

Joyful Notes

Spring 2025

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



FROM THE BOARD By Harley Ferguson, President, FNHBCOS Board of Directors



I was born in 1958 in Lincoln, Nebraska, where my dad, Gary Stiehl, was attending the University of Nebraska dental school. After his graduation, we



Welcome to our Spring 2025 Joyful Notes newsletter. As we commence our 23rd year of operations we should all be thankful for the robust health of our organization. We are 200+ musicians strong with nine paid staff members and numerous. dedicated member volunteers. (See Accomplishments later in this issue.) Concert The last Band Band Symphonic concert November 2024 was completely paid for with ticket revenue, we have no debt and a reasonable bank account balance.

moved to southwest Colorado Springs where I was raised along with my three siblings. I attended Chevenne Mountain schools where I started playing the alto saxophone in third grade. I played my mom's alto sax that she played while in school in Nebraska. I really grew to love playing and even practicing while under the direction of Mr. Ed Nuccio in Junior High. Mr. Nuccio encouraged me and taught me how to count music. I continued participating in band in high school until graduation. I then attended college in Amarillo, Texas and earned a Dental Hygiene degree. For the next 15 years I did not play my saxophone. I lived and worked in Casper, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Oklahoma then Zurich. Switzerland.

SPOTLIGHT ON: BECKY McCORD

By Marcia Lee and Becky McCord



We do have a significant challenge ahead in 2025 and need help from our members and contributors to identify a solution. The Prince of Peace Lutheran Church congregation that owns the building where we rehearse, store equipment and use office space has decided to dissolve their operation and sell the church building.

After a time. I wanted to return to Colorado Springs to settle down. I was delighted to then work for my dad in his dental practice until his retirement in 1996. I have recently retired from dental hygiene after 44 years. I loved my patients and they became part of my extended family. One of my patients was junior high teacher, Nuccio. Once again, he encouraged me and successfully convinced me to get out my saxophone and play with the New Horizons Band. I wasn't even sure where my saxophone was stored, let alone if I could play any notes. So, I worked up the courage to try it by starting in the beginning band.



While this does not demand an urgent solution, NHBCOS should be prepared to be in a new rehearsal, storage and office facility by yearend 2025. If we all "get the word out" we will have better success in finding a new home.

Issue: Spring 2025 Joyful Notes is the semiannual newsletter of the New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs. Please send comments, suggestions or cancelations to joyfulnotes.nhbcos@gmail.com or Sudy (sudy1949@gmail.com) Dennis Atkinson, editor

If you have ideas about a new home base for NHBCOS, please contact Harley Ferguson (719-337-7884 or harleyferg@gmail.com) or Sudy Hill (719-597-7274 or sudy1949@gmail.com) with your suggestions.

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

(Continued on page 2)



SPOTLIGHT: BECKY McCORD

(Continued from page 1)

I quickly remembered how much I loved playing! I was thrilled when Mr. Nuccio felt I could move up to the Symphonic Band. Once more, I loved playing under his talented direction. Sadly, my heart still aches when I think of Mr. Nuccio's passing a few years ago.

This leads to my current music group. The New Horizons Kicks Band needed a substitute saxophone player so I started playing the tenor saxophone with them. I found that I loved the challenge to play Jazz and also enjoyed the friendships that I have developed within this group. Our director, Dr. Tom Fowler, is the best. He has encouraged me and taught me about music theory and improvising (I need a lot more work on this!!)

This last September, my beloved mom passed away. She was the biggest fan of my musical performances. I would see her many times in the audience bobbing her head to the



music. I remember when we were playing at Bear Creek Park for one of our summer concerts and my mom was in the front row jazzin' to the music.



I have been married to Andy McCord since 1993. We knew each other in kindergarten at Skyway Elementary school. We were not blessed with children but

we have some wonderful nieces and nephews in our lives. Andy has always supported my renewed love of playing in bands. Right now, we are busy caregiving my 91-year-old dad. We are also available to help Andy's 94-year-old mom, Betty who faithfully attends all my concerts. It is a blessing to

have them in our lives and we are privileged to help where we can.

