



**Tributes to Roy Ernst**  
**January 5, 2021 - 30 year Anniversary New Horizons Music**

My first experience with New Horizons was an Interlochen band camp in 2011, where I was fortunate enough to have met you. The fellowship and encouragement of the people I met during that week helped me get realize just how much I'd missed making music.

I am now involved with four bands, one is the New Horizons Band of Gulfport. This would not have happened without that gentle nudge from the Interlochen experience.

Thank you for making it possible,  
Cathy Soucy  
Belleair, Fl



Thanks for having the foresight and vision of how creating New Horizons would benefit so many of us.

Linda Hodorowicz



There have been two major musical influences in my life. The first one, at age 20, when I studied with Earl Wild at the Eastman School of Music ... The second one, at age 70, when I interacted with Roy Ernst, who inspired and enabled me to create Piano Fusion. Thank you, Roy, for infusing me with a wonderful new energy for music. You are amazing, and I am so grateful!  
Diana Cobb



"Many thanks for the mentorship, Roy!"

Debbie Rohwer, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Planning and Chief of Staff  
Regents Professor, Music Education  
University of North Texas

I met Roy during cocktail hour at a New Horizons camp in Maine 8 years ago. I was invited to the camp by another band director and went without any idea what a New Horizons band was about. I direct a local town band but we are too advanced for beginners. Roy and I stood on the porch together talking about how a New Horizons band may work near where I live as a beginning band for adults and also serve to feed the many local town bands. I was hooked and spent the next 1 1/2 years putting it together. We started in 2014 and have over 40 members. What a gift Roy has given me and all of our band members.

Thanks so much,  
Donna Morse  
Monadnock New Horizons Band



Dr. Ernst,

On behalf of the New Horizons Band Fox Valley, let me express my congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the founding of NHIMA, and profound appreciation for introducing a wonderful dynamic into the teaching of music - education for adults! I have been privileged to help in New Horizons for the past 5 years, and it is very gratifying to see a 'new born' fire for band instruction in the lives of adults who never used to think they could learn to play in a band.

Our band is very strong in musicianship and membership, and we have you to thank for giving us the foundation of how to carry out your dream. Again, congratulations from all of us, musicians and instructors alike, on the 30th anniversary of what you founded.

*Peace!*

*Robert Kramer*

*Director, New Horizons Band Fox Valley*



A great deal of thanks and praise for 30 years of helping seniors have a wonderful musical experience. There are countless NHB players and singers who thank you.

Frank Bickel, Director  
Oswego County New Horizons Band



Dear Roy: I met you at the 2012 New Horizons Summer Band Camp in Bend, Oregon. As a non-driver from New York City, I was fortunate to have a friend in Bend who made it possible for me to attend. I knew no one at the band camp, and had only been a flute player for a few years. How surprised I was to find myself seated in the first flute row next to you! I will never forget how kind and welcoming you were to me. Later when a photo appeared in "Making Music" magazine, with you front and center, and me among the group behind you, I had that lovely memento too. It was a wonderful week.

It has been the most meaningful activity of my retirement years, to be a flute player with New Horizons. I had wanted to play the flute in Junior High School, but the teachers wouldn't let me. "No more flutes, no more flute seats," they said. I played clarinet for five months, but it didn't take. It wasn't until 2009 when I joined the New Horizons chapter in my city that I picked up a flute for the first time in my life. It was a dream come true. I have since also joined the New York Flute Club, and performed with 100 other flute players on Governors Island, for the 100th anniversary of the organization.

You have touched more lives in deeper ways than you know. Thank you so much for being you, and for founding New Horizons!

With admiration, respect, and every good wish,  
Lily R. Wu  
New Horizons Band  
Third Street Music School Settlement  
New York City



From: **Jennifer Peace**

just a note of thanks to Roy from Burlington ,Ontario. About seven years ago I attended a summer New Horizons band camp in Ontario where I was invited to a series of discussions with Roy about starting and running a New Horizons group. I was hesitant because I only had six members to begin with but his advice was to start it anyways and run it as if it were a regular sized ensemble. I did, and seven years later we numbered sixty in our program! Thanks for your inspiration Roy. Here are some pictures of our Christmas concert about this time last year. It is always followed by a spread of Christmas goodies.

