

Remarks from the Chair

ONHB AGM November 27, 2022

- Significant past year for us; first time we returned to in-person rehearsals
- Want to acknowledge hard work/dedication of my fellow board members – work as a team, come with different perspectives, don't always agree, sometimes vigorous debates but that results in healthy outcomes
- Reflected on past – in 2018/19 we ran 21 bands over the Fall/Winter/Spring period versus 17 bands last year; those numbers are close and it's something to celebrate; same work to organize a band regardless of participants; fewer musician numbers overall but supply matched demand – everyone who wanted to participate in an in-person band was accommodated
- IN-PERSON program
 - Started planning in Feb 2021 in anticipation of the new challenges around Covid:
 - Rehearsal space availability – first concern as we would be competing for space; schools were not open to us (remember we had 7/9 bands rehearsing in schools pre-Covid); fortunate to work with the space at Woodroffe United Church
 - Consideration of our members – how they felt, how that would change over the months, oversubscribed/undersubscribed; late spring member survey helped guide our planning
 - Protocols – whole new element to our planning; how to make things safe AND fun; looked for guidance on protocols for music groups; spoke with other NHBs; public health requirements; we are always reviewing our protocols/not static and trying to balance what members feel comfortable with + what we are learning about safe in-person programming
 - Our approach was to start small and offer as many spaces to as many members who wished to do it (hence no leveled bands, too complicated)
 - Seven-week fall program was well received; just as it finished in Dec, Omicron came into the picture; Winter in-person delayed until Spring
- VIRTUAL program
 - Kept hearing from those who participated the wish to continue with virtual
 - Participation from all over – BC, Guelph, Peterborough, Pembroke, Renfrew, Toronto, Cornwall
 - Thought of ways to enhance Zoom experience
 - Jamulus – an application that Guelph NHB had tried, which allows musicians to play together in real time, using audio; we combined it with Zoom and offered it up to those willing to try; Colin Williamson did a lot of work to get it up and running with his concert band; lots of testing, bit of bravery, dose of patience, good sense of humour
- Second video compilation – Don't Stop Believin' – garnered healthy participation (50 musicians) and is on our website along our first video compilation Stay Cool
- Finish by saying, all of the work we do on the board is framed by NHB philosophy of creating a fun, supportive environment, free of competition and intimidation, your best is good enough
 - That is the kind of experience we will continue to focus on for you in the year ahead

Jackie Scheffel
Chair of the ONHB Board
November 2022