Life is good and music continues to enrich my retirement.



THE MOST SUCCESSFUL NHBCOS GIVE! CAMPAIGN EVER

By Dennis Atkinson

Thank you for the most successful Give! Campaign in our history!

The 2024/2025 Give! Pikes Peak Campaign closed on January 3, 2025. NHBCOS had a total of 70 donors and total contributions of \$33,120. One of our Corporate Sponsors contributed an additional large amount separate from the Give! Campaign but as a result of the Give! outreach.

This generous amount accounts for a third of our annual operating budget. I won't break it down to the detailed statistics that Wayne used to but I will say that our lives are much easier with this contribution.

Thank you again to all of you who contributed! Your kindness is appreciated more than you will know.



WELCOME, KIM KINCAID

By Dennis Atkinson



NHBCOS is very fortunate to have our newest conductor, Kimberley Kincaid, as the Intermediate Band Conductor. I have been watching Kim and her bands at the Cañon City Music and Blossom

Festival over the last several years, making a mental note that she would be a great fit within our NHBCOS family. Lo and behold, she applied for and was accepted for the Intermediate Band Conductor position!



Kim is the Visual and Performing Arts Facilitator for School District 11. She has more than 30 years in education, teaching at all levels, giving her the experience necessary to excel at designing and implementing engaging, standards-based curriculum to diverse age groups and skill levels. She has cultivated a well-rounded arts experience, recognized consistently for its rigor, excellence and success. As an accomplished collaborator and communicator, Kim encourages self-expression and critical thinking while meeting the needs of her students and professionals.

Kim obtained an Associate of Arts degree majoring in music from Tallahassee Community College/Florida State University Co-op Program. She has a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, majoring in Instrumental Music Education with a minor in Classical Voice and a Certificate in Special Music Education. Kim also has a Master of Music Education degree from Florida State University in Tallahassee, majoring in Music Education, Curriculum and Conducting. She has been employed with the Colorado Springs School District 11 since 2013, including Director of Bands at nine different elementary, middle and high schools.

Welcome to Intermediate Band and New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs, Kim!



FNHBCOS BOARD ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS

By Dennis Atkinson

At the FNHBCOS Annual Meeting in October 24, 2024, the following members were elected or reelected to serve the organization for the 2024-25 term:

Board Members:

- Harley Ferguson, President
- Sudy Hill, Vice President
- Nancy Wilson, Treasurer
- Barb Bridgmon, Secretary
- Val Bardis, Director
- Marcia Lee, Director

- Marie Schrader, Director
- Mark Wilbanks, Director (new)
- Dennis Atkinson was appointed to the remaining open Board Member position, effective January 1, 2025, replacing Barb Bridgmon as Secretary. Barb will remain as a Director.

Departing Board Members

- Larry Terrafranca, Director since November 2022.
- Ray Bell, Director since November 2023.

Meeting Activity

The meeting started at 5:30 p.m. in the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and was attended by several Board members, staff members and approximately 40 members of NHBCOS.

Harley Ferguson introduced Board members present. He reviewed the results of the elections, reviewed the Board member, staff and volunteer contributor responsibilities. Harley recognized the list of current Corporate Sponsors. There was a short presentation of the annual financial report, a review of the Board accomplishments (see below) and discussed some of the future plans for the organization. A brief question/answer period finished out the evening and the meeting adjourned by 6:20 p.m.



