictures for posting. She submitted article to NHIMA for the fall letter that included our drive by farewell to Bruce and introduced Tom.

Website- Ron Uhlig

Ron was absent but had expressed his desire to know if members are happy with the new website design. All of those present expressed our satisfaction. Paula previously expressed her appreciation to him, Mike McKain, and Sue Ames for their work.

Petar Kodzas:

The Program Fund has a balance of \$36,688.11.

The coordinators voted in September to pay \$1,900.00 for the Smart Music subscription.

New Horizons enrollment is 150, which represents 14% of ECMS total enrollment. When compared to 252 last year, we have a little more than 50% of our members participating. As always several of us participate in at least two ensembles.

Old Business:

Updating Brochure: Laura Teoli, JoAnn Kane-Demott, Patrice Ristuccia and I worked together over the summer and decided on a trifold design, which includes pictures of all ensembles as well as pictures from other events. It was a challenge getting pictures of each individual ensemble, so we settled on Full Band and Full Orchestra and used the description found on the website. Our design features a picture of all the other core ensembles. PIF is also featured in the new design. Eli Campbell and I met three weeks ago. He took all the paperwork and will follow through. Petar wants to wait until the time is right to take updated pictures for the brochure, ensuring that we will have quality photos. Trying to use ones that are "lifted" from our website and Facebook wouldn't give us the quality we need.

NHIMA Open House. Unfortunately, we had only two out of town guests. Susan Miller and Paula decided beforehand that participation would most likely be low, because of the time of year. Who wants to visit Rochester in March? It has been suggested to Roy that we do the next one later in the Spring or in October.

New Business:

Thirtieth Anniversary: A small committee has formed and is working on choosing highlights from our scrapbooks, with the plan of featuring a timeline of New Horizons in Rochester. This will appear on our website as well as on the NHIMA website. I've sent one email asking for other suggestions and ideas from all members and plan on sending another soon.

Petar suggested we ask members who have contact with past mentors and ask for their stories about working with us. We also need to include the present day mentors.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Sousa, Eastman Rochester NH Program Council Chairperson

Program Council Meeting February 13, 2020

Present: Nancy Stocker, Susan Miller, Petar Kodzas, Craig George, Mike Doolin, Paula Sousa

The meeting was called to order by President Paula Sousa.

Committee Reports:

Green String—Patrice Ristuccia

- Had a gig at St. John's home in January
- They are working on improvisation
- They plan to do a side by side event with string students at French Road school next year.
- They also hope to have the string students from School 15 visit them.
- Herb Smith will guest conduct on April 2nd.
- People are willingly stepping forward to volunteer

Chorus—JoAnne Kane-Demot

- Presented a program with Green Strings at St. Johns home.
- The chorus is concentrating on singing anthems of other countries and American folk songs and ballads.
- They will perform at the Chamber Ensemble Day on March 11.
- Springfest dates are yet to be confirmed.
- They have a program at Brickstone on May 11.
- Two other performances are scheduled in May.

Green Band—Craig George

- We are planning a visit to French Road elementary school where members play along with students and then have a short practice session with individual groups.
- The ID card project is completed with thanks to Eli Campbell of the ECMS dean's office.
- Green band has several members who have had severe medical problems and have returned to band because of help and encouragement from ECSM and the Arts in Healthcare program.

Social Media—Nancy Stocker

- Has contacted many groups in the area to make them aware of NH and what we do. She arranged an interview for our conductors and Paula with radio commentator, Kevin Gillan.
- Suggested having a NH rehearsal open house week for local musicians who might be interested in joining us. Hopefully, it can be worked out for late September or Early October.
- She established a very active facebook page for NH and will welcome news from all of the NH groups who wish to pass along any news of their activities.
- We were on TV in November and will be again in April to promote the May concert

Band Committee—Susan Miller

- NH band members are working on new music. ESM conductor Mark Scatterday conducted a Full Band rehearsal on Jan. 23 and Dean Jamal Rossi joined the saxophone section at full band rehearsal February 13th.
- We have three Red Band gigs coming up at senior centers and residences.
- Our members are looking forward to the March NH International Open House and to our annual NH Hatch Hall Chamber Ensembles performances on March 11th.
- The Band Fund and PIF balances are in good shape.
- PIF is sending two School 22 fifth grade trumpet players for private lessons in preparation for the April ECMS Pathways auditions.
- Schools 15 and 22 music teachers will soon identify students for PIF scholarships to the summer Adventure Music Camp.
- The Hospitality Committee's work to provide treats and coffee at rehearsal break is much appreciated.

Orchestra—Marjorie Relin (Absent)

- Orchestra is running well and enjoying working with the new conductor.

Eastman Community Music School—Petar Kodzas

- There will be someone taking Laura Souzas place in the development office. Petar will inform this person to notify Laural Harrington when NH receives any endowments or donations so that she can acknowledge them with a thank you letter.
- NH members are encouraged to get their photo IDs. He is hoping to send a rep to the Unitarian Church next fall on rehearsal days to take photos for IDs. The IDs are good for five years and there are many benefits along with them. He stressed that musicians must be registered in order to get an ID.
- There was some discussion about the benefits NH can provide to adults with health issues and feels that this is an area that could be explored.

Program Chairman—Paula Sousa

Old Business

- ECMS is ready to update the NH brochure. We need to decide on updates to the wording and photographs.
- The Holiday Party this year will be at the Burgundy Basin Inn on Wednesday, Dec. 9th. Save the date!
- There are still positions on the Program Council that need to be filled: Publicity and Recruitment, Community Engagement, and Apparel (keeping the NH apparel website updated). If you have any interest in helping please contact Paula.
- The organization continues to grow and members are encouraged to participate.

New Business

- Planning for the NHIMA open house in March is underway. Linda Masters is our contact. Several members feel that our afternoon of Chamber Ensembles will help make coming to Rochester more interesting.. At this point in time, we've not had anyone register. It's still a month away, so we're hopeful more people will want to visit Rochester in March.

- NH members are encouraged to get their photo IDs. Petar feels we can get Eli Campbell to the Unitarian Church next fall on rehearsal days to take photos for IDs. The IDs are good for five years and there are many benefits along with them. He stressed that musicians must be registered in order to get an ID.
- It's time to encourage members to join NHIMA. It's an inexpensive fee and there are some really nice perks, such as receiving the newsletter, being listed in the directory, and discounts to music camps. The membership fee helps to keep down the cost of NH camps and supports the institutes. For more information, members can visit the New Horizons International Music Association website.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Krause Secretary New Horizons Program Council