



# Joyful Notes

Third Quarter 2021

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



## LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

By Dennis Atkinson

*Restarting rehearsals of the 2021 Summer Session was, as the 1963 hit song by Nat King Cole put it, a “roll out of lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer,” light on the ‘lazy’ and few of which were filled with soda and pretzels and beer. With the constant change of the COVID-19 status in the state of Colorado and El Paso County, what once looked like we would never play music again, slowly started to open up in March of 2021. What follows in this article are some of the highlights of those days:*

From mid-March to early-April, the Board went from planning for “self-organized, small-group ensembles with a maximum of 18 members in multiple rooms of the church” to “as many people as we can fit, socially-distanced in the Fellowship Hall, playing for 2-hour sessions with a 15-minute half-time break on the days when the church isn’t using that room.”

To measure the 6-foot space between chairs in the Fellowship Hall, I had a tape measure and 2 chairs. The tape measure worked for the first two columns until I figured out that the distance between the tips of my fingers from left hand to right hand was exactly 6-feet with my arms straight out from my sides.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON: TOM AND INGRI FOWLER

By Harley Ferguson



This issue’s *Spotlight* article features the extraordinary husband/wife team of Tom and Ingri Fowler.

Tom, Director of the NHBCOS Kicks Jazz Band, and Ingri, Director of the NHBCOS Orchestral Strings, have broadened this organization’s community outreach and raised the level of education and proficiency of our musicians and the group as a whole.

**Ingri** hails from Wichita, Kansas where she grew through the musical community as student, performer and teacher.

After receiving bachelor and master degrees from Wichita State University, Ingri taught instrumental music in the Norman, Oklahoma and Wichita Public Schools. As Director of Orchestras at Wichita High School East, the ensembles were consistently awarded superior ratings at local and state music festivals and received numerous invitations to perform at state and national music conferences. Performances include Kansas Music Educators State Music Conferences, Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, Chicago (1995, 1998 and 2002) and Music Educators National Conference. Ingri and the East High Orchestra program were featured in the August/September 1998 School Band and Orchestra magazine.

In addition to her public-school teaching career, Ingri served as an adjunct Professor of Violin at Wichita State University and as

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All current and past issues available online at:

[www.nhbcos.org/newsletter](http://www.nhbcos.org/newsletter).



### NEW CONDUCTORS STARTING NEW YEAR FOR NEW HORIZONS

By Dennis Atkinson

The Board of Directors for Friends of New Horizons Band of Colorado Springs (FNHBCOS) is pleased to announce that we have selected two new conductors to bring us into the 2021-2022 NHBCOS Concert year. Scheduled to begin rehearsals on August 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Fall Session, these conductors were chosen after a thorough search of several regional organizations, professional referrals, auditions, interviews and lengthy discussions. The board has hired **Amanda Kemp** as the Symphonic Band Conductor and **Stephen Rumbold** as the Concert Band Conductor.

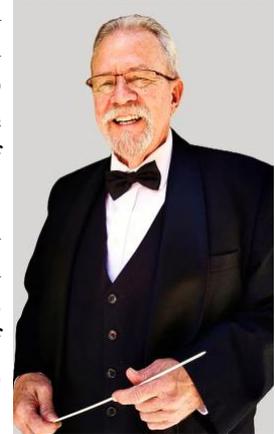


Amanda Kemp is a native of Colorado Springs and received her bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Colorado and her master's degree from Colorado State University Pueblo, both in music education. Amanda has been teaching instrumental music in Colorado Springs School

District 11 for 14 years. Also, during that time, she performed with the Colorado College Concert Band for 6 years and held the principal clarinetist position for 4 years. She currently performs with the Little London Winds and serves as treasurer on their board of directors. Amanda has studied conducting under W. Dale Crockett, Dr. Richard Mayne (UNC) and Dr. Jacob Chi (CSU-P). With a passion for bringing live music to audiences in a fun and engaging way, Amanda brings excitement and energy to each rehearsal.

Stephen Rumbold is a retired music educator and musician with extensive experience as a performer, conductor, arranger and music educator. During his teaching career in Arizona

and California, Stephen taught and directed a wide variety of groups at all levels, ranging from elementary classroom general music, middle school and high school bands, choirs and orchestras. He also directed at the college level as Director of the Windjammers College Community Concert band at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, CA and as Assistant Director of the The North Coast Symphony Orchestra.



