

NOTES



No. 15

January 11, 2010

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

MEETINGS

Monday night's YCB Board meeting will be held, 7-9 p.m., in the Morris Lawrence Building (same building as Towsley Auditorium) at Washtenaw Community College, in a room near the lobby/atrium.

In addition to reports from all committees, officers, and staff, the agenda will include a budget review, discussion of the "agreement" document with WCC, future performance opportunities, and the need for publicity and for an announcer for the February concert.

There are no known meetings scheduled for the Band's Fund-Raising, Library, Personnel, Property, and Publicity Committees.

AND MORE ON THE NON-FICTION. . . .

Although our February concert is mostly about "fictional characters," three numbers don't fit that. "Beautiful Colorado" (Colorado is definitely not a fiction!) was mentioned in Notes14.

Another is the "Toccatà" by Girolamo Frescobaldi (1583-1643). Frescobaldi

was an Italian, one of the most important composers of keyboard (especially organ) music in the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods. A child prodigy, he began his studies in Ferrara. Later, he was appointed organist of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome (1608-1628, 1634-1643).

Frescobaldi composed some of the most influential music of the 17th century. His first book of toccatas was published in 1615.

A "toccata" is "a composition for organ [in this case] or harpsichord, free and bold in style, consisting of runs and passages alternating with fugued or contrapuntal work, generally in equal notes, with a flowing, animated, and rapid movement."

Our arrangement for band may be heard at:

<http://www.alfred-music.com/player/Belwin2004ConcertBandSeries/84401/player.html?osCsid=393bd0c7c136e7901d dce7a653f61560>

The encore for the February concert will be Sousa's "Sound Off" march. One of Sousa's lesser-known marches, this was written in 1885, when Sousa was in his fifth year as Director of the U.S. Marine Band. Major George Porter Houston, one of Sousa's superiors in the Marine Barracks during his years there as leader of the U.S. Marine

Band, was a lifelong friend, and Sousa dedicated this march to him. Many regard this march as one of Sousa's finest because it is so skillfully constructed. It offers one of Sousa's rare excursions into minor modes. The melody is occasionally tossed to the lower brass instruments, and countermelodies are used sparingly and quite ingeniously.

Our arrangement is by Col. John R. Bourgeois, who was the 25th director of the U.S. Marine Band, 1979-1996. This arrangement may be heard at

<<http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/lsearch?pop=N&keywords=SoundOff&type=all&option=quicksearch&field=contents&plinecode=B>>

GUEST CONDUCTORS

Our guest conductors for this concert will include assistant conductor Vince Chrisman (bass trombone), who will conduct "Wicked." Vince is a former conductor of the Clarkston Community Band and he is a member of the Board of Directors of the national Association of Concert Bands.

We are especially pleased to welcome the third in an annual series of student guest conductors from Eastern Michigan University. Nominated by the Director of Bands at EMU, these talented young artists have brought much to rehearsals and performances of YCB.

Brad Faryniarz, from Wyandotte, is a senior music education major at EMU, where he is a very accomplished alto saxophone player, participating in numerous ensembles. Brad will conduct the Frescobaldi "Toccatà."

CONCERT ORDER

As things stand at the moment, the concert order for our February concert will be:

"William Tell Overture"--Rossini

"Gabriel's Oboe"--Morricone
"Beautiful Colorado"--DeLuca
Adam Frey, euphonium

"Toccatà"--Frescobaldi
Brad Faryniarz, guest conductor
"What's Up at the Symphony?"--arr.
Brubaker

Intermission

"Muppet Show Theme"--Hinson & Pottle

"Nessun Dorma"--Puccini
"Rule Britannia"--Hartmann
(Encore: Unaccompanied euphonium solo)
Adam Frey, euphonium

"Wicked"--Schwartz
Vince Chrisman, assistant conductor

(Encore: "Sound Off"--Sousa)

(Note: the program may include a brief "marimba celebration" if we have raised enough money by that time.)

PERSONNEL NOTE

YCB Business Manager Paul Vaughan is recovering at home from a recent additional hospitalization. According to Joe Burke, it appears a medication may have caused a problem with his kidneys and made him quite ill. We hope he can be with us for the Board meeting and rehearsal!