



Joyful Notes

November – December 2020

Latest News from New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs (NHBCOS)

THE STATE OF MUSIC

By Dennis Atkinson



For how many years have we watched the interminable State of the Union or State

of the State address where it seemed like the speaker would be straying farther from a point but they would eventually end with “*The state of the {insert body here} is strong!*”?

This issue of *Joyful Notes* newsletter is dedicated to communicating the current state of our organization, or possibly the State of Music – our Music. We are still New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs, an organization that is somewhat financially secure, temporarily suspending our normal business based on reason, sense, and good judgment, especially concerning the health of our members and conductors in the face of a global pandemic. We are a solid organization made of talented, competent, reliable musicians, many of whom are still producing music from their homes, churches, nursing homes, all while practicing social distancing. We have the backing of ten corporate sponsors. We have a strong board that is looking at creative ways to restart music in the new year. We have the time and determination to begin a new normal rehearsal schedule and play at sold-out performances at The Ent Center for the Arts as soon as possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the State of our Music is **Sound!**



SPOTLIGHT ON: NHBCOS

By Harley Ferguson and Dennis Atkinson



The New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs was born in September 2002 as the “accidental brain-

child” of Ed and Mary Nuccio. While working on his New Horizons Band project under the larger umbrella of Music for Life, Roy Ernst contacted a friend in Loveland, CO about growing New Horizons Bands around the country. This Loveland contact reached out to Bill Callan in Colorado Springs who contacted Ed Nuccio. Ed agreed to help Bill but only for a few weeks. Mary committed to help them by arranging for treats for the small group of musicians. The first rehearsal of New Horizons Band of the Pikes Peak Region was at the First Lutheran Church in the 1500 block of North Cascade Avenue in Colorado Springs. As Roy had planned, the first band was made up of 43 musicians with a wide range of musical talent. They started with beginner music and slowly grew to more complex, interesting and fun pieces of music to play. Yes, they always had treats during the breaks.

The band membership slowly grew but not through paid advertising. Word got out from those who experienced playing live music with their peers in either daytime or evening rehearsals and held occasional performances in area churches. “Meet and Greets” were hosted

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Sudy(sudy1949@gmail.com)
or
Sunny(terpin54@gmail.com).

All current and past issues available online at:
www.nhbcos.org/newsletter.



NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Dennis Atkinson

The year 2020, in all of its glory, has required some changes to how we vote on members of the NHBCOS Board of Directors. For the first time ever, NHBCOS members were given the option of voting by paper ballot, mailing them to a designated member of the board or voting online. The response was better than expected: most votes were submitted via the online method on a website that only allowed voting for three candidates and restricted a member from voting more than once. There were a total of 79 ballots submitted (including three paper ballots mailed to Sudy); all board members running for election or re-election were elected to the board for a two-year term.

One director on the 2019-2020 board chose to retire. Thanks to Dick Prud'homme and his two years of hard work and contributions. Following the 2018 All Member Survey, Dick volunteered to chair the Ensemble Committee to address the issues identified in the survey. He is leaving us with recommended changes to apply to nhbcos.org that will make working with ensembles much easier and effective.

One NHBCOS member and two existing board directors chose to run for election/re-election. Following are the results:

Retiring Board Members:

- Dick Prud'homme

Elected/Re-elected Board Members:

- Dennis Atkinson
- Tim McDevitt
- Nancy Wilson (new board member)

Val Bardis, Wayne Griffin, Tom Fellows, Harley Ferguson, Mike Lewis, Marty Slivka, Sudy Hill and Sunny Kurth continue on the 2020/2021 board.

New Officers:

- Dennis Atkinson, President
- Val Bardis, Vice-President
- Tim McDevitt, Treasurer
- Wayne Griffin, Secretary

CURRENT FINANCIAL STATE

By Tim McDevitt

The numbers shown below cover the period of the fiscal year beginning November 1, 2019 through the date of the annual meeting October 28, 2020.

