



November 16, 2014

Dear Members of the New Horizons Bands

I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your willingness to share your time in rehearsal to work on my recent compositions "Atlas" and "Minetto Union Celebration." I've always wanted to compose pieces for concert band but never had the time to devote to it. When I retired from teaching, I had the time and I've tried to take advantage of it by composing a few pieces for friends and colleagues in my area. I've loved doing this.

However, I quickly realized the part I craved, even more than the satisfaction of completing a piece of music, was the human element: hearing live musicians play it, wondering if it was meaningful to them, figuring out if they enjoyed playing the pieces. Your preparation and performance of these pieces was extraordinary to me, and your enthusiasm for the music really makes me want to improve and do more. I've received so many kind words from so many of you regarding the rehearsals and the pieces; I can't begin to thank you enough for that.

When Bruce and Alan invited me to come to your rehearsals, I didn't know what to expect. My wife and I pulled into the church parking lot the first day at 8:20am for the 9:00 rehearsal. We had difficulty finding a parking space, which we thought was odd because we were 45 minutes early. We walked in the building and saw 90% of the seats filled with musicians warming up, and with many others in the room enjoying each others' company. I had to ask if the rehearsal started at 9 or if it was beginning earlier this day. It was 9. That was just the "tip of the (fantastic) iceberg."

Rest assured I could ramble on with more kudos. Perhaps I could save you from that fate by saying this: I believe every student in college, studying to be a music educator, should be required to come and observe the New Horizons program. It would give them a crystal clear vision as to what their goals in the schools should be: share your love of music, enthusiastically, with others so it stays with them for life. Our national music organization had a slogan at one time that was "Music is for Life." Nothing could support that slogan more beautifully than all of you.

Congratulations on your successful performance Sunday. I know there will be more wonderful music ahead for all of you.

With respect and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Palange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Palange
Oswego, NY

cc: Eastman Community Music School