

Brevard Notes

BREVARD MUSIC CENTER ASSOCIATION Volunteers Supporting Young Musicians

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Inside this issue

Young Person's Concert 1
Honorary Member Award 1
Volunteer Staff Photographer 2
President's Letter 4
Eric Ohlsson 5
Rainy Season at Harmony House 5

2005 Young Person's Concert: My Take

It was raining. Again. It had been raining for almost a week straight, and the ominous forecast for the upcoming Saturday event was looking grimmer by the hour. Much thought had gone into planning this year's Young Person's Concert, and our aim was to have it better than ever before.

New initiatives were designed early on in hopes of drawing more families. Over 25 local businesses and individuals were solicited for donations ranging from hot dogs and drinks to face paint and paper plates. Our requests were met with generosity, genuine interest and often a smile. This year's pre-concert activities would include a free hot dog lunch, face painting and drawing contest with prizes.

The organization ended up with zero cost, thanks to our donors, and therefore the event remained free to children and their families.

On the morning of Saturday, July 31, just the thought of trudging through ankle deep puddles of mud with hands full of hotdog

buns was enough to almost turn even me away. The morning skies were grey, the air humid and the ground soggy. But by the time tables were set up and popcorn-filled bags stood in neat little rows, a small hole opened in the clouds and the sun began to burn away a thick layer of gray hovering over Whittington-Pfohl Auditorium.

As thirty BMCA volunteers made last minute preparations – carting boxes, moving a table, setting up more chairs – the families descended. I would say there were nearly 700 people that morning. The sounds of the musical petting zoo grew so loud that one could see parents

wincing as their five-year-old daughter's crash of the Chinese gong nearly brought down the tent. The aromatic steam from hot dogs drifted from nose to nose, luring people to the food area. And we found out relish is a popular condiment.

"How much do I owe you?" one father asked me as I handed him a plate with a hotdog, chips and cookie. "Nothing, it's free." People couldn't believe it. And to top the event off, the Transylvania Symphony

cont.on p.2



BMC student explaining the violin to young person
Photo courtesy of John Allen

Honorary Member Awards Presented at Annual Meeting

Brevard Music Center Association President Janis Allen and past president Bill Robertson presented the association's Honorary Member Award to Ned Glover, Ann Hoeke and Phyllis Nesbitt at the July 26th annual meeting.

"The BMCA Honorary Member Award is given annually to volunteers who have given their time, talents, and creativity over the years," said Janis Allen. "This is the first year we've given three awards – and they're well-deserved!"

Ned Glover, chair of the Ushers Committee for five seasons, trains and schedules ushers for more than 80 performances each year. Ushering has become such a sought-after job that Ned now has more volunteers than he can accommodate.

Ned, native of Vineland, NJ, played trumpet and piccolo in his high school band, preferring the piccolo because he could "carry it in my pocket and I only needed to play Stars and Stripes Forever."

cont.on p.4

Volunteer Staff Photographer

John Allen has been active with BMCA since he and his wife, Debbie Klingender, moved to Brevard in the spring of 2004. His passion for the camera has included him on numerous Association projects, including volunteer staff photographer for BMC’s 2005 season. Over the summer, he averaged 10 hours a day for 35 days, including drive time, shooting, concerts and editing. We recently sat down with Allen to hear about his Brevard experience.



John Allen - BMC staff photographer
Photo courtesy of Debbie Klingender

BMCA: What were your duties as staff photographer?

Allen: I was given complete freedom to shoot whenever and practically wherever I wanted. I was asked to photograph all kinds of concerts and rehearsals, students at work and play, facilities, receptions, special events and head shots of opera students and faculty soloists. In short, I tried to capture the spirit of BMC.

BMCA: What did you enjoy most?

Allen: People. I liked being around people and music best. It was a welcome challenge to try to photographically capture the tremendous excitement of BMC. I also met some wonderful folks: Eric Ohlsson, Bill Campbell, Gerry Floriano, Tom Joiner and a host of others.

BMCA: What did you enjoy least?

Allen: I’d like to hear more jazz concerts. Jazz is the only true American art form, and I believe it should be part of a place like BMC. Students need to be introduced to it at the very least.

