

Brevard Notes

BREVARD MUSIC CENTER ASSOCIATION Volunteers Supporting Young Musicians

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Brevard Music Center

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President John Candler presenting Distinguished Service Award to BMCA volunteers

Volunteers Honored

BMCA Receives Distinguished Service Award from Brevard Music Center

“**WHEREAS** the Distinguished Service Award is being presented to the Brevard Music Center Association for steadfastly supporting the Brevard Music Center since being founded in 1979; and...”

“**WHEREAS** during this special anniversary year the Brevard Music Center Association’s cumulative donations to Brevard Music Center will exceed One Million Dollars...”

These paragraphs are only two of many extolling the volunteer efforts performed by BMCA for the Music Center, inscribed on a

certificate presented by the Board of Trustees and the BMC President, to BMCA on July 30, 2004. In the past, the Distinguished Service Award has been presented to individuals who have provided extraordinary service to BMC, but in this 25th anniversary year of BMCA, the Trustees and President have recognized the importance of the Association to the overall well-being of the Music Center.

BMC President John Candler read the entire certificate to the membership at the annual appreciation dinner on July 27, and presented it to Bill Robertson, BMCA President on stage July 30 during performance intermission. They were flanked by seven past presidents: Dave Grant, Dick Albyn, Warren Jackson, Everett Schmidt, Renee Braun, Linda Candler, and Andy Anderson. Robertson also presented Candler with a check for over \$125,000, this year’s cash contribution to the Center. (The annual non-cash contribution is estimated to be fifteen man-years!) The certificate is signed by Board Chairman Fred Dent, and by BMC President John Candler. It hangs on prominent display in Burt Alumni House, a lasting tribute to the affection the Association has for BMC and its students.

by: Bill Robertson



Fund Raising

Celebrations

Celebrations for 2004-2005 are under way. These outstanding parties have been planned with you and your friends in mind.

Because of the wide variety of theme and venue, there is sure to be at least a couple you will want to attend. All parties have a limited number of guests and are filled on a first come basis. Already, several have been sold out.

Our thanks to those generous and gracious party givers who have planned these events for you.

Come and enjoy conviviality while supporting young musicians. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund at BMC.

Call 862-2121 for more information and to make your reservation.

by: Mary Ann McGarry

Behind the Scenes

A Cook at the Brevard Music Center Physical Plant Staff

As one of the top music festivals in the country, the Brevard Music Center trains 400 student musicians in 145 buildings, on 140 acres of land in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. There are three men responsible for making sure that the campus grounds are well manicured, the dormitories are in top shape, the plumbing remains in good working order, and that the lights always shine around Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium.

Frank McConnell, Physical Plant Superintendent, joined the staff of BMC in 1978. He oversees maintenance of the Center's buildings and grounds, coordinates the activities of the BMC Association's "building repair" volunteers, supervises the expanded summer grounds maintenance staff, and serves as the unofficial BMC liaison to Brevard Academy, a NC charter school that operates on the BMC campus during the nine-month school year. Prior to working at BMC, Frank says he was "blissfully under-employed as a traveling minstrel." He remains a champion of traditional Appalachian music and storytelling and performs regularly around the region on

traditional instruments such as the hammered dulcimer, guitar, mountain dulcimer, penny whistle, spoons and kazoo. His biggest fans include his sons, Brighton (7) and Forrest (2), and his wife Zia, with whom he just celebrated his 10th anniversary. Frank will be one of the featured performers in March's Strings, Etc., one of the BMCA Celebrations events.



Nathan Kawa, Frank McConnell, and Barry Williams

Barry Williams, Maintenance and Plumbing Specialist, began working at BMC in 1999. He maintains and updates all plumbing in Music Center facilities as well as general maintenance, light construction, electrical, and painting. An avid outdoorsman and family man, Barry spends his time away from the Music Center hiking, camping, backpacking, or with his family,

wife Katie, and 2 ½-year-old daughter Grace. The beautiful property, the close-knit staff, and enjoying the musical talent of BMC's students drew Barry away from his background in business administration and restaurant management.

Nathan Kawa, General Maintenance, began working at BMC in 2003. Hailing from Massachusetts, Nathan brings carpentry, painting and general maintenance experience to the BMC Physical Plant. He moved to the area with his wife Jodie and two daughters, Savanna (3) and Jenna (1) in late 2003. A songwriter, singer, and guitarist, Nathan began his lifelong love of music as a kid. He also enjoys designing, building, and racing hovercrafts. When asked what he enjoys about working at the Music Center he stated "the people are wonderful, the summer festival is a joy, and there's something different everyday."