Jennifer Peace, Burlington



I am awed, Roy, by your many accomplishments, and grateful for New Horizons. I value your mentorship in band camp administration and things NHIMA. I know that the New Horizons vision has a bright future because of your leadership!

Jim Cubberly

Dear Roy - You brought so much joy and inspiration into my life by founding New Horizons! I am forever grateful! Congrats on such an amazing accomplishment! 💕  
Doris Cubberly



Roy,

Thank you for the many ways you have worked to insure that the lives of older people receive musical nourishment for the mind and heart. The New Horizons International Music Association that you founded has been and continues to be a great encouragement to many! It's time to celebrate! Congratulations on this 30-year milestone!

With gratitude and joy,  
Diane Emmons

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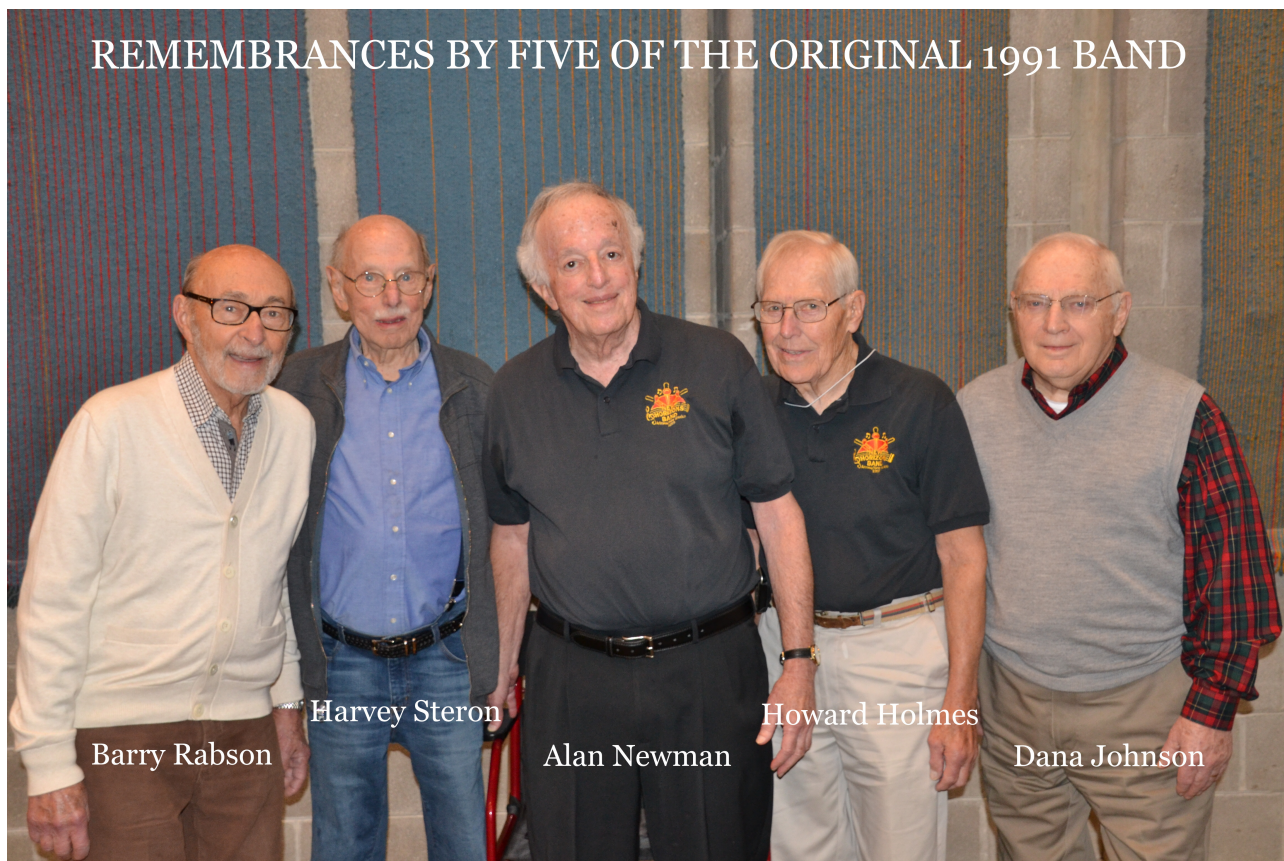


Thanks Roy for giving us purpose, satisfaction, fun and friends through, practicing, performing and band camping!!!!

