

**Eastman-Rochester Program Council
Minutes
November 2, 2021
(Final Version)**

Attendees: Velma Campbell; John Caselli; Laural Harrington; JoAnn Kane-Demott; Daryl Kaplan; Petar Kodzas; Susan Miller; Patrice Ristuccia; Elisa Root; Judy Rose; Shirley Scripture; Paula Sousa

Committee Reports

Gifts and Legacy – Elisa Root

- No new contributions to report at this time. There was some question around why previous reports viewed only showed the person's name and not amount. Petar explained that the dollar amount is confidential and will not appear on such a report.
- There is a need to promote giving to New Horizons Program funds. Daryl reminded us that members can access the Gift Form on our New Horizons website at rocnewhorizons.org. (Select MORE tab for drop-down menu/select SUPPORT US and read about New Horizons Program Fund and download the Gift Form via the link provided). Donations can also be made online through ESM Online Giving – specify New Horizons Program Fund.
- A new Roy Ernst Scholarship has been established.
- Contributors need to be specific where their donation should be directed otherwise it will go to the general fund. For example, donations should specifically state Play It Forward or New Horizons Gift Fund.

Social Media – Nancy Stocker (unable to attend)

- A 30th Anniversary Concert poster was promoted on Facebook; on the Channel 8 Community Page; Beyond the Nest (a series of regional websites around the region). An email was sent to the City Magazine and all the senior homes. NHIMA (New Horizons International Music Association) was contacted about this concert and, in turn, sent out a link to all members. A short article about the concert will be included in the NHIMA Fall Newsletter.
- Since music badges from the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts require concert attendance, these organizations will be notified of upcoming concerts.
- During Covid, inspirational or humorous posts were displayed on the platform to engage with our members and anyone who had liked our page. We continue to get new followers so keep sharing!
- If any ensemble would like information posted on Facebook, email Nancy at: nancystocker001@aol.com. This would include photos, upcoming concerts or fun happenings.

Website – Ron Uhlig (unable to attend)

- Ron did submit an updated Organization Program Structure Chart. (See attachment).
- He also submitted the latest copy of the Handbook which is still a working document.

Band – Susan Miller

- September 2021 welcomed Tom Indiano, in person, as our new conductor of a year.
- There are about 85 members currently attending Concert, Symphonic, and Full Band.
- The 30th Anniversary of New Horizons was celebrated on October 29, 2021 at Kodak Hall and concluded the concert by premiering Larry Neeck's composition "Ceremony and Celebration."
- Next Full Band concert is scheduled for December 11 at 2:00 pm at Brighton High School for the Holiday Concert.
- Play It Forward (PIF) Committee received grants this past spring from Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, Gilbert Spirit Fund at the Unitarian Church, donors from the Rochester Area Community Foundation and private gifts.
- These grants and donations provided opportunities at ECMS to include private music lessons for 20 RCSD students and participation for eight students at the ECMS Adventure Music Camp.
- Arthur Kolko reports that PIF is sponsoring 13 RCSD students for private music lessons at ECMS fall semester.
- Elaine Relyea, Band Committee Treasurer, reports that both the Band Fund and PIF Fund have healthy balances. Additional PIF funds are held at ECMS and all summer camp and lessons were paid from those funds.

Green Band – Velma Campbell

- Debbie Parker is the new co-director of the Green Band. A recent retiree from the Brighton School District, Debbie had expressed an interest in working with New Horizons and the opportunity presented itself.
- The number of members is down by almost half thought to be because of the pandemic. Three new members did join this fall and two more may join in the near future.
- By re-airing the video "Music for Life," it is hoped it might bring new members.
- Seven "ringers" joined the Green Band for the Kodak Hall Concert.

Green Strings – Patrice Ristuccia

- Have 23 members. Four new members have joined this year.
- Green Strings joined with the String Orchestra and Orchestra for the Kodak Hall concert. The conductor, Cheryl Guth, rewrote the music so that Green Strings could join with the others. She will continue to do this.
- The Green Strings has about \$200 that was donated before the pandemic for coffee/snack break. It was never used, so it has been decided to create a Green Strings Fund for the first time and to use it for a significant purpose.

Chorus – JoAnn Kane-DeMott

- There are 22 registered members for 2021-2022 which includes five new members. In 2019-2020, there were 30 registered members with 14 not returning in 2021-2022.
- The chorus sang at a service at Two Saints Church on Fitzhugh Street on Sunday, October 10. The piece we sang was "We Walk in Love" and the composer, Deanna Witkowski was the accompanist. Deanna has dedicated

herself to bringing communities together through Jazz and has worked as a guest music leader in over 100 churches across the U.S.

