

CONDUCTOR'S REPORT
Ypsilanti Community Band
January 9, 2008

YCB Major Things I've done Since the December Board Meeting:

1. Conducted rehearsals at WLHS on December 9 and 16, January 6.
2. Conducted concert (shared with YCC) in Pease Auditorium on December 11. There were perhaps as many as 1,000 people in attendance. YCB portion included brass choir carols from balcony, a brass/organ antiphonal performance of a Gabrieli piece, the YCB concert including organ on two numbers, and (with YCC) the "Hallelujah Chorus" at the end. The program was exceptionally well performed and received and there has been much favorable comment (emails, etc.) since then.

Portions of the concert have appeared on Facebook and it has been aired several times on Ann Arbor Community Television Channel 17. It will appear again several times as well. YCC personnel are seeking to obtain a CD of the performance that can be copied and distributed.
3. Prepared script for use by Roger Sutton, announcer, for the December 11 concert.
4. Updated the opening (index), concerts, and about us pages on the YCB web site several times. HOWEVER, I am no longer doing/going to do ANY YCB web site updates/maintenance, nor am I doing/going to do ANY YCB "Guidelines/Handbook" updates/maintenance. The exception would be posting some urgent (such as weather-related rehearsal cancelation) message on the web site.
5. Was involved in various emails related to work of the joint YCB/YCC committee, and other parties, planning the Holiday concert event.
6. Prepared and sent several informational emails to the entire "greater" (app. 150 names) YCB mailing list, and made/distributed hard copies to those who don't get email; updated this email list with new members and contacts; prepared and sent several emails to Band Board on various matters.
7. Provided to Matt Miller a draft copy of the winter 2009 roster for the Band. With perhaps minor exceptions (updating an email address, etc.) I will no longer assume responsibility for roster maintenance.
8. Still no takers from request to have some relative(s)/friends(s) who would assist with YCB personnel matters. Have not heard further from/about an individual who offered to do volunteer work for YCB and who was referred to various committee chairs to try to "make a match."

9. Have registered for the ACB Convention and have provided a reminder to the Band, encouraging others to do so as well. (The January 9 round-trip airfare, Detroit to Houston, covering the days of the ACB convention, is \$247.71.)

10. Dr. Lynn Cooper identified three titles for him to conduct on the February 26 concert. Two of these were ordered, received, processed, and distributed to the Band. The third, which is out of print, was provided by Dr. Cooper, received, processed, and distributed to the Band. Dr. Cooper will be present at our February 24 rehearsal to work with the band on these three pieces.

11. Former conductor Michael Letovsky reported in and asked to conduct a number on the February 26 concert. He was assigned “Billboard” march and he will be present on February 17 to rehearse this with the Band.

12. Paul Stanifer finally selected a piece to conduct on the February 26 concert. “Irish Tune from County Derry” will be distributed to the band on January 13.

13. Since no money was appropriated to commission a composition for our 30th anniversary concert, I am extreme pleased to announce that an original jazz/Latin composition by Pat Padilla will be available for this event, with Pat as the tenor sax soloist. This will be available to the Band on January 13.

14. It will be necessary for me to miss rehearsal on January 20. I have asked the assistant conductors to handle the musical portion of the rehearsal, with each assigned two numbers to work with the Band.

15. I have asked Jon Margerum-Leys to play “Harlem Nocturne” as one of our numbers on the Red Cedar program and he has agreed to do so. I’ve not yet made the other selections, although they will be “repeats” from the February 26 concert.

Basic information about our Red Cedar performance has been distributed to the Band by both Carter Adler and me. I am extremely pleased with the judges and clinician that have been assigned to us.

Partly to see if anyone reads this report, this is to give the Board advance notice that Saturday, February 28 will be my 70th birthday. I will be hosting a party for YCB members, those traveling with them, some friends of mine from the Okemos area, and perhaps Red Cedar officials/judges at a location yet to be determined, but close to Okemos High School, immediately following our clinic session (app. 7 p.m.). Finger food, munchies, and adult beverages will be available, my treat!

16. I went to see Dwayne “Dee” Debutts, former YCB sax player, and “borrowed” from him a number of saxophone quartets for possible use by YCB players. I’ve not yet had a chance to go through and sort/organize this music.

Band shell

17. The proposal by the emerging Ypsilanti Area Cultural Collaborative to the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation was turned down. I am not aware of other activities related to “band shell” that have happened since that time. However, Carter Adler and I (and others) attended a dinner for Dr. William Anderson, the Director of the State of Michigan Department of History, Arts, and Libraries which was held immediately before our December 11 concert. Dr. Anderson gave a number of ideas for funding sources for arts activities in the Ypsilanti area. I subsequently learned that Dr. Anderson has since retired from this position, but I don’t know if a successor has been appointed by the Governor.

YCB 30-Season History

18. A link to the version of our 30-season history that was published in the *Gleanings* of the Ypsilanti Historical Society is now available on the YCB web site. When I can get to it, a version of our history will be submitted to the *Journal of the Association of Concert Bands*.

19. I have continued work on Vols. IV and V of the Band’s 30-Season History in Documents. At least Volume IV will be available for Board members to examine at the January 12 Board meeting.

I repeat these matters from my report for the past several months, for emphasis and, in some cases, action:

(A) My activity with this will cease with the August 2008 performances—the end of the “first 30 seasons.” Someone else will need to assume “historian” functions, beyond just “throwing things in a box.”

(B) My activity does not include “re-doing” some of the work of Sally Vukasovich (and perhaps unknown others) where, for example, photos have been pasted to a sheet, but they are neither captioned nor placed in chronological order. I’ll gladly turn this over to a “scrap booker” type. (Paul has offered his fiancé as a “scrap booker.”)

(C) This “historical” record is limited to “documents” and does not include any audio or video history of the Band. There are references in documents to recordings of the Band in its early days and there are known (if of “homemade” quality) video recordings of many concerts of the Band in the past 10 years or so. These are in addition to better quality recordings of our Red Cedar performances, the “Paul Lavalle. . . .” concert and perhaps others. Some systematic effort needs to be made to find, collect, and organize these audio and video aspects of our history.

When I am through with this current project, and after having a chance to “exhibit” these binders at our February concert, I am going to propose placing the binders of archival material in some local public-access depository, such as the Ypsilanti Historical Society, the Ypsilanti Library, or the EMU Library.

There is a considerable collection of “duplicate” materials—particularly multiple copies of a number of concert programs. I have a lot of this in my possession at the moment and Bruce Loughry tells me that there is more that is (or has been) in the music file cabinets at WLHS. Obviously, this has the potential for use in “display” material for our 30th Anniversary Concert (and for later anniversaries), but **the Board needs to make a determination about such things as who will prepare these displays, where and how much duplicate material is to be stored, and the like.**

Some Professional Development Activities

20. None this month, other than listening to a lot of recordings of band, classical, and show music via CD’s and in the car on satellite radio while on a long driving trip to Arkansas and back.

--Jerry Robbins