

VISION STATEMENT

The following statement was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Ypsilanti Community Band in January 2007, amended by the Board in February 2008, and again in November 2008.

By the year 2011, the Ypsilanti Community Band (YCB) can be described as follows:

Rehearsals and Concerts

Rehearsal facilities. Rehearsals are held weekly around the year (except for certain holiday times) in a locale that provides sufficient and appropriate space for 90 players, including appropriate acoustics and HVAC. YCB owns its own set of music stands and stand racks to be used in rehearsals and indoor and outdoor concerts, as needed. YCB also owns a set of stand lights to be used when the stage needs to be darkened during indoor concerts and for late-in-the-evening outdoor concerts. The rehearsal facilities include adjacent storage area(s) appropriate and secure for YCB instruments and other equipment. Storage for YCB Library, including work area, is in proximity also.

Performance venues. YCB indoor performances in the Ypsilanti area during the indoor season--at least four in number--are held in a facility with a stage that comfortably seats at least 75-80 performers with equipment and that has all other necessary features for audience comfort. YCB performs at least twice during the indoor season outside the greater Ypsilanti area (e.g., Red Cedar Festival and one other event).

YCB concerts during the May to August period are generally outdoors. At least four are open to the general public. At least two performances during the May to August period produce appreciable income for the Band (e.g., UA Commencement, a company picnic, etc.) and are for an essentially "closed" audience.

Band shell The YCB has worked with a civic organization(s) and with a governmental unit to design and construct a band shell in a public park in the area, for use by the YCB (and other performing groups) for outdoor concerts.

Uniforms. All YCB performances are done according to the dress code as specified in the Band's Guidelines/Handbook.

Music Performed

With occasional exceptions for programmatic reasons, no music is performed that is less than medium difficulty and most music, especially during the indoor season, is of the medium-difficult (or higher) category. Since the quantity/quality of musicians and

rehearsal time is (or should be) no less in the outdoor season than otherwise, the same level of difficulty of music is used year round. At the same time, the Band maintains a repertoire of marches and other pieces that can be assembled into a concert on short notice, as such opportunities arise (especially for pay).

Publicity

Publicity for the YCB's performances is accomplished in numerous ways. Notices--appropriately timed--appear in widely-circulated (in the area) print formats (e.g., newspapers); posters and flyers are posted in carefully selected places; and there is extensive use of such modes of communication as postcard announcements, email announcements, web site, letters to other musical groups, announcements in printed programs of other performing groups, and other creative ways. Any performance open to the public that attracts less than 200 people for an audience triggers extraordinary publicity for subsequent performances.

Property

Instruments. The Band will own a full set of percussion equipment, such that there is an infrequent need to borrow any percussion items (except for very unusual, infrequently used instruments). The Band has not purchased wind instruments, instead expecting each wind instrument player to provide her/his own instrument. In the event the Band has received a donated wind instrument, the Board has determined whether to keep and use the instrument or to donate it to a deserving young musician or to another musical organization.

Other equipment. In addition, the Band owns a set of stands and stand racks (or other containers) for use during rehearsals and performances. The Band also owns all necessary public address system equipment, both battery operated and with conventional power, to support outdoor concerts. The YCB also owns a set of stand lights.

The Band also owns the office equipment (e.g., file cabinets, copier, scanner, printer) necessary to support the Library and other functions.

Insurance. All Band-owned items (equipment, Library, etc.) are insured at replacement value in the event of loss, theft, or damage.

Library

The Band owns approximately 500 titles and careful attention was paid during the acquisition process of compliance with published basic band libraries. All music is stamped such that, if it is found, it is clear to whom it belongs. Librarians maintain records such that if a given sheet of music turns up missing, it is known to whom this was

most recently checked out and return is sought from that person. Librarians maintain “back up” files of music (through scanning, photocopying, or other reproduction) or purchase of entire second sets of parts such that an arrangement is not ruined because of loss of a single part. Librarians work with other community, collegiate, and high school band libraries such as to obtain missing copies of parts from older titles in the Library.

The YCB Library inventory is posted on the YCB web site in a format that is searchable by title, composer, type, etc. Upon request, YCB Library titles (or single parts) can be made available to other bands.

Media

Web site. The YCB web site is a major vehicle for communication to/with members and prospective members of the Band, with other bands, with potential audience members, and with the general public. The entire web site is reviewed weekly and updated as necessary. The web site contains information of particular interest to members (e.g., weekly announcements, governing documents, Board minutes, various policies, etc.); information of interest to prospective members (e.g., audio and video vignettes, contact information, history, rehearsal and performance schedule--including locations, players of certain instruments needed, conductor bio, etc.); information of interest to potential audience members (e.g., performance dates/times/places/cost), information of interest to other community bands (e.g., history, conductor, library, performance schedule, policies, governing documents, etc.); and items of interest to the general public (media reference for human interest stories, etc.) , all with due respect for and consideration of privacy concerns of members.

Recordings. All indoor concerts are audio recorded. From time to time, the Band produces a professional-quality audio and/or video recording.

