

**Eastman Rochester New Horizons
Program Council Report February 2021**

Petar Kodzas -

- The New Horizons Gift Fund has a balance of \$37,288.21
- New Horizons Financials: We are \$2,760.00 in the black.
- Due to the pandemic we had very few expenses this year.
- New Horizons comprises 14% of ECMS enrollment with 146 participants.

Committee Reports:

New Horizon Chorus Update 2/17/21 - JoAnn Kane-DeMott

- The New Horizon Chorus has been meeting each week virtually via zoom for the fall and now spring semester. We were able to meet outdoors in one of the gardens at the Unitarian Church weekly until the weather became too cold. We sang through our masks and were 12 feet apart. Our accompanist, Chris Petit, ran around with a tape measure to make sure we were socially distancing correctly.
- Juli Elliot, our conductor records our rehearsal videos and sends them out as a refresher for the participants and for those who were not able to join us for that week's rehearsal. Juli, also records the various parts of the pieces we are working on, and sends those out, with homework ideas to help us practice our parts. In addition, our Smart Music account holds exercises and songs that we are able to sing along with other singers.
- So far, we have recorded two pieces, that are now on the New Horizon website. Although, with all the challenges that zoom creates we are thankful that we are able to see each other, attend a rehearsal, and to be able to continue to sing.

Green Band—Diane Emmons

- We have added several new members since the last report.
- Everyone has become familiar with the features of Zoom and Smart Music so we are able to adjust the tempos and move quickly into "rehearsal mode."
- Each week we are given a sight-reading piece.
- We have no new members for Spring Semester.

Green Strings' - Patrice Ristuccia

- Members have been very busy and working hard in our virtual rehearsals. We continue to use Smart Music as we learn and grow in ways to utilize its versatility; both during our rehearsals sessions and our practice times. Orchestra members are also learning to record themselves playing their individual parts using Up Beat.

- After reviewing the Pentatonic Scale, Cheryl Guth, our conductor, had members of GS write their own short piece of music using the scale. Our cello coach, Zack Litchfield, who is currently a student majoring in Music Composition at ESM, met with each GS composer to fine tune their piece of music. The ultimate goal is to put all the small compositions together to create a Green Strings composition. We hope to play this piece at one of the upcoming outdoor concerts Petar has said may become possible at a later date.
- Green Strings Orchestra is playing a wide variety of music this semester. There are the usual classical pieces we play but we also are working on "Star Wars", "Over The Rainbow" and three different fiddle tunes to keep our rehearsals interesting. As a group, we continue to work on learning scales, cords, keys, shifting and vibrato as it relates to our pieces. Clearly, we are pleased to have a way to be able to play together to make and create music.

Jazz Workshop - Mike McKain

- Charlie Carr, the teacher, is a young professional with a couple of kids.
- His knowledge and ability to teach a subject he obviously loves is remarkable. His grasp of the power of smart music and his ability to share screens when necessary works to everyone's advantage.
- He gives weekly assignments requiring us to record and submit.
- The course is highly recommended.

Full Orchestra - Daryl Kaplan

- The Full Orchestra continues to meet on Wednesday mornings from 9 - 10, using Zoom and SmartMusic.
- Members have adapted well to the new technology
- Music Director Maurice Cohn has chosen selections from a varied repertoire including the following:
 - Handel - Royal Fireworks Overture
 - Beethoven - Symphony No. 5
 - Beethoven - Egmont Overture
 - Saint-Saens - Carnival of the Animals
 - Wagner - Grand March from Tannhauser
- Maurice continues to assist us with practice techniques and the sharing of performances by professional orchestras.
- All the participants in Full Orchestra seem to enjoy the experience of learning and playing under Maurice's superb guidance and look forward to playing in person in the not too distant future. ● Several NHO members are participating this semester in an ECMS course offered by our very own Maestro Cohn, called *What is an Orchestra, Anyway?* The course meets for 10 Saturdays, 11am to 12noon, between February 6 through April 24 on ZOOM. Sessions will be recorded and made

available for viewing on YouTube.

Band—Susan Miller

- Concert, Symphonic, and Full Band rehearsals continue during winter 2021 on zoom and SmartMusic.
- Larry and Tom have chosen several new numbers to challenge the groups and keep us practicing.
- In January, about 35 Full Band members and mentors each made a video recording of themselves playing "Call to Victory March." Ron edited together the videos (a time intensive undertaking—thank you, Ron).
- The resulting musical zoom performance has been featured on our Rochester NH Music Facebook page and can also be found on YouTube.
- Our mentors continue to help us with the music at sectionals, finding creative ways to keep remote rehearsals interesting.
- Members have been enjoying social time at the end of Split and Full Band rehearsals. Those who are not attending zoom rehearsals this year have also been invited to join us at social hour, and several sections report they have one or two zoom get-togethers each month just to stay in touch.
- Nancy Stocker, publicity, posts music-related, informative, sometimes amusing items several times a week on our Facebook page.
- The Play It Forward committee of Arthur Kolko, Peter Webster, Judy Rose, and Elaine Relyea has been busy. PIF is currently supporting 10 RCSD students with private lessons at ECMS. With income for PIF from donations at our concerts cut off, the committee is looking into other funding sources such as a grant in hopes of sending 20 children to ECMS this summer for 10 weeks of private lessons or a week at ECMS Adventure Music Camp. Information has also been provided for members who wish to individually donate to PIF.
- With the vaccine now available, we are starting to hope we may be able to resume playing music together next fall and also celebrate together the 30th anniversary of New Horizons Music.

Gifts and Legacy- Elisa Root

- Seven gifts were received since October; two to PIF, five to The Program Fund

Program Chairman—Paula Sousa

- New Horizons' 30th Anniversary
- Jay Golden and I have gone through all the scrapbooks looking for things to use for the 30th anniversary of New Horizons. I wanted to do a pictorial history of the first 10 years for our website, but have come to the realization that there aren't enough interesting pictures to use. Therefore, I'll do my best to do a written summary of the early years.
- The scrapbooks only contain information about the band program. I want to include the chorus

and orchestra, so have asked Daryl and Joann to research the orchestra and chorus. ● Petar suggested doing features on things such past conductors, Springfests and Winterfests. Eli Campbell has a library of photos and will help me. Many members have sent photos to me and I'm confident we'll be able to use them.

- Several old rosters have been posted to our website, and information on how to access them has been sent out.
- We'll also feature members' stories about their experiences of joining NH.
- I will gladly accept any help and advice concerning this project.
- We hope to have an open house in October. Larry has been commissioned by Eastman to compose something in honor of the 30th anniversary. The band will perform this and the NHIMA composition winner's piece.
- Petar has suggested we do prism concerts, so the other two programs can participate.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Krause