Phyllis Wallen, Burlington New Horizon band. Ontario, Canada.



Alas, only three of the above-pictured members are still around - Dana, Howard, and Barry. We remember well our first meeting with Roy in 1991, and the wonderful experiences we have all had because of his dedication over the past thirty years. It's hard to believe that there are now over 10,000 band members worldwide. Barry Rabson



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## THIRTY YEARS AND COUNTING (To the tune of "16 Tons)

Thirty years  
And what do we get?  
New Horizons music  
And Roy, you bet!  
He doesn't seem to rest  
And always on the go  
But we all love him  
So do you.

I was at a band camp  
Several years ago  
Organized by Roy  
What else can he do?  
That's where I met him  
For the first time  
Small in stature  
Big in mind.

I was in the percussion group  
But had trouble staying afloat  
A bucket brigade  
Suddenly appeared  
And Roy turned around  
When I drummed out of tune.

I tried to watch the conductor's hands  
But my bucket had its own band  
I banged and banged  
Till my hands were sore  
Even after the music was no more.

I became the comedian  
At that camp  
Roy was laughing  
To beat the band  
A very close friendship  
Did arise  
It was a privilege  
To meet such a man as Roy.

Carol Katz,  
Bass Guitarist, Drummer  
Montreal New Horizons Band.  
December 21, 2020

Dear Roy,

What a stroke of luck to have been to my first band camp at Chautauqua several years ago where I met you and Pat. Thereafter I attended several band camps at Chautauqua, and they were so much fun. They also were an opportunity to meet lots of new people and to learn to be a better horn player and an expert on the conch shells!

The Chautauqua experiences led to other band camps, some of which you were one of the directors...another plus.

A big thank you, Roy, for starting us off on this big adventure of making music in our 'senior years' and guiding the organization so very well.

Miss seeing you,  
Janet Rawley  
Iowa City New Horizons Band

P.S hope to see you and Pat in Iowa City next summer.



Congratulations, Fearless Leader!

Roy, a simple thanks seems so inadequate to express all the joy that your inspired creation of the New Horizons Band in Rochester has spread literally around the world. It's amazing to me that one person can have such a positive influence in this crazy, upside-down world. My twenty-one year association with NHB Sonoma County (CA) has been a fantastic trip of joy filled music making. But the music making has been the catalyst to create a loving, encouraging, and supportive community of seniors. Thank you, Roy, for giving us this opportunity. Looking forward to our reunion in 2021!

Blessings of peace, good health, joy, and love to you and Pat.

Lew Sbrana



Thank God that you had the foresight for this.