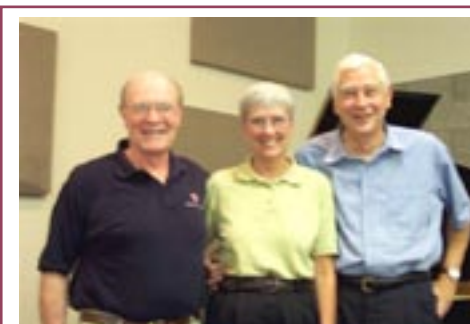
The demands on the physical plant staff can be rigorous and complex because they support a residential community of 600 musicians and staff in the Center's mountainous, park-like setting. Frank, Barry and Nathan face it all with talent, skill, and most importantly, a sense of humor. When asked what he enjoyed most about working at BMC, Frank responded "the exhilarating struggle against the forces of entropy and the dictates of Murphy's law."

Lifetime Award

BMCA Honorees 2004 - Warren and Paula Jackson

This summer, the BMCA Board recognized Warren and Paula Jackson for their years of service and contribution with a 'surprise' (to them) of the 2004 BMCA Lifetime Membership Award. Warren commented that "It was a total shock to be recognized by the Board." They commented that many deserve this recognition, but sincerely appreciate being included. Warren served, among his string of other supportive activities, as President of the BMCA in 1999. Paula has also been just as dedicated, with her roles with the Refreshment Center and especially with Harmony House. As a reminder, BMCA was formed in 1979 to sell the first edition of the cookbook "Cooking in Harmony".

Both Warren and his wife, Paula, were born and raised in the north central United States – Warren in South Chicago, and Paula in Beloit, Wisconsin. Warren proceeded to Wabash College, and completed his Bachelor of Philosophy degree at Northwestern University. Warren then started his 44 year professional journey in the Life Insurance field with Mutual Trust in Chicago. Paula met Warren as she started in the Health Insurance field in Madison, later transferring to Life Insurance in Chicago. Their family consists of his two sons, and their daughter, plus their 7 grandchildren. Their daughter and her family live in Charlotte.



BMCA President Bill Robertson with award recipients Paula and Warren Jackson

Warren and Paula 'found' Brevard through a Wabash College friend, who lived in Charlotte. They drove from their now previous residence in Florida, heard about Asheville, investigated the region, saw one home in Brevard and purchased it the next day – and have enjoyed

every minute of living here, in part because of a 'surprise' visit to "Pop's Night" at the BMC in 1994. They immediately purchased season tickets. Bob McGarry "conned them" into BMCA service through the then Refreshment Center – serving only water and coffee, and the next year starting ice

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 cream, which was a tough challenge to add – required adding a freezer.

Through their service efforts, they met many others who were also involved. Many remain involved to this day. Paula migrated to preparations of items for sale for Harmony House, and serves as cashier.

Both Paula and Warren commented on the value of BMCA to the students and program of BMC through the sale of refreshments and Harmony House items, and the other BMCA activities – the Bridge Bash, Prelude. They emphasized the importance of a continuing stream of new volunteers, who not only provide a distribution of profits to the ‘kids’ in the BMC programs, but also purchase season tickets, and enjoy the benefits of these many and diverse performances. Both Warren and Paula “feel more

useful” because of the privilege of their services to the BMCA.

Paula is also active in support of her community, through her church, TCARTS and acting as a Porter Center Usher.

As to their interest in music, Paula studied piano, starting at age 3, through high school. Warren migrated to the accordion, and attended (listened) to many “big band” concerts in the Chicago area. They are both strong supporters of the ‘arts’, and are very happy with the many opportunities in their adopted hometown area of Brevard.

Asked to comment on the future of BMC and BMCA – “as long as new members emerge – it can only get better”. BMC is very fortunate to have BMCA, and volunteers like Paula and Warren. Congratulations and thanks!

by: Bob Hoeke



Letters, We Get Letters

Thank You Letters from 2004 BMCA Scholarship Students

Dear BMCA ,

My name is Euridice Alvarez. I am originally from Honduras in Central America. I have been in the United States for 6 years and currently I am getting my Masters degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

As an oboe player I have enjoyed the camp very much and I have learned a lot! Also playing in the different ensembles helped me realize how much I love music; one of the reasons why I came to this country. I want to thank you for the help you provided me. I really appreciate it!

Sincerely,

Eury

DEAR MUSIC CENTER ASSOCIATION,

THIS SUMMER HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BEST IN MY LIFE. I KNEW I WOULD MAKE A LOT OF FRIENDS AND MEET A LOT OF COOL GIRLS AS WELL, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS THAT DEVELOPED. ON TOP OF THAT, MY CELLO PLAYING, SKILL, AND KNOWLEDGE ALL IMPROVED. AS I AM PREPARING FOR COLLEGE AUDITIONS, THIS CAMP TRULY HELPED ME GAIN A BETTER PERSPECTIVE ON THE WHOLE PROCESS, AND MY LESSONS WITH CARLTON MCCREERY HELPED ME FOCUS ON MY WEAKNESSES. I FEEL TEN TIMES MORE CONFIDENT, AND THE ENTIRE SUMMER WAS WORTHWHILE. I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOUR HELP AND CONSIDERATION. THANKS SO MUCH!

