

NOTES



No. 24

February 20, 2010

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

FROM ADAM FREY

Adam Frey wrote ". . . [I]t was a great pleasure to meet so many of your great band members on my trip. I really felt like we combined for a great concert and the level of concentration and attention was superb. I appreciated the many comments from the members of the band about them wanting to work extra hard and that the experience pushed them to the limit. I like that A LOT!! . . . [emphasis in original] [S]haring great music is a joy and I love it very much. It gives me a rush like no other experience. . ."

RECORDING

From Jerry Robbins: Saturday afternoon Aaron Taratsas got to me a copy of the recording of the concert, edited only to eliminate the speaking parts. Naturally, I've had great fun listening to this several times.

If I were to pick out a "best played" piece (not considering Adam Frey's numbers), it would be "Sound Off," our encore. My pick for "most musical" would probably be a tie between "Gabriel's Oboe" and "Nes-sum Dorma." The most dramatic, other than Mr. Frey's "Blackbird" unaccompanied encore, would have to be "Rule, Britannia!"

for the musical "fireworks" that the solo part included. The audience reaction was probably greatest on "Muppet Show Theme," in large part due to the great work of the Dixieland ensemble.

If I were giving sectional awards for the evening, they would have to go to the percussion section, the double reed players, and the horn section.

In short, despite a few "blotches," a very good performance, well done, one that we can be proud of.

TUESDAY NIGHT

6:30 "Town Band" rehearsal. At 6:30 p.m., members of the "Town Band" ensemble will meet in the WLHS band room to work on music for the Ensemble Concert program and for an appearance next month at the Ypsilanti "Talk of the Neighborhood" series of cultural events. Mutually convenient future rehearsal dates will be discussed.

7:30 YCB rehearsal. We will begin rehearsals for a joint concert with the Whitmore Lake High School Band on Tuesday, April 27; a possible joint concert with another area community band in early May; and our next full concert alone on May 27. The Band's Personnel Committee has a surprise planned for us for the last part of the rehearsal period.

If time permits, we will listen to excerpts from last Thursday's concert. We hope to welcome several new players on Tuesday night as well.

ENSEMBLE CONCERT

The Band's next (free and open to the public, of course) "big event" is the March 21 Fifth Annual Ensemble Concert, 2:00 p.m., lobby, Morris Lawrence Building, WCC. Many band members will be participating in one or more ensembles in what promises to be the biggest and best such event yet. Many thanks to Eric Walters for organizing this event.

"TOWN BAND" PERFORMANCES

YCB's "Town Band" ensemble will perform vintage music, in costume, for the Ypsilanti "Talk of the Neighborhood" cultural series at 7:30 on the evening of Wednesday, March 24, in a place to be announced. The event is open to the public, but "Talk of the Neighborhood" has a small admission charge.

The "Town Band" ensemble is also booked to perform from 4-5 p.m. on Thursday, July 15 at the famous Manchester Chicken Broil in Manchester.

JOINT CONCERT WITH WLHS BAND

Again this year, as part of our "out-reach" activities, YCB will perform a joint concert with the Whitmore Lake High School Band, Mike Kirby, director. This will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27 in the Whitmore Lake High School auditorium--in lieu of our rehearsal on that evening.

Both bands will play a short concert separately that evening. For our part (subject to change), it is likely that we will play "Strike Up the Band," "Mary Poppins," and "William Tell Overture." The two bands will combine and we will play (subject to change) "Crosley" march and "Fortress Variations."

MAY 27 CONCERT

There will be a lot of special features on our May 27 concert. The guest artist will be Dr. Max Plank, long-time director of bands at EMU, who will conduct the "Suite of Old American Dances."

Another feature will include our own assistant conductor Dr. James Wagner as piano soloist in our own George Appel's arrangement of the "Warsaw Concerto." Yet another will be a performance of the "Tumbao" movement from "Canción del Dragón Negro" with assistant conductor Pat Padilla as composer, conductor, and tenor sax soloist.

The program will also include "Black Jack" march, Ticheli's "Amazing Grace," the Brahms "Hungarian Dance #6," and selections from the movie musical "Mary Poppins." The encore will be the rarely-heard "Federal March" by Sousa.

PEP BAND ON JUNE 6

The Dexter-Ann Arbor Run will be on Sunday, June 6 and, as usual, YCB's Pep Band, under the leadership of assistant director Pat Padilla, will be on the scene, cheering on the runners and bringing in money for the Band.

7:00 p.m. Monday meetings--Fundraising at Walt Hancock's; Library at Erica Levitt's.