



# Let us begin Season 10

## *Help wanted*

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform each other of the noteworthy things our colleagues do in and out of music. To keep us informed, we need a reporter from each section of the band. Please choose that reporter by Sept. 28 and give the name, phone number and, if applicable, email address to Cliff Smith at 865-7806 or email at [Clarinetcliff@aol.com](mailto:Clarinetcliff@aol.com). Thanks!

By Ed Mizma

Welcome to a new year of New Horizons excitement! There is a new season, new music and new learning in store for all of us. Add to that the new friends we will meet in addition to those friendships we treasure from last year, and we come up with a fantastic way to use and extend our talents.

The directors are anticipating a great year for individual and group growth with the instrumental instructors/mentors who will be helping us all become better musicians. In addition to the expected return of Russ Wheeler for clarinets and Andy Bauer for tuba/euphonium, a fine array of Eastman students and faculty is being assembled for other sections, even sax and percussion!

As to music, the directors will introduce several new (to us) selections to the repertoire of the band and wind ensemble. Of course, marches by the likes of King and Sousa are on the list, as are standards and show tunes by Rodgers, Kern, Loewe and Carmichael. More classical entries include works by Rossini, Faure, Grieg, Rimsky-Korsakov and Holst. Carol Barton, our librarian, continues to do her fantastic job of keeping us supplied with music. She looks to her assistants in each section to help keep our music supply chain operating smoothly.

Our gig committee (Charlie Rose, Sid Partington, Dana Johnson) continues its great job of arranging for our concert outings. With the loss of Vince Huber last year, the committee could use another volunteer member residing on the west side of our area. If interested, let them know.

We are adding a new wrinkle to help the ongoing administrative operations of the band. Alice and Ken Slining have agreed to serve as Band Managers, helping the directors, particularly in liaison with Eastman School Community Education and with our rehearsal venues and helping in the coordination of instructors for our sections. I, personally, appreciate their willingness to take on this new endeavor and look forward to our increased efficiency because of their efforts.

Our New Horizons Band continues to improve in capability and musicality. And this could not occur without the energy and dedication of all of its members. Thank you for your joyful zeal and ongoing enthusiasm. We look forward to another great year!

## Our rehearsals for 2000-1

First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. S.

Tues., Sept. 19: Full band begins 9 a.m.

Wind Ensemble begins 11 a.m.

Wed., Sept. 20: Green Band begins 9 a.m.

Thurs., Sept. 21: Dance Band begins 11 a.m.

Clarinet Ensemble begins 11 a.m.

Beginning Oct. 17, the band will be split for rehearsal between Unitarian Church and Temple Beth El. On Oct. 17, the split will involve the Gold and Silver bands. After that, there may be section rehearsals or other divisions to take advantage of the added space.

## Now on the Web free

New Horizons News, the national newsletter, will be published on line free starting this month. The Web site is [www.newhorizonsband.com](http://www.newhorizonsband.com). Members who paid an annual subscription last fall will receive a refund from Ed Mizma.



## *Clarinet Ensemble 'Rondos' all summer long*

By George Greer, principal clarinetist

While some New Horizons Band members may have been on vacation from their instruments during the summer, the clarinet section has been busy. All members of the section were invited to participate in weekly practice sessions, and almost half responded.

Beginning June 15 and continuing through Sept. 6, Clarinet Ensemble sessions were held every Thursday morning from 9-11 a.m. in the choir rehearsal room of Third Presbyterian Church, an acoustically excellent venue.

We had good attendance each week, averaging 10-12 people, plus our teacher and coach, Russell Wheeler. In total, 17 people participated: Cliff Smith, Ed Rummmler, Barbara Erbland, Dana Johnson, Roger Christensen, George Greer, Patrick SanFillipo, Sam Fero, Jinny Pierce, Fred Halik, Angela Mambro, Judy Rose, Bernie Friday, Rivka Chatman, Marjorie DeMallie, Elaine Bergman and Mary Carlton.

If I've missed someone, my apologies! Several of the people stayed on for private lessons each week following the group sessions.