Kathy Schoentag, Pikes Peak NHB

Dear Roy,

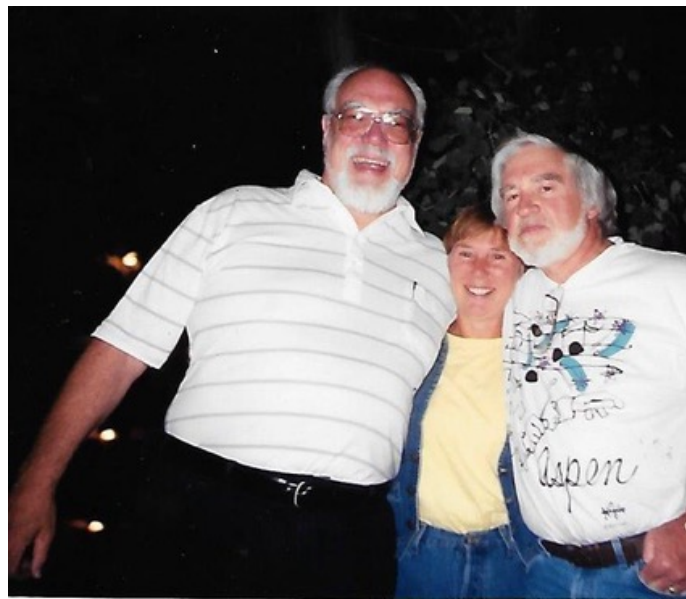
I have been a member of the New Horizons Band in Madison since 1992 and along with Iris Othrow, we are the last of the 'founding members' of our band. The band has enriched my life beyond measure and there is really no way I can thank you enough for getting us started. You have devoted so many years of time and effort to build a wonderful organization, and for that, you have my never-ending gratitude. It is fitting that you should be 'adored' as you approach the 30 year mark.

I'm sure you remember how much I loved going to band camps? Our band continues to sponsor band camp in Door County and with only one 'miss' in 2020, we hope to be able to have our band camp in Sept. 2021. It will be our 27th band camp. Such good memories!!

Here is a picture from the first band camp in Aspen, Co. about 1993. What is the saying? A thorn between two roses?

All the best, Roy, and my sincerest thanks to you.  
Muriel Gilbert

Bob Swan, Muriel Filer, Roy Ernst



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Roy,

Sending you a BIG thank you for creating the "New Horizons Band", thirty years ago!! We are sooooo fortunate to have such a program available, which makes it possible for us to continue the joy of playing music in our Senior years.!!! You have brought much happiness and joy, to many people!!

DORIS MCKINLEY  
LONDON, ONTARIO  
CANADA



Dear Roy,

New Horizons is thirty years old. You are a busy person who works each day to help people. It is time to reflect on three decades of joy and magic.

Think about those, who never played or sang a note, who became musicians, and those who revived their love for playing or singing. Remember the joy and purpose it brought to their lives. Think about their families and how proud they were of parents and grandparents who devoted hours of rehearsals in New Horizons. Think about the community audiences. New Horizons played at retirement centers giving residents an hour of pleasure. Think about the audiences at malls, waterways, and halls. They were amazed by the music and motivated by the musicians. Think about the lifelong friendships that have been made.

Even today in a COVID atmosphere you pushed New Horizons to try virtual rehearsals. While everyone missed the cookies and close conversations, they found Zoom to be an option to play and virtually connect with their musical colleagues.

Thirty years of New Horizons helped so many people in so many ways. Be proud of the miracle you created. All of us are grateful for you.

Best,

Kathy Weber



Thank you, Roy, for the New Horizons movement. Without New Horizons, I feel certain I would never have played my clarinet again. It gave me the opportunity to resurrect my passion for playing in a band that had been dormant for 38 years.

Thanks, Cathy Patience

I'm so happy to be joining a celebration to mark the 30th anniversary of New Horizons, and to honour Roy Ernst.

I joined the Western University New Horizons program in London, Ontario, in September 2000. I hadn't played in a band for over 20 years. New Horizons gave me the chance to learn a new band instrument - the saxophone - and to experience again the joys and challenges of group music-making. It introduced me to wonderful people. It led to my attending band camps in the US and Canada, and to participating in performance tours in Europe. My New Horizons background gave me a chance to join other community bands. New Horizons was, in short, an absolute game-changer in my life, of the best sort.

And all of that came about because of Roy. I met Roy in person at a band camp in Chautauqua, New York in September 2001. I have been a charter member of his large fan club ever since. His energy, creativity, enthusiasm and dedication to New Horizons are an inspiration. His warm and caring spirit, and that infectious laugh of his, brighten every gathering, large and small. I am one of the many, many New Horizons musicians who are grateful for both his leadership and his friendship.

Warmest best wishes, Roy!

