

Westwinds Newsletter

Fall 2007



Welcome to our second annual Fall Newsletter in which we update our membership on developments in our music organization.

Report on Spring '06 Workshops:

In March of last year, a number of Westwinds members, representing all of our various groups, met to discuss future directions for our organization. A number of the recommendations which emerged from those talks have been implemented:

- Blending of three top level concert bands into two
- Blending of blue and purple jazz into one beginner jazz band
- Communication of performance standards for all groups. This information has been added to our website.
- Establishment of an evaluation process for top bands and assessment process where needed to adhere to performance standards.
- Termination of "Grandfather Clause" for all Westwinds ensembles.
- Yearly assessment of financial viability of all groups.
- Reconsideration of fees will be assessed after other recommendations are implemented.
- Designation of Vice President as Communications Manager.
- Roles of executive and artistic director be posted on the website (see also Who We Are - last pages of this document)
- Focus on 20th anniversary celebrations in 2007/08 season

Recommendations still to be implemented:

- Appointment of a volunteer coordinator
- Performances by "mixed family" groups
- Focus on new member recruitment and retention of current members

Results of director evaluation:

Your evaluations of our directors were glowing. Our Artistic Director, Kevin Willms, is doing a comparison with previous years of the ratings and comments to assess areas needing improvement. Watch for this report.

Change to PayPal payment options:

Please note that PayPal payments for registration are only available if you are paying for the full year. Payments by instalments may still be done by submitting registration form with VISA information.

Open House:

We had a great turnout to our Open House, September 12. We registered lots of new members.

Current Executive:

Last year's executive was acclaimed.
President: *Cal McClary*
Vice President: *Cathi Ramsden*
Secretary: *Tik Tycholaz*
Treasurer: *Bruce Robin*
Artistic Director: *Kevin Willms*
Web Coordinator: *Tik Tycholaz*

Westwinds Newsletter

Fall 2007



Germany Trip 2008

Plans for the tour to Germany in July are well underway. We expect to have airline seats in place within the next few weeks. After that, the other day-to-day details of the trip will align very quickly. **There is still room on the trip for new participants.** However, this could change once we begin to secure airline seats. We are particularly hoping to find a few more brass players (trumpet and trombone as well as french horn) and anyone who can add to the tenor section of the choir. The trip is now open to non-Westwinds members, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please let them know. Contact Jackie in the Westwinds office (255-3485) if you or someone you know is interested.

This will be a very exciting trip! Highlights will include:

- Homestays with our friends in Bottendorf. Located just north of Marburg, this is the second time Westwinds will visit this quaint and beautiful village, renewing our great friendship with the members of the Bottendorf Posaunenchor, whom we visited in 2003. They visited Calgary in 2002. From here, we will take a day trip to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, a beautiful walled medieval city. Performances and social activities will enhance the cultural experience.
- Performances in Peine (near Hannover) with MSG Peine (community band organization). This leg of the trip will also feature a visit to the famous "Autostadt" in Wolfsburg.
- Several days in Berlin. This part of our journey will include time for people to explore independently. There will be performances with local groups and one or two full-group activities as well. Berlin is truly one of the great cities of the world with an incredible array of things to see and do. Staying in a hotel will allow for some private time as well as independence.
- A visit to Hamburg. With more canals and bridges than even Venice or Amsterdam, as well as one of the largest dry docks in the world, Hamburg is a city full of incredible engineering, some of it dating to medieval times. In addition to experiencing this, we will be hosted by "Wind and Brass", a community band with incredible similarities to Westwinds, now in their third year of operation. Besides seeing this beautiful and unique city and performing with "Wind and Brass", we will also visit "Gedenkstaette Neuengamme", a former concentration camp located in Hamburg.
- Finish off in the Ruhr Valley. Our hosts for this final leg of our journey are the singers from the "Children of Light" Gospel Choir in Bochum. More performing will highlight our visit to this region, formerly known for its industry and abundance of factories. Members will relish the opportunity to visit Cologne with its magnificent architecture, particularly the famous cathedral, as well as numerous opportunities for dining, shopping and, of course, beer houses.

Westwinds Newsletter

Fall 2007



20th Anniversary Celebration

We're thrilled to be celebrating 20 years of adult music education, performance and fun in Calgary. There are a number of initiatives underway to commemorate this achievement. Our goal is to promote awareness of Westwinds, increase participation (audience and membership) and recognize this accomplishment with a celebration.

A 20th Anniversary Reunion and Celebration Weekend, May 3 & 4th, will replace our usual year end activity and workshops for 2008 only. We will be inviting all former Westwinds members to join with current members to form a band and choir to perform at the year end concert on Sunday. On Saturday, the balance of day will be spent in rehearsals. The band will be directed by original Westwinds organizers, Dennis Orr and Rod Pauls. The choir will be directed by Kevin Willms, who directed the first Westwinds choir. Saturday evening will feature all our jazz bands playing for the rest of us to dance along. On Sunday the set-up will be similar to annual year end with performances by the reunion groups, our directors and the current Westwinds groups.

Alumni/member information is being gathered by a committee chaired by Helen Clark. They are collecting information re: whereabouts of former members and will be contacting them re: celebration weekend. Please watch for ways to assist us to locate former members.