During those years of teaching, Stephen was also an active performer on the French Horn.

We look forward to working with Amanda and Stephen in the coming months and years and feel certain that you will also find them very competent, enjoyable, committed, challenging, energetic, and delightful to work with and to listen to in our drive to keep the music alive.

**“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.”**

**-Socrates**

## SPOTLIGHT ON: TOM & INGRI

*(Continued from page 1)*

string clinician and adjudicator in Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico and Oklahoma. She is Past President of the Kansas American String Teachers Association.

Ingri performed in the violin sections of the Wichita Symphony Orchestra, Music Theater of Wichita, Wichita Grand Opera, Norfolk Symphony, Oklahoma City Symphony, Fort Hays State Faculty String Quartet, and the Colorado Springs Philharmonic. She explored playing Renaissance/Baroque music, Baroque violin and gamba at Wichita State and Oklahoma University. As a freelance musician some of her favorite memories are performing with the ever-popular Ray Charles, Mannheim Steamrollers and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra!

Some years ago, a small group of friends held a social gathering in someone's living room where they played pieces from books for beginning orchestra. Rumor has it that wine was served. Eventually, NHBCOS was approached, Ingri was found and hired as director and the Orchestral Strings program was born in 2014.

As the number of players increased, so did the variety and difficulty of the music Ingri selected. Some pieces were easier and some challenged everyone. Ingri, precise and just picky enough, emphasizes rhythm, style, feeling, and intonation. "Kinda pitchy, cellos," she might say, or about the Bach, "Let's think style. Short! Short! Short!" Ingri's leadership is formal and yet fun, with lots of examples and lots of feedback.

Over the years, Ingri has reached into the community for performance opportunities. The orchestra has played several concerts in retirement homes, one at the Black Forest Community Center, and another in Bear Creek Park. Green Mountain Falls heard Christmas music one year, courtesy of Ingri and the orchestra.

Ingri brought her middle school students from Youth Symphony and NHBCOS adults together at the end of one term. The adults and students played a piece together for the Youth Symphony concert at the Ent Center. A few weeks later, after a potluck, the group played a concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. After each of the orchestras played alone, the two came together for a few pieces. The process was not about age, as feared, but about music.

The 2021 Summer Session for Orchestral Strings will end with a concert in Ingri's garage (see photos) for whoever wants to listen. Ingri said, "Some neighbors will bring lawn chairs over. Some might shut all their windows and lock their doors." Coffee and homemade coffee cake will be provided. As a result, tempos might be a little fast. But the style will be right, and, hopefully the intonation, too.



Summer Orchestra warms up for final Garage Concert.



Novacelli, the cello quartet, plays for Garage Concert.

*(Continued on page 4)*



## SPOTLIGHT ON: TOM & INGRI

*(Continued from page 3)*

Tom was born and raised in Hutchinson, Kansas. His parents were both musicians as was his maternal grandfather who was a professional trumpet player. Tom started on clarinet in the fourth grade and added saxophone in high school in jazz band. He also played drums and bugle in Drum Corp in junior high and high school. Tom performed in the Hutchinson Municipal Band four nights a week in the summer from eighth grade through college.

During the 1970s, Tom lived in Colorado Springs and was a member of the North American Air Defense Command Band Jazz Ensemble (NORAD Commanders). Over the years, he has performed with many jazz artists, including Doc Severinsen, Mel Tormé, Joe Williams, Clark Terry, Vince DiMartino, Bob Mintzer, Manhattan Transfer, Michel LeGrand and The Four Freshman.

Fast forward a few years, Tom retired from the faculty at Wichita State University where he was Associate Director of the School of Music and Director of Jazz Studies from 1980 to 2008. During his time in Wichita, Tom served on the Wichita Jazz Festival board of directors as the festival's education director. Tom has performed as a jazz adjudicator / clinician in Kansas, Texas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado, and South Carolina. At Wichita State University, Tom's ongoing projects included directing the Mid-Kansas Jazz Ensemble for selected Kansas high school jazz students.

Tom currently instructs saxophone at the Colorado Springs Conservatory and directs the NHBCOS Kicks Jazz Band. Tom is vice-president of the Pikes Peak Jazz and Swing Society and participates in the jazz mentor program sponsored by PPJASS. From 2011 to 2018 he has assisted directing jazz ensembles at Cheyenne Mountain High School.

