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Contact Us:

Metropolitan Silver band
c/o Michele McCall
1527 Robillard Road
Mississauga ON
L5J 3K3
(416) 407 - 1890
metband@rogers.com

MSB Joins the Buffalo Silver Band for Brass Without Borders concert



By Leah Harwood and Michele McCall

On the weekend of May 7–8, 2016, the Met band travelled to Buffalo, New York for a joint concert with the Buffalo Silver Band and a Sunday service at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The joint concert was held at the Montante Cultural Center, a part of Canisius College and now a beautiful performing arts facility. Montante CC was formerly St. Vincent de Paul Church, now transformed into a 500 seat auditorium while retaining the beautiful original stone and stained glass interiors. This was certainly one of the most impressive venues the band has ever performed in. We performed some of our favourite pieces from this season, including *The Seventh Night of July* by Itaru Sakai and *American Overture* by Hayato Hirose. The Buffalo Silver Band, under Music Director

...MSB Joins the Buffalo Silver Band cont'd

Bill Cocca, provided great entertainment, and featured many of their talented soloists. Their rousing renditions of *Big Spender* and *Jungle Fantasy* were particular hits. The combined bands finished off the show with the *Mask of Zorro* and *All Through The Night*.

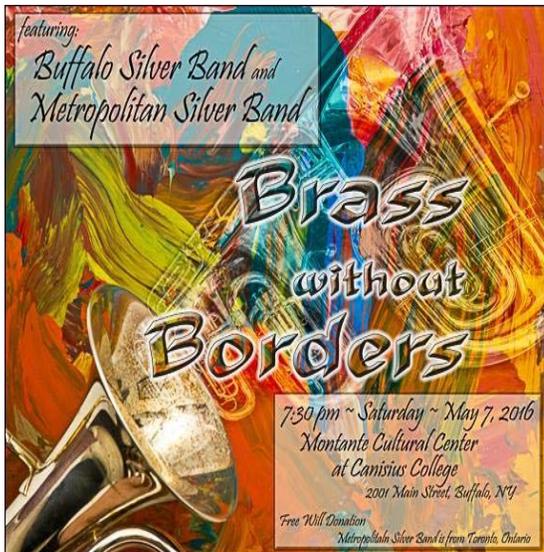
We also enjoyed some great social time with the Buffalo Silver Band after the show over beer, pizza, and of course, chicken wings, generously provided by our hosts.

Here are some photos of the trip:



Saturday, May 7:

Fran addresses the audience at Montante Cultural Center during the joint concert with Buffalo Silver Band.



The Met Band performs at Montante Cultural Center.

...MSB Joins the Buffalo Silver Band cont'd

On Sunday morning the band participated in the service at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, along with their excellent choir and Director of Music, Garrett Martin. This stunning place of worship has its origins back to 1854 with beautiful stained glass, gothic arches and an impressive Aeolian-Skinner Organ completed in 1958 with nearly 5200 pipes. The congregation enjoyed our music very much and some said they would love to make a trip to Toronto to hear us perform at the Met!



Sunday, May 8:

The Met band prepares for the church service at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Sunday May 8:

The Met Band performs with the choir of the Westminster Presbyterian Church.



Valentine's Day Concert at the Scarborough Civic Centre

On February 14th, 2016, the Met played an afternoon concert at the Scarborough Civic Center. A number of tunes with the theme of love were performed and several excellent soloists delighted the crowd.



Debbie Silverthorne plays the trumpet solo *I Can't Get Started*.



Fred Haire and Rita Arendz play the duet *Softly As I Leave You*.



Sam Huang plays the romantic *Shepherd's Song*.



Members of the trombone section play *Blue Moon*. From left, Howard Lee, Ken Allen, Richard Raum.

MSB Plays Return Engagement at Jubilee United Church

On Feb. 23, 2016, the MSB was most delighted to perform once again at Jubilee United Church in Scarborough. Jubilee puts on several concerts annually as part of their Jubilee Order of Good Cheer Program and what an entertaining night it was! The band appreciated the great reception from the audience and thanks too to Ed Rutherford for his organizational help and warm welcome. It was four years ago that we first performed for this congregation. The program included two of our featured pieces this year, *Seventh Night of July* by Itaru Sakai and *American Overture* by Hayato Hirose. Other highlights included the wild *With Flying Fingers*, a cornet section feature, and the popular *Broadway Spectacular* and *Highlights from Frozen*. Hopefully we will be entertaining the folks at Jubilee again soon.



Fran leading the band!



Joe, Brian and Don getting ready to put on a show.



The cornet section in action.



Enjoying post-concert refreshment.

