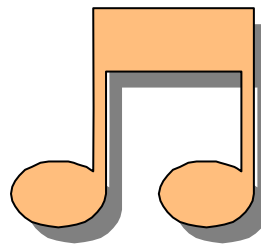


NOTES



No. 47

June 12, 2010

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

BLUE LAKE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

The Band's Bowman Scholarship to the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp has been awarded to Korey McDonald. McDonald is a trombone player who will be entering the Ninth Grade. He's from Scarlett Middle School in Ann Arbor.

McDonald will be attending the July 14-25 session at Blue Lake. Efforts are underway to have him present at the Band's concert on June 24 to be recognized.

This is the third consecutive year that the Band has sent an area youth to band camp. Criteria include that the person must be a middle or high school band student in Washtenaw County and have financial need. The Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp administers the award, based on Band-determined criteria, on behalf of the Band.

The Bowman Scholarship Fund of the YCB, named in memory of Ken Bowman, charter member of the YCB (tuba) and conductor of the YCB between 1988 and 1998, has raised approximately \$10,000 toward an goal of a \$50,000 endowment to fund the scholarship in perpetuity. This is in addition to covering the costs of band camp for the three awardees to date.

Previous recipients of the scholarship have been Isabell Salley, trumpet, Clague Middle School, Ann Arbor, (2008); and Maura Ferrell, trombone, Ann Arbor Open School, Ann Arbor (2009).

FROM DR. MAX PLANK

(May 29) "Jerry, thanks to you and to everyone with the YCB for inviting me to guest conduct last Thursday. I had a great time; the band improved each week; the concert was a hit. Best wishes to you and the band as the group evolves with WCC."--
Max Plank

THE SEARCH FOR JOHN F. BARNHILL'S GRAVE

John F. Barnhill had been a teacher and school superintendent in Kansas before receiving his masters degree from Columbia University in 1922. He came to Ypsilanti as a professor of mathematics at the Normal School (now EMU) in that year, but, being a huge "band nut," he helped revive the Normal School band after WWI and soon afterwards established the Ypsilanti High School Boys Band and, later, the YHS Girls Drum and Bugle Corps. He also established an adult community band in Ypsilanti.

The late Harold Goodsman, prominent in YCB matters, was one of Prof. Barnhill's high school band members and

later a member of his community band. Prof. Barnhill died suddenly in 1941.

After WWII, members of Prof. Barnhill's community band decided to continue making music for the community and they organized the Barnhill Memorial Band, which lasted until the early 1960's. Harold Goodsman and the late Loren Kennedy were both members of this ensemble, Goodsman serving for a while as the director of the group.

From 1998 to 2002 the joint activity of the Ypsilanti Community Band and the EMU bands program resulted in an ensemble that performed, during the indoor season, as the "Barnhill Band" in memory of this great musical leader in the community.

Since Prof. Barnhill was the founder of the Ypsilanti High School band program, a group of YHS band students recently wanted to honor Prof. Barnhill by making a trip to his grave. But no one knew, or could find out, where Prof. Barnhill was buried. YCB was asked for help in the matter.

A variety of on-line and local sources were checked without success. A YHS student furnished the exact date of death from a plaque that is in the YHS band room.

With that information, a YCB member went to the Ann Arbor Public Library and reviewed (on microfilm) issues from May 1941 of the Ann Arbor News. An obituary was found, but it concluded with "no funeral arrangements have been announced" and later issues of the paper gave no further information.

However, the obituary for Prof. Barnhill gave his wife's name, the names of

two brothers, and several references to "Paola, Kansas."

On a hunch, the YCB researcher came home and went on line to Miami County (Paola area) Kansas historical and genealogical/family history records.

Sure enough, an index to a three-volume set of books listing some 33,000 burials in that county included the names of John F. Barnhill, his wife, his brothers, and other members of the family. (John F. Barnhill had no children other than his hundreds of Ypsilanti band students.)

Mystery solved, except that, if they do it, it will be a long trip for the YHS students to visit the grave. Solution to this week's trivia question: "John F. Barnhill, prominent Ypsilanti bandsman of the 1922-1941 period, is buried in/near Paola, Kansas."

ANN ARBOR CIVIC BAND LOOKING FOR PLAYERS OF CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS

The Ann Arbor Civic Band, under the direction of William W. "Bill" Gourley, is about to begin its summer session of rehearsals and concerts. Still being sought are players on flute, percussion, and trombone.

Rehearsals are on Monday, June 14; Tuesday, June 15 (a conflict with YCB rehearsal); and Monday, June 21; all at Huron High School in the band room, 7-9 p.m. On June 23 and 30 and on July 7, 14, 21, and 28 there will be a 6-7 p.m. rehearsal at Huron High School, followed by an 8 p.m. concert in Burns Park in Ann Arbor. Come to the concerts, even if you can't play.