BMCA: What are your thoughts on this

summer’s concerts?

Allen: I think the summer was a tremendous success. Attendance seemed up and I heard a number of people remark about how much they enjoyed *Sweeney Todd* and Ricky Skaggs. These were among the highlights for me too, though Deb and I were also blown over by the final wind ensemble concert under Kraig Williams.

BMCA: Describe some other summer highlights.

Allen: It was great to meet and hear some wonderful young musicians and faculty. I remember standing near rehearsals – orchestra, band or chamber – and “feeling” the sounds in my

body as I shot photographs. It gave me the chills. I also loved the activities and performances for children. I think some good strides toward involving the community more were made. Anything involving young people and children is a high point in my mind.

BMCA: You spent a lot of time with students. What were they like?

Allen: First, I was struck with how serious they were this year, even more so than last year, if that’s possible. They were a dedicated lot, serious and disciplined. I saw no crying or complaining, only smiles and laughter. That to me was a good sign. They were respectful and mature young people, friendly too. I think they thoroughly enjoyed their experience here.

BMCA: You attended BMC as a clarinet student in 1956. How has the place changed?

Allen: The student population was smaller then, and faculty were talented, but few

in number. Facilities are vastly improved since I was here nearly 50 years ago. Straus Auditorium was the center of everything. It’s amazing to think how we managed to get an orchestra on that tiny stage. It was also much muddier. In other respects, BMC hasn’t changed much. It’s always been a great place to learn. Students were just as serious then, but I remember laughing more, maybe because we only had each other for entertainment.

A native North Carolinian, John Allen grew up in Smithfield in a musical family. He began piano lessons in the fourth grade and took up the clarinet a year later. In 1956, his mother paid \$5 a week for a new LeBlanc clarinet (total cost \$336). The same year, he won a working scholarship to BMC, at the time called Brevard Music Camp.

Allen entered Duke University in engineering but earned a degree in psychology. He was commissioned in the Navy and served two years on a destroyer. He received a doctorate in psychology from North Carolina State University, specializing in ergonomics, vision/audition and human engineering. He worked for UNC Highway Safety Research Center and, after teaching thirty-five years at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA, earned emeritus status.

Music has always been a part of his life, especially jazz. In 1998, Allen met his wife Debbie Klingender who was in the process of beginning a new career in psychology. Together, they chose Brevard for retirement. Both remain exceptionally active with community and personal projects. In addition to photography, Allen enjoys acrylic painting, fishing, and writing crime novels with his wife.

2005 Young Cont. from p. 1

Orchestra, conducted by Gerard Floriano, led the appreciative, if somewhat squirmy crowd through a musical exploration of music from the movies. Just watching the delight reflected in the little upturned faces was enough to make me want to repeat it tomorrow, almost.

The 2005 Young Person’s Concert,

sponsored by First Citizens Bank, drew the largest crowd ever in this event’s history. And, it wouldn’t have been possible without the help of dedicated BMCA volunteers, led



by Debbie Klingender, BMC students who donated their time and instruments, and generous contributions from our very own community. A sincere thanks to everyone. I hope next year’s event is not only bigger and better, but, if we’re lucky, maybe we can leave the umbrellas at home.

By Virginia Carter



Brevard Music Center
2005 Summer Institute and Festival

A Retrospective



Photography by John Allen

From the President

Dear BMCA Volunteers:

Our 69th season will go into the records as one of the best ever. There were too many artistic successes to highlight one or two, but the Josh Bell sellout was surely one of them. And, our post-season survey confirmed that our students received great value. Nine out of ten of them: would recommend BMC to another student; improved as a musician because of attending BMC; rated their private lessons as superior and rated concerts that they attended as superior. We will continue to strive for 100% satisfaction, for



John Candler, President of BMC
Photo courtesy of John Allen

only through that effort will we continue to improve.

I can never thank you enough for all that you do here. Ushering, Harmony House, BMW raffle, campus maintenance and beautification, Prelude, Celebrations events, refreshments at concerts and administrative support are all indispensable contributions to our success. This year, you again broke all records with your gift of \$131,000 to BMC. The following e-mail that we received from violist Leah Reiter following her second summer here reminds all of us that our work makes such a difference in the lives of our gifted young students.

