

New Horizons Program Council Meeting

Minutes

October 11, 2022

Attendees: Velma Campbell; Laural Harrington; Petar Kodzas; Susan Miller; Patrice Ristuccia
Judy Rose; Shirley Scripture; Paula Sousa; Nancy Stocker; Aubrie Willaert

Absent: JoAnn Kane-Demott; Daryl Kaplan; Elisa Root; Peter Webster

Update on Endowment – (Petar Kodzas, Associate Dean of Eastman Community Music School and Aubrie Willaert, Executive Director of Advancement for Eastman School of Music)

- We will be creating two endowments totaling \$95,000.00 to support New Horizons.
- We're hopeful that the process can be completed this coming Spring.
- Going forward you will have the opportunity to donate to our endowment fund.
- If you have questions contact Peter Webster or Paula Sousa.

Enrollment – (Petar Kodzas)

Enrollment figures were reviewed. Some ensembles are low for the 2022-23 semester compared to 2021-22. (I.e., String Orchestra enrollment is now 14 vs. 26 previously). Total enrollment for Fall 2022 is still at a good level (305+) and some have not yet registered.

Note: Due to fewer students in public schools having a connection to music in a meaningful way, numbers may get smaller for future players in New Horizons.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Green Strings (Patrice Ristuccia)

- Green Strings has grown to 24 members.
- Two new student mentors from Eastman School of Music - Danny O'Connell, mentor for cellos and Jane Vourlekis, mentor for violin - have made a notable difference in our playing.
- Members have been receiving a variety of music since July from our conductor/director Cheryl Guth – styles like fiddle tunes, renaissance dance pieces, a movement from a symphony and a Japanese folk tune.
- We were able to open up our own bank account prior to Covid and would like to start making deposits once again.

Orchestra (Daryl Kaplan)

- Members total 25.
- The Full Orchestra meets on Wednesday mornings, 9-11:00 a.m. under the direction of our new conductor, Nicholas Sharma who is currently pursuing his DMA in Orchestral Conducting at Eastman.
- Our current repertoire includes classics composed by Mendelssohn, Tchaikovsky, Strauss and Berlioz. We are also working on a medley of music from the movies called "Salute to the Cinema."

Clarinet Choir (Judy Rose)

- Weekly rehearsals resumed the first week of August affording the choir time to prepare four pieces of recorded music to accompany our application to perform at The International Clarinet Association (ICA) ClarinetFest 2023 in Denver in June 2023. In past years, Eastman Rochester's Clarinet Choir has performed at these conferences in Austin, Baton Rouge and Orlando. We take pride in being the only senior clarinet group ever to have been invited.
- Next year's conference celebrates the 50th anniversary of ICA and we are hoping to be invited once again. Our director/composer, Larry Neeck, was commissioned to write a piece specifically for clarinet choir and he created "Bliss", a beautiful composition which we love to play.
- The "Bliss" premier performance was played at a recent NYSUT conference at the Doubletree Hotel on September 22nd. Nancy Stocker has posted a link to that performance on our Facebook page.
- The Clarinet Choir also performed at the Penfield United Methodist Church on October 4th after being treated to a wonderful lunch.
- A new conductor, Laurie Cyr, may take the place of Alan Woy. Ken Scott and Al have been sharing responsibility so there are now three conductors.

Antique Brass (Peter Webster)

- The group is preparing four pieces for Winterfest on December 17 in Lowry Hall.

Chorus (Joann Kane-Demott)

- The 2022-203 New Horizon Chorus has a new director, Sandra Godwin, while Juli Elliott has taken a year sabbatical.
- Four new members have joined the chorus this semester. Our total number of members is now 18.
- The chorus will perform a Holiday Concert at Brickstone on December 6 at 2:00 p.m. and also at Winterfest on December 17 at Lowry Hall.
- **WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE TENOR AND BASS SINGERS. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE, PLEASE REACH OUT TO THEM!!**

Green Band (Velma Campbell)

- We are off to a good start with increased numbers and new band members (FOUR clarinets; ONE flute; ONE trombone).
- The big news is the return to Gilbert Hall on 10/12/22 after rehearsing in a smaller room.
- This group is sounding so good and sophisticated this early in the year. A great beginning!

