

NOTES



No. 40

May 3, 2010

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

TONIGHT'S BOARD MEETING CANCELLED

YCB president Joe Burke has cancelled tonight's scheduled meeting of the YCB Board of Directors. Additional information will be provided when it is available.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

There is only one May birthday (a statistical oddity) among current YCB members, but it belongs to Sandy Wagner, whose birthday is on May 16.

JULY 2 OR JULY 3?

In 2008, after an absence of some years, Independence Day holiday fireworks were scheduled to resume on Ford Lake, under the considerable leadership of the management of Lakeshore Apartments. YCB was engaged (including a generous donation to the Band's treasury) to play for a flag ceremony, an evening concert, and to play while the fireworks were going off.

An ensemble from YCB provided the music for the early evening flag ceremony. Then the rains came and the rest of

the evening's events were rained out/canceled.

In 2009, again under the considerable leadership of the management of Lakeshore Apartments, the fireworks show and other events were scheduled, including a YCB concert and for YCB to play while the fireworks were going off.

Again, the rains came after we reported for the event. A brass/percussion ensemble played a few marches in the drizzle to a handful of people and then we went home. They did eventually set off the fireworks, but there weren't many viewers in any one spot.

Would a third time be "charm" in terms of getting a chance to perform twice (on the same evening) before a very large audience? On the assumption that it would be, former business manager Paul Vaughan scheduled us to play a concert and for fireworks at Ford Lake on Thursday, July 1, 2010. The YCB Board approved this recommendation and it was placed on various Band calendars.

However, we have since been informed that (a) the Independence Day events at Ford Lake have been extended, for this year, to include July 1, 2, and 3 but that (b) there will be fireworks only on Friday, July 2 and on Saturday, July 3. As a result, Thursday, July 1 is no longer a good date to

give a concert for a large audience on Ford Lake.

Before making a recommendation to the Board, YCB business manager Michael Kashubosky is going to get a quick show of hands during the Tuesday, May 4, rehearsal as to whether July 2 or July 3 would be preferred for a YCB concert and playing for fireworks show at Ford Lake. (Or, theoretically, "neither" or "both.") (If you won't be at rehearsal but would like to "weigh in," email Michael at <vanyel@usa.net>.)

For your information, "Dryday," a commercial long-range weather forecasting service for groups planning outdoor activities, predicts a slightly more than 40% chance of rain for the Ypsilanti area on Saturday, July 3 and a slightly more than 30% chance of rain for the Ypsilanti area on Friday, July 2. "Dryday" claims to be 85% accurate in their long-range forecasts.

MAY 22 WCC COMMENCEMENT

Because WCC's usual musical group for Commencement ceremonies is not available this year, YCB has been engaged (with a generous contribution to the YCB treasury) to provide an ensemble (space does not permit the entire band) to furnish music for the Saturday morning, May 22 event.

We have about the right number and instrumentation from volunteers, but if you are available to play, and are not currently on "the list" to do so, contact Jerry Robbins (<JRobbins@emich.edu>) to see if there is a spot for you.

Rehearsals for the ensemble will be at 6:45 p.m. in the Whitmore Lake High School band room on both Tuesday, May 11 and Tuesday, May 18.

YCB JOINT CONCERT WITH THE NOVI CONCERT BAND

by Jerry Robbins

With but very minor exceptions, yesterday's joint performance of the YCB and the Novi Concert Band was a great success! Much appreciation is expressed to YCB players for flexibility in handling a lot of logistics that weren't known or determined until we got there. Thanks to all who helped with a lot of equipment moving and set up. We made a lot of new friends.

We had 51 players and, with one exception, appropriate instrumentation to handle our selected pieces quite well.

The musical highlight of the afternoon, from comments received and the audience's highly enthusiastic reception, was Pat Padilla's composition/performance of the "Tumbao." Special recognition must go to the rhythm section for this piece--John Nikolich in particular--for outstanding work on keyboard, bass, drums, and a lot of Latin instruments.

For me, personally, the high point of the day was the opportunity to conduct "Washington Post" with approximately 100 players and exceptionally fine and well balanced instrumentation. If we could combine these two bands, there wouldn't be anything musically we couldn't "take on."

You never know when or how music is going to "touch" someone in the audience. At intermission, a well-dressed, mature woman came to me to say that she was Hungarian and a former dancer with much experience with Hungarian folk dance. Her make-up was smeared with tears from our playing of the "Hungarian Dance #6." Such as this makes it "all worthwhile."