

**Noriko Yanagimoto: “Tanoshiinde Imasu!” (“I’m Having Fun!”)**

I was born in Osaka, Japan. I started playing the piano at an early age, but I didn’t really enjoy it. In my school years, I learned how to play the trombone, and after finishing school, I continued playing with an adult band called Shijonawate Concert Band. However, I didn’t enjoy that band very much.

I knew I wanted to improve my English-speaking skills because when I came to Calgary for the first time with my college program, I couldn’t speak English very well; after working for a few years, I visited Canada for one year to take ESL (English as a Second Language) courses. I returned to Japan but made plans to return to Calgary again.

Before I came to Canada the fourth time, I checked on the internet to see what band programs there were in Calgary. To bring my trombone and play in a band was one of my purposes to come to Calgary, and fortunately, I found Westwinds’ website which said Westwinds was an adult community band. So, I went to the Open House in September 2006.

Now I’ve been in Calgary for almost two years. My English is improving! I’m playing in three Westwinds bands now: the Silver Concert Band with Rob Cesselli, and the Wind Orchestra and Monday Night Gold Jazz, both with Mike Sakatch.

I’m having fun, I’m learning lots of new music and I’m making new friends in Calgary!