Membership

The Band has an active (dues paying or the equivalent) membership of at least 90 players, well balanced by instrumentation. At least 75-80 members attend each rehearsal and each performance, around the calendar, with the exception of certain holiday times. Each section has a target to be reached (in terms of minimum number of members).

Policies are in place (and enforced) concerning expectations for attendance at rehearsals and performances and covering the circumstances under which a person, not otherwise a member of the Band, would be asked to attend rehearsals and to play one or more performances.

Membership recruitment occurs continuously--through a variety of modes such as print publications that circulate in the area, posters/flyers, announcements, special invitations (e.g., to high school and college students), local area band directors, etc.--

although new members will ordinarily be encouraged to join at the first rehearsal following a concert.

The Band maintains a telephone tree structure, such that last-minute and/or urgent announcements (e.g., cancellation of a rehearsal, change of performance location, death of a member, etc.) can be communicated quickly to all Band members.

Recognitions

The Board created and solicited money for one or more funds for the purchase of music in memory or in honor of persons who have made major contributions to the YCB. All music purchased from this fund(s) was stamped to indicate the person being recognized.

The Board created one or more awards given annually to a person affiliated with the Band (player, donor, staff, Friend, etc.) who contributed substantially to the well-being of the Band over time.

Each year the Board provides the funds for one or more full scholarship(s) to support a Washtenaw County middle or high school band student, who would not be financially able to attend otherwise, in attending the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. The Scholarship was named in memory of Kenneth Bowman, YCB charter member and conductor 1988-1998. The Band created and raised funds for an endowment to support this scholarship(s) in perpetuity.

Workers

In addition to an active committee structure within the Band, including numerous volunteers to do the behind-the-scenes work to support the Band, there is a Friends of the YCB organization, whose members assist with membership-related activities, band Library work, fund-raising, serving as ushers at concerts, and the like.

At each rehearsal, a helper (not necessarily a playing member of the Band) greets new members, obtains missing demographic information, takes attendance, provides and collects a reusable name tag, and performs other membership-related services. After each rehearsal, helpers (not necessarily playing members of the Band) contact each absentee whose absence was unanticipated and reports illnesses, accidents, deaths in the family, and the like to other helpers and Band organization leaders who provide appropriate follow-up action.

Governance

From time to time, there is a review of the Band's Bylaws. When appropriate to do so, the Board submits proposed amendments or other revisions to the membership for review and action.

At least once a year there is a membership meeting of the Band. Ordinarily, the Band's Board of Directors meets at-least monthly. The Board approves an annual plan of goals, activities to support the Band, budget, and calendar prior to the start of each fiscal year. The calendar provides that, in stated months, the Board will give particular attention to recommendations from standing and major ad-hoc committees. Committees meet on a schedule such as to provide the necessary recommendations to the Board at the designated times.

Board members with officer (i.e., president, secretary, treasurer) or with committee chair responsibilities perform their duties with diligence and report regularly to both the Board and to the membership of the Band (including through materials posted on the web site). The performance of appointed positions (i.e., conductor, assistant conductor(s), business manager, assistant business manager(s)) is reviewed on a periodic basis and recommendations are made for improvements.

Relationships with External Organizations

The Band maintains an active membership in and active involvement with the Association of Concert Bands, including having several representatives of the Band present at each national convention and makes appropriate contributions to the print and electronic communications of the ACB.

The Band maintains active communication (e.g., calendar coordination, exchange of good ideas) with other area community bands and occasionally engages in joint activities with such groups (e.g., joint concerts; borrowing of players, equipment, music, etc.).

The YCB is an active member of several generic community organizations (e.g., Chamber of Commerce) and maintains an active communication/interaction with other area arts organizations such as to boost all performing arts in the community.

The Band participates and takes a leadership role in a number of partnerships with agencies/organizations/companies (e.g., Whitmore Lake High School, Washtenaw Community College, the United Association) that are of mutual benefit.

Support Staff

The YCB supports either or both of (a) the services of a part-time, paid staff member who works under the direction of the business manager and who provides services as assigned by the Board, particularly in such areas as fund-raising, volunteer coordination, membership, and Library services; OR (b) in cooperation with a local-area local higher education institution, an unpaid internship in arts management (with the same assigned duties).

Finances

The YCB maintains its status as a tax-exempt organization under state and federal rules and actively seeks support from foundations, corporations, governmental agencies, and the like to support its work.

The YCB is financially supported through the following sources of income: membership dues, possible rentals (of equipment and uniforms) by Band members, gifts from donors in several categories of annual giving, advertising income in printed programs, gifts of in-kind items, concert underwriting, honoraria received from special performances, sales of recordings, and other sources devised by the fund-raising committee and approved by the Board. An endowment fund has been established and, once it reaches a certain level, the income from that fund is available for the Band's general fund.

Social Events

Once a year, the band's Personnel Committee polls the Band members (and the Friends of the YCB) about the number and nature of social events that the Band would like to have during the year. The Personnel Committee then plans and implements several different types of events, at different times of the year, for members of the Band (sometimes including family members) and the Friends of the YCB.