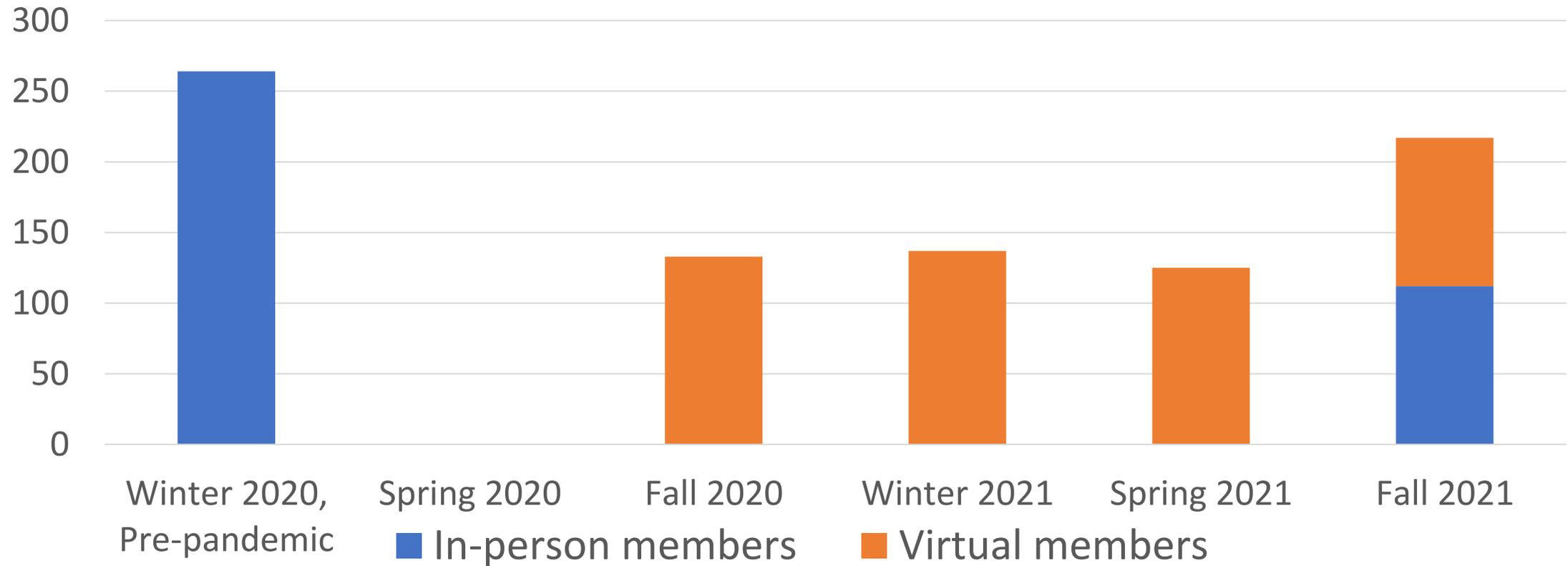


Remarks by the Chair

ONHB Annual General Meeting, Nov. 21, 2021

- At the AGM in November 2019 I spoke of how quickly ONHB had grown, from one band in January 2008 to nine bands in 2019 with plans for a tenth. But then the pandemic hit and we were forced to cancel the winter 2020 program in mid-session.
- At last year's AGM I explained how we had spent the summer designing a replacement program that could be offered during the pandemic, leading to a virtual program offered online using Zoom technology.
- This year I am pleased to be able to say that as we are taking steps as a community to move out of the pandemic, we are now offering both a virtual and an in-person rehearsal program.
- I'd like to express that two-year transition in more concrete terms to illustrate the impact that the pandemic has had on ONHB membership.

ONHB Members during the Pandemic



- In winter 2020 ONHB had 264 members in 9 bands. This session was cut short in March when it became clear that it was no longer safe for large groups to gather. Soon after, the entire planned spring session was also cancelled.
- The fall 2020 virtual program had 133 people playing in 5 bands, almost exactly half of our winter membership. The winter and spring sessions that followed each had 4 virtual bands and, respectively, 137 and 125 members.
- By this fall we were able to recommence an in-person rehearsal program, without clinics or concerts, with four bands and 112 participants. Coincidentally, the virtual program of four bands had the same number of members. So together, the majority of our previous membership felt able to participate in our program.
- ONHB programs and our membership have been greatly impacted by Covid-19, but we are starting on a path that we hope will eventually return us to a much larger in-person program than we have now, while still accommodating those who may prefer, for any number of reasons, a virtual rehearsal experience.