Since moving back to Colorado in 2009, Tom has performed with area bands, including the Colorado Springs Contemporary Big Band, The Swing Connection, Springs City Jazz Band, Bob Montgomery Little Big Band, The Academy Jazz Ensemble and the Colorado Springs Conservatory Faculty Jazz Quintet. Currently, Tom is the saxophonist in the "Triple Play" jazz quartet, with Trip Ziegler on piano, Patrick Abbott on bass and Dave Hardin on drums.

Tom Fowler is not only a highly skilled, professional musician and performer, he is a patient and encouraging teacher and conductor. During Kicks rehearsals, musicians aren't talking or distracted in any way. All are focused on Tom as he leads in his challenging, supportive, optimistic style. All know that we are fortunate to have his attention and to enjoy the wonderful experience he creates.

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## IN THEORY

*Stories of Music Theory in Real Life*

By Nancy Wilson and Dennis Atkinson

During the first rehearsal of the Orchestral Strings group this summer, the group played Brandenburg Concerto #3. During the piece, Ingri indicated that the notes should be played "Short! Short! Short!" She then stopped and asked why these notes in this piece were played in that style. Heather, one of the violinists who also teaches violin, said the bows of that era made the notes *decay*; Ingri agreed. She added that those short notes also had to get out of the way for entrances of other instruments and that was why you have to end the longer notes on time and not extend them into the rests.

What is decay? Decay describes the loudness of a note at its end. Decay is similar to a decrescendo. It describes one way you might finish a note. Legato is another way to finish a note. Its volume stays similar to the following note so the feeling of the transition is smooth, not spaced.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

By Dennis Atkinson

Although the term “social distancing” did not come into our daily vocabulary until the last 12 to 18 months, the term was first coined by Edward Hall, a cultural anthropologist from Santa Fe in 1963. Since then, there have been many ways social distancing has been enforced or encouraged, some effectively, some annoyingly.

One of the more humorous enforcement techniques, in my opinion, goes to Pastor Dave Cruson at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church who has placed placards with the following messages on every third chair in the sanctuary to add a light-hearted reminder of how we practice social distancing:

- This is the Ascension seat; I’d recommend sitting somewhere else.
- Reserved for Elijah only. Unless your name is Elijah, please sit elsewhere.
- Jesus said, “Take up my cross,” not “Take up this chair.” (Please).
- Just like the empty tomb, we’ll want to keep this seat empty.
- “I have prepared a place for you...” Just not this seat.
- Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to get a better seat. This seat was not it.

And my favorite:



No one has been seen near that chair since!

## THANKS FOR THE MUSIC

By Harley Ferguson

In 1962 my family moved to Colorado and I, at 12 years old and with one year of baritone horn experience, joined the Cheyenne Mountain Middle School Band under Ed Nuccio’s direction. I participated in band through high school (1967) and then didn’t play my horn again until I joined NHBCOS in 2010, again under Ed’s direction.

Fast forward to current day and my brother-in-law, Ted Ryder, who introduced me to NHBCOS, his wife, Julie Ryder, her brothers, Lee Esch and Brian Esch, as well as my son Ian, are all participating in NHBCOS. Ted, Julie and I formed a trio, T&A (Ted and All), that brings us together weekly and has enhanced our friendship greatly. We rehearsed diligently and performed in the NHBCOS Spring 2020 recital.

Ian is the music director of Labrosones11<sup>[1]</sup>, a newly formed brass ensemble involving eleven NHBCOS brass players, and as such, has become my mentor, as I have been his. Through my involvement in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Kicks Jazz and now the ensembles, I have made fast friends and regained a pursuit that keeps me active as an older adult. I owe a great deal to NHBCOS and I know many others that appreciate the mental, physical and social benefits from their participation.

<sup>[1]</sup>Brass instruments are called *labrosones* or *labrophones*, played by creating vibrations with the lips that create sound; from Latin and Greek elements meaning 'lip' and 'sound'.

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“Music has healing power.  
It has the ability to take  
people out of themselves  
for a few hours.”

