

MRP QUARTER NOTES

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSIC REVITALIZATION PROJECT, INC. JUL/AUG/SEPT 2001 VOL 2-ISSUE 3

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I glance at this summer's schedule, I can clearly see that the MRP has a full calendar of events to offer our friends and supporters. I am especially pleased with the strong cooperative relationships we have forged with our local libraries and town Cultural Councils to bring first-rate performances to the community. We share a common mission with these organizations to enhance our lives through arts and cultural enrichment. Enjoy Summer Reading for the ears!



Dave Rolince
Dave Rolince, Pres. MRP

SUMMER PARK CONCERTS

Pack up the kids, a picnic dinner and a blanket, and unwind to the sounds of music on a warm summer night. The MRP kicks off the summer concert season with two great outdoor events in July. We are pleased to have once again combined forces with local cultural councils and libraries to bring these great performances to you.

On Tues. July 17, the Con Brio Quintet will be performing outdoors at the Norton Library Park. Con Brio is a unique blend of clarinet, oboe, bassoon, flute and French horn instrumentation. The concert will feature a performance of Peter and the Wolf as well as several classical and contemporary selections. The performance starts at 7pm and is funded by a grant from the Norton Cultural Council. Call the Norton Library at 508 285 0265 for details.

On Weds. July 18, at 6:30pm, the Epic Brass will be performing on the lawn at the Seekonk Public Library. This concert is one of four Wednesday night concerts presented by the Seekonk Library. The Epic Brass is a perennial favorite and features a wide selection of popular brass music that is sure to get your toes tapping. This performance is funded in part by a grant from

the Seekonk Cultural Council and the Seekonk Library. For more information call the Seekonk Library at 508 336 8230.

WEDS. NITE MARKET

As part of our continuing mission to encourage interest in music to our children, the MRP will be setting up our "musical instrument petting zoo" at the Attleboro Wednesday Market on July 25, and August 15. The "petting zoo" is a great opportunity for kids to get hands-on exposure to a variety of instruments. Volunteers explain the instruments to the kids and give them the chance to try them out. This event gives us a chance to speak with parents about the MRP as well as provide them with information about how to get their kids started in music programs.

This has become a very popular event and we are always in need of volunteers to help out. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Dave or Doreen at 508 226 6897. You'll be contributing to a great cause and it's a guaranteed fun time.

MUSICIANS THROUGH THE CENTURIES:

HENRY FILLMORE

(1881-1956)

Henry Fillmore is probably best known today for his marches (e.g. *Americans We*, *The Footlifter*, *Men of Ohio*, *Rolling Thunder*). Yet over his fifty-year career he probably wrote and arranged more band music than anyone before or since. He was a flamboyant character and used many pseudonyms to author his works. He was Harold Bennett for easy band music and as publisher of instructional books for young musicians. You may have started out on one of the Bennett Band Books. For medium grade music he often used the names Will Huff and Al Hayes. For the more difficult repertoire, he was Gus Beans, Ray Hall, Harry Hartley and Henrietta Hall (he was a staunch supporter of female musicians). As Harry



Hartley he arranged several overtures for the JW Pepper Company, a major source of band music even today. It is estimated that he wrote 250 original compositions and arranged 750 others.

As Will Huff, Fillmore ran into some trouble. It turns out that there was a real Will Huff and he was a band music composer who owned his own music-publishing house in Cincinnati. Eventually the real Huff and the fake Huff got together, resulting in the formation of the Fillmore Publishing Co.

Henry had a musical background. His father was a partner in a Religious Music publishing house. Henry was a contributor to the music published there. He started out singing in the church choir, played the piano and mastered the flute, violin and guitar. The trombone was to be his instrument, however, even though his father thought it to be a vulgar instrument. The trombone was not the most popular of instruments at this time, and his father associated it with street corner musicians and "the demon rum."

Known as the "Father of the Trombone Smear," the sliding sound that is unique to the instrument, he wrote many trombone-featured pieces. The most familiar of these would be *Lassis Trombone*. The influence of these pieces carried over into circus music and clown acts. The Circus? Yes. After leaving home in 1905 to marry Mabel May Jones, and exotic dancer, Fillmore (and his new wife) gained employment with the Lemon Brothers Circus.

