

Rene Svetina: And the Beat Goes On...

This is Rene's first year with Westwinds, although she has played in school and community bands "basically all my life..." Rene grew up in a very musical family. Her father played trombone in the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and all six kids in her family played instruments at a very early age.

She heard about Westwinds on CBC FM radio years ago, but due to her work schedule was not able to join until September 2007. At that time, Rene was fortunate to meet Cheryl Konno, a long-term Westwinds member, who introduced her to the organization. Rene was "thrilled", as she was desirous to play in a band again. Rene plays clarinet in Wind Orchestra, but is also helping out in the percussion section on piano, woodblock, castanets, maracas and tambourine! She admits percussion "is a lot harder than it looks" but enjoys the learning experience that Westwinds provides.

Rene's favourite thing about Westwinds is "having the privilege to play in a high caliber band with other like-minded adults." She likes the challenging repertoire and is learning a lot under Mike Sakatch's direction. "He makes our rehearsals and concerts lots of fun."

Westwinds has been an enriching experience for Rene. She feels it offers a wonderful opportunity for people to play or sing at a variety of levels.