For the first time in its history, Friends of New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs recorded a decrease in cash during its fiscal year. Raise your hand if you know why. You got it in one! Our income (cash received during the year) was less than our cash expenses. We began the fiscal year in a healthy position with over \$57,000 in the bank accounts. As of 10/28 cash had decreased by \$12,247 to \$45,115. Here are some highlights:

Description	Amount
Nov. 1, 2019 Bank Balance	\$57,362.75
Oct. 28, 2020 Bank Balance	<u>\$45,115.68</u>
Decrease	\$12,247.07
<u>Nov. 1, 2019 – Oct. 28, 2020 Income</u>	\$61,646.11
<i>Income Highlights</i>	
Donations and Corporate Partnerships	\$34,001.00
Tuition	\$19,865.00
Concert ticket sales and donations	\$ 5,235.00
King Soopers Cards	\$ 2,305.22
<u>Nov. 1, 2019 – Oct. 28, 2020 Expenses</u>	\$74,830.92
<i>Expense Highlights</i>	
Payroll, Payroll Processing, Payroll Taxes	\$46,010.99
Rent	\$ 9,817.69
UCCS Ent Center concert rent, labor, etc.	\$ 4,481.23
Insurance	\$ 3,618.00

Our largest sources of income in a “normal” year are donations (primarily IndyGive) and tuition. By far our largest expense is total payroll expense to pay the salary and employer payroll taxes of our conductors and executive assistants. Last year we collected tuition only for the spring semester.

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SPOTLIGHT ON: NHBCOS

By Harley Ferguson and Dennis Atkinson

(Continued from page 1)

at least once every year to introduce new members to the fun and camaraderie of the organization.

The New Horizons Band of the Pikes Peak Region eventually split into two different New Horizons Band organizations: Bill Callen's Pikes Peak New Horizons Band and New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs. NHBCOS became a corporation in 2007 as a musical band for adults who wanted to resume their interest in playing music. The organization grew into four bands, three jazz trios, and chamber groups and later evolved into two large bands and beginner and intermediate smaller ensembles. The Kicks band started as a fun group - "for Kicks" - and was a 17-18 piece big jazz band. When Ed asked Tom Fowler to take over it turned into a semi-professional Big Band Jazz group playing professional charts. The Orchestral Strings ensemble was added in 2014 and a Preparatory Orchestra added in 2018. NHBCOS changed from a corporation to a non-profit organization in 2015, supported by the Friends of the New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs, also a non-profit organization.

Over the years, the organization has played under the batons of Ed Nuccio, Bill Callen, Jeff Ader, Rob Rodine, Matt Wessner, Mark Israel, Tom and Ingri Fowler, Bob Dunn, and Carla Scott. Rehearsals for NHBCOS started at First Lutheran Church in the Jewett Mansion (built in 1905 by William Jewett for his wife, Patty Jewett). The evening and daytime rehearsals have spread to Canon Elementary School, First Evangelical Free Church and Prince of Peace Church. Concert performances have been held for the public at First Lutheran Church, Canon Elementary and the nearby park for summer concerts, Mitchell High School, Coronado High School, Cheyenne Mountain High School, First Evangelical Free Church, Prince of Peace

Church and in 2018, NHBCOS performed for a sold-out audience at the new Ent Center for the Performing Arts in Colorado Springs, with an audience size of 800. Several of the ensembles, the Orchestra and the Kicks Jazz Band along with several smaller ensembles have also performed in area parks during the summer and around the holidays, as well as hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. The last performance before the global pandemic was the newly-revived Spring Recital on March 11, 2020, held at Prince of Peace Church.

Over the past 18 years NHBCOS has grown and thrived and overcome many challenges and obstacles. Membership has grown from that original 43 members to 175 members (last registered for the 2020 Spring Semester). The average age of our current membership is 70 years young, with ages ranging from 31 years old to 88 years old.

How Do We Keep the Music Alive?

Much of the success for NHBCOS is attributable to the passionate members who volunteer their time and effort to ensure the business operates smoothly, from planning the dates of the year's concerts to deciding who will be responsible for bringing treats to rehearsals. Team effort is one of the primary strengths of NHBCOS and the reason we will see the far side of COVID-19. With a little help, we are well positioned to wade through this pandemic and "Keep the Music Alive" (as well as keep the musicians alive!). It is important to understand the many essential responsibilities that are managed by staff and volunteers.

Paid Staff

Conductors (5) *(Note: none of our conductors are currently being paid during our Pandemic Pause)*

Beyond "baton waving", conductors consult with members of the Board of Directors on all aspects of rehearsals and concerts. Music selection, section and seating organization, sectionals and general encouragement and enthusiasm are the conductors' "forte".

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INDY GIVE! KICKOFF – NOV 1ST!

By Wayne Griffin



Here's why this is important and how YOU can support NHBCOS.