- On the 30th year celebration, October 29, the chorus sang "We Walk in Love" and "Hard Times." Both compositions offer a message of hope that together we will be able to get through all the difficult times and challenges that visit our lives.
- On Tuesday, December 7, the chorus has been invited to sing holiday music for the Pittsford Retired Teacher's Luncheon at Locust Hill Country Club.

Orchestra – Daryl Kaplan

- The NH Full Orchestra has a new music director, Austin Chanu. There are currently 32 registrants.
- The conductor for Green Strings is Cheryl Guth.
- The Green Strings and String Orchestra joined the Full Orchestra to perform at Kodak Hall for the 30th Anniversary celebration on October 29.
- The Orchestra Committee is in the process of reviewing its structure and the composition and duties of its committee members.
- Discussion will be had to see if there might be a combined Orchestra Fund.

Big Band – Laural Harrington

- Big Band lost a couple of members due to issues and age.
- Three new people have joined.
- A concert is planned at Brickstone (St. John's Meadows) on Tuesday, November 9 at 2 pm. It is not confirmed if outside people can attend.

Clarinet Choir – John Caselli

- Most members have remained.
- Brad Willard is a new addition playing contrabass clarinet.
- Ken Scott invited Nicolette Ferguson, a retired dance/choreographer instructor from Garth Fagan, to teach the group breathing and relaxation techniques for improved playing. She is also available to teach/instruct if any other groups would be interested.
- No gigs scheduled to report for November.

Report from Petar Kodzas

- The October 29 concert was a success and he did not hear of any issues. A professional photographer was hired and the concert was professionally recorded. Petar will let the directors know when the photos and recording are available for the website. It is possible the concert could also be viewed on YouTube.
- Roy was very happy, excited and moved and very surprised with the gifts he received.
- The NH members should be very proud of what was accomplished to put this concert together in two months after not playing together in person this last year and a half.
- A proposal has been suggested to perform at the December WinterFest on Saturday, December 18. (It is scheduled the same weekend as the RPO Pops Holiday performances!). Just small ensembles will be included.

- Spring Fling is being discussed for March 9 at Hatch Hall. It is not clear who is supporting this event from within but will reach out to Sue Ames and Mike McKain to discuss. It was stated that the program last year was too long.
- Enrollment had been growing for about three years but declined in 2020-21. People are hesitant to return and no recruiting has been done.
- Overall headcount for all NH ensembles for Fall 2021 is 197. In Fall 2019, the NH headcount was 252.
- We are pleased that there are a good group of mentors on board and there is a positive feeling as we move forward.
- ECMS has a new Director of Advancement.
- The current balance in the NH Gift Fund is approximately \$85K. It is being discussed that \$50K of this total be used to create an endowed fund for 2022 to be invested and grow. This investment could be used for operational expenses (i.e., expenses at the church).
- The church wants people to be reminded to keep their masks on.
- A new brochure is being created. The old one is about 10 years old and needs new photos. These photos will be delayed until we no longer need to wear masks.
- In discussions with Roy Ernst, he was interested in "next steps." He would like to have a New Horizons program for adults in more diverse sections of cities. Petar has started discussion with different contacts in the city such as Herb Smith. The music and method may be different and location needs to be convenient for people to participate. This initiative is being investigated and hopes to be up and running by fall of 2022.

Old Business

- Paula Sousa still needs coordinators for ensembles: Sax Ensemble, Antique Brass.
- Judy Rose will be coordinator for the Clarinet Choir until she goes to Florida in January. John Caselli offered to substitute while Judy is away.
- John Caselli volunteered to be coordinator for the Jazz Ensemble.

New Business

- A Publicity & Recruitment Director is needed to organize input from each group for publicity purposes and to speak about NH.
- Paula Sousa suggested that a representative from each section be appointed to follow-up on members who miss more than two rehearsals to keep track of members and keep in mind that we're a family.
- Angela Mambro, long-time clarinet player, on advice from her family, has not been attending NH rehearsals due to the pandemic. Angela served as our "hostess with the mostess" for many years and made our very first Covid masks. She would love to receive cards from her NH family. Please be encouraged to contact Angela. Her address is listed on the roster.

Respectfully Submitted:

Shirley Scripture

Program Council Secretary

Next Meeting: February 2022 (date TBD)