



Joyful Notes

Latest news from New Horizons Bands and Orchestras of Colorado Springs

From the Board Sudy Hill | Acting President

Welcome to the Fall 2026 edition of Joyful Notes. This season marks an exciting new chapter for New Horizons Bands and Orchestras of Colorado Springs. We are now rehearsing in our new home at Ascent Church, 4870 Flintridge Drive. We are grateful for this welcoming space and look forward to the music and friendships that will grow here.

You may also notice our updated name: New Horizons Bands and Orchestras of Colorado Springs, or NHBOCOS. It reflects the full range of musicians who make up our organization and the many ways adults can return to music, continue learning and play alongside others.

Our fall session is underway, and our musicians are preparing for a full November concert schedule. The Concert and Symphonic Bands will perform Sunday, Nov. 1 at 4 p.m. at the Ent Center for the Arts. Our Symphonic, Concert and Intermediate Strings will perform Monday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at Ascent Church.

Our smaller ensembles will follow with concerts throughout the month. Purple Mountain Clarinets will

perform Nov. 3, Cello Choir on Nov. 5 and Kicks Jazz Band on Nov. 9. You will find complete details on page 3. We hope you will invite family and friends to join us.

This fall also brings opportunities to strengthen NHBOCOS beyond the rehearsal room. Our Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Ascent Church. We are also looking for new board members who want to help guide and support our organization. If you are interested, please speak with a current board member.

Our string ensembles are especially eager to welcome additional violin and viola players. If you know someone who has been looking for a reason to return to an instrument, please encourage them to visit a rehearsal and learn more.

Finally, NHBOCOS will participate in the Give! Campaign from Nov. 1 through Dec. 31. Your support helps adults discover—or rediscover—the joy of making music together.

Thank you for the time, talent and energy you bring to New Horizons. I look forward to a wonderful fall season with you.

From the Music Library to the Music Stand



Katie Peak Young, NHBOS music librarian and baritone saxophonist

Before musicians with the New Horizons Bands and Orchestras of Colorado Springs play the first note of a new piece, Katie Peak Young has already spent hours with the music.

As NHB's music librarian, Katie receives repertoire requests from the conductors, checks the organization's collection and orders what is needed. She counts parts, prepares folders for section leaders and makes sure the music is ready before the first rehearsal.

Then she picks up her baritone saxophone and takes her own seat in the band.

It is a combination of roles Katie might not have predicted when she joined New Horizons in January 2026. At the time, she was simply looking for a way to play music with other people again.

Katie grew up "obsessed with music." She began as a flute player and graduated from high school early with plans to major in music. Before starting college, she interned at Hal Leonard, one of the world's largest music publishers, where she worked as a music engraver.

"It's the person who puts the notes on the page," she explained. "It would be the same as sitting there and typing, but instead of typing words, you're putting the dots on a page."

Katie eventually changed her major and began her career. Music remained part of her life, but ensemble playing did not. She could pick up an instrument at home and play through a piece, but there was no rehearsal to prepare for and no concert waiting at the end.

She missed playing in a group.

Katie had heard about New Horizons Band through friends who were already members. For a long time, she wondered whether she could fit it into her schedule. In January, she decided to try.

She joined Concert Band on alto saxophone. Some of the musicians already knew one another, but at that first rehearsal, conductor Stephen Rumbold paused to introduce the newcomers. He pointed out Katie in the saxophone section.

A background image of a mountain landscape with the text "WE HAVE A NEW HOME!" overlaid.

WE HAVE A NEW HOME!

*Ascent Church • 4870 Flintridge Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918*

“Even though these people were all already friends and colleagues, now they were excited to have a new person there, too,” Katie said. “I just felt like I fit right in.” Playing alone at home had never felt quite the same. In a band, each musician has an individual part, but no one is playing independently. They listen to one another and adjust as they go.

“It’s almost like a team sport,” she said. “You get to know people, and you work together and rely on each other.”