Colorado Springs is fortunate to have Indy Give!, an annual year-end appeal in support of over 75 non-profit organizations in the Pikes Peak Region. NHBCOS is thrilled to be included in this year's campaign and to be a participant for the 7th year in a row!

The 2019 campaign contributed \$26,615 to NHBCOS. **That's 27% of our annual budget! Can you imagine how much our tuition would have to increase without the income we receive from Indy Give!?**

The Give! Campaign is more important this year than ever before. As you know, NHBCOS has had almost NO income since January/February. Yet, expenses continue. Thanks to great financial management by your Board of Directors, NHBCOS may have enough cash to survive this pandemic. But the cash won't last forever! Ongoing expenses include rent to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and our storage facility, insurance, equipment leases, and reduced salaries to Administrative Assistants who continue to provide services. And, we are expecting significant expenses associated with safety protocols necessary to reopen – even reopening with small groups.

Donations from NHBCOS **members** and their families are extremely important this year! Many of the non-profit organizations in this year's campaign are providing direct support to people suffering from the pandemic. Therefore, we may be less likely to receive the support we have enjoyed in years past from the general public. Because of the pandemic, the Matching Grant pledges we have received for this year's campaign are 16% lower than last year. **Your** donation really matters!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

There are three ways!

1. If you are a member, consider donating 50% of the tuition you would have paid to NHBCOS had we been able to rehearse this fall. That may be impossible for some to even consider, but many may be in a position to do so.
2. Encourage your friends to donate! Many people are *looking* for ways to reduce their tax burden through charitable contributions. There is nothing wrong when suggesting they take a look at New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs.
3. Encourage your children and/or grandchildren to donate, especially those under the age of 37. The Give! Campaign is particularly interested in encouraging younger members of our community to be philanthropic. Studies show that when people start donating at an early age they continue to do so throughout adulthood. Even a \$10 donation helps and can be the start of a life-time of helping others.

DONATE HERE: indygive.com/nhb

Finally, THANK YOU to NHBCOS supporters who have provided Matching Grant pledges to this year's campaign, ensuring that your donation will go even farther:

- Beatty & Co Tax and Accounting (donor since 2014)
- The Bloom Foundation (donor since 2014)
- Chick-fil-A (donor since 2015)
- CODA Real Estate (**NEW**)
- Five Guys Burgers & Fries (**NEW**)
- Graner Music (donor since 2015)
- Dennis & Karen Atkinson (donors since 2019)
- Harley & Joan Ferguson (donors since 2014)
- Wayne & Susie Griffin (**NEW**)
- John & Sudy Hill (donors since 2019)
- Larry & Chris Jones (donors since 2018)
- Sunny Kurth (donor since 2016)
- Marcia Lee (donor since 2014)
- Tim & Rosemary McDevitt (donors since 2014)
- Joyce A. Schmaltz (donor since 2018)
- Anonymous (donor since 2014)

Please contact Wayne Griffin, this year's NHBCOS / Indy Give! Campaign Liaison for more information: (719) 559-4569 or wayne.nhbcos@gmail.com



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

By Dennis Atkinson

Even though NHBCOS has been without rehearsals for nearly 8 months, the 2019/2020 board has kept busy:

- We started an advertising contract with KCME/Jazz 93.5 Radio. This was suspended in March but will resume once we restart rehearsals and performances.
- We revived the NHBCOS Recital on March 11 with the performance of 10 acts from NHBCOS Musicians. Thanks to Pam Northen for coordinating this effort and for the musicians who participated in that Spring Recital.
- We started this *Joyful Notes* newsletter. Current distribution is over 500 members and non-members. Current/past issues are available online at www.nhbcos.org.
- We made initial plans in January, 2020, for the NHBCOS Holiday Party / Donor Appreciation Party at Tap Traders. Unfortunately, Tap Traders permanently closed because of the pandemic and the Holiday Party has been canceled.
- We created an informal communication channel using Google Groups for each of the NHBCOS large-group ensembles. Since these groups were created in early April, nearly 900 email messages have been shared with members of Orchestra, Concert Band and Symphonic Band.
- As you may have read in Wayne's Indy Give article (page 4), we had a strong finish to the Indy Give campaign in 2019 and we were accepted into the 2020 Indy Give Campaign.
- We added two new corporate Sponsors: KCME/93.5 Jazz and Five Guys Burgers and Fries.
- We updated the NHBCOS Bylaws with requirements created by the global pandemic, primarily around virtual meetings, online elections and budget guidelines.