NHBCOS ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2023–2024 By Dennis Atkinson

The following items were reported as Board accomplishments for the 2023-24 year:

- Completed Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 3-Year Contract
- Completed Ent Center for Performing Arts 3-Year Contract
- Completed All Conductor 1-Year Contracts
 - Stephen Rumbold Concert Band & Executive Conductor
 - o Alex Marquez Symphonic Band
 - o Tom Fowler Kicks Jazz Band
 - o Ray Bell Intermediate Band
 - o Pam Diaz Purple Mountain Clarinets



- Amanda Hessel Symphonic Strings
- o Carla Scott Concert Strings
- o Carla Scott Intermediate Strings
- o Linda Johnson Cello Choir
- Completed Application and Acceptance to Give Pikes Peak 2024 Campaign
- Secured \$17,225 in Matching Grants for 2024 Campaign
- Received a \$1,000 Grant from Bloom Foundation
- Contracted with Ruth Marquez for bookkeeping and financial reporting
- Terminated Storage Unit Contract @ \$175/month savings
- Completed Reorg of Business Office, Stephen Rumbold & Friends
- Completed Reorg and Filing of all Music Linda Jester, Librarian
- Completed Reorg of Session Registration w/ On-Line Registration & Payment - Barbara Rumbold, Julie Ryder, Marcia Lee
- Enhanced Donor Communication and Documentation Marie Schrader
- Updated New Member Packet & Instrument Loan Agreement - Marcia Lee
- · Concerts:
 - Symphonic Band 3
 - o Concert Band 4
 - o Kicks 4
 - o Symphonic & Concert Strings 2
 - o Purple Mountain Clarinets 2
 - o Cello Choir 2
- · Website upgrades Julie Ryder, Marcia Lee
- · Marketing Flyers Juli Jamison

It was certainly a busy and productive year!



EXTENDED TECHNIQUE IN MUSIC NOTATION FOR STRINGS, PART II

By Amanda Hessel, Symphonic Strings Conductor

In the **Joyful Notes** newsletter (<u>Summer 2024 issue</u>, page 7), Amanda introduced us to extended techniques in music – notes the composer writes containing detailed instructions on how to create a more exact sound that they were trying to create. Amanda's article this issue is to conclude the story on how we can use our technique and capabilities to achieve the music according to the composer's intent.

As a string player, there are a great variety of sounds we can elicit from our instruments. Probably our greatest tool is the bow - handled with finesse, it unlocks our instruments similar to the way the small, detailed motions of our tongue and lips create the nuances of our speech. Once we learn our musical ABC's, we can move into words, phrases, sentences, stories, accents, and more! Let's explore some common notation for both standard and extended technique in the bow (right hand).

BOWING TECHNIQUE

Slurs, Tenuto, & Portato - These three are the most commonly used words to describe bowing that is smooth and connected. Most string players will recognize *slurs* - simply to bow all the notes under the curved line in one bow direction.

*Notice the difference below - if the curved line is between two notes of the <u>same</u> pitch this is called a "tie" and is not a bowing technique. It simply elongates the duration of the note.



Occasionally, and often found in older, original manuscripts, composers will put slurs within a slur. This typically indicates two things: 1) the longer slur indicates the phrasing, and 2) the smaller slur(s) indicate articulation.



Tenuto is a marking most string players will recognize from their music, even if they have not heard the term before. It is marked with lines over/under the notes and indicates that the notes should be sustained for their full duration and sound connected to one another while having a slight articulation at the beginning of each note. We often think of a heaviness or reluctance to move on when playing these notes.



Portato combines these two ideas - slurs and tenutos - to create lightly articulated notes within a slur. In this case, the bow never stops moving and the separate notes are created by lightly articulating with/leaning into the index finger on the bow and then releasing that pressure to "float" to the next note.



Staccato, Spiccato, & Sautille - While these terms all sound incredibly different, they really are different variations on the same idea. Usually marked with dots over/under the notes regardless of which style is meant, the tempo is what changes.



Staccato is a stopped bow that stays on the string. This is most common in music that has a beat below 80 bpm.

Spiccato, as Carl Flesch wrote, utilizes an active player and a passive bow. Ivan Galamian notes that 'The bow is thrown down on the string for every single note and lifted up again 'and 'there always has to be an individual impulse for every tone'. When slowed down on video playback, spiccato can be identified by a figure eight shape created by both the bow and the player's hand. The danger of spiccato is

a complete loss of control/tone when coming away from the string.

