



Graham Lindsey - President's Report (2012-13)

The 2012-13 season (1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013) involved our second concert season with four concerts at City View United Church. This is proving to be a great format because it gives the band a set focus on the pieces to rehearse, plus we're able to reuse repertoire in the summer by dusting-off pieces we've already played in concert for a concert season at Andrew Haydon Park.

Our concert series really took it up a notch this year, certainly with respect to the themes of the concerts: Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon took us from Kevin Bacon back to Kevin Bacon with six pieces in each half of the concert, taking <ahem> no unbelievable leaps in logic. Heather Morris came up with the idea, and Terry made a few adjustments to suit the band's instrumentation and available music. Our Christmas concert took it back to how we've usually had concerts in the past: a collection of music not necessarily joined by a theme (except, of course, that it was Christmas – and we included a Chanukah medley, too). Remedy for the Winter Blues was a concert featuring pieces with "Blue" in the title, including Blue Tango, Rhapsody in Blue (etc.), and broadened out to include "Colours", which if you don't remember has five movements, each with its own colour. We closed out the season with a very patriotic theme for a concert, with Canadian music. We played pieces by Howard Cable (incl. Ontario Pictures and Newfoundland), Clifford Crawley (Tyendinaga), and so much more... and we had Shawn Tavenier (euphonium-Fred's son) singing Stompin' Tom songs played on a beautiful guitar made by flute-Pam's Jean-Guy, as well as Terry and his colleague ***** singing pieces written by Stan Rogers.

The threat of rain couldn't put a damper on the Lake George event, though we did play in the high school gymnasium. Despite an "international incident" (which is what I call it, for dramatic effect) where we arrived at rehearsal after the Lake George weekend and someone asked me "when did you get a second set of sleigh bells?" ...and it dawned on us that we had actually stolen Lake George Concert Band's sleigh bells. We promptly sent them back in a box marked "Caution: contains many live baby reindeer". For all the photos, ask one of the percussionists. Yes, simple things amuse us. We were given the second last slot at the festival again in 2013, and that's a testament to our ability to entertain an audience, and I've heard that the repertoire we play (challenging, and at a high level) is one of the high-points of the weekend.

Our Summer Sounds series at Andrew Haydon Park had five concerts outdoors, with varying weather conditions. We've now got a tool on the website to indicate the likelihood of the concerts going ahead in case of rotten weather. The idea is that you could just look on the main page to see if the concert listing is green, we're on! ...if it's

yellow, there's a chance that it could be cancelled, and if it's red the concert has definitely been cancelled. There will often be an explanation about the cancellation.

It was a challenging year, repertoire-wise, and I am proud to say we did very well. There were a number of challenging parts for everyone, and when we held sectionals it enabled the band to reach even further.

In sad news, we lost a very long-standing member, George Watts. We had a very good turnout from band members (on a work day) at Beechwood Cemetery which was greatly appreciated by Margaret Watts, George's widow. She appreciated the support from NCB members, and is looking forward to coming out to our concerts in the future.

We had one departing member of the executive earlier this year, Eric Paterson, whose job is fairly involved (and is actually taking him to Russia to work at the Paralympic Games!) and as a result, he couldn't continue working on the executive ... because I understand he's doing the job of two people at work and that requires a lot of time. Eric has been the Membership Coordinator for a number of years, and it has been a true pleasure to work with someone so dedicated and enthusiastic about his role (also about making the band a better place for everyone). Although I was the guy who originally created the MailChimp account, it was Eric who really brought it to life, sending announcements to the band about upcoming concerts and events. Before MailChimp (and specifically, Eric's involvement in band communications), there was something called Yahoo Groups... and anyone who ever tried to send a message through that understands how vastly improved our lives all are now! He is the one responsible for so much of the positive communications work that has been done over the past few years, and while it's sad to know that we won't have him on the executive, we all understand he's happy to lend a hand and an opinion if it'd help. Thanks, Eric – we all owe you a heck of a lot!

And Janice has been our "Secretary-Plus" for the past few years. I can't just say "Secretary" because that particular role typically involves attending meetings and taking notes, then tidying them up later. Instead, she is responsible for a great deal of positive change with the band: she started the concept of the eNote, and she has been responsible for sending almost every one of them (I understand she has drafted Evan into service when she has been unable to attend band). Another Janice's additions to the band seems so simple, but it was her idea to bring out the white board – something that helps to keep us focused and on-track in the weeks leading up to a concert. While Janice is stepping down as Secretary, she will remain in her role as creator/distributor of the eNote, and I suspect you'll see her keeping the white board updated during break and after band. Janice's positivity, ingenuity, and drive will all be

missed at executive meetings, but I'm very pleased that she offered to stay on with some of the communications work she has been so adept at in the last years.

I would like to thank the following people who have stood out particularly well: Dave Oulton, for helping to set up the percussion equipment every week after he sets up the chairs (there are others who have helped, but every week we see a forest of silver stands when we arrive, and we appreciate it a lot!) – and he has been the lead person setting up the church for every concert, Jenn, Pierre, Tanya, Michelle (and Richard), Eric (and brother Scott), Julia and Jim, Terry, Warren, Becca and Joe, all of whom helped to move instruments before or after a concert when we really needed it. Cairine's husband Gary who helps to set up the church and runs our bake sales. Karen Craven for taking over the section leader responsibilities for all the low brass, not just the horn section as was the case in the past. Warren and Doug, who know the music library inside-out and can turn it inside-out to find a piece for someone in need. Barb Lamb, who sends cards on behalf of the band, sometimes without our knowing that a card is warranted until after it arrives. Pat & Keith (my parents) and Jim for collecting donations at AHP (NB: Jim, who also sells tickets at our concerts, wore a massive pink sun hat in the summer while collecting donations). Dave Oulton for recording our concerts at City View United Church and posting them so quickly after concerts for us to hear. Everyone on the Music Committee for helping to make our concert season so successful, and all section leaders who let me know how many people we can expect in each section for the concert.

It takes a lot of very talented, caring, and giving individuals to make up such a wonderful group as we have. I'm very fortunate to have found a great place to spend my Wednesdays, and am very happy to have as many good friends as I do right here under one roof (or bandshell, as events warrant).

Thank you once again for another fantastic year!

Graham Lindsey
President