



Westwinds Newsletter Fall 2006



Welcome back to Westwinds for 2006 and 2007. One of the executive's goals for this year is to improve communication to and among members. This first newsletter is designed to fill you in on recent developments as well as answer some commonly posed questions. We've also included the year's schedule of events so you can mark your calendars. We'd love it if you could commit to attending at least one event in which you are not performing.

New Developments

1. Changes to groups and directors

As a result of discussions and workshops held in the spring, the decision was made to consolidate some groups, both for financial and artistic integrity. We now have 5 concert bands, 5 jazz bands and 4 choirs. Some of the bands have new names to maintain consistency of levels between jazz and concert bands. Welcome to Pat Pilat, who has joined us to direct the Green Choir.
Bronze Band - Pat McFarlane
Silver - Rob Cesselli
Wind Orchestra - Mike Sakatch
Bronze Jazz - Jeff Hiley
Silver Jazz - Jim Finkbeiner

2. Publication of performance standards

Our website now houses the performance standards for each group. Please check it out to make sure that your abilities match the group you're in. This makes the experience better for everyone.

3. Website developments

Westwinds owes a huge debt of gratitude to Tik Tycholaz, our volunteer web coordinator, for the many hours he has devoted to moving our website and to setting it up so it's user friendly, full of valuable information and enables us to register and pay on-line (VISA or MasterCard). You'll even be able to click on an event and have it automatically added to your Outlook reminder.

Check it out at www.westwindsmusic.org

4. Groups to organize events

This year we're trying a new approach to event planning by assigning groups to specific events at the beginning of the year. We've combined a group involved in the event with one not involved to act as volunteers on the night. Specific details are on the Calendar of Events chart attached to this newsletter.

5. Change to Christmas Concert venue

Just a reminder that we've negotiated a great deal with the Jubilee Auditorium for our big concert at Christmas.

6. Bobby Carcasses workshops and performances in November

Keep watching for details on this phenomenal jazz musician from Cuba. He'll be spending some of his time here working specifically with Westwinds.

7. Communication focus

Many of the comments arising from the spring discussions had to do with improving communication within our organization. To that end, the Vice President's role has incorporated responsibility for this area.

8. Open House

We had a great turnout to Open House, September 13. We registered lots of new members, a good number of whom signed up for green band and choir.



1. Year End Event

The final concert and barbecue at Parkland was a huge success. Thanks to all who participated and to the hordes of volunteers. The spot is already reserved for next year on May 12th.

2. Results of Program Evaluation

Thanks to all who completed the Program Evaluation Survey in the spring. 229 members completed the survey. Attached is a synopsis of the results. We have already begun to address two areas of concern: the website and volunteerism.

3. Results of Director Evaluation

The directors were pleased with the very positive responses on their evaluation. They don't always get to hear the "good stuff". Some areas of concern raised by a few members were starting rehearsals on time, controlling chitchat, and encouraging regular attendance by members. Directors will be doing their best to address these areas but could also use our cooperation.

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 Monday - Thursday 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

1. Why don't we start rehearsals earlier in September and January?

Calgary Parks and Recreation determine when we can begin to use the rehearsal space.

2. What is the relationship between the executive and the directors?

The executive and directors have a symbiotic relationship. The directors are responsible for the artistic integrity of Westwinds, including teaching, selection of music, programs for events, etc. The executive and other volunteers look after the society to ensure that the program can continue.

3. Are there plans in the works for Westwinds travel in the summer of 2007?

We were not able to make the necessary musical contacts for a tour in 2007. It takes at least a year to organize a tour and we're starting to explore what might happen in 2008.

4. What is the role of the group manager?

Group Managers act as liaison between the individual ensembles, the executive and the office. They play a vital role in ensuring that members are kept abreast of current information. They also help with various tasks within the groups as arranged with Directors and the office. The Group Managers meet together occasionally to share ideas and concerns. The first meeting is Saturday, October 14 at 9:30 am at the Westwinds office.

5. Who is the executive for this year?

The first five listed are the voting members. The next two attend executive meetings and contribute to discussions.

- President: *Cal McClary*
- Vice President: *Cathi Ramsden*
- Secretary: *Heather Walton*
- Treasurer: *Bruce Robin*
- Artistic Director: *Kevin Willms*
- Web Coordinator: *Tik Tycholaz*
- Past President: *Jamie Finstad*

Ongoing Updates:

Our plan is to produce a newsletter for each semester. If you have some ideas about how to make this more effective, please let Cathi Ramsden know at communications@westwindsmusic.org or 242-2045. We will continue to send weekly announcements. Any items which need to be included should be sent to Cathi by Thursday evening of the previous week. She's also in charge of communication overall so if you have ideas about how we can improve, please pass them on.

Calendar of Events 2006 - 2007 Some details may change. Check website for most current information.