- Elton John



## LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER

*(Continued from page 1)*

So, there I was, walking around the Fellowship Hall of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, arms straight out from my sides, some may say forming a cross, moving a chair, standing like a cross, moving another chair, etc. Looking back on that afternoon, I often wonder how many people saw me through the windows, curious as to what on earth was going on. But it was how we came up with a maximum of 42 people, 6 rows with 7 chairs, for each rehearsal session, 5 or 6 fewer chairs with the percussion equipment.

In the survey taken of all members, asking how they would feel safest returning to play with NHBCOS, the majority of members were more comfortable playing in larger groups, i.e., Concert Band, Orchestra, Symphonic Band. One comment we received in the anonymous responses was “I wouldn’t come back to play because I haven’t practiced in a year and I’m too old to start practicing again.”

The two large bands were named, for the sake of simplicity, Summer Day Band and Summer Night Band. In the earlier days of NHBCOS, the bands were also called Day Band and Night Band but there was no intent for this session to link to the names from the Days of Yore. It was only because we realized members’ schedules may have shifted in the last 60 weeks and they may enjoy playing at a different time of day. There was no direct connection to Day Band as Concert Band or Night Band as Symphonic Band. Everyone was just happy to be together playing music and meeting some new people.

We were very fortunate to find two conductors to take over the Summer Day Band and Summer Night Band. Jeff Ader, trumpet player extraordinaire for Kicks Jazz Band and Concert Band had conducted the Concert Band about five years ago when Ed Nuccio’s health was declining. Amanda Kemp was just outside my back door, employed as the Band and Orchestra director for North Middle School.

Because my wife and I have lived next to North Middle School for 34 years, we witnessed what Amanda could do with middle-school-age children in the Viking marching bands. I had also watched the very talented, very young musicians in the North Jazz Band at a state-wide music competition in Cañon City and Florence three years ago.

The Orchestra started their first rehearsal on Monday, May 3, 9:00 a.m. At 8:00 a.m., there was heavy snow falling from the skies. “How many first days of the Summer Session have been canceled due to snow?”, I wondered. This year’s would not be the first. A full 17 orchestra members showed up for rehearsal but with everyone wearing masks and hoods or hats and scarves, it was tough to see who was walking in the door! Ingri said at this point, she would take everyone who walked in carrying a {violin, viola, cello} case.

What went well? Here’s one member’s assessment: I preferred this summer session to some others. I liked the warm atmosphere. I preferred the smaller room and easy-to-move chairs. I enjoyed the sound not being stifled by soft furnishings. I enjoyed less people. I liked the “no rush” atmosphere and Jeff’s conducting.

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## IN THEORY

*Stories of Music Theory in Real Life*

*(Continued from page 4)*

With modern bows you have to make the decay on purpose by slowing down the bow speed or pressure or both. Old bows were made in such a way that they didn’t naturally sustain the volume of the note. The style now mimics the decay tendency of those old bows.

Decay is a desirable way to put space between notes, as opposed to the undesirable sound produced when stopping the bow while it’s still on the string with no change in pressure or speed.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** See times and other details on calendar at [www.nhbcos.org](http://www.nhbcos.org) and [www.daysoftheyear.com](http://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.
<b>July</b>	
July 12	Kicks Jazz Band in Monument Valley Park 7:00 p.m.
July 14	Kicks Jazz Band in Bear Creek Regional Park, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
July 15	Kicks Jazz Band at Black Forest Community Center, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
July 21	Triple Play Jazz in Bear Creek Regional Park, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
July 25	Parents Day
July 25	Wine and Cheese Day
July 28	All In Jazz in Bear Creek Regional Park, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
July 30	International Day of Friendship
July 31	Uncommon Instrument Awareness Day
<b>August</b>	
August 1	Colorado Day
August 3	Watermelon Day
August 4	National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
August 15	National Relaxation Day
August 17	National Nonprofit Day
August 21	Senior Citizens Day
August 22	Claude Debussy birthday (1862)
August 23	NHBCOS 2021 Fall Session Begins
August 24	International Strange Music Day
August 25	Leonard Bernstein birthday (1918)
<b>September</b>	
September 5	International Day of Charity
September 6	Labor Day
September 8	Antonin Dvorak birthday (1841)
September 8	Quiet Day
September 12	Grandparents Day
September 13	International Chocolate Day
September 19	Wife Appreciation Day ( <i>just one day??!</i> )
September 21	Gustav von Holst birthday (1874)
September 25	Dimitri Shostakovich birthday (1906)
September 26	George Gershwin birthday (1898)



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