

## Inside:

Festival of Brass Report

Performance Update

Focus on.... The  
Soprano, Flugel Horn  
and Repiano Section

New Members

MSB performance  
schedule for Fall of  
2014

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## Newsletter of the Metropolitan Silver Band

# MSB Takes Part in the Festival of Brass

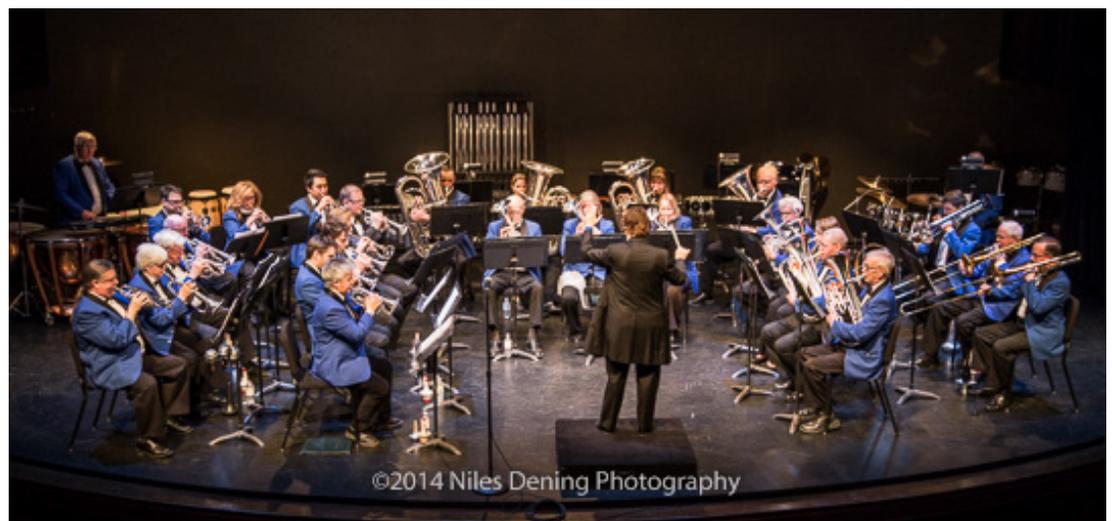
By Michele McCall

Greetings everyone, it is my pleasure to update you on the band's activities. April is a busy part of our season and certainly one of the highlights is the Festival of Brass organized by the Hannaford Street Silver Band. This annual 3-day event was held April 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> at the Jane Mallett Theatre in downtown Toronto. It begins Friday evening with Rising Stars, a variety of youth band concerts, all part of the Hannaford Youth Program.

On Saturday morning participants were able to enjoy a free Master Class featuring trombone virtuoso Wycliffe Gordon and tuba player extraordinaire Patrick Sheridan. This was followed by the Community Showcase featuring four bands – Whitby Brass Band, Buffalo Silver Band, the Met Silver Band, and making their Showcase debut, the Oshawa Civic Band.

Bands were able to compete for the Hannaford cup with the test march, *The Vanished Army* by Kenneth Alford. This year the cup was won by the Buffalo Silver Band! There was also a slow melody contest, won by flugel horn soloist Lindsi Jennings from the Whitby Brass Band, for her performance of *Dimitri*. This lucky player was able to perform her piece with the Hannaford Street Silver Band at their Sunday afternoon concert.

The event was topped off with Saturday night concert by guests, the River City Brass Band from Pennsylvania. Under the leadership of their lively music director, James Gourlay, this group provided a very entertaining evening of music with the fabulous Jens Lindemann on trumpet as their special guest.



The Met Band at the Festival of Brass

## Festival of Brass Photos



Gary Morton, Ray Barton, Heather Phillip, Fred Haire and Alex MacDonald



Ian Tulloch, Ken Allen and Howard Lee

### MSB's Festival of Brass Program

- Prelude to Freedom ..... A. Fernie
- Portrait of a City ..... P. Sparke
  - i. Skyline ii. In Autumn iii. Downtown
- Turtle Dove ..... arr. E. Crausaz
- Taylor Made ..... G. Richards
- Spiritual Sounds ..... A. Fernie
  - i. Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho
  - ii. Sing Low Sweet Chariot
  - iii. Peter, Go Ring Them Bells/Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen



Sam Huang, James Sedgewick, Erika Schengill-Roberts, Brian Moyer, James Rhodes and Debbie Silverthorne



## Other Season Highlights

As one of the busiest community bands around, we are lucky to be able to perform in a variety of settings each year.