Sylvia Davis



Dear Roy,

Thank you for sharing your vision, joy, and music! The New Horizons movement has meant and will continue to mean so much to so many. Here in Cincinnati, our string program continues to grow and thrive and we love collaborating with the wind group! This creative and musical outlet based on your founding ideas has provided our members a community that brings together many cultures, demographics, abilities, and musics.

We thank you and wish you all the best for many more joyful, musical years!!

BettyAnne Gottlieb and the members of the Cincinnati New Horizons Orchestra





### What I Know About Roy

As a New Horizons newbie in the horn section, my introduction to Roy Ernst in person came during the 2019 Band Camp hosted by Sonoma County in which he played in the band in addition to directing it.

I was busy arranging music in the folder, and didn't pay much attention to the friendly looking man who seated himself next to me until he turned, held up his instrument and said "This too is a French horn." Imperfect memory says he displayed an electronic-looking elongated plastic brick with tiny red lights, a clarinet mouthpiece and woodwind keys down the sides. He explained that the device could produce a workmanlike aural semblance of just about any wind instrument, making it useful for filling in holes in sections or for adding a particular voice to a piece as the director desired. He set it to 'horn', played a lick, and what do you know? although I wouldn't want to hear it solo in the second movement of the Tchaikovsky 5, it was as passable as any organ stop.

His openness to new possibilities and his willingness to stretch his experience in the world is striking; he is obviously a man who thinks outside the boxes. But more important to my mind and probably key to his success as an educator and New Horizons founder is his respect for individual efforts in the here and now. To that end Lew Sbrana, one of our Sonoma County band directors, often encourages us with a smile and "as Roy Ernst says, 'Your best is good enough'."

Sheila Dickson  
New Horizons Band of Sonoma County



From Cathy Wilcox:  
Video salutations:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zZMvmz3wxnJNfDPG8>

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Pictures from Helen Smith:

Roy and Helen Smith at Chautauqua 2010



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## **Messages in the Chat Box on January 5, 2021**

From May Collins:

Hi Roy. May Collins here from Ottawa, Canada, and Gulfport, FL (when I'm there). Congratulations on your 30 years anniversary. My how time flies! Virtual Hugs

Jeanne Flye: Jeanne flye, Rochester, NY

Carol Neubert: Who is here from Massachusetts? You totally redefined our retirement years. Thank you Roy. Alex and Carol Neubert

Paula Sousa: Paula Sousa, Rochester, NY

Rollie Cole: Rollie Cole from Austin TX -- good evening y'all

Amanda Schlegel to Everyone: Greetings from West Columbia, SC!!

Brent Rowan: Hello from Guelph Ontario! Thank you for being so inspiring and supportive. I was always amazed in the early days that you would take time to answer my questions and offer so much great advice! It was truly an honour to teach with you at a few camps too! Thank you for being you and helping support a young musicians' career (me)!

JoAnn & John DeMott: Greetings from Rochester , NY

Hilary Port: Greetings from Oregon

Betty Jensen: Congrats to Roy -- from Betty Jensen - NHB DuPage - Naperville, IL

Iris Othrow: Mike and Iris send greetings from Wisconsin.

Susan: Hello from Lewisville, Texas!

Jennifer Peace: Hello from Burlington, Ontario

Phyl Wallen: Thanks Roy. Phyl Wallen Burlington Ont. Canada and used to be Naples Florida.

Doris Cubberly: Hello from Jim and Doris Cubberly in Tecumseh, MI

John Earnshaw: Hi there from Peterborough Canada

Holly Ernst Groschner to Everyone: Greetings from Vermont :-)

Jane Miller: Hi from Jane and Bob in Lake Bluff, IL

Donna Morse: Greeting from Keene, NH

Diane Emmons: Hello from Houghton!

Russ Rosen: Congrats from Russ Rosen, NHB Cincinnati

Deb K: Hi from London, Ontario

Sue Whiting: Hi Roy, Congratulations on 30 years of NHIMA! It is a joy for so many.

Cathy Wilcox: Thank you for the music, Roy!



Anne Wright: Hi Jim & Doris, I think JD is on here too. Anne Wright, Saline MI

Kathleen Oldfather: Hello from Kansas. I sure miss band camp. Congrats Roy. And thanks for all you created and your leadership.

