

## **Rochester New Horizons Program Council**

### Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022

**Present:** JoAnn Kane-Demott, Judy Rose, Elisa Root, Patrice Ristuccia, Susan Miller, Peter Webster, Paula Sousa, Daryl Kaplan, Nancy Stocker

Peter Webster gave us a detailed presentation on the advantages of endowing a large portion of our Program Fund, which has a balance of over \$100,000. Endowing would allow our money to grow, because it would earn interest. Those present voted unanimously to go forward. A letter will be drafted and addressed to Dr. Petar Kodzas, Dr. Jamal Rossi and Aubrie Willaert, Executive Director of Advancement

**Green Strings-** Patrice Ristuccia: They have four new members, bringing membership up to 25. The members are enjoying working with Cheryl, who is both a fabulous teacher and director. Patrice was able to open a bank account with their coffee break money. Green Strings is pleased to have their own treasury fund. Both Patrice and Maleia Thompson-Dix have access to the funds. It has been set up like a club account. The account was then used immediately to create bank checks for the conductor and mentors as holiday thank you gifts. Green Strings is also pleased to be playing once again, with String Orchestra for the Centennial Celebration of the Eastman School of Music at Kodak Hall on March 5.

**Green Band-** Velma Campbell: We're still working on finding the date for our May concert. Members are encouraged to either play on the Spring Fling concert in March or to attend. Members really enjoyed our Winterfest concert and we had creative decorations on some of the instruments. We were sad to be remote for 3 weeks in January but were able to do some lessons via zoom. It wasn't the same as in person but it was something. We're delighted to be meeting again in person and hope it continues to be the way! We have two new members, Ann Tippett and my hubby, Rob. Some others have inquired but haven't been able to work Wednesday mornings into their schedules. Our beginning players are doing very well.

**Band-**Susan Miller: Band rehearsals were put on hiatus during January due to Omicron, but separate zoom sectionals were held each week for Concert and Symphonic Band sections. In-person rehearsals resumed in February with some adjustment to the weekly schedule to allow for Full Band each Tuesday and an hour each of Concert or Symphonic Band rehearsal and sectionals on Thursdays. We were very sad to learn that Christopher Seaman would not be able to conduct our March 8 rehearsal as planned due to illness; we hope to welcome him at a rehearsal when he is back in Rochester next fall. About 50 Full Band members will play at Kodak Hall March 6 in the ECMS Community Music celebration concert. Planned spring events include our May 24 Concert and Symphonic Band concert at Kodak Hall and our series of three outdoor concerts: Brickstone on June 2, Asbury First Church on June 9, and the Fairport Gazebo on June 16, all at 7 pm. Nancy Stocker, Publicity, maintains an active presence for us on Facebook. Play It Forward recently was awarded a \$5000 grant from Rochester Area Community Foundation's Arts and Culture Fund and is waiting on two more grant requests. These funds will support summer music lessons and Adventure Music Camp for PIF scholarship students and, hopefully, fulfill PIF's \$22,225 budget for fiscal year 2022-23. This semester PIF is supporting music lessons at ECMS for 13 area school students.

**Orchestra-** Daryl Kaplan:

1. New Horizons Full Orchestra continued to rehearse on Wednesday mornings in the months of November and December. Our repertoire included *Go West* by Ralph Ford, *Nocturne* by Felix Mendelssohn, *Pink Panther* by Henry Mancini, and *Jupiter- Bringer of Jollity* by Gustav Holst. NHO performed these pieces in Kilbourn Hall on December 18 as part of ECMS Winterfest, with Austin Chanu conducting. Green Strings, under the direction of Cheryl Guth, and String Orchestra, conducted by Austin Chanu performed at the Kilbourn Hall program as well.

2. Because of the UR policy regarding Covid, ECMS announced that all ensembles would be meeting virtually for the month of January. Austin provided orchestra members the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester repertoire via email: Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Smetana, Satchmo! Tribute to Louis Armstrong, and Dukas. Along with the individual instrumental parts, he also provided the scores and You Tube recordings of the pieces so that we could familiarize ourselves with the music. After each weekly virtual meeting, he emailed a summary/review of the musical points so that even those members not in attendance would have the benefit of studying the music.

3. In-person rehearsals resumed on February 9, with masks still required for all instrumentalists.

4. On February 12, Austin shared the exciting announcement with us that he has won and accepted a position as the Conducting Fellow of The Philadelphia Orchestra for the 2022-23 season. He will be assisting Music Director Yannick Nezet-Seguin, Principal Guest Conductor Nathalie Stutzmann, and will be conducting the orchestra in select concerts. Fortunately for us, he will be completing the rest of the 2021-22 season with his New Horizons fan club. We wish Austin much success as he embarks upon his professional conducting career!!