"Brevard has been very educational. Before I went, I didn't really know much about everyday life of the professional musician. Now I see that it takes much more than just practicing 4 or 5 hours a day. Being around other people who love music as much as I do taught me that you have to love what you're doing to be successful, and that helped me to decide to major in music.

I have never been anywhere else like Brevard. I liked that the main focus was

on orchestra (since I would like to be an orchestral musician), but I also liked that they encouraged chamber music and solo performances. I think that having only one focus at a festival limits a person from discovering other kinds of music. I remember one night sitting by the lodge and some students got together to play some jazz music. Just having the freedom to play for fun was amazing to me.

I think what makes Brevard so much different from the other festivals I've been to is that the primary focus is on the students. The faculty really cares about what the students are trying to do, whether that's becoming a professional musician or just trying to learn more about music. Regardless, they treat us with respect and always give us their full attention. Thanks!"

President

Honorary Member. cont. from p. 1

He and his wife, Rae, have two children and four grandchildren. They moved to Brevard from Hilton Head in 2000 where Ned had been the treasurer of the Hilton Head Orchestra for six years.

Ann Hoeke has created and published BMCA's newsletter, *Brevard Notes*, since 2000. She conducts interviews, suggests articles for others to write, and takes and collects others' photos and pulls them all together into a fresh, up-to-date newsletter which she publishes three times a year.

Ann, native of Buffalo, NY, was raised in Tennessee with six brothers. She played clarinet and bass clarinet during her school years and graduated with a BFA from the University of Tennessee. She and her husband, Bob, have four children and 10 grandchildren. Ann and Bob moved to Brevard in 1997. A talented artist ("many mediums"), Ann also enjoys music, gardening, bridge, computer graphics and cooking.

Phyllis Steinman Nesbitt, chair of the Mailings and Celebrations Support

Committee, has volunteered for BMCA since 1993. Her committee makes mailings happen for both BMCA and BMC. They also make phone calls to invite people



From left: Janis Allen, Phyllis Nesbitt, Ann Hoeke, Ned Glover, and Bill Robertson

Photo courtesy of John Allen

to special events. Phyllis is also organizing and archiving historical photos from BMC's colorful past.

Phyllis, born in the Bronx, studied Modern Dance with Steffi Nossen on scholarship, earned her undergraduate degree in Dance Education, and ran her own dance school in Westchester County, NY. She

raised three children during that time and went on to earn her Masters in Special Education. She's a professional photographer, loves music and is currently teaching art and visual arts locally. Phyllis and her husband, Doug, have lived in Brevard since 1992.

Brevard Music Center Association Honorary Member Award recipients become lifetime complimentary members of the BMCA and receive a plaque to honor their work. Past award recipients are listed below.

2004 Warren & Paula Jackson
2003 Bill & Michel Robertson
2001 Robert & Mary Ann McGarry
2000 Walter Lacyk
1999 Richard Cushman
1998 Ethel Kilpatrick
1997 Renee & Arnold Braun
1996 John & Barbara Nelson
1995 John & Mary Sauerteig
1994 Joanne Pope
1993 Dottie Vaniman

By Pat Dran

Meet Faculty Oboist Eric Ohlsson

Each summer for the past twelve years students at the Brevard Music Center have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Eric Ohlsson. Dr. Ohlsson, the Charles O. DeLaney Professor of Oboe at Florida State University since 1986, is an outstanding example of the high quality of faculty here at BMC. Having been raised in a musical family, he was exposed at an early age to classical music. His father was a singer and teacher and his mother a collaborative pianist.

In his early years, his family moved quite a bit, so there were varied opportunities to experience classical music. His father had played clarinet so when the chance to play an instrument came in school, Ohlsson chose the clarinet. However, after his first exposure to the oboe in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that instrument seemed to stand out for him and at the age of 14 he switched to the oboe.

While living in Texas, arrangements were made for him to have private lessons with an excellent oboe teacher who would only teach lessons if his students were really serious. In addition to fingering and basic oboe techniques, Ohlsson was taught to make a reed the very first day. Still, for a long time, he only wanted to be a high

school band director. His best friend was also an oboe player.