Joan Lumpkin: Hello Roy from Dayton, OH.

Ian Seddon to Everyone: Hello and Happy New Year to everyone from London, Ontario -- and a special thanks to Dr. Roy for getting NHB started!

Cathy Wilcox: From all your friends in the Ottawa New Horizons Band - Congratulations and Thank you, Roy!

Pat: Hello from DeWitt Michigan! This is a beautiful arrangement playing!

Susan Ames: Sue Ames - Rochester, NY where it all began!!!!

Carol Katz: Hello from Carol Katz in Montreal. Congratulations Roy on your remarkable achievement.

Lew Sbrana: Greetings from Northern California

Greetings to all! Pam in Corvallis, Oregon.

LORNA/JOHN Devan: Glad to see Peterborough is well represented. Roy's leadership has been such a gift to us all

Soah Lu to Everyone : hello from Markham. Thank you so much Roy!!

Lori Schuett: Best to you all from Lori Schuett in Peterborough

Mary Lou Riederer: Congratulations Roy from Vancouver NACHO Music Society from Mary Lou Riederer

Kathleen: Hello Roy and Pat too! Miss our band camps and you. Kathleen Blake Santa Barbara CA

Beverly St. Clair: I met Roy a few years ago at the Dayton NH Band Camp, and look forward to the time when we can have band camps again.

Judy Rose: Roy, for us you are on a pedestal, with or without your baton. We love you for what you've done for our later lives.

Mark to Everyone : Looking forward to seeing everyone in Chautauqua despite the 5.5 hr drive from Albany NY

Katherine Levy: As one of those first Iowa City graduate students who got to work with NH, I thank you, Roy! New Horizons is one of the best things that's developed in music-making since the industrial age!

Susan Miller: Thank you, Roy, for your inspired idea that continues to enrich our lives in countless ways.

Carole Evans: I was there on the second day of practice with the first band! (alto saxophone)

Bob Markham: Thank you Roy for the 20 years of fun I have had since joining the Rochester NH program. I am grateful for your vision in starting New Horizons. Pre virus I was playing in 5 bands and look forward to returning to that schedule again as it becomes possible. Thank you again and Blessings, Bob Markham

Edie Shillitoe: Congratulations Roy, from Salt City New Horizons Orchestra in Syracuse, NY!!! So much has been accomplished :)

Donna Morse: Fond memories of talking with Roy during cocktail hour at a band camp in Maine back in 2012. Roy encouraged me to start a new horizons band. I did and it is one of the most rewarding projects I have ever undertaken. Thank you Roy!!!!

Cheryl Jacoby: Thank you for realizing your amazing vision, Roy. I joined the Athens Georgia group in 2010. We started with five people, and now we have well over 35. I started playing again after a 30 year break. With this, you have created an avenue for people who love to play, who otherwise might not have had anywhere to do that. It has been wonderful, and I have made many life-long friends through this program.

Nancy Grady: so excited to see a few band camp friends from Chautauqua and as a London Ont Western member, for 7 years now, it is awesome to feel so welcoming at band camps and an open house in Naples no matter the level or instrument. Thank you Roy for this wonderful opportunity!

Daryl Kaplan: Thank you, Roy, for your brilliant idea. New Horizons Band and Orchestra has meant so much to me over the past 20 years.

Hilary Garton: In October 2006, I attended a NH camp...I started cello at age 65,,,I also was delighted I was to meet Roy

Nancy Dickinson: Yes! Lakeside, Ohio my summer home. so looking forward to the camp!!

BettyAnne Gottlieb to Everyone : Yay for including Strings!!Yes!! I will be there!

Edie Shillitoe: Looking forward to Mt. Tremblant!!!

BettyAnne Gottlieb: Looking forward to working with you, Edie!

Cynthia Howk: Great to see all the Rochester NY players on this zoom!

Linda Hartley Dayton NH: Thanks for changing my life, Roy, and thousands of others! Looking forward to more adventures!