A performance also changes the way she practices. At home, Katie might play through an enjoyable piece once or twice before moving on. When a concert is approaching, there is a reason to work through the difficult measures and polish the music.

“It’s like game day,” she said.

Her first concert with NHB was the Concert Band’s spring performance at the Ent Center for the Arts, featuring music from the American Songbook. She invited her parents.

“I was like, ‘I’m not in high school anymore. You don’t have to come to my concerts,’” Katie recalled.

They came anyway.

The program was fun to play, but it was the experience of being onstage with a band again that stayed with her. “It was that coming-home feeling,” she said. “I get to do this again.”

A few months after Katie joined, New Horizons began searching for a music librarian. Interim Executive Director Sudy Hill thought the position might suit her and encouraged her to consider it. Katie applied, completed the interview process and started around April.

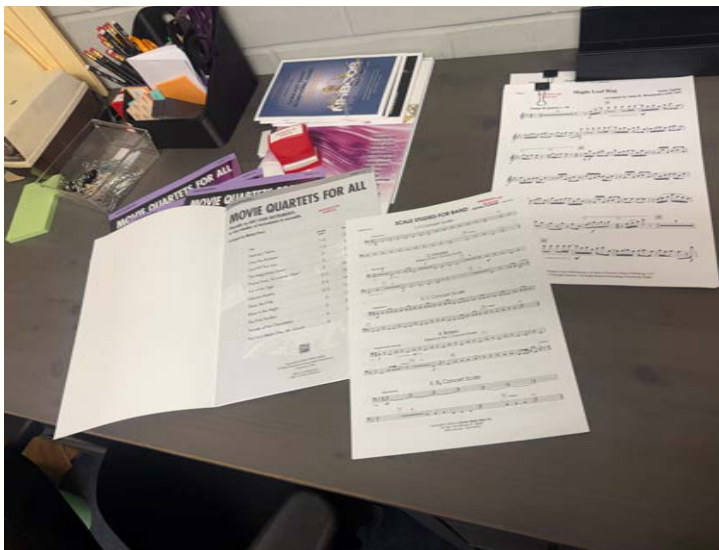
The job brought her back to work she had done much earlier in life. In addition to her internship at Hal Leonard, Katie had worked in her college’s music library. She now manages NHB’s collection while working full-time for Compassion International.

The process begins with the conductors. They select the music they want their ensembles to perform, then send their requests to Katie.

She first checks whether NHB already owns each piece. If not, she determines where it can be purchased. Because New Horizons ensembles are sometimes larger than the standard number of parts included in a published set, she also calculates how many additional copies are needed for each instrument.

Some music arrives in print; other titles are delivered electronically and must be prepared locally. Katie also makes enlarged versions for musicians who need a larger page to read comfortably.

Once everything has arrived, she confirms that each part is present, marks it as NHB COS property and separates the music into folders for the section leaders. Those leaders then decide who will play each part and distribute the pages to their musicians.



All of that happens before the ensemble gathers for its first rehearsal.

Katie's experience as a musician helps when a part is labeled differently or isn't available in the expected format. She can look at the score and decide whether another option will work because she understands what the musician will need when the pages reach the stand.

This season, Symphonic Band conductor Alex Marquez has added weekly sight-reading practice. Musicians receive a piece from the NHB library, play it once and return it. The following week, they receive something different.

For Katie, that means preparing and organizing another full set of music each week. After rehearsal, the parts are collected and returned to the library so the piece will be complete when another ensemble wants to play it.

"I want to make sure we're doing everything in the correct way," she said.

Katie now plays baritone saxophone in both Concert and Symphonic bands. From her chair in the ensemble, she can hear the music she once ordered one part at a time become something much larger.

She also knows how much happened before the audience arrived.

The conductor studied the score. Section leaders assigned parts. Musicians worked through weeks of rehearsals and practiced at home. By concert day, individual pages have become a performance.

"I think we come out sounding pretty good," Katie said. "It's a lot of work from everyone involved."

