

NOTES



No. 14

January 9, 2010

"Perfection in music is elusive, but excellence is attainable and sustainable."

ENSEMBLE CONCERT

YCB's fifth annual Ensemble Concert is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, March 21, 2:00 p.m., in the lobby of the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College. The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

Angie Noble (oboe, English horn) organized the first of these, held in March 2006, with the performance held on the stage of Towsley Auditorium. Eric Walters (string bass) has been the organizer of each subsequent Ensemble Concert, including the one for 2010, with performances held in the lobby.

Eric has asked to know what ensembles will be included--by rehearsal time, January 12. You may email this information to Eric at <eric@ypsiwalt.com>.

1. Ensembles must be composed primarily (or entirely) of concert band instruments. Sorry, but your bluegrass band and your string quartet are not eligible for this event.

2. At least one member of the ensemble must be an active member of YCB. If, for example, you play in a percussion octet, and you are the only YCB mem-

ber in this group, the percussion octet is eligible, welcome, and encouraged to participate.

3. Ensemble leaders must recruit all the necessary players, provide the music, and arrange for rehearsal times and places. However, more than a year ago, Jerry Robbins surveyed the Band members of that time about ensemble interests and he still has that information. So, if you are looking, for example, for a soprano saxophone player to round out your ensemble, feel free to ask Jerry (<JRobbins@emich.edu>) if he knows of one who would like to be in an ensemble.

The YCB library includes some relevant saxophone ensembles and some relevant trombone (or other bass clef instrument) ensembles, but essentially no other ensemble music. Feel free to ask Erica Levitt if there is anything in the Library of use to you. (<elsawyer@umich.edu>)

Rehearsal at WLHS after 9:30 on Tuesdays is not an option, as we must vacate the building. Ensemble rehearsal at WLHS prior to 7:30 on Tuesdays is a possibility, provided you can find a space and time that doesn't interfere with others.

4. "Ensemble" is broadly defined. In terms of number of players, the range has been from a soloist with piano to last year's "Town Band" appearance with 20 players. In terms of genre of music, this has ranged from solos/duets/trios/quartets/quintets of

original music by classical "masters," to transcriptions and local arrangements of "pop" music, to small jazz groups with a good deal of improvisation, to vintage music by the Town Band (or three trombones and string bass!), and other selections that don't fit any of those categories.

Brass and percussion ensembles are particularly welcomed this year. Questions and comments should be directed to Eric Walters.

MARIMBA/LARGE PERCUSSION FUND

As of today, known contributions to the YCB Marimba (large percussion instrument) Fund stand at \$2,231, with \$2,769 remaining. Walt Hancock's report this coming Tuesday night should reflect appreciable changes in both these numbers.

If you haven't solicited a gift for this fund yet, now would be a great time to do so! We need everyone's help!.

MORE ON MUPPETS

There is a recording of George Sinnott's arrangement of "The Muppet Show Theme." Thanks to Vince Chrisman for making this available. See an attachment to the same email by which you received this.

Get Jack Werner (trumpet) to tell you about his connection with the Studebaker used in the first Muppet movie!

FICTIONAL CHARACTERS ON FEBRUARY CONCERT

There are fictional characters on our February concert program other than what have been mentioned in Notes 10 (William

Tell), 11 (Bugs Bunny and witches), and 13 (Muppets and the movie *The Mission*).

The opera *Turandot* was first performed in 1926, after Puccini's death. The story is set in China, and it is based on a Persian fairy tale. One of the fictional characters, the Prince, sings the beautiful aria "Nessun Dorma."

Adam Frey, our guest soloist on euphonium, will perform this number. There isn't a recording of his arrangement to send to you, but you can be greatly inspired by a Pavarotti performance that is found at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VATmgtmR5o4>

Britannia was personified as a goddess by the Romans and in more recent times has become a figure of national personification of the United Kingdom, something like "Uncle Sam" for us. Thus, "Rule Britannia" salutes another fictional character. Mr. Frey will present an incredible set of variations on this traditional British patriotic song. You may hear the tune at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63o8exNK4-Q>

AND THE NON-FICTION.

Three items on the concert depart from "fictional characters." One of these is "Beautiful Colorado," a great valse caprice, usually performed on euphonium. Here is our arrangement, performed on alto sax, starting with the cadenza (and with lots of background noise):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5l7RPOfghM>