The emphasis was on musical interpretation – expression, dynamics, understanding what the music is saying, building energy in phrases where it is indicated or needed and, in general, making music, not just playing notes. The format of our sessions usually started with a tutorial by Russell, then the application of what he had taught us.

We concentrated on the Rondo movement of Gabrielsky's Grand Quarter No. 1 for Clarinet, with some review of the Adagio and the Allegro Maestoso movements of the same work. Time was also spent polishing up the Haydn Divertimento in E-flat, a trio.

All participants in the program found the experience both enjoyable and educational. We feel we have a much better grasp of how to turn notes into music. We owe special thanks to Russell Wheeler, whose knowledge, patience and dedication made for a great summertime adventure.

### **Our 2000-1 gigs so far**

Thurs., Sept. 27: Dance Band, Hill Haven, 1550 Empire Blvd., arrive 1 p.m., play 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 1-Wed., Oct. 4: Chautauqua Institution, New Horizons & Strings.

Tues., Oct. 17: Small Red Band 1, Pittsford Presby. Church, 25 Church St., arrive 12:15 p.m., play 12:30 p.m.

Mon, Oct. 23: Silver Band, Roch Rehab Day Trtment, Al Sigl Ctr, 1000 Elmwood Ave., arr. 12, play 12:30 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 1: Small Ensemble 1 (TBD), EK Mgrs Lunch, Oak Hill CC, arrive 12, play 12:30 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 13, Dance Band, YMCA Men's Club, Maplewood Party Hse., arr. Noon, play 12:30 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 24: Full Band, Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., arrive 7, play 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 10, Dance Band, Pittsford Presby. Church, 25 Church St., arrive 7:30, play 8-10:30 p.m.

### **Some ground rules for Unitarian Church**

Entry to the Unitarian Church parking area can be from Winton Road or Aberthaw Road. Exit from the parking lot is by Aberthaw Road only.

The easternmost row in the upper lot and spaces in front of the church not marked with a handicapped logo are to be used only for short-term parking — 15 minutes maximum — on weekdays.

### **Mizma on Music**

I believe we do the best job of both learning and performing when we start either with familiar music or with selections that become, perhaps through the influence of the directors, interesting and/or exciting. So I try to find selections that speak to our common history or that speak to me loudly and deeply enough that I want to share them

**The staff:** Editor, Cliff Smith, 865-7806, email [clarinetcliff@aol.com](mailto:clarinetcliff@aol.com); artist, Jinny Pierce; reporters, to be announced



# Ed Mizma: Man of (e)motion

Our choreographic conductor is a man of a million moves. Ed Mizma seems as if he's in perpetual motion, but how did he get that way?

"I'm afraid I have no explanation for what you term 'moves,'" he says. "The intent of conducting, as I see it, is to look like the music is to sound."

He's been moving with music since the fifth grade at the old Hilton Central School, where he was invited to play on "an instrument that happened to be available, a beat-up silver baritone horn."

In 1947, the Hilton Fire Department formed a drum and bugle corps with "straight Army bugles and field drums." Then the following year the new single-valve bugle and the octave-lower baritone horn were added, and Ed joined as one of the first baritone players.

For the next 20 years, Ed marched and contested, as the band became the Hilton Crusaders, then the Irondequoit Crusaders and finally the Rochester Crusaders. Besides playing, Ed arranged bugle music, taught the bugle line, helped design the field drills and ultimately served as drum major. The Crusaders were national American Legion champions in 1965, three years before Ed retired from the group.

During those years, Ed earned a bachelor's in chemical engineering at Bucknell University ("engineering made sense to a farm boy looking toward a career") and a doctorate from Cornell. From 1960 to his retirement in 1991, he worked at Eastman Kodak in film process development, clinical chemistry new product development and management of a variety of engineering and development projects.

As a member of Hilton Baptist Church, he taught young people in choir and other activities. From 1966 to 1993, he served as church choir director. For eight years, he was on the national governing/planning board of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians. Then from 1993 to last year, Ed directed the choir at Webster's United Church of Christ, but now considers himself "retired from church music."

