



Westwinds Newsletter Spring 2007



We promised a spring newsletter to update you on developments and achievements thus far so here it is. Feel free to let us know if you like this form of communication and any ideas you'd like included.

UPDATE

1. Policies

The Executive has been working hard to formalize a number of existing policies as well as establish others, to have consistent planning and procedures.

We've developed or refined the following:

- Advertising on our website
- Refunds
- Travel

They will be coming soon to our website.

2. Increase for Directors

It has been many years since our directors have received an increase for the wonderful work that they do for our organization. The Executive voted to increase the directors' fees as of January 2007 to be adjusted annually based on the CPI for the City of Calgary. This will contribute to our goal of hiring the best directors available and keeping them.

3. Change to Christmas Concert venue

The response to this change of venue has been very positive and we have booked the Jubilee Auditorium again for next year. We were thrilled with the increase in our audience attendance as well.

4. Band Festival Results

Congrats to the following for receiving a Gold Award at the Alberta International Band Festival:

Bronze Concert:	Patricia MacFarlane, Director
Silver Concert:	Rob Cesselli, Director
Wind Orchestra:	Mike Sakatch, Director
Jazz Orchestra:	Kevin Willms, Directors
Monday Gold Jazz:	Mike Sakatch, Director
Wednesday Gold Jazz:	Kevin Willms, Director
Jazz Orchestra:	Eric Friedenberg Trophy
Most Outstanding Community Jazz Band:	Kevin Willms, Director

5. Special Performances

During this past year, a number of groups participated in special events in and around the city beyond our usual Westwinds events:

- Summer '06 Band played at the Parkland Community Centre, the BBQ on the Bow and the Head Shaving Event at Eau Claire Market.
- Mon. Gold Jazz played the Black Swan Pub.
- As part of the ABA Conference, the Jazz Orchestra performed at Quincy's.
- Women's Choir shared their talents at the Fountain of Mission Nursing Home.
- The Choral Ensemble performed with the Civic Symphony at the Jack Singer, traveled to Drumheller for a fundraiser concert for the Passion Play, and was the featured choir at a Baptist Church hymn-sing evening.

Be sure to let the office know if your group performs at events like these so we can celebrate them and notify the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, who has provided us with grants in the past.

6. Web Site Update

Many hours have gone into building and tweaking the new web site since it went online a year ago. Look for the following updates in the near future:

Site Map. Although the site currently uses a categorized menu system, a site map will be added for more direct navigation assistance.

Media Gallery Audio - Our first audio media gallery is now online and growing rapidly. We will continue to expand our online files so please check back regularly. Photos - Our photo gallery will also be updated shortly with pictures of performances, tours, etc. If you have any pictures of Westwinds events you could contribute, digital or print copies will be accepted & print copies returned on request.

What's Ahead

Website Update, continued

If you do submit any photos please include some basic information such as date, event name, group name, etc. Please email the office for digital submissions or give prints to your Group Manager.

We continue to add additional information and features to the web site regularly. Thank you for your support and encouraging words during this large project. Your continued feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

Tik Tycholaz, Westwinds Web Coordinator

1. Year End Event

The final concert and barbecue at Parkland is scheduled for May 12th and we're anticipating another great day. We'll be looking for volunteers to help on the day as we did last year so watch for a visitor to your rehearsal - and pray for sunshine.

2. Elections

The election for next year's Executive Board will take place the week of April 23rd. Four positions are elected each year: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Please consider whether this is a contribution you could make to Westwinds. Deadline for submitting nominations to the office is April 9th.

3. Westwinds Trip Proposals

Two proposals were presented to the Executive at the March 4th meeting. The Executive endorsed plans for a July 2008 trip to Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands, with strong encouragement to the group proposing a June 2009 trip to France. For more information, plan to attend the Travel Meeting on Saturday, May 5 from 10 - 12 at Ernest Manning.

4. Upcoming Dates:

- April 17th Spring Band Concert
- Week of Apr 23rd Elections
- April 28th Choral Ens. - Calgary Sings
- Week of April 30th Westwinds Evaluation
- May 5th Spring Choral Concert
- May 12th Year End Event
- June 6th Volunteer Appreciation Night

How Can You Help?

The Westwinds Music Society is managed entirely by volunteers with the exception of our executive assistant. All the activities are planned and staffed by Westwinds Members as is the Executive. There are many opportunities for you to be involved beyond the particular group or groups in which you play or sing. The different tasks and responsibilities vary according to time and expertise needed. Some are one-offs and others are more long-term commitments. Here are some examples you might want to consider:

1. We are looking for a volunteer coordinator for next fall.

This person would be responsible for recruiting volunteers for various events throughout the year. This could easily be a committee of people if you'd like to volunteer with friends.

2. 20th Anniversary Celebration

So far we have several volunteers who have offered to contribute various amounts of time and expertise to this important celebration but we could use more. We welcome ideas as well.

Contact Cathi Ramsden by email at cjramsdn@shaw.ca or call 242-2045 if you're interested in finding out how you can help. No offer refused!

3. Group Manager

The Group Manager plays an important role in our organization. Think about whether you're suited to this job or can help out.

4. Group Librarian

This individual keeps track of the group's music.

5. Clerical Support in the office

We could use some help periodically in the office, especially in September.

6. Casino

Thanks to the many of you who volunteered at the casino in February. It was a very successful venture and the funds from that effort help us to finance many of our special activities. Watch for the next opportunity to take part.