



# Backstage

November 2023

Change is the only constant in life.....Heraclitus (Greek Philosopher)

## NOT-SO-HIDDEN ASSET

One treasure that the wind symphony continues to showcase is the music programming and conducting talent found within the musician group. Most recently, the wind symphony and our audience experienced the "Synergy" concert on October 15 programmed and conducted by Mark Claassen, one of our many talented high school music educators (photos above). If you missed the live performance, check out the YouTube recording available on our webpage: [www.swwsymphony.org](http://www.swwsymphony.org) where you can also find video links to earlier concerts, the playlists, and conductors.

Don Nelson (Treasurer, clarinet), Jean Kent (Librarian, flute), Colleen Chun (Marketing/Publicity Director), Samantha Wright (Personnel Director, clarinet), and John Velasquez (Performing Musician Representative, trumpet).



## CONGRATULATIONS!

The Evergreen Public Schools were awarded the Best Communities for Music Education Award in April 2023 presented by National Association of Music Merchants Foundation for the 6th time! This award recognizes and celebrates school districts for their support and commitment to music education. A few EPS high school students perform at many of the wind symphony concerts. We appreciate their volunteering the time and effort. SWWS benefits from this incubator of talent: multiple SWWS musicians attended Evergreen Public Schools, now teach in the Evergreen School district, and perform in the wind symphony alongside their former music teachers.

## CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Southwest Washington Wind Symphony was started in February 2005 by Richard Carr (pediatric anesthesiologist), Gayle Beacock (music retail), Scott Barnes (music educator at Vancouver School for the Arts & Academics), and David Kinch (music educator at Jason Lee Middle School). As with any organization that accumulates 19 years of life experience, there are leadership personnel changes. This past summer, a number of major leadership positions in the SWWS Board were handed-off to competent and committed younger leaders which is satisfying to see and promotes confidence in the organization's future. The current Board of Directors includes: Carinn Ormson (President, Flute), Rebecca Weidenaar (Secretary, clarinet),

## THE COST OF SHEET MUSIC

Displays of sheet music for sale at music stores are gradually being replaced by online sales and electronic versions for purchase that are then downloaded. Concert band music is no exception. Many printed pieces of concert band music are still available for online purchase and SWWS routinely buys printed music with parts for each instrument of the concert band which are then are shipped to us. Other select pieces are only available for rent and one set of printed music for each instrument is shipped to us and must be returned after performance. Another option for some music is to purchase an electronic version that our music librarian must then print out for each musician. So to acquire music for a concert, SWWS must pay the purchase price, shipment costs (one-way or two-way to return printed rental music), rental fees, and printing costs. Shipping costs make up a significant percentage of the total cost to acquire a piece of music for performance.

If you would like to help with acquisition of sheet music, please consider making a tax-deductible contribution directed towards the purchase of music. For our October 15 program, it cost \$427 to purchase and ship the sheet music for 4 musical numbers and \$495 to rent and ship the music for another single musical piece. Donors directing gifts towards sheet music acquisition will be acknowledged in the program. Thank you for your consideration. We could not do this without your generous support. See you on March 3, 2024.



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March 2024

## IN THE TROPICS

Captivating and soothing “tropical” tones from marimbas greeted the crowd in the lobby prior to our March 3 concert despite the drizzly overcast 42 degrees outside. These unique instruments originated in Africa long, long ago and were first brought to Central and South America. Originally, the sounds were produced by striking bars of wood spanning a hole in the ground. Then hollow gourds were attached to the underside of the wood bars for resonance. More recent versions had wooden and, later, metal tubes replacing the gourds. Modern marimbas cover four to five octaves. [Music Instrument Guide; Yamaha.com]

The spectators were mesmerized by the unique sounds and surrounded the marimbas even after the auditorium doors opened at 2:30 pm.

The marimbas were skillfully played by Jayden Corey, Landon Walters, Blake Bruning, and Makoa Lewis from Hockinson High School; Gideon Beau from Evergreen High School; and Kaytie Twelves and Daniel Lindsey from Union High School. Many thanks to these talented musicians!



## “MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS” MONTH

Sponsored by the National Association for Music Education, Music In Our Schools month raises awareness of the importance of music education. During March 2024, the Lower Columbia River Music Educators Association supports and sponsors performances at various elementary, middle, and high schools. Events include vocal solo & ensemble contest, high school band and orchestra outreach concerts to feeder middle schools, choral concerts by individual and combined middle school groups, concerts by combined middle and high school groups, a choral festival, middle school beginner band performances, and more.

## BENEFITS OF MUSIC EDUCATION

High-quality evidence-based research has shown that music education equips students with foundational skills for lifelong success such as enhancing fine motor skills, working memory, recall and retention of verbal information; advancing math achievement, atten-

tiveness, perseverance, and self-esteem; and cultivating critical thinking skills, study habits, and abstract reasoning. For more information, see the Arts Education Partnership: [www.aep-arts.org](http://www.aep-arts.org)

Adults learning music also benefit from developing new skills (fine motor skills, listening skills, using muscles in new ways, counting rhythm, memorizing notes and how to play them). However we adults may overestimate our abilities, underestimate how much practice is needed to master new skills, be impatient, and have fear of failure. Adults typically have more experience with music, so they oftentimes can hear things in music that children miss. So even if we have to settle for being less than a virtuoso, taking lessons and practicing are great mental exercises to keep brain cells active and then you can play with your children and grandchildren. [“Never Too Late to Learn an Instrument” by Brigid McCarthy. Weekend Edition Saturday, NPR; 12/27/2008]

See you at our next concert: May 19.