On February 9<sup>th</sup> the band performed our annual concert at the Scarborough Civic Centre. This venue is always well attended and we really enjoy the enthusiasm of this audience (see photo below).

We've also continued our outreach activities with participation in three church services so far in 2014, two at the Met. Easter is always a wonderful musical experience with the band, choir and Pat on organ – a grand way to welcome spring! This year was no exception, with the band performing William Gordon's *Sing Praises* and the beautiful *In Autumn* from Phillip Sparke's *Portrait of a City*. In April we performed at the anniversary service for Oriole York Mills United Church, now merged with the Centennial Japanese United Church. A new name for this congregation will soon be chosen.

As we headed into the last part of our season, we performed a one-hour free concert at the Met as part of Toronto's Doors Open festival. This annual celebration of architecturally

important buildings throughout the city brings many new visitors into the church. Our final performance at the Met this year is the annual outdoor service and church picnic on Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The band is looking forward to a weekend away in Owen Sound May 31<sup>st</sup>/June 1<sup>st</sup> for both a service and concert performance.

Our final concert of the year is in Orillia at the Aqua Theatre on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:00 pm. It is a great setting right on Lake Couchiching amongst a lovely park, marina and beach. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the music!

### Welcome to our New Members

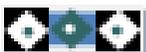
A warm welcome to our new band members this season:

- Bob Cote – 2<sup>nd</sup> cornet
- Heather Phillip – baritone
- Sam Huang – 3<sup>rd</sup> cornet
- James Rhodes – solo cornet
- Brian Moyer – solo cornet
- Rosalie O'Brien – repiano cornet

Very glad to have you all on board!



Scarborough Civic Centre – Group Photo  
Photo courtesy of Rita Arendz and Fred Haire



## Band Member Profiles

### Focus on.... Soprano, Flugel Horn and Repiano Section

This newsletter contains the fourth installment of a new feature – *Band Member Profiles!* Every band is made up of a diverse group of people from all walks of life. One thing we have in common is our love for brass, so each week we gather to make beautiful music together. You may find it interesting to know a little bit more about the special people that make up the MSB. For our 4th edition of this feature, we focus on our solo cornet section.

**Joe Kroemmenhoek – Soprano Cornet.** When asked how he decided to play the cornet, Joe explained that when he moved to Winnipeg in 1981 he was a euphonium player, but there were so many euph players and so few cornet players that he offered to play cornet. His father first taught him at the age of 7 until age 10. “Most of my learning from then on was in the Salvation Army and High School. I’ve never “studied” music but have had a lot of teachers over the years in music camps and junior band programs. Some people that come to mind are Ted Robbins, a former conductor of the MSB, Bob Venables at one summer camp and Deryck Diffee, with whom I played soprano cornet behind in a band for several years. There have been many others.” Joe has played with over 20 Salvation Army Bands and has subbed in at least 10 other brass and every brass instrument except trombone and french horn. Other than music, Joe spends time fixing his car (yes Joe- we’ve been waiting in anticipation to see this car!), as well as a lot of other things for friends. He’d like to say that he is in to remote controlled airplanes but it’s been a while. Something that even his fellow band members may not know is that Joe is an avid science fiction reader.



**Michele McCall. – Flugel Horn & Band Manager.** When it was finally time to pick a band instrument in Grade 7 music class, my first choice was tenor saxophone. Trumpet was my second, and boy was I lucky to get it! While growing up my house was always full of music, as both my mother and brother were very musical. I’ve have played in many bands, but the Met has been my longest musical commitment by far! I began in 1981 and have played solo cornet and flugel horn over the years. This band took on an added dimension when my manager mentor, Ken Allen, asked me to become the band manager about 10 years ago. I had planned a few performance tours for the band by that time, so I guess he figured I could organize stuff!