SINCERELY,
 ZACK CLARK

To the fine folks of the BMCA,

Thank you so much for the scholarship that allowed me to study here this summer. Studying under Prof. Joiner and playing under the baton of Maestro Effron both have been really wonderful experiences.

The atmosphere here is unique and I'll miss Brevard as long as I'm away.

After I leave the Music Center, I'm continuing my studies in Beijing, before returning to Rice University in the fall. I've really enjoyed both my experience here as a student and my responsibility as a teacher.

Thanks again,
 Aurevoir, Vale, etc...
 Yours,
 Stephen T. Fine

Dear BMCA Scholarship Endowment,

My name is Dylan Moffitt. I am 17 years old and going to be a senior at CAPA High School in Pittsburgh. So far this summer I have had an amazing experience and am sad to be leaving in a week. This summer has not only allowed me to perform with great ensembles, but it has also given me a lot of what I will need to succeed in a musical career. You have done a wonderful thing sponsoring me and I will never forget it. Without you I would not be here. Thank you.

Sincerely,
 Dylan Moffitt

Volunteers make it happen!



Cushions for rent or sale



Ned Glover speaking to volunteers at annual meeting

“My committee is fantastic! We’ve worked together for the past four years, and each year gets easier because committee members dive into their tasks with little direction needed. So, besides thanking everyone who volunteered at HH this summer, my special thanks go to: Dick Albyn, Karla Atkinson, Aggie LaBree, MaryAnn McGarry, Paula Jackson, Mary Sauerteig and Dodi Sirls.”

Michel Robertson, Harmony House



Harmony House volunteers prepare for sales

“Without the volunteers, Cafe Con Brio would not have been possible, especially the help of Marcia Millar and Ellie Vibert. I cannot speak highly enough about the job they did.”

Mike Young, Cafe Con Brio



Usher volunteers preparing for duty

“There were 60 ushers this season. Twenty five have been ushering 3 years or more, and they put in 255 usher nights. That’s a lot of volunteer time and all done with pleasure.”

Ned Glover, Usher Coordinator



Sales under the tent

From the President*Dear BMCA Volunteers:*

Our 68th season was special in many ways. A highlight for me personally was having the pleasure of recognizing you as the recipient of the Center's Distinguished Service Award. Bill Robertson's message elsewhere in this issue of Brevard Notes describes your accomplishments over the years. Read about it with pride and reflect on the thousands of lives that you have enriched. You make a difference. You do work that matters, and you do it well. You have the admiration and respect of our staff and our board. You've earned it. THANK YOU!

Our post-season survey confirmed that our students received great educational value. Over 93% would recommend BMC to another student; 98% improved as musicians and 80% better understood the life of a professional musician. Students also highly rated their private lessons, master classes and the quality of concerts that they attended. Students are our reason for being. We will always strive to improve



John Candler, President of BMC

ways to meet their needs, but I am pleased with their feedback.

You did it again! In a tough economic environment, the BMCA raised over \$125,000 to benefit our students and programs, helping to assure the 26th consecutive year of a balanced budget. In addition to much needed general operating budget

relief and annual scholarship fund support, \$40,000 was added to your scholarship fund endowment – a new record!

You, of course, know better than anyone that your fundraising success is only part of your contribution to BMC. Campus maintenance and beautification projects, a multitude of administrative tasks, Harmony House, Prelude, ushering, support of the BMW raffle, Celebrations and the Refreshment Center – all combine to introduce new people to the Center and help create the energy and excitement so vital to continued progress.

We are now engaged in the development of a comprehensive strategic plan. BMCA leadership is involved. I will give you an update in my Spring letter. While the specifics haven't yet been developed, of some things I'm certain. We will continue to invest in and enrich promising young lives. We will always work to get better. And, we will always have the honor of having you as our partners.

John Candler

President

Brevard Music Center

More Letters

Brevard Music Center Association,

As the season comes to an end I want to thank you for your generous support this summer. Brevard has meant new focus and new friendships in my life. I am playing cello better than I ever have before and that confidence makes me head back to school with great enthusiasm.

I was so honored to attend the Association's meeting last week. You are wonderful people. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Sarah Harrell

Dear
Members of the
Brevard Music Center Association,

I would like to thank you for sponsoring me, and making it possible for me to attend BMC this summer. I wish to let you know that I greatly appreciate you.

This summer has been great for me. I've enjoyed everything from the white squirrels, to the beautiful waterfalls, to playing next to professors who help me to learn my instrument better.

Next year I'll be finishing my Masters at Arizona State University, and I'll be preparing for auditions in order to obtain a job with an orchestra.

Once again, THANK YOU SO MUCH!! I hope to come back to Brevard again next year and further advance my musical career.

With many thanks,
Gustavo Camacho, Horn