

Sandy Robson: International Musician

I joined Westwinds in the spring of their first year. I had met a friend from my high school band (Leita Jeans) who told me about a band that had started. Experienced players were supposed to change instruments to make an even playing field (pun intended!), but I hadn't played my flute for about 20 years, so I thought it would be allowed. The first practice I couldn't remember how to read the notes, but my fingers knew where to go and I performed adequately. As a single mum, Westwinds was my one night out, and that for me was a lifesaver.

In 1992, I decided to join the Blue Concert Band (beginner then) and learn a new instrument – the euphonium. We had a really good year with Ross McIntyre and formed a core group that stayed together for many years. I really admire the players that started without any musical background – talk about a learning curve!

I have made lots of friends with the band, gone on fun road trips, participated in great workshops and even traveled to Europe – who would have thought I would be an international musician? On the Germany trip, Kevin Willms invited people to join the choir, so I have sung with the choir ever since.

WESTWINDS IS A WHOLE COMMUNITY.