



LONDON COUNCIL FOR ADULT EDUCATION

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November 10, 2015 General Meeting

Location: Weldon Library, Western University, London, ON

Present: Amanda Burdick, Jake Martell, Donna Moore, Therese Crozier, Eleanor McAlpine, Alison Sims, Kym Wolfe, Lana Winchester, Kate Wypior, Monica Giorgini

Amanda welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Alison introduced the guest speaker, Mark Kearney, a longtime member of the **New Horizons Band**

Highlights from Mark's presentation:

- New Horizons Band is for people who don't necessarily know how to read music, play an instrument, or have any musical background (although there are some members with previous formal music training)
- The first New Horizons Band began in the 1960's in Rochester New York, and was started by Dr. Roy Ernst who studied the effects of music on cognitive functioning and social connections on older adults
- With publicity and interest among members, the band grew in the US. In 1999 a Londoner travelled to see a New Horizons Band in the states before deciding to start one up in London, Ontario
- There are currently 170 New Horizons Bands throughout North America, as well as "band camps" where members can partake in additional practice sessions and performances
- After first band formed, age range of members expanded to include 50+ year olds; ranges from 20 - 87 years
- Western University's New Horizons Band is the largest in Canada (perhaps in North America) and currently includes 130 members
- There are bands also located in Ottawa, Toronto, Kitchener, Ontario and spreading throughout Canada
- Most members join at the beginner level, and gradually move up to intermediate and advanced levels; there are currently three different levels: Beginner 1 & 2, Intermediate, and Advanced 1 & 2
- Band consists of traditional band instruments (brass, woodwind and percussion); no string instruments
- The band operates three terms (12 -13 weeks): September - December, January - early April, and for 2 months during the summer, with concerts at the end of each term at various local venues. They also perform at local seniors' residences, and outdoor venues like Victoria Park **performances are free
- The two conductors are high school music teachers
- Member's fees are \$205.00 per term (tax deductible); beginner fees are a bit more to cover instrument rental
- Practice sessions are Saturday mornings
- Since 2005, trips to Europe are planned every two years, where band 80 - 90 members play at various "unique venues" (often outdoors). These include the grounds of the Schoenbrunn Palace in Vienna Austria, and Tower of London in London, England on the most recent trip this past summer
- Trips include a conductor, band members and others (spouses, etc.), referred to as "band aides"
- Members can participate in "specialty bands" like Brass, Concert, Jazz, Klezmer as well as quartets, etc

Upcoming performance dates:

Dec 5, 2015 - Final Concert, Davenport Theatre, Don Wright Music Building, Western University

Dec 12, 2015 - Covent Garden Market in downtown London

Note: The general public may attend rehearsals, Saturday mornings (10:00 am), Don Wright Music Building

2. LCAE Member Updates

- Fanshawe's Access Studies Program has moved from Citi Plaza to the Market Tower
- Upcoming courses include Health Sciences, Accounting, Finance and Technology
- These courses are free; permanent residents or protected refugees are eligible providing they are at level 5 - 8 English language benchmark

Meeting adjourned 1:00 pm