Sautille (pronounced "so-tee-a") is used for extremely fast passages - typically over 120 bpm. Opposite spiccato, the player is rather passive and the bow is extremely active. With the correct tempo, correct placement in the bow, and a relaxed and responsive bow hand, the bow will naturally bounce away from the string between notes. This happens much like the bouncing of a basketball: the musician initiates the bounce by articulating from the string (pushing the ball), and the bow responds by bouncing away from the string (the ball hitting the ground and bouncing back without further input). Most often, string players work too hard at this and end up fighting the natural, physical properties of their bow while trying to get it to bounce. (See The Strad Online: Spiccato and Sautillé – Two important bow strokes which are often confused.)



Somewhat related to the previous short articulations are **ricochet/jete** (pictured below), **and flying staccato/spiccato**. The first involves throwing the bow at the strings and allowing the natural rebound to bounce the bow multiple times with varying degrees of control.



Flying staccato/spiccato is a much more controlled bow movement where a musician plays a series of several (usually up) bows in the same direction.

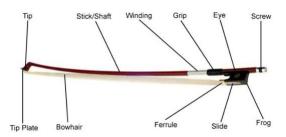
All of these are most often used in virtuosic pieces and not as common in orchestral music. However! Ricochet is the original intent and professionally performed technique of the beloved William Tell Overture!

<u>Violinspiration.com</u> has a great article that defines each of these further and gives video demonstrations for reference in the article, "All 25 Violin Bowing Techniques with Examples & Symbols."



Fun Bowing Extras - Often used to make sound effects rather than specific, melodic phrases, there are some fun bowing extras: Sul ponticello, Sul tasto, col legno, au talon, and Punta d'arco.

Sul ponticello (Sul pont.) & sul tasto are directions to the player about specifically where to place the bow. These are notated only through printing the words above the music. Ponticello directs the player to play near the bridge - so near that the sound created highlights the higher harmonics and distorts the sound, creating a glassy, ghostly effect. Tasto directs the player to play over the end of the fingerboard with a lighter bow weight than might normally be used. The direct translation is 'on the touch'. This creates a lighter, more hollow sound that is often compared to the sound of a flute or a clarinet.



Col Legno is a direction indicating to the player to use the wood/stick of the bow rather than the horsehair to make the noise, notated by printing the words above the music. It is an extremely percussive effect, though it can also be used to draw the stick across the string (*tratto*), creating a muted, tinny sound.

Au Talon & Punta d'arco give specific direction about where within the bow to play. *Talon*, meaning "heel", directs the player to stay at the frog. Playing directly at the frog creates an explosive, percussive sound, typically only used for loud passages and often with repeated down bows. *Punta d'arco*, meaning "point of the tip", directs the player to stay at the tip primarily for delicate effects.

Rhythmic Bowing Techniques

Finally, there is a clear distinction in string music between rhythmic bowing and effect bowing, though they look similar. Crosshairs on note stems are often confusing, but there is a fairly straight-forward way to read them. In general, the number of crosshairs indicates the number of "bars" of the desired type of note. In the example below, both types indicate to play sixteenth notes. These are *metered*, meaning they can be counted out clearly.



For quarter notes with a single crosshair on them, it would indicate to play two eighth notes for each.



When there are more crosshairs than logically divisible within the given tempo (usually three crosshairs for average tempo, four crosshairs for slower tempos), this indicates *tremolo*! Unlike metered divisions like above, tremolo is an unmetered quiver. When done in a piano dynamic, tremolo adds a shimmering effect to the sound. When done in a forte dynamic, it creates an energetic, exciting, though sometimes harried sound.



One of the greatest things a string player can do to advance their technique and their capabilities on their instrument is to spend time finessing their bowing technique. There are a great many videos available online to work out specific details of each of these bow strokes. I recommend 'Violin Lounge' and 'Violin Viola Masterclass' as reliable channels for violinists and violists, and 'Hidersine Orchestral' and 'Palm Beach Symphony' for advanced cello and bass bowing technique.