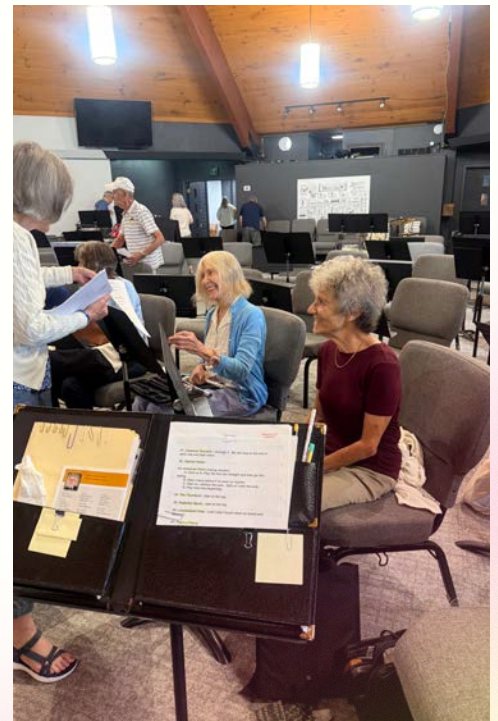
For adults who once played an instrument but haven't done so in years, the first rehearsal can feel like the biggest obstacle. Some people arrive unsure whether they can still play well enough or whether they will fit into an established group.

Katie's advice is to come once and see.

"There's nothing wrong with coming to check it out and trying it," she said.

A year ago, Katie was still wondering whether she had time to return to ensemble music. Now, she prepares music for musicians throughout New Horizons ensembles before carrying her own baritone saxophone into rehearsal.

"Everyone is there for the same reason," she said. "To play fun music."



A NEW NAME FOR OUR MUSICAL COMMUNITY



YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED SOMETHING NEW:
WE ARE NOW NEW HORIZONS BANDS AND
ORCHESTRAS OF COLORADO SPRINGS—OR NHBOCOS.

OUR UPDATED NAME CELEBRATES THE FULL RANGE OF
MUSICIANS WHO MAKE UP OUR ORGANIZATION, FROM
OUR BANDS TO OUR GROWING STRING ENSEMBLES. IT
REFLECTS THE MANY WAYS ADULTS CAN RETURN TO
MUSIC, CONTINUE LEARNING AND EXPERIENCE THE
JOY OF PLAYING TOGETHER.

SAME WELCOMING MUSICAL COMMUNITY.
A NAME THAT INCLUDES EVERYONE.

STRINGS WANTED

Calling all violin and viola players!

Our string ensembles are growing,
and we would love to welcome
additional musicians.

If you have been looking for a reason to
return to your instrument,
we invite you to visit a rehearsal and
learn more.

RETURN TO MUSIC.
PLAY ALONGSIDE OTHERS.
FIND YOUR PLACE AT NHBOCOS.

Learn more at nhbcos.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, Oct. 22 | 5:30 p.m.
Ascent Church

FALL CONCERTS

Concert & Symphonic Bands
Sunday, Nov. 1 | 4 p.m.
Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS

Symphonic, Concert & Intermediate Strings
Monday, Nov. 2 | 7 p.m.
Ascent Church

Purple Mountain Clarinets
Tuesday, Nov. 3 | 7 p.m.
Calvary United Methodist Church

Cello Choir
Thursday, Nov. 5 | 6:30 p.m. | Ascent Church

Kicks Jazz Band
Monday, Nov. 9 | 7 p.m. | Ascent Church

New Horizons Bands and Orchestras of Colorado Springs
www.nhbcos.org



NOV. 1 - DEC. 31



NHBOCOS
is participating in the 2026 Give!
Campaign.

Your support will help fund acoustic
panels and other improvements to our
new rehearsal space all while creating a
better place for our musicians to learn,
rehearse and make music together.



WATCH FOR DETAILS
NHBCOS.ORG