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WHAT'S COMING IN 2021

By Dennis Atkinson

For the Spring 2021 Semester the NHBCOS Board of Directors is looking at all options, including large-group rehearsals, small-group rehearsals, recorded sessions for performances and no activity, to name a few possibilities. In October, we gathered input from our conductors on how they saw our return in the new year and what they thought would bring us the best results in the current conditions.

Each month since March 2020, when the board gathers for a meeting, there are several factors we examine to determine what is best for the NHBCOS short term. Those same factors will continue to be considered for next year:

- Check on NHBCOS member health
- Review COVID-19 Case Data from Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (cumulative case count, 3-day moving average count, hospitalization rate, death rate).
- Review COVID-19 Case Data from El Paso County Public Health (cumulative case count, 3-day moving average count, hospitalization rate, death rate).
- Current State and County restrictions and limits due to mandates
- Prince of Peace Church status
- Scientific studies from universities and CDC provided by New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA)
- Any other related current event topics.

The board will be meeting in November and December to discuss possibilities for the Spring Semester, possibly creating a pilot using small-group ensembles that plan on playing holiday music. We will communicate our status and direction via email (NHBCOS Active Members), Facebook and www.nhbcos.org.

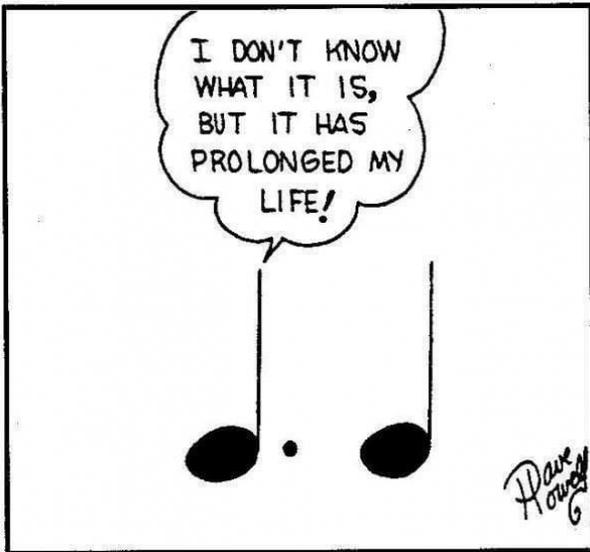
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2020

By Dennis Atkinson

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- We created our NHBCOS YouTube Channel for posting videos of future performances, large or small group ensembles and rehearsals. Subscribe at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCABYoJqS1MFaQEmaqNSq4Q>

And finally, more of a significant event than an accomplishment for the year: We bid farewell to Matt Wessner, former Concert Band Conductor, as he moved to Boston to pursue his musical career. He is still in touch and just last week let us know that he has been enjoying the job of assistant teacher for combined grade 1-2 class. It doesn't involve music yet but he considers it a stepping stone into a music teaching position. He's also anxious for the post-COVID city life to return to Boston so he can play more live music.



CURRENT FINANCIAL STATE

By Tim McDevitt

(Continued from page 2)

Tuition for the fall semester was collected before the beginning of the fiscal year, while our contractual payroll obligations were in effect through the end of July, 2020. We also missed out on the income we normally receive from summer session tuition and from our concerts in the spring and summer.

Fortunately for us, our successful fundraising activities over the years allowed us to build up the cash balance that we started the year with. The IndyGive total we received last year was one of our best.

Two takeaways from all the numbers and stuff above:

1. We are in good financial shape to survive the COVID-caused curtailment in our activities for a good while. Our average monthly expenses excluding payroll are about \$1,600. We will have income in the coming year from donations and other small recurring sources.
2. We are in that good shape because of the surplus our IndyGive campaign results have generated over the history of FNHBCOS. The importance of successful IndyGive results to the sustainability of FNHBCOS cannot be exaggerated. Thanks to all our faithful members and friends who have participated in that success.



SPOTLIGHT ON: NHBCOS

By Harley Ferguson and Dennis Atkinson

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Executive Assistants (2) *(Note: our Executive Assistants are being paid a small amount for their services during our Pandemic Pause)*

- Manage the daily operations.
- Preparing rehearsal spaces
- Security of church during rehearsals
- Assisting all conductors
- Maintaining music library – entering new music, stamping “FNHBCOS Owned” on all music, filing, etc.
- Maintaining band office and all supplies
- All registrations and tuition payments
- Concert venues scheduling for all ensembles
- Concert publicity for all ensembles
- Concert tickets sales
- Snack schedules – purchasing supplies for snack time
- Communications with all members

Volunteers

There are a large number of functions which take place behind the curtains in order to keep the music alive. These functions are done, for the most part by members who receive payment only in the joy of doing the work.

