

History of UD New Horizons Music Program

The seed of UD New Horizons Music Program was planted in early 1992 when founder Linda Hartley heard about a project started by Roy Ernst at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. This program was designed for senior adults to either learn to play a musical instrument or return to playing after a lengthy hiatus. Linda formed the UD NHMP in 2000 after receiving a grant from UD to create an innovative and sustainable program to benefit both the UD campus and the greater Dayton community. Eight enthusiastic souls, either beginners or re-entry participants, began that year, tripling in size within two years. The UD NHMP was off and running.

Since that time, the group has expanded to include a concert band, jazz band, oompah band, and several small group ensembles of clarinet, flute, and saxophone players. Most recently the band has added beginner groups for concert and jazz bands. Intergenerational groups are encouraged and have included collaborations with local middle and high school students. Music education undergraduate students from UD have consistently been involved in providing instruction for UD NHMP.

NHMP members have entertained families, senior living residents, and community groups throughout the greater Dayton area. The concert band has performed at the Ohio Music Education Association state conference on three separate occasions, and our program has hosted 5 New Horizons national music camps. In addition, three members have served on the New Horizons International Music Association board. Another member, Melinda Jacob, included New Horizons International Music Association in her will, which provided funding to commission a new concert band work, "Magyar Keverek" by Catherine McMichael, and continues to offer scholarships to NH members to attend their first band camp.

UD NHMP celebrated its 10-year anniversary by commissioning two new works for concert band, both of which have been published and are enjoyed by thousands of concert band members throughout the world. We are also the proud recipients of the Hartley University of Dayton New Horizons Music Endowment managed by UD which will help sustain our mission.