After the Circus years, he settled back into publishing, but his royalties were so low that he needed to teach and perform in several bands and orchestras. He also played semi-professional football in Cincinnati with the team that eventually became the Cincinnati Bengals of the NFL. After gaining some conducting skills, he led the Syrian Temple Shrine Band for 5 years.

Finally, in 1927, he organized his own

Fillmore Band, the last in a long line of great professional bands in America, like the Sousa Band and the Gilmore Band. With this band he went to the heart of the America people. It was more than concerts, it was entertainment! He had the ability to excite and move his audiences. He waved the flag and made Americans more aware of their heritage. Called "Showman Supreme," he would turn toward his audience to conduct the band finishing numbers, giving him the opportunity to demonstrate how much he enjoyed their presence. Other American Bandmasters adopted many of his conducting characteristics.

After moving to Florida in 1938 for health reasons, Fillmore became a patron of high school and college music. There he assisted in the development of 32 high school band programs. His will states that all the royalties from the Fillmore Brothers music catalog go to the University of Miami Band. Today that campus has the Fillmore Hall and the Fillmore Museum at the school of music.

To learn more about Henry Fillmore, go to www.eConcertBand.com. There you will find available recordings, books and links.

LOCAL BAND SPOTLIGHT: The MWS Celebrates 30 Years!!

The Metropolitan Wind Symphony is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary during this 2000-2001 season. Thirty years of wonderful performances and musical contributions, not just in Boston and in local communities, but all over New England.

The MWS started as an idea in the kitchen of Lydia and Jerry Gardner in Newton, where musician friends gathered and lamented the lack of a good local community band in which to play. When Jerry finally organized the MWS in 1971, they recruited area

music students and educators to fill out the ranks. Their first concert was at Sanders Theater in March, 1972. And the rest is 30 years history.

The MWS now comprises 70 or more very talented woodwind, brass and percussion instrumentalists. Members come from more than 30 communities in New England, where they pursue careers as varied as education, engineering, computer science, medicine, law and public health. The level of musicianship is such that it is one of the only community bands that require members to audition. Some of the members have even been soloist and concerto competition winners. That level of musicianship is evident from the first to last notes played at one of their concerts. The MWS has even been featured on WGBH, WBUR and WCRB and is a member of the Association of Concert Bands (ACB).

Formal performances are of traditional and contemporary wind band literature, while they also perform informal pops and outdoor concerts throughout the metropolitan area. These performances often include guest conductors, soloists or ensembles of local, national and international fame. The literature is generally of very high quality and many new works are often showcased.

The MWS actively contributes to the growth of wind band literature library by commissioning works by composers. These commissions have included works by nationally known composers such as Peter Schickele, James Curnow, Peter Hazzard, Elliot Del Borgo, Greg Sanders and British composer Guy Woolfenden. Massachusetts composers have included Allen Feinstein, Marjorie Merryman and Greg Tucker, whose *In the Fading Light* was performed by the MWS at the 1989 Music Educators National Conference (MENC) All Eastern Conference.

The MWS is the founder and host of the

Boston Festival of Bands, celebrating its 13th Anniversary at Faneuil Hall. Bands have come to this festival from as far away as Fairport, NY, Hanover, NJ, and Monteval, Quebec, Canada.

They also founded the Continuum Series in 1992. This program involves local middle and high school bands, and various New England university bands in educational interaction and outreach.

For the last 30 years, the Metropolitan Wind Symphony has made a major impact on the Arts by providing quality music performances, demanding higher levels of musicianship, bringing communities of musicians and musical organizations together, furthering music education in New England, and making contributions to the wind band library.

MWS, we in the MRP salute you and are proud to say, "Congratulations on your 30th Anniversary!" We hope you will always continue to grow and to influence our communities with your good works.

If you would like to learn more about the MWS call or write: Metropolitan Wind Symphony, 62 Mossdale Road, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3040 (617) 983-1370. Or visit www.mws-boston.org

-John Zawislak

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

- 7/11 Metropolitan Wind Symphony Sharon Memorial Beach - 7pm
- 7/17 ConBrio Quintet - 7pm Norton Public Library Park
- 7/18 Epic Brass Quintet - 6:30pm Seekonk Public Library Grounds

The MRP QUARTER NOTES Newsletter is a quarterly publication. Contributions are welcome by writing to the Music Revitalization Project, Inc. P.O. Box 789, Norton, MA. 02766. All articles included are at the discretion of the editor as space allows.