A 20th Anniversary CD is going to be recorded with all groups performing. Information has already been released about when and where the recordings will take place. Thanks to Neal Halstead for chairing this committee.

Westwinds History is being gathered to be prepared and shared in a variety of ways. Tina Holgate is heading up this committee and she is looking for stories of various members, past and present. Watch for ways you can contribute to this rich history.

Special 20th Anniversary Merchandise is being prepared featuring the logo (at the top of these pages). Clothing samples for sizing will be available at performance venues as well as at rehearsals (by request). You should already have received your complimentary 20th anniversary pencil. It has the logo and our website URL.

Funding is an important part of the whole celebration. Thanks to those of you who have donated to this exciting venture by adding a donation to your registration. This is still possible if you missed it. The Executive has also designated \$4000.00 as a start up fund. This will also be used for funding applications that provide matching funds. Alan Stuart has been actively seeking possible sources for funding and there will be a Sponsorship plan for any businesses or corporations that would like to support us. Please consider whether your company might be interested or if you know of any funding groups that might be appropriate.

Advertising is always a challenge and Shirley Faber is chairing the committee looking after media and public service announcements about our events and our CD.

How Can You Help? Please watch the website www.westwindsmusic.org/20years and our weekly announcements for ways you can contribute. We will be as specific as possible as to time and talents needed. If you want to volunteer, ask questions or make suggestions, please email: 20years@westwindsmusic.org

Westwinds Newsletter

Fall 2007



WHO WE ARE

Westwinds Music Society is a self-sustaining volunteer adult music learning organization formed to serve its Members. WMS Members should use the information presented below as a guide for formulating their day-to-day interactions. The information presented is consistent with and briefer than the most recent Westwinds Music Society Bylaws filed with the Registrar of Corporations February 17, 2004. When considering a serious matter, consult the most recent Bylaws.

VISION

That Calgary and surrounding area adults have fun by learning music in a sustaining structure now and in the future.

MISSION

Providing the best possible experience learning, practicing, improving and performing music at different skill levels.

VALUES

Education - learning, practicing, improving and performing music.

Accountability - taking adult responsibility for our commitments to each other.

Community - contributing according to our ability so we might share with and include others.

MEMBERSHIP

WMS brings music professionals (Directors, Accompanists, and Clinicians) together with adults learning music to facilitate accomplishment of the Vision and the Mission via a method consistent with our Values. Members, adults who want to learn music, come together with instructors to work cooperatively toward the vision and accomplish the mission as we agree inherent value is added to our lives by learning, practicing, improving and performing music.

Members are required to pay the fees and participate as adults working together toward the vision and mission.

Continued participation in Westwinds is voluntary by the Member and permitted at the Executive Board's discretion.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Members are responsible for participating as adults by learning, practicing, improving and performing music as set out in the society policies and procedures in a manner consistent with the Society's Vision, Mission and Values. Any concerns of a Member should first be addressed to the Music Director for the ensemble in which they participate.

Westwinds Newsletter

Fall 2007



The **Music Directors** are fully responsible for creating the learning environment; deciding the artistic values to be learned for the ensemble they direct; and providing musical instruction to Members at rehearsals, performances and workshops, as they deem necessary and consistent with

the Society's vision, mission and values. Music Directors provide leadership to Accompanists and Clinicians working with their ensemble and, as a group, Music Directors recommend who should be employed as a Music Director or Artistic Director, and create the curriculum. The Music Director is first to be consulted by Members who have concerns about artistic, educational and other matters. The **Artistic Director** is the Music Directors' representative on the Executive Board and provides leadership to Music Directors, Accompanists and Clinicians. The Artistic Director is elected by the Music Directors and provides guidance to the Executive Board on artistic, educational and other matters important to the Society. The Artistic Director is responsible for finding the Music Directors; ensuring they conform to the Society's Vision, Mission, Values and Policies; and reviewing the performance of Music Directors. The Artistic Director is next to be consulted by Members who have concerns about artistic, educational and other matters important to the Society. The **Artistic Director and Music Directors** are fully responsible for creating the learning environment; deciding the artistic values to be learned; and/or providing musical direction. They are NOT responsible for operating the Society.

The **Executive Board** consists of Members who volunteer and are elected by their peers to help sustain the Society and be fully responsible for dealing with administrative, policy, and other matters in the operation of the Society and employment of the Artistic Director. The Artistic Director, President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are voting members of the Executive Board. WMS Members may volunteer to assist with operations of the Society reporting to the Board for matters in which they assist and may be non-voting members of the Executive or its Committees. The Executive Board ensures directors are employed and that the Society operates according to its current Bylaws and policies. The Executive is last to be consulted and the final authority on all operational matters.

An **Executive Assistant** may be employed by the Society to be responsible for its day-to-day operations and administration as agreed with the Executive Board and according to WMS current Bylaws, procedures and policies.

The **Executive Board** is NOT responsible for creating the learning environment; deciding the artistic values to be learned; and/or providing musical direction. The Board is responsible for operating and sustaining the Society.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Instructors and Members should act to fulfill their responsibilities consistent with the outline provided above.

The golden rule when interacting as an adult is to treat others as you would prefer to be treated in any situation.