Canadians tour Europe

In July three cities in Europe were treated to the sounds of the Don Wright Faculty of Music New Horizons Band from London, Ontario, Canada.

Several band members thought that performing in Vienna, Budapest, and Prague might be considered audacious for a band that’s been around for only six years, but about 40 of us had a great time touring Europe and playing five concerts there. We believe we’re the first New Horizons band to perform in continental Europe, and we hope that blazing a path for other bands to play overseas.

Among the venues we played were in front of the grand staircase at Vienna’s Schönbrunn Palace, a retirement home outside of Budapest, and in Peace Square in Prague. Our one-hour repertoire consisted of a range of music, including a march, some Czech folk songs, a couple of Canadian tunes, and music from Ireland and Scotland.

Three of our band members were interviewed by a television program in Hungary that was expected to air in September.

When not playing, band members had plenty of time to explore the sights of each city, check out local restaurants and shops, and enjoy a dinner cruise on the Danube River.

The trip was more than a year in the making, but after the 10-day European trek, band members were already talking about doing another European jaunt in 2007.

—Mark Kearney