Ed joined the Hilton Gazebo Band in the late '80s, then became its conductor a year later for four years, his first band conducting experience.

Conducting voices vs. instruments give different satisfactions. "The human voice is a fantastic instrument which is not only capable of melody but also of communicating text, the only instrument that can do so. Band or orchestra instruments are at their best when they communicate a feeling, a passion that makes one react as one



might to a particularly moving choral piece," he says.

Following his Kodak retirement, Ed was accepted into the Master of Music program at Eastman School of Music's music education department, and his major professor was Roy Ernst. "This seemed like the ideal 'retirement' for me," he says. "Not surprisingly, I became interested in the then fledgling New Horizons Band and have been working with it ever since." He received the M.M. degree in 1993.

He's also working with other seniors today as director of a chorus at Greece's Westridge Community Center, and he led "the first attempt" of a weeklong Elderhostel New Horizons Band in Albany last October. He plans to direct the second such group this November.

Ed lives in East Irondequoit, in a house with a beautiful view of the bay, with his wife, Deborah (they have a sailboat but haven't been out in two years). Between them, they have five children from earlier marriages, plus four grandchildren "so far." Deborah recently took up the cello and may, along with regularly caring for two granddaughters, join the New Horizons Orchestra.



## Dick Sitts: Laser-beam ears, eyes

You want a conductor with experience? Our man with the laser-beam ears and eyes, Dick Sitts, started conducting a kindergarten rhythm band at age 4 with a broom-handle baton in Richfield Springs, N.Y.

When Dick was 7, his older brother gave him trumpet lessons. In a school district with one music teacher, he played trumpet in the one and only school band, grades 4 through 12. And when he was 12, he began playing in dance bands.

"I got \$2 a night and all the Orange Crush I could drink," Dick recalls. "We played hotels during the week and grange halls on weekends, both rounds and squares."

He went directly into Army OSS following high school graduation and "moved around a lot," including overseas, but it's a phase of his life he prefers to let rest.

He once made house calls with a doctor who befriended him, and intended to go into medicine, but "my hands weren't too stable," so he chose his second love, majoring in trumpet and clarinet at State University College at Fredonia. He also learned many other instruments.



Big bands were still a large part of the popular music scene and one of the more popular, the Les Elgart Orchestra, was booked for a college dance. But its lead trumpet player injured his lip in an accident, so the band asked the college if it could find a replacement.

"My teacher recommended me," Dick says. "There was no rehearsal. It was tough to sight read and lead a trumpet section, too." But he did such a good job he was invited a play with the band for the next two summers.

"Traveling by bus to a different town every night was exciting, as long as you were single, but it was no life for a married man," he remembers.

After Fredonia, he took his first public education job in Victor, where "I was the whole program for four years." When he married Eleanor in 1956, he was offered jobs at the universities of Texas and Arkansas, but accepted an offer from Nelson Rockefeller teaching music at a school on the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, Westchester County.

After teaching in junior high for two years in Rockland County, he moved to the high school band program at Clarkstown Central School District in New City, which was expanding so fast it sometimes opened two new elementary schools a year.

As supervisor of music, Dick put a band in each of the district's 18 buildings. "On Memorial Day, we had five bands marching. That's the best thing you can do for a music program — put the kids in front of the public."

On retirement, he tried stock brokering for a couple of years, then went into yellow pages sales and marketing. When his wife Eleanor retired from teaching speech therapy 12 years ago, they moved to her native Rochester area.

"She read about the New Horizons program and, though she had never played an instrument before, she joined on French horn," he says. "I came in a year later as a conductor, and I gave lessons on all the instruments. Many people in the band first started playing with my help. I played in the band too, on any instrument that was needed, first the tuba, then the trombone."

New Horizons has been "a lot of fun," he's found. "It's really intense. The players feel they can achieve a lot, and they do. Music keeps you young because it always involves some activity."

Dick, who also conducts the NH Dance Band ("it meets the needs of a lot of people") and plays trumpet in the Perinton Concert Band and the Webster Community Band. He and Eleanor have 2 daughters, 4 grandchildren.