Certainly two significant highlights as manager and performer for the Met band was the large 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration that we had in 2009 and our tour to the Maritimes. Over the last few years, I have become very involved in Swing Bands in the west end of the city, playing for the Kerr St. Swing Band, Sophisticated Swing, and a 7 piece Dixieland group. This is the music I grew up with – in my house it was always big bands and the great jazz singers on the record player – thanks Mom and Dad! One thing my Met bandmates may not know is that my real first choice for instrument as a child was drums, but there was no way that was allowed in our house. However, now I do play percussion and drums in my spare time and love this added dimension to my musical life!





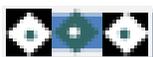
**Bill Martyn – Repiano Cornet.** I began cornet playing 68 years ago, taught initially by my father who was a cornet player and manager of the Oshawa Civic (and Regimental) Band. Jack Broadbent was a fine band trainer from whom I learned musicianship and how a brass band should sound. My mother was a trained singer among the first to sing on radio in Toronto. She taught me singing, a skill that applied directly to cornet playing. Over the years by listening and watching I learned from some fine cornet players from England – Russ Entwistle and a former cornet champion of England, Jim Hargreaves. I was principal cornet of the Met for many years and also spent some years on tenor horn and assistant conductor.

Eventually I was asked to conduct the Northview Heights Secondary School Band and the Northdale Concert Band, enjoying many concerts, trips and successful competitions. I am a retired English and Theatre teacher former Head of both subjects at Northview Heights S.S. I taught for nine years in the Special Arts programme at Earl Haig where I continued to direct shows like Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* and Shakespeare's *Midsummer Nights' Dream*. Fond memories are the musicals *Amahl and the Night Visitors* for Northview and *Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat* for the Met. I have directed many shows for children at the Solar Stage where I serve on the Board of Directors. It's been a pleasure watching my former actors and technicians do well at Stratford and the Shaw Festival. I've been on the stage for most of my life as a magician, actor and musician.



**Rosalie O'Brien – Repiano Cornet.** My Grandfather was a trombone player in a brass band (the Claremont Citizens Band) from 1918 to 1980. I was surrounded by brass players growing up and just knew that I always wanted to play trumpet. I studied piano from the age of 7 and was able to start the trumpet in grade 9. During grades 12 & 13 I traveled into Toronto on the Go train each week to study the trumpet at the Royal Conservatory. I went on to study at the University of Western Ontario with Joan Clarke the first year and the remaining three with Peter Audet. I graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Education. After 30 years, I have recently started studying

again. My teacher is Michael Fedyshyn. After moving home I played with Whitby Brass band for a year and then moved downtown and joined the Met in 1985. In 1991, after my second daughter was born I found the drive into the city and the concert schedule a bit demanding so I joined the Pickering Concert Band. This was fun but didn't fulfill my love of brass band music. Luckily I found the Oshawa Civic band in 1995 and I am still playing there. I have also played with the Durham Chamber Orchestra for the past 8 years and a brass quintet (The Brass Monkeys!) for two years. In my spare time, I love to cook and entertain, garden, hike, study yoga and travel. Many in the band may not know that I collect musical instruments from around the world which I take into classrooms where I teach the Science of Music. Everyday that I go to work I get to take my trumpet and share it with students all across the GTA.



## Fall Performance Schedule

After a few months break over the summer, the band is right back into concert season starting off with a trip to Keswick to help Keswick United Church celebrate their 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Have a look at our schedule, and hopefully we will see you at one of our performances soon.

Fall 2014		
Sun. Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Metropolitan United Church Service	10:45 am
Sun. Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Keswick United Church Concert	3:00 pm
Sun. Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christchurch UC Service and Concert	10:15 am
Sun. Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Met Anniversary Service	10:45 am
Sun. Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Northlea United Church Service	10:15 am
Sun. Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Met Service and Carols United Concert	10:45 am 1:30 pm
Fri. Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Sunnybrook Veteran's Centre Concert	6:30 pm

### New CD Recording Coming This Fall!

As part of our 80th anniversary celebration, the Met Silver Band will be recording a new CD! At so many of our performances, audiences always ask us if the gospel tune we just played is on one of our CDs. So, due to this popular demand, (and because we like it!), our new recording will be featuring your favorite gospel tunes as arranged for brass band. Stay tuned, and watch for our CD in the fall newsletter or on our website!

### 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.metropolitansilverband.ca>

