



Backstage

March 2014

PATRICK SHERIDAN, TUBA VIRTUOSO

Over 600 eager music lovers filled the Union High School Performing Arts Center to hear special guest, **Patrick Sheridan**, perform with the wind symphony on March 2. What was perhaps equally gratifying was seeing the energy and dedication he brought to the Master Class held on March 1.

Masterful

Over 110 students, teachers, and community musicians stretched, inhaled ("sip-sip-sip"), and exhaled in controlled unison learning breathing and conditioning exercises to improve their wind instrument playing. The class ended with a Q&A session that extended way past the 2nd hour and Mr. Sheridan stayed until everyone got their questions answered. The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive!

Approachable

On concert day, Mr. Sheridan took the time to walk around the lobby after the performance and talk to concert volunteers, audience members, and musicians. You may not have recognized him in the baseball cap and jeans meandering in the lobby among the exiting guests. By the way, his CDs sold out in what seemed like 2 minutes so check out www.patricksheridan.com

if you are interested in purchasing his recordings. He generously donated proceeds from his CD sales to the wind symphony.

Dedicated

On Feb. 15 at the Washington Music Educators' Association annual convention in Yakima, SWWS President Richard Carr was presented the 2014 WMEA Friend of Music award by Lower Columbia River MEA President, Eric Smedsrud. One day prior, Eric (SWWS trumpeter) and Sam Ormson (SWWS conductor) had shepherded the Mountain View High School concert band via bus to the convention. Unfortunately their bus got stuck in the eastbound Hwy 14 traffic jam with other vehicles which were detouring around the landslide on I-84. Despite spending way too long in the bus, the MVHS concert band recovered well and wowed the audience the next day with a near-flawless performance including the hauntingly beautiful, "Ave Maria," by Franz Biebl.

So this is our first attempt at revealing some behind the scenes insights into SWWS goings-on. Hope you enjoyed the read. Stay tuned!



Friend of Music Award

Conductor Sam Ormson (left) and Master of Ceremonies Don Nelson (right) presented the award to SWWS President Richard Carr.



Master Class

No one sat down. Everyone learned better breath control and tips on how to approach learning new music more efficiently. 2+ hours well spent.



GREAT MUSIC: 10 YEARS & MORE

Backstage

October 2014

VISIONARY LEADERS

The Southwest Washington Wind Symphony was started in February 2005 by Richard Carr (retired 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). Among their many goals was to provide local musicians and music educators opportunities to perform quality music literature with a community band in Southwest Washington. The collaborative volunteer effort also provides opportunities for them to exchange and learn teaching techniques useful for their own classroom and private music students.

Guest Performers

2005-2006

Kathleen Lane, vocalist

2006-2007

Saxophone Choir (high school)

2007-2008

Margie Boulé, narrator (Sorcerer's Apprentice)

Evergreen Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble

2008-2009

Cinda Goold Redman, piano

David Kinch, narrator (Casey at the Bat)

2009-2010

Kate Petak, harp

Columbia River Brass Quartet

Jonathan Vaughn, vocalist

2010-2011

Ron Frasier, narrator (Lincoln Portrait)

Debra Illyn, vocalist

2013-2014

Kim Claasen, vocalist

Patrick Sheridan, tuba

Accolades

2009

Invited Guest Performer, Western International Band

Clinic

2012, 2013

Selected recordings broadcast, "Played in Oregon" - All Classical Portland 89.9 FM



PAST CONDUCTORS

Mark Lane (2005 – 2006) was a founding co-conductor with Tim Siess and is now Associate Professor of Music Education at Central Washington University. Patrick Vandehey (2006) was a guest co-conductor and is Assistant Professor of Music at George Fox University.



PAST & CURRENT CONDUCTORS

Lewis Norfleet (2007-2013) is pursuing a doctorate at UW after having taught at Union and Evergreen HS. Tim Siess (2005-2012) was a founding co-conductor and teaches at Union HS. Sam Ormson (2013- present) teaches at Mountain View HS.

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March 2015



NEWLY ASSEMBLED SHELLS 1/28/2015 WITH SWWS PRESIDENT. RICH CARR

Acoustical Shells

The Southwest Washington Wind Symphony, Union High School, and the Evergreen School District make a winning team. The wind symphony's fundraising campaign allowed the purchase of 7 acoustical shells. Successful fundraising by the Union HS Band Boosters allowed their purchase of 5 shells. All 12 shells will be available for musical performances by the wind symphony and other ensembles at UHS. Special thanks to our supporters (listed in this season's programs) who made this possible and to everyone who contributes to SWWS after and between concerts. Hefty thanks to the musicians and family members who spent a Sunday morning moving and assembling each of the 500 lb shells.



Wind Ensemble Festival CWU

The wind symphony performed to a standing-room-only audience at the Central Washington University Wind Ensemble Festival in Ellensburg on March 7. The Music Department's concert hall has impeccable acoustics. Many of our musicians have ties to CWU and the festival director, Professor Larry Gookin. Our current conductor, Sam Ormson, is a CWU alumnus. Mark Lane (SWWS

founding co-conductor in 2005) joined the CWU Music faculty in 2006. Lewis Norfleet (SWWS conductor 2007-2013) will also be joining the CWU music faculty. There appears to be a trend. After the performance, some of the musicians and their spouses enjoyed the fine cuisine and local wines at the Valley Café. Renowned for its restored mahogany booths and bar in the art deco style, this restaurant is definitely worth a return visit.





Backstage

November 2015

"Take the attitude of a student, never be too big to ask questions, never know too much to learn something new."
-- Og Mandino

High school and college students play an essential role in the success of many SWWS performances. Certain musical numbers require additional parts that need to be covered above and beyond the SWWS musician ranks. In these situations, the music educators in the group identify gifted musicians from their high school and college programs who are then offered the opportunity to work with the wind symphony. If the parent approves (for high school students) and the student agrees to the rehearsal and performance schedule, they are offered the opportunity to perform with SWWS. For example, Steven Melillo's composition, *David*, performed at our May 2015 concert required 12 percussionists and we were delighted to work with 4 high school students. This provides the students with opportunities to practice with and be mentored by highly skilled musicians from our community and perform higher caliber band music. While it requires extra work for the students, after the concert they are appreciative

of the opportunities provided. Volunteer students from Union High School also assist with audio-visual and technical set-up and support for the pre-concert slide shows. We are also grateful for UHS student help with stage lighting and sound system management. Unfortunately we are unable to list their names here because they do their jobs so well behind-the-scenes.

Many thanks to the following students who have performed with SWWS:

Charley Abernathy
Lydia Castro
Rebecca Dixon
Thomas Fox
Sean Furcron
Zach Griffin
Austin Hass
Ben Kelley
Seungsoo Kim
Taylor Kragness
Ryan Mallory
Kevin Mellmer

Hunter Middlemas
Sophie Mortenson
Tim Nelson
Alex Neshyba
Thomas O'Donnell
Zach Ohara
Nicolette Parker
Kishan Patel
Reed Perkins
Jonathan Saltmarsh
Eric Singleton
Rachel Stenberg
Sean Taylor
Tyler Trepanier
Colin Tucker
Stephanie Venturella
Nathan Walyer
Jack Wilson
Ryan Yeh