Happy practicing!





BENEFITS OF NHIMA By Dennis Atkinson

In two recent issues of *Joyful Notes*, there were articles about our parent organization, New Horizons International Music Association (NHIMA). Because there were some questions about NHIMA at the Annual Meeting, this article will summarize what they are, the benefits we gain from an organization membership and the benefits you gain from an individual or couple membership.

NHIMA is an international non-profit organization committed to New Horizons' philosophy of musicmaking and undertakes initiatives designed to support the development and growth of nearly 200 New Horizons music organizations around the world. NHBCOS pays a small annual fee (\$25.00) to belong to and share the concepts and philosophy of New Horizons Programs. In addition, being a group member of NHIMA allows us to share information about our group on the NHIMA web site (newhorizonsmusic.org), share resources to enhance development and growth of our group, collaborate with other groups worldwide, have access to sheet music and repertoire resources, receive assistance in starting new groups and helping develop new ideas. complimentary **NHIMA** provides individual NHIMA memberships for directors and instructors of currently registered groups. This has frequently been helpful when we have an issue, problem or question about how to manage something within NHBCOS. By being able to communicate with 180 other groups worldwide, we almost always find another group who has faced the same issue, problem or question and can share their advice.

NHBCOS member musicians are encouraged to become members of NHIMA, Individual or Couple. For a nominal fee (Individual: \$20/year or \$50/3-years; Couple: \$30/year or \$85/3-years), members have the satisfaction of financially supporting NHIMA's goals for current and future groups. Active NHIMA members also have access to an online NHIMA membership directory, receive discounts on summer music camps (so far this year planned in Rochester, New York, Cincinnati, Ohio, Lakeside Chautauqua, Ohio, Mt, Tremblant, Quebec and more to come) and fabulous online classes throughout the year, for example "The Grooves and Moves of

Zydeco," "What is That Conductor Doing Up There," "Pop Hits for Beginner+ for Ukulele," "Music Theory Basics," "Great Women Instrumentalists of Jazz," "Klezmer Learn and Play," "Listening Inside the Music" and much more!

NHIMA members recently learned that the organization teamed up with Grouper to support our members in a way like never before! This collaboration is designed to get eligible participants, 65 or older, paid for engaging in our community, ensuring you stay healthy and connected.

NHBCOS members who join NHIMA, who are at least 65-years of age and have an eligible health plan can get an initial payment of \$50 sent to them for being a part of New Horizons International Music Association. For each three months of activity after that, Grouper will send \$20, if you stay active and keep Grouper updated on your in-person social activity! This not only pays for your annual membership, it gives you a little extra cash to celebrate.

To become a member of NHIMA, simply <u>visit their</u> <u>website</u> and select the desired type and length of membership. For more information on Grouper benefits, visit their website.



CHANGE TO *JOYFUL NOTES* SCHEDULE By Dennis Atkinson

When the first issue of *Joyful Notes* was published in March 2020 (before NHBCOS was placed on hold due to COVID) it contained four pages written by three contributors, including one page dedicated to the Corporate Sponsors of NHBCOS. We had plans of publishing a new issue each month. That lasted four months; without concerts and rehearsals, it became a challenge to find content even though we had plenty of time. We switched to bi-monthly for the rest of the year then quarterly for the next four years. Last year each issue was 12 pages in length and we had as many as a dozen contributors at times throughout the year.

In 2025, the variety and quality of the content will continue to grow but we will only be publishing



Joyful Notes while NHBCOS is in session: Spring, Summer, Autumn. Our winter break runs from early to mid-November until early January, also a time filled with holidays and the need for family time. I think you will agree, in this case less is more.

You can always find all past issues of the *Joyful Notes* newsletter at www.nhbcos.org/newsletter. If you have a topic you would like to see covered, send us email: joyfulnotes.nhbcos@gmail.com



ENCOREBy Dennis Atkinson



Welcome to Encore! From time to time, we will revive an article from a past issue of the newsletter that is worthy of rereading or, if you missed it the first time, reading anew. You can find all issues of Joyful Notes newsletters at:

www.nhbcos.org/newsletter.