**Clarinet Choir-** Judy Rose: The Second Winds, a smaller ensemble of the NH Clarinet Choir, performed at Wolk Manor on Valentine's Day. With the Pandemic winding down, things are finally beginning to open up and the clarinet choir is presently entertaining some very interesting performing opportunities. Of particular interest to all New Horizons clarinet players is the event on April 30th at 12:00 Noon EST. The Clarinet Enthusiasts Committee of the International Clarinet Association, will host a Virtual Mini Conference titled "CLARINET PLAYING: TOGETHER AGAIN". Since so many groups are finally getting back to playing together, this conference will focus on practicing issues and playing together "in person" again. The conference will include a clarinet Warm-Up session, tutorials from all members of the Enthusiasts committee, interactive Q & A sessions, and a virtual "Play Along" open to all attendees. Last year's Play Along involved over 500 participants from all over the world. This conference is free and open to all!! Al is a member of this committee and will be presenting a tutorial on "Preparing a band clarinet part" and leading the virtual conference "Play Along". After two years off, there are very positive signs that this year's ICA Conference in Reno, NV may actually happen. Again this year, Al has been invited to conduct the ICA/New Horizons/Enthusiasts Conference Clarinet Choir. More specific information about this group will be available at the Virtual Mini Conference in late April. Al hopes to see all our NH clarinet players at the Mini Conference in late April. As soon as he gets application information, he will share it with everyone.

**Antique Brass-** Peter Webster: The ensemble consists of one trombone, one baritone, two trumpets and two tubas. We are currently working on three arrangements by our mentor, Jess Green. We're also planning on performing in The Evening of Ensembles in May.

**Big Band-** Laural Harrington: We performed holiday music in front of Penneys in Eastview Mall in December. We will be performing in The Evening of Ensembles and in The Jazz Festival on Tuesday, June 21, at 6 PM on the Gibbs St. stage.

**Chorus-** JoAnn Kane-Demott -We have had two new members join the chorus this semester, and at this time the chorus has 16 dedicated members attending rehearsals regularly. We have three spring performances that have been scheduled:

1. Tuesday, May 3 at 2 pm at Brickstone at St. John's,
2. Thursday, May 12 at 12 pm at Eastman@ Washington Square, Universalist Church, on Clinton Ave.
3. Thursday, May 26, at 6 pm Springfest in Hatch Hall, ESM

Our numbers are down and hopefully some of our long-time members will return after the COVID fear ends.

**Facebook-** Nancy Stocker: Posting has continued throughout 2021 and in to 2022. I'm trying to post every few days. Posts were put up about our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, for all the groups that performed, with clips of one song that each group performed. Groups were also mentioned that performed in the Winterfest, though the quality of some were not great. Again, these were clips of one song that each group performed. Since the big band and the chorus sent me information, they both had posts created about their other performances during December. Going into the new year, posts that dealt with music themes were put up on our page to keep the interest and connectivity going. Fliers were created and placed on the page that dealt with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, the band holiday concert and Winterfest. Recently, fliers were placed on our page dealing with Spring Fling and the ECMS concert on March 6. Also a flier was made to highlight Play it Forward winning a \$5000 grant.

When Facebook provides feedback about usage of our page, it shows that we have fairly decent interaction with the folks that liked our page. In some cases, our post has been shared and has reached over 900 people. If you are on Facebook, please continue to share our posts and invite your friends to like our page.

**Gifts and Legacy-** Elisa Root: I'm very pleased that Peter Webster is joining me. His knowledge about money affairs will make this responsibility easier to handle. Since November we have received five gifts to our program fund.

**Website-** Ron Uhlig: Ron was not present. If you've taken any time to visit the website, you've seen what a wonderful job the committee has done on keeping it interesting and up to date.

**Old Business:** Paula will speak to Petar Kodzas about the status of the Roy Ernst Scholarship. We want to find out if any awards can be offered for summer study this year.

#### **New Business:**

Patrice Ristuccia has approached Java's about the possibility of having a "coffee break" truck in the parking lot when the weather gets a bit warmer. They were very open to doing this at no cost to us. We need to wait a little while, in hopes that the church lifts the masking mandate, and allows us to have our coffee break inside the building.

Until recently, Chick Wolfe handled making revisions to our handbook. He has decided that it's time to step down. Ron Uhlig said he can handle doing the updates going forward because it's on the website

which he works on. From now on, members can offer suggestions for revisions, which will be voted on by the council. Any that are approved will be handled by Ron. He just loves doing all of this.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Sousa, Chairperson Eastman Rochester New Horizons Program Council