



A failure is not always a mistake, it may simply be the best one can do under the circumstances. The real mistake is to stop trying.

– B. F. Skinner

BACKSTAGE

NOVEMBER 2025



ALLEN VIZZUTTI - Trumpet Clinic, Oct. 18

The day before our Oct. 19 concert, guest artist Allen Vizzutti taught a trumpet clinic at the Union High School band room to 60 students who traveled from Longview to Salem to spend 90 minutes with an inspirational master teacher and world renown trumpet artist (photos). Some of the topics covered included evaluating one’s instrument, preparing physically and mentally for performances, career choices, and teaching youth. For the adult students at the session, he also discussed changes to trumpet performance with aging. One of his most impressive talents is making trumpet playing look effortless no matter how complex the music tempo or high the notes are - something I suspect all trumpet players envy.

This season, funds to support our guest artists and their their free teaching sessions are provided by our presenting sponsor Beacock Music, Yamaha Music, and our generous supporters. You help fund music education for our next generation of musicians and to keep groups like SWWS performing in your community. Kudos!



TREES FOR MUSIC

Former SWWS president, Richard Carr, cultivates Japanese Maple tree seedlings for fun. On Sept. 6, Rich and his wife, Colleen, hosted a tree sale to benefit SWWS. Japanese “Mountain Maples” are a slow-growing tree but can reach 12-15 feet tall. They have a small root system (better for landscaping near sidewalks) and are popular among homeowners. They like full sun and have wonderful fall color. These are also popular trees for bonsai enthusiasts. These trees can be grown in a large pot with pruning to control the height and shape.

MUSICIANS AMONG US - part 1

Thanks to music education in the elementary, middle, and high school curricula, many of us have had experience with musical instruments or choir. But how common is learning to play a musical instrument in the general population?

A survey to study this question was completed by YouGov (an internet-based market research firm) which surveyed 3,000 U.S. adults in June-July 2022 and reported the following:

- (1)** 66% of survey participants learned to play a musical instrument at some point in their lives. The most common instruments reported were piano (29% of all participants), guitar (18%), drums (10%), and recorder (10%). The most common wind instruments reported were flute (9%), clarinet (9%), trumpet (7%), harmonica (6%), and saxophone (5%).
- (2)** Among the 34% who had never learned to play an instrument, about half wished that they had. Their reasons included wanting to fulfill a lifelong dream and simply appreciating the music that the instrument makes.
- (3)** 37% of adults over 65 reported having learned to play the piano. 32% of piano players of any age in the survey still played at the time of the survey. 23% of adults 18-29 years old reported having learned to play the guitar and 39% of guitar players of any age still played at the time of the survey.
- (4)** The people who played and subsequently quit playing electric guitar, guitar, and piano were the most likely former musicians to regret quitting.

[<https://today.yougov.com/society/articles/43512-young-americans-increasingly-exposed-music>]



If there is no struggle, there is no progress. – Frederick Douglass

BACKSTAGE

APRIL 2026



JEFF SIEGFRIED - Woodwind Clinic, Feb. 28

The day before our March 1 concert, saxophone artist Jeff Siegfried from W. Virginia University taught a woodwind clinic at the Beacock Music Recital Hall to 17 school-age and adult students studying clarinet, saxophone, and bassoon. Obviously an enthusiastic teacher, Mr. Siegfried had students play their instruments and discussed breath control, embouchure/mouth/tongue exercises, producing sound with abdominal vs intercostal (chest wall) muscles, and more. Beacock Music provided Selmer woodwind instruments to test-drive and it was time well-spent. Thank you to Beacock & Selmer for supporting this educational workshop.



JATTIK CLARK - Low Brass Clinic, Apr. 11

20 low brass students from school aged to retirees (tuba, euphonium, trombone, bass trombone) attended a workshop with Oregon Symphony's principal tubist. They learned improved mouthpiece buzzing, warm up exercises, and techniques to finetune intonation. Mr. Clark answered questions throughout the session.

Thanks to our dedicated supporters, the SWWS Education Series brings visiting guest artists who are passionate about teaching their craft. The series provides free opportunities for music students to learn from worldclass performers and music educators.

MUSICIANS AMONG US - part 2

In 2003, The Gallup Organization released a survey commissioned by the National Association of Music Merchants entitled "American Attitudes Toward Making Music." It included a random sample of Americans, 12 years of age and older, in 1,005 households who completed phone interviews February-March 2003. Findings included:

- (1) 54% of households surveyed have 1 person who plays a musical instrument. In 48% of households with at least 1 person playing an instrument, there were 2 or more additional household members who also played an instrument.
- (2) 31% of those who played an instrument were 5-17 years of age. 27% were between 18-34 years of age.
- (3) 40% of those surveyed became interested in playing music through their parents' encouragement. 28% became interested on their own and 15% were inspired by a teacher.
- (4) A majority of the reported musicians began their musical education prior to entering their teens. 64% of those questioned began musical training at ages of 5 -11 years, while 18% began at ages 12-14 years.
- (5) 30% of the music students learned how to play an instrument through lessons at school. 26% of respondents learned by taking private lessons, 22% were self-taught, 9% learned as part of a band or school orchestra, and 13% were either taught by a family member or friend.
- (6) Adults are still quite active in the creation of music: 42% of those surveyed between the ages of 35 to 50 currently play a musical instrument. For those 50 and older, 20% still play an instrument.

[<https://www.namm.org/news/press-releases/gallup-organization-reveals-findings-american-attitudes-toward-making-music>]