INSTRUMENT CARE & INSPIRATION

By Harley Ferguson

From September / October 2020, page 2



Cleaning everything is top of mind to many these days and can become a COVID-19 obsession for some. If you have just cleaned your car,

inside and out, the car seems to perform better. The driving experience is improved. If you just cleaned your house, you are motivated to keep it clean and tend to admonish the careless spouse or child. A clean musical instrument in good repair enjoys similar attributes. The musician enjoys the shine and is motivated to polish. The instrument may very well have a more pleasing sound after cleaning. Handling and caring for the instrument might inspire you to take it for a test drive. For instructions on cleaning most types of musical instruments visit this website, courtesy of the National Educational Music Company:

https://nemc.com/instrument-care-instructions/

The National Federation of State High School Associations offers specific guidelines related to COVID-19 and instrument cleaning:

https://www.nfhs.org/articles/covid-19-instrument-cleaning-guidelines/

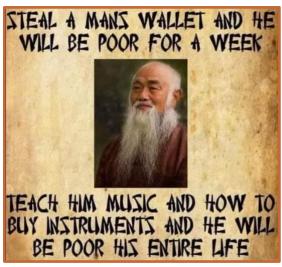
The repair shop at Graner Music is also an excellent resource for information on instrument care and maintenance.

Whether playing your instrument or cleaning it, the same axiom applies, "Practice makes perfect" and now is a good time to have a clean instrument.



THE LIGHTER SIDE By Classical Music Humor







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

February	
02	Groundhog Day
03	Felix Mendelssohn birthday (1809)
06	Bob Marley birthday (1945)
11	National Guitar Day
12	Abraham Lincoln birthday (1809)
14	Valentine's Day
17	Presidents Day
22	George Washington birthday (1732)
23	George Frideric Handel birthday (1685)
29	Gioachino Rossini birthday (1792)
March	
1	Frederic Chopin birthday (1810) and World Music Therapy Day
4	Antonio Vivaldi birthday (1678)
9	Daylight Saving Time (set clocks ahead 1 hour)
11	Lawrence Welk birthday (1903)
14	Pi Day
17	Saint Patrick's Day
18	Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov birthday (1844)
20	Spring Equinox (3:01 a.m. MDT)
21	Johann Sebastian Bach birthday (1685)
31	Joseph Haydn birthday (1732)
April	
1	April Fool's Day, Sergei Rachmaninoff birthday (1873)
12	Passover (through April 20th)
13	Palm Sunday
18	Good Friday
20	Easter
22	Earth Day
23	Sergei Prokofiev birthday (1891)
30	International Jazz Day

Spring 2025 Concerts (see www.nhbcos.org/concerts)

spring 2023 Concerts (see <u>www.iniocos.org/concerts</u>)	
Mar 30	NHBCOS Spring Concert: Concert & Symphonic Bands, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
	Ent Center for the Arts, 5225 N. Nevada Ave, Colorado Springs. Cost: \$15
Mar 31	NHBCOS Spring Concert II: Intermediate Strings, Concert Strings, and
	Symphonic Strings, 7:00 pm at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4720 Galley
	Rd, Colorado Springs. Free-will offering will be taken.
TBD	NHBCOS Spring Concert III: Kicks Jazz Band, details to be released soon. Watch
	for details on <u>www.nhbcos.org/concerts</u>
Mar 25	NHBCOS Spring Concert IV: Purple Mountain Clarinet Choir, details to be released
	soon. Watch for details on www.nhbcos.org/concerts
TBD	NHBCOS Spring Concert V: Cello Choir, details to be released soon. Watch for
	details on www.nhbcos.org/concerts





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! Click on each business card for more information. Please remember to mention NHBCOS when you conduct business with our sponsors because it increases the likelihood of the sponsor renewing their membership if they know their advertising dollars are working.











