

Another Trip to Cuba for Peterborough, Ontario NHB...

Earle Henderson, Peterborough New Horizons Band Board (PNHB) Member and Sunshine Band Organizer, reports that the PNHB (now with 213 full time members) has once again decided to make an International trek with some of its members. Varadero, Cuba is the destination for 58 musicians of our newly formed Sunshine Band along with 51 friends & family members!

This will be the third trip for PNHB members, the first in 2012 on a Cruise to the Tropics, and again in 2014 when we travelled to Caya Coco, Cuba.

This permanent "Hatch Shell" was dedicated on July 2, 1940. An 8-foot bronze statue of George S. Patton commemorates the general's June 7, 1945 address at the site before a crowd of 20,000 persons.



Ginny Lewis (left) & Pat Hannon (right) ready to perform at the Hatch Memorial Shell

Connecticut NH Band Partners with Students

Robin Andreoli – New Horizons Band of the Connecticut Valley-Shore, Centerbrook, CT

The New Horizons Band of Community Music School in Centerbrook, CT is excited to begin the second leg of a partnership with students in the John Winthrop Middle School (JWMS) band. New Horizons Band director Patricia Hurley reached out to Laura Traver, director of the JWMS band, last year to see if she'd be interested in having the two groups perform together. Laura and her students were overwhelming enthusiastic about the idea and the two groups began planning for a joint performance at the concert.

The New Horizons Band's 17 members attended several rehearsals at the middle school in preparation for the May 14th concert at which they would perform "Crosswinds March" by James Swearingen, among other pieces.

"The students were so welcoming of our band members," said director Patricia Hurley. "Our members worked side-by-side with the students and it was a remarkable mentoring experience for all."

The partnership continues as each group will soon begin rehearsing for the JWMS winter concert on December 10, 2015. Additionally, the New Horizons Band of Community Music School will perform at the

Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook, CT on December 12th and at the Community Music School Holiday Concert on December 13th.



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CT New Horizons band members perform with John Winthrop Middle School students (Photos courtesy of Laura Traver)

Not the Boston Pops, but...

Pat Hannon – Cape Cod New Horizons Band, South Yarmouth, MA



The famous "Hatch Shell" on the Charles River Esplanade in Boston, MA

Have you ever watched the PBS broadcast of the July 4th Boston Pops concert and imagined yourself playing in the famous "Hatch Shell"? Have you wondered what the sound is like inside that structure? Though most of us will never play in a professional setting like that, we would all like to experience it firsthand. This past summer two members of the New Horizons Band of Cape Cod had that opportunity.

Harvard University, as part of its community commitment, invites musicians of all ages and skill levels to participate in their Summer Pops Band. In return, musicians promise to attend all weekly rehearsals and to play in two concerts, one of which takes place in the "Hatch Shell".

When rehearsals began at the end of June, Ginny Lewis and Pat Hannon began weekly 200 mile round trip treks from Cape Cod to Cambridge. They were determined to play their saxophones inside the Shell.

One of the best parts of playing in the Summer Pops Band was making music with other people. It

was a great blend of participants: Harvard students, professional musicians and community band members. Harvard Band Director, Mark Olson made every week fun and challenging. The Sanders Theatre at Harvard provided an elegant rehearsal location with excellent lighting and acoustics for the weekly practices. The two concerts were the reward for all that hard work.

The first concert was performed in the Harvard Yard (yes, the famous "I pakked my cah in the Hahvad Yahd"). The band played to an appreciative audience of students, faculty and visitors passing through the quad.

On July 26, 2015, more than 100 well-rehearsed musicians walked into the Hatch Shell, unpacked their instruments just as thousands of famous and not-so famous musicians before them had done, and climbed the stairs to the stage for the final concert. What a feeling, to sit behind a music stand and look out at the grassy Esplanade along the Charles River. The only thing better than the view from the stage was experiencing the rich sound that rolled off the curved, wooden ceiling, out to the audience sitting in lawn chairs.

The Hatch Shell concert was one more part of the journey we take when we decide to learn to play a musical instrument. It begins with those first squeaky notes and continues throughout our lives, if we are lucky. It is a different trip for everyone. This event was one of Ginny and Pat's, "your best is good enough" adventures. What a rush!