Function	Responsibility
Business Management. Administration and operation of the organization. Monthly planning meetings and regular communication on all NHBCOS business, finance and policy. Distributing annual 1099 tax letters for contributions to all donors. Directing special committees when needed.	Board of Directors
Accounting. Manage all accounting and banking functions, insurance, contracts	Board Treasurer
Fundraising. Give! liaison, contributions, donor thank-you notes	Board of Directors, Executive Assistants
Marketing. TV, radio, newspaper, Facebook, YouTube, Social Media, Web Site, periodic newsletter. Exposure of the organization to the community to increase performances, corporate sponsorship and recruitment of new musicians.	Board of Directors, contract assistance (Web site)
PC Management. Members and donor databases, manages all Corporate records and document archives	Board of Directors, technical volunteers (database maintenance)
Music. Organization of Music Library. Filing all music	Executive Assistants, volunteers
Food/Snacks. Scheduling snacks and coffee for each rehearsal. Cleanup following rehearsal.	Executive Assistants, volunteers
Storage Facility. Move furniture and equipment to and from concert venue.	Executive Assistants, volunteers
Concert Management. Manage stage arrangement including chairs, stands and percussion instruments. For summer concerts grills, food prep and sales.	Executive Assistants, volunteers
Venue. Coordinate schedules each week with church staff. All concert venue liaison, contracts and communications.	Executive Assistants, volunteers

If you are interested in joining these volunteers, please contact Sudy Hill or Sunny Kurth. NHBCOS has always been and will always be an organization run for and by members.

This article was written by Harley Ferguson and Dennis Atkinson with input from many, many members. Thank you to Mary, Sudy, Rob, Jim, Jill and Tom for your contribution and good memory!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS See times and other details on calendar at www.nhbcos.org and www.daysoftheyear.com

Monday	Practice – scales, sound production, technical exercises
Tuesday	Practice – long tones, technical etudes, listen to music you enjoy for at least an hour. Tune out all other noise.
Wednesday	Practice – scales, long tones, articulation etudes
Thursday	Practice and actively listen to music by musicians you admire (listening to music being the thing you are doing and not a secondary task). Observe why you like these musicians and set a goal to play more like them
Friday	Practice something non-technical from your repertoire
Saturday	Practice sight-reading some new piece of music
Sunday	Practice living a day of rest and free from news. Read a book. Talk to a friend, or a stranger. Write a letter. Count your blessings. Set a goal for next week.
November 1	Indy Give! Kickoff; Daylight Saving Time Change (Fall back an hour)
November 3	Election Day
November 5	Myron Floren Birthday (accordionist for Lawrence Welk)
November 6	Saxophone Day
November 11	Veteran’s Day
November 13	Symphonic Metal Day
November 15	Philanthropy Day
November 16	Clarinet Day
November 26	Thanksgiving
November 27	Buy Nothing Day
December 1	Giving Tuesday
December 10	Chanukah (Hanukkah) Begins
December 13	Violin Day
December 21	Winter Solstice
December 25	Christmas
December 31	End of 2020 Indy Give! Campaign; New Year’s Eve (last day of 2020!!)

SIDENOTE: SUMMER & FALL TUITION RATES

By Sudy Hill

During our recent Annual Meeting, a request for Summer and Fall tuition rates was made in response to the contribution suggestion for Give! (consider donating 50% of the tuition you would have paid to NHBCOS had we been able to rehearse this fall). Those rates are shown below

Summer

- Concert Band - \$125
- Symphonic Band - \$63
- Kicks - \$63
- Orchestra - \$63
- Prep Orchestra - \$63
- Clarinet Choir usually does not meet in the summer, but if they did it would be \$63

Fall

- Concert Band - \$188
- Symphonic Band - \$94
- Kicks - \$94
- Orchestra - \$94
- Prep Orchestra - \$94
- Clarinet Choir - \$94



BUSINESS SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Please thank our Business Sponsors and Partners who continue to give to NHBCOS so generously throughout the last year. It is because of each of these organizations that we are able to keep the music alive!



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