

NOTES



No. 23

February 19, 2010

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

A GREAT FEBRUARY 18!

Our three back-to-back events of February 18 can only be described as a great success!

Clinic. The clinic that guest artist Adam Frey conducted at 6:00 p.m. was attended by Doug Bianchi (director of bands at Wayne State University), students from EMU and Wayne State University, and high school students from Utica High School, Summit Academy High School (Romulus), Anderson High School (Southgate), and Huron High School (Ann Arbor).

In addition, there were middle school students present from Discovery MS (Plymouth-Canton), South MS (Belleville), Beach MS (Chelsea), Clague MS (Ann Arbor), and East MS (Ypsilanti).

Interestingly, the parents who were present "sat in" on the clinic and had questions (generally about "practice") for Mr. Frey.

Much appreciation is expressed to Alan Aldworth, who organized many of the aspects of the clinic, and to a number of members of the EMU chapters of Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma who assisted with registration, logistics, and serving food

afterwards. Domino's Pizza is much to be thanked for providing pizza, beverages, and dessert for all the clinic participants.

Concert logistics. Much appreciation must be expressed to a large number of people who assisted with concert logistics. These include Christie Simonson-Bloomfield, who prepared another very good looking printed program for the event, and Aaron Taratsas, chair, and a number of members of YCB's Property Committee who assisted with moving equipment from WLHS, set up and tear down on Tuesday (for rehearsal), and set up and tear down for Thursday's concert.

Several WCC staff members were also very supportive, especially in terms of lights and sound for the program. Kappa Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Sigma members served as ushers and their services are much appreciated.

Concert attendance. Estimates of concert attendance range from a count of "180" from the ushers through 200-225 based on number of programs distributed, to "more than that" based on several "eyeball" accounts. Anyone have additional information on how many were there?

Concert donations. We received \$620 in donations through "pass the hat." This is appreciably larger than donations received in connection with any previous concert.

Special announcement. YCB's president Joe Burke and WCC president Larry Whitworth appeared on stage together at the beginning of the program to announce the new collaborative agreement between the two organizations, effective this summer. Under the agreement, YCB's organizational structure remains intact, but WCC will offer "concert band" for credit. YCB members and WCC students will perform together as the "Washtenaw Community Concert Band."

Performance. There is no way to describe the performance except as "one of our best ever" and certainly one of the most dramatic.

In a first for YCB, internationally acclaimed euphonium artist Adam Frey appeared with our group. Not only were Mr. Frey's four solos with the band--and an unaccompanied encore afterwards--representative of a highly gifted and able player, but the Band rose to the occasion with very sensitive accompaniments after very limited rehearsal time together.

Special appreciation goes also to our other conductors of the evening--Brad Faryniarz, our third student guest conductor from EMU, who took the Band through a magnificent reading of the Frescobaldi "Toccata," and assistant conductor Vince Chrisman, who ended the program on a high note with the selections from "Wicked."

Vince says "please express my pleasure on how well the band performed last night. I was very pleased with all aspects and 'hats off' to everyone."

Appreciation goes as well to the Dixieland group that performed as part of the crowd-pleasing arrangement of the "Muppet Show Theme."

And a very special appreciation goes out to Russ Collins, our MC for the evening, who not only introduced the various numbers with great flair, but provided the cartoon voice speaking parts in "What's Up at the Symphony?"

Reception. Thanks to great work done by Shirley Charbonneau, chair, YCB Personnel Committee, and Alicia Holtz, event chair, along with numerous YCB members who provided food and supplies and KKP and TBS members who assisted with the set up and serving, there was a great social event in the lobby after the performance. Lots of decorations added to the festive occasion. Audience and performers alike enjoyed the chance to visit.

Other. Long-time YCB tuba player Virgil Christophel was in the audience and says he hopes to be back with us soon.

BAND-RELATED MEETINGS

Fundraising Committee. A meeting is set for February 22, 7 p.m., at Walt Hancock's house.

Library Committee. There will be a "folder stuffing party" at Erica Levitt's house on February 22 at 7:00 p.m. Another session will be scheduled soon at WLHS to put music in the file cabinets.

Town Band. A rehearsal of the "Town Band" ensemble has been called for 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 23 in the Whitmore Lake High School Band Room.

Board. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 7-9 p.m., location to be announced.

Other. None known.