Dates listed in bold indicate changes to rehearsals

Event	Date	Venue	Groups Involved	Coordinators
Rehearsals begin	Week of Sept 18	LBHS & EMHS	All registered members	Office
Executive meeting	Sat, Oct 7	WW Office	Executive	
Thanksgiving	Mon, Oct 9	LBHS & EMHS	Groups affected: MGJ/Silver Jazz	Schools Closed. No rehearsals
Group managers meeting	Sat, Oct 14	WW Office	All group managers	Cathi Ramsden Jackie Trowbridge
ABA Conference	Fri, Oct 20	Quincy's	Jazz Orchestra	Jazz Orchestra & Office
AGM	Tues, Oct 24	LBHS Band Room	All registered members	Executive
Strathcona Music Showcase	Fri, Oct 28	Strathcona Community Centre	Jazz Band - TBD	Office
LBHS Concert	Thurs, Nov 2	LBHS Choir Room	Choral Ensemble	Office to find alternate location
Executive meeting	Sat, Nov 4	WW Office	Executive	
LBHS Jazz Night	Wed, Nov 8	LBHS Choir & Band Rooms	Silver Concert & WGJ	Office to find alternate location
Fall Band Concert	Wed, Nov 15	Rosza Centre	All Concert Bands	Silver Band organizes - volunteers needed if social happening
Fall Jazz Concert	Fri, Nov 17	SAIT or Elbow River Casino	All Jazz Bands	This event may change
Fall Choral Concert	TBA	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	All Choirs	Women's Choir organizes - Concert members volunteer
LBHS Drama Production	Nov 21, 22, 23	LBHS	All Groups except Monday groups	Office to find alternate location
Concert Band Workshop	Nov 24, 25	St. Mary's High School	All Band members Public welcome	Wind Orchestra organizes - Choir members volunteer
Group Managers meeting	Sat, Nov 25	WW Office	All Group Managers	Cathi Ramsden, Jackie Trowbridge
Executive meeting	Sat, Dec 2	WW Office	Executive	
Christmas Concert	Mon, Dec 11	Jubilee Aud.	Concert Bands/ Choirs	Exec & Directors
Christmas Break	Dec 12-Jan 11	EMHS & LBHS	All Groups	Resume Jan 15
Executive Meeting	Sat, Jan 6	WW Office	Executive	
Group Managers Meeting	Sat, Jan 27	WW Office	All Group Managers	Cathi Ramsden Jackie Trowbridge
Choir Workshop	Feb 2, 3	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church	All Choir Members Public welcome	Choral Ensemble organizes - Jazz members volunteer
Evaluation of Directors	Week of Feb 5	EMHS & LBHS	All members	Directors
Jazz Gig	Tues, Feb 6	Black Swan (?)	All Jazz Groups	Bronze Jazz organizes - Choir members volunteer
Teachers' Convention	Thurs, Feb 15	LBHS & EMHS	Groups affected: Green/Blue concert Jazz Orch/Choral Ens	Office to find alternate locations and/or date

Event	Date	Venue	Groups Involved	Coordinators
Family Day	Mon, Feb 19	LBHS & EMHS	Groups affected: MGJ/Silver Jazz	Schools closed. No rehearsals
Executive Meeting	Sat, Mar 3	WW Office	Executive	
LBHS Drama	Mar 13, 14, 15	LBHS	All groups affected except Monday groups	Office to find alternate locations
Group Managers meeting	Sat, Mar 24	WW Office	All Group Managers	Cathi Ramsden Jackie Trowbridge
Spring Break	Apr 2 - 9	LBHS & EMHS	All Groups	Resume Apr 10
Jazz Workshop	Apr 6, 7	EMHS	All Jazz groups Public welcome	WGJ organizes - Choir members volunteer
Executive Meeting	Sat, Apr 14	WW Office	Executive	
Spring Concert Bands Concert	Tues, Apr 17	Rosza Centre	All Concert Bands	Bronze Band organizes - volunteers needed if social happening
Elections	Week of Apr 23	LBHS & EMHS	All members	Chief Returning Officer
Members Evaluation of Westwinds	Week of Apr 30	LBHS & EMHS	All members	
Calgary Sings	Sat, Apr 28	Knox United	Choral Ensemble	Women's choir
Executive Meeting	Sat, May 5	WW Office	Executive	
Spring Choral Concert	Sat, May 5	St. Andrew's Presbyterian	All Choir members	Mixed choir organizes - Jazz members volunteer
Year End Event	Sat, May 12	Parkland Community Centre	All groups	Committee from all groups
Volunteer Appreciation	Wed, June 6	TBA	All 2006/07 volunteers	Office

Summary of Program Evaluation, Spring 2006:

The percentages indicate members who responded Good or Excellent for each statement.

1. Office hours (e.g. available at convenient times, days)	71
2. Rehearsal space (e.g. adequate equipment, locations)	90
6. Rehearsals for the season	86
7. Rehearsals for performances	78
8. Opportunities to perform	73
9. Program fees (e.g. quality of instruction, venue, service provided by office)	75
10. Communication from office to members	79
11. Communication from executive to members	64
12. Website as a resource for Westwinds Music Society	59
13. Questions answered in a timely fashion by the office	62
14. Group manager, an effective tool for communication...	90
15. Election process is fair and equitable	79
16. Election process is clear and understandable	82
17. Election process is accessible	83
18. Frequency of volunteer requests	66
19. Amount of work required by volunteers	56
20. Information re: nature of volunteer work/tasks	57