

# NOTES



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

## WEEKEND LOGISTICS FOR CONCERT

By Jerry Robbins

Because we have received essentially no concert logistics information from the Novi Concert Band and because we have been without a functioning business manager in recent weeks, I made a "dry run" trip today to the Novi Civic Center (45175 W. Ten Mile, Novi) to see what I could learn--and share with you--before our concert there on Sunday, May 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Truck loading. Truck loading will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday at Whitmore Lake High School, under the supervision of Aaron Taratsas. As much help as is possible is needed. We must have on the truck:

1. A stand for each YCB player.
2. A keyboard (and amplifier), for there is no piano in the Novi Civic Center.
3. All necessary percussion equipment for "Hungarian Dance #6," "Mary Poppins," "Tumbao," "Blue Tango," and "Washington Post."
4. Conductor's stand and podium.

Inasmuch as the Novi Concert Band has to borrow all needed percussion equipment, with the exception of timpani, it is questionable what they may have there for

us to borrow. It would be best for us to have our own "everything," "just in case."

Getting there. The majority of us will be going via M-14 to Beck Road--go north on Beck Road for about six miles to 10 Mile Road. Turn right (east) on Ten Mile.

From this direction, going east, you will come to the Novi Public Library, then Novi High School, then the Civic Center. There is a traffic light on the west edge of the Civic Center campus. Turn right at the traffic light.

Parking at the Civic Center is on the south side of the building--away from Ten Mile. The main entrance to the Civic Center is also on the south (parking lot) side.

There is a loading dock that we may use for the truck at the southwest corner of the building. Follow the signs to "Receiving." I was told that it is likely that someone will have to come in the main entrance to unlock the "Receiving" area doors from the inside.

The Performance Area. When you enter the building (by 1:30 p.m., please), you will be in a large, very attractive atrium. Turn to the left (west) to enter the performance area.

The performance area is a very large multi-purpose, flat-floored room that, today,

was divided into several smaller rooms by operable walls. Stackable chairs will be set up theater style for the audience and they are available for the two bands to use as well.

There is a stage at one end of this large room. However, there is a set for a play on the stage and I was told by Civic Center personnel that the bands will be on the floor (presumably in front of the stage).

There was no one available to show me lighting, so I've only seen this space "in the dark." We'll have to "make do" with whatever lighting is available which, if we are close to the stage, should be sufficient. I didn't have a chance to check acoustics (because the "big room" was divided), but it is likely to be "live." However, this is an attractive new building and an attractive "big room" in which to play.

Mr. Scott Cramer, the conductor of the Novi Concert Band, has not told me which band will play first, nor has he said who will conduct "Blue Tango" and "Washington Post." I suppose we'll find that out when we get there.

However, a very recent addition to the Novi Concert Band web site reads:

"Celebrating music from dance repertoire, the Novi Concert Band will be performing arrangements of Ravel's Bolero, Borodin's Polevetsian [*sic*] Dances, Khataturian's Sabre Dance, and more. The Ypsilanti Community Band will join the Novi Concert Band on two numbers, Blue Tango and Sousa's Washington Post March. The Ypsilanti Band will then perform Hungarian Dance #6, Selections from Mary Poppins, and a selection from Las Canciones del Dragón Negro with soloist Pat Padilla."

If this information is to be taken literally, then the Novi Concert Band will perform first, then we do two joint numbers, and then we play alone. That seems an odd arrangement to me, but, if that's the case, we may need to be prepared to play "Crosley March" as an encore to the entire afternoon.

After the concert. Under Aaron Taratas' direction, please help with folding stands and putting each back in its appropriate container and then help with loading the truck for the return trip.

Everyone who can is requested to follow the truck back to Whitmore Lake High School and to help with unloading and putting all our equipment in its proper storage place.

#### NORTH OAKLAND CONCERT BAND AND ADAMS HIGH SCHOOL BAND

While you are "up north" on Sunday afternoon, you may want to drive over to Rochester and catch much of the 4:00 p.m. concert that is a joint activity of the North Oakland Concert Band and the Rochester Adams Concert Band. This free concert will be held at Adams High School, 3200 West Tienken Road, Rochester Hills. Separately and together, these two bands will present a program of very challenging band music.

#### ZENITH BRASS ENSEMBLE

The Zenith Brass Ensemble--37 talented high school brass and percussion players (from 18 high schools)--will perform a free concert on May 23 at 7 p.m. in Varner Hall, Oakland University.