Full Band - Symphonic and Concert (Susan Miller)

- The Full Band concert will take place Saturday, October 29 at 4 p.m. at Willink Middle School in Webster.
- For two weeks in October, our rehearsal schedule includes Full Band on Tuesday and alternating sectionals on Thursday where Symphonic Band members rehearse the first hour in the sanctuary and go upstairs for second hour sectionals with mentors while Concert Band does the reverse.
- Nancy Stocker is providing publicity for our Fall concert. She has made an attractive poster and posted it on Facebook. Larry attached it to a weekly conductors' email so members can share it with family and friends, and Nancy has sent the poster out to senior communities. She has posted the concert information to Beyond the Nest and to Eventbrite where it was put on their Facebook calendar. Local papers and TV have been notified. She has also spent considerable time updating the database for contacts at the senior communities. **Thank you, Nancy!**
- Play It Forward reports there are 10 students taking lessons funded by PIF at ECMS and another 5-7 children are expected to enroll during the fall. PIF is in touch with school music teachers to encourage re-enrollment and to get recommendations of new students to enroll for lessons. Two RCSD teachers have requested aid to purchase three drum pads and stick sets for each.
- The past summer PIF sent four RCSD children to Adventure Music Camp at ECMS and 21 students to private lessons. The children represent 12 RCSD schools. The impact of these summer activities on the lives of PIF children is evident in these testimonials written by students involved:
 - Sheresa says, *"I had so much fun at band camp at Eastman. The architecture and paintings on the wall and all over the building made the whole place look beautiful. I met a lot of people there who taught me how to play new instruments and I got to play fun and challenging pieces on the flute,"* while Niyah says, *"I would recommend that students who play instruments participate in the Adventure Music Camp (AMC). The reason why is because you can learn about different cultures and different instruments. What I've learned being in the camp is learning how to cue in a small group and listening to each other. In the concerts, we were put in groups, and we listened to the other instrumentalists play on stage. AMC is a learning experience and has great teachers that will teach you different genres of music and help you with your instrument."*

- Peter Webster reports that, unfortunately, Christopher Seaman will be unable to conduct a band rehearsal on his upcoming stop in Rochester. Perhaps next year. Peter is working on a couple other ideas for guest conductors for the band.

We encourage everyone to come enjoy our band Fall Concert on October 29th!

Social Media (Nancy Stocker)

- Please read comments above in Full Band report regarding publicity Nancy has already been initiating.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER:** Nancy can only post what she is sent from members of other ensembles and she is anxious to do this for ALL ensembles if you want your concerts publicized. Due diligence is recommended by a designated representative from each ensemble to take a photo or write a notice, send it to Nancy at nancystocker001@aol.com a few weeks before concert takes place, and she will be thrilled to post it on Facebook.

Big Band (Laural Harrington)

- Big Band performed at the Pittsford YMCA on September 15. From this exposure, one person expressed interest in joining.
- Schedule for upcoming performances follows:
 - December 9 - 12:30 pm at Penfield Y
 - December 12 - 12 or 12:15 at Pittsford Y
 - December 15 - 2 pm at Brickstone
 - December 16 - 2:30 pm at The Highlands

Green Jazz Band (Shirley Scripture)

- This is a new ensemble this fall semester directed by Don Sherman. The group meets on Tuesdays from 11:15am - 12:15 pm.
- Members total about 26.
- This jazz ensemble also includes flutes and clarinets - not normally a part of such a group.
- A performance is scheduled at Winterfest in Kilburn Hall on 12/17. Time TBD.

OLD BUSINESS

New Horizons Brochure

- Petar reached out to the former photographer who is expected to be at the church the week before Thanksgiving (week of November 14) on Wednesday and Thursday for new photos of most groups (but not all) for the brochure.
- The new style brochure will be trifold.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Roy Ernst Summer Studies Scholarship (RESSS) was awarded to a young man who plays trombone for the purpose of attending Adventure Music Camp. He sent a very nice thank you note to Roy - per one of the requirements of receiving the scholarship.
2. A \$100 donation was made to the RESSS available from funds left over from the collection for shirts given to Jamal and Petar.
3. Judy Rose, Johanna Casciano, Mike McKain and Paula Sousa (Symphonic Band) volunteered their time to publicize New Horizons at the Neighborhood of The Arts Market (NOTA); Public Market; Fairport Farmers Market and the Pittsford YMCA. (A new member joined the Green Band due to attending one of these events).
4. **Musician participation is needed for the following two events. Contact Paula Sousa (psousa0728@gmail.com) if you would like to participate.**
 - a. Senior Experience Wellness Fair scheduled for November 8, 9am - 2 pm Perinton Community Center, 1350 Turk Hill Road, Fairport
 - b. Century Club event - January 24, 2023 - 566 East Avenue, Rochester
5. Reintroduce a "Sunshine Club" in each ensemble group where a designated person is responsible for sending a card to member who may be out ill or need encouragement. Budget for postage and cards to be discussed.

Respectfully Submitted: 10/26/22

Shirley Scripture
Program Council Secretary