BettyAnne Gottlieb: Thank you, Roy, for your vision and inspiration!! See you this fall in Quebec!

Mandi Schlegel: You have made the world better, Roy. You have brought more music to more people!

Iris Othrow: Well deserved Roy! Thanks, you have enriched our lives so much!

Elizabeth Parmeter: So honoured to have met you at Western University in London ON last year where I have been an NHB member for several years. THANK YOU for creating NHB!!!

J Crosiar: Playing my flute in the Eugene (OR) New Horizons Band has been both enjoyable and life enriching. Thanks for creating this program 30 years ago. May we have many more years of music! As an Oregon State University Beaver, I find nothing to laugh about you and your brothers' musical ensemble. Go Bears!

Barbara Simone: Tonight's meeting has made me so eager to get back to playing together again as soon as we can!

Dave Teegarden: Many thanks, Roy! We're always glad to see you back in Rochester, and at one of our nearby camps. My wife Carole recently told me, after over 20 years of marriage, that she played the clarinet when in school. Now she too is a happy and proud NH member and playing in the Green Band.

Dottie Wise: So grateful to you Roy!

Irvin Griffith: Thank you Roy for all your work and organization. As others have said your efforts have added enriching experiences to me and many others.

Rollie Cole: 30 Years of Serving Seniors!

Cathy - Ottawa: Top notch evening and excellent video editing, Irene! Congratulations again, Roy!

Holly Ernst Groschner: In addition to making joy for all of you, Roy has at the same time an amazing father, brother and uncle. Love you Uncle Roy. Congratulations ....

Glenn Shull: Congratulations Roy. It's always a pleasure to work with you and for you. Glenn Shull

Edie Shillitoe: Thank you for a wonderful celebration! Happy Trails and good night!

Paula Sousa: This was a wonderful tribute. I love looking at all the pictures. NH is the best program for seniors who love making music together. THANK YOU< ROY !! On to Ireland. Keeping my fingers crossed for going to Ireland. This was wonderful. Too bad we can't sing "Good Night Irene"

June: HELLO from Fresno CA NHB

Irvin Griffith: Thank you for organizing this.

Nancy: It was SO fun to see all of you. Unfortunately, my audio quit, so I could not hear toward the end. THANKS to you Irene for arranging this; and THANKS to Roy for 30 years of music with friends. Hope to see all of you at a camp SOON!! Peace, Nancy

Beth: Such a wonderful tribute & example of how one person can make a difference! Thank you for giving me a new focus after my husband died - so many new friends & opportunities. Don't know what I would do without music in my life - never thought I would have a chance to play at Interlochen & loved every band camp there & several others as well. I thank you so much!

Jascenna Haislet: Love that idea?

Susan DiClementine: Thank you so much!

Mary Lou Riederer: this was a great way to get a sense of how large the organization has grown! congrats Roy!!

Hdbai: Congratulations on 30 successful years. Tampa New Horizons Band

Douglas A. Klein: Great session Thanks, everyone. ...and thank you, Roy!

Mary Daugherty: Thank you, Roy! I've enjoyed NHB for fourteen years. It's been the best. Mary Daugherty, East Lansing MI

**Remarks about the Video: 30 years of New Horizons Music**

Brent Rowan: AWESOME!!!

BettyAnne Gottlieb: This is amazing!!

Nancy Dickinson: Outstanding!!

Mandi Schlegel: Simply wonderful!!!

Nancy Grady: Awesome as usual Catharine and Mark!

Mary Lou Johns: Roy's band very clever

Katherine Levy to Everyone : Thank you, Irene for putting this together!

BettyAnne Gottlieb: Irene, excellent job on the video!!

Michael Plaut to New Horizons: Superb job, Irene!!!

Linda Hartley Dayton NH to Everyone : Thank you, Irene and the Board - fantastic tribute!

Lori Schuett: What a lovely trip down memory lane to see all of our friends and hear the gift of music Roy has given us all.

Judy Rose: Great job with the video, Irene!

iPhone to Everyone : Irene, you did a fabulous job!!!! Thanks so much!