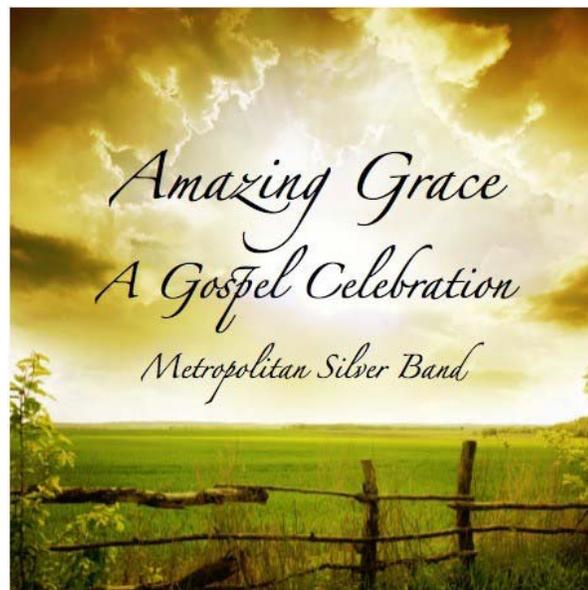
Reminder: CD available, *Amazing Grace — A Gospel Celebration*

In November 2015, the band released a new CD of gospel music. The CD is in honor of the band's 80th year at the Metropolitan United Church and the gospel theme comes from our recent tradition of finishing a service with a gospel piece for the postlude. So many people have asked, "Is that number on your CD?" that we decided to make a recording of them. The music on the CD includes:

1. Spiritual Sounds – Alan Fernie
2. A Southern Gospel Suite – Alan Fernie
3. Go Down Moses – Leonard Ballantine
4. A Gospel Celebration – Piet Hamers
5. Shall We Gather – Leonard Ballantine
6. Chariots – William Gordon
7. Amazing Grace – William Gordon
8. My Lord What a Morning – William Gordon

This collection of our most popular gospel renditions is sure to delight!

To order a CD, send a cheque made out to the Metropolitan Silver Band, for \$20.00 (or two for \$30.00), to Michele McCall at 1527 Robillard Rd., Mississauga, ON, L5J 3K3.



MSB Alumni News

By Ken Allen

I had a phone call from Don and Madeline Hobson's daughter Sheryl to tell me of her mother's death. Most of the band members would not remember the Hobsons because they go back to the late 1940's. Don played bass in both the junior and senior bands and Madeline worked part time at the Met on the financial books. They married and much later moved to Midland and joined St. Paul's United where Don sang in the choir. In 1974 Don invited us to play for the weekend of October 30/31, and what a wonderful weekend it was. It was our first under Alan Moody and we have been doing one or two every year since.

Sorry to report the death of Bernie Berry. If I recall correctly, he played with the Tottenham Salvation Army Band in England before he came to Canada, so he had good credentials. He joined us in 1969 and played solo cornet under Ted Robbins. In 1974 he moved to the end chair under Wally Mason, a position he held under Alan Moody until he left in 1985. He gave us 16 years of faithful service but he never kept in touch so we lost track of him.



Bernie Berry

Shirley Wolno, who I keep in touch with quite regularly, fell on New Year's Day and had a slight fracture of her leg. She has spent a long time in the hospital and rehab but she is now home and no operation was required.

I had a senior's moment when I said in the last newsletter that Russ Bertram was the last member left from the first junior band. My apologies to Art Hayward who is alive and well and still playing. I made my apology to him by phone.

Welcome Back to Bob and Gary!

It was good to see Gary Morton at rehearsal on April 19th. He has missed a good part of our current season because he could not move his arm above his shoulder and required a lot of rehab. He has finished rehab and still has a ways to go but hopes he can resume playing on a regular basis.

Bob Palmer is also back from a leave of absence and we welcome him with open arms!

Welcome to Our New Members!

It's always great to see new members joining our band. Since our last newsletter, we warmly welcome Alydia Smith on B flat Bass! Great to have you along for the ride Alydia!

Upcoming Performances 2016

Sun. June 12 th	Metropolitan U.C. Service and Picnic	10:45 am
Sat. June 26 th	Orillia Aqua Theatre Concert	6:30 pm
Sun Sept 11 th	Met United Service	10:45 am
Wed. Oct 5 th	Church of St. Andrew Concert	7:30 pm
Sun Oct 30 th	Met United Anniversary Service	10:45 am
Sun Dec 4 th	Met Service and Deck the Halls Concert	10:45 am 1:30 pm
Sat Dec 10 th	Collier United Concert in Barrie	3:00 pm

Don't Forget those Charitable Donations!

We are happy to report that the MSB can issue tax receipts for any charitable donations it receives. If you would like to make a donation to the band, please send a cheque or money order, made out to the "Metropolitan Silver Band", to the address shown on the front page of the newsletter.

Check Out Our New Website !

Thanks to Debbie Silverthorne for creating our new website. It looks fantastic and you can browse though all the info and photos at <http://www.metband.ca/>