Ohlsson pursued a Bachelor of Music Education degree from James Madison University, and the Master of Music and



BMC professor of oboe Eric Ohlsson
Photo courtesy of John Allen

Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from The Ohio State University where he was twice a concerto competition winner. He began his professional career as co-principal oboist of the Columbus Symphony (1978-80). He then performed as principal oboist of the South Carolina Philharmonic, the South Carolina Chamber Orchestra, the Augusta Symphony and Opera, the Columbia Lyric Opera, and the Naples Philharmonic. Prior to assuming his duties as the Charles O.

DeLaney Professor of Music in Oboe at Florida State University in 1996, he taught oboe and was the Assistant Director of the School of Music at the University of South Carolina in Columbia.

In 1994, Dr. Ohlsson joined the faculty of the Brevard Music Center. At the time, he was juggling the duties of single parenthood of two charming children and handling all the responsibilities of a professional oboist. He had first heard about BMC through a professional acquaintance and had the opportunity to bring a group of students to an opera at BMC while teaching at the South Carolina Governors School. Shortly thereafter he joined the BMC faculty. The fit was a natural as the Music Center made it possible for him to care for his children and meet all his professional obligations.

His wife, Deloise, is a collaborative pianist and will be joining the Florida State University faculty this fall.

Dr. Ohlsson has very kind words for the Music Center. He is most appreciative of the work done by the BMC Board, the President, and the Music Director as well as the cadre of volunteers who work to consistently improve the quality of the Brevard experience.

Rainy Season Didn't Dampen Harmony House Spirits

The BMC 2005 Summer Festival Season was characterized by ups and downs.

The shutters went up and down as volunteers opened and closed for business at least four times a week.

The shutters also went up and down, up and down, as we attempted to keep the rain out, let the customers in, keep the rain out, let the customers in. You get the idea.

The sides of the tent (we call it Harmony House annex) went up for business and down to keep the wind from blowing rain onto tables of merchandise.

Sales went up, up, up in the beginning of the summer (on a chilly registration day, we sold more than \$3,000 in apparel!) and down, down, down as the temperature soared and the humidity hit 90%!



Harmony House committee members enjoyed a buffet supper at the end of the season. Everyone had a good time. (Of course, it rained!)
Photo courtesy of Michel Robertson

T-shirts and sweatshirts went up and down and round about as they tossed in the dryers of HH committee members

who took home more than 500 apparel items at season's end to dry them out and kill the mildew.

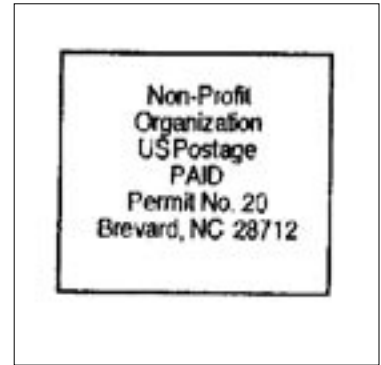
What did not diminish over the course of the season were the high spirits and hard work of the many volunteers who pitched in during sweltering heat and frequent downpours to raise money for the Music Center. Although I was not able to thank each of you individually, I want you to know that your efforts and enthusiasm make each year a success, despite the whimsy of Mother Nature. Thank you one and all for a profitable and enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing you next year – rain or shine!

Michel Robertson,
Harmony House Chairman



BREVARD MUSIC CENTER
ASSOCIATION

Brevard Music Center Association
PO Box 312
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We're on the web
brevardmusic.org

Brevard Music Center Association Membership Registration Form

I/We wish to support BMCA by joining/renewing for the current membership year Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2005
(Please check mailing label for the last year your dues were paid.)

Name _____
Street _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (____) _____
E-mail address _____

Winter/Summer address if different:

Effective dates _____

Annual dues \$ 30.00 (Individual or family)
Contribution \$ _____ (Tax deductible)
Total \$ _____

Make check to: **BMCA Membership**
Mail to: **BMCA, PO Box 312**
Brevard, NC 28712

I/We wish to volunteer for the following activities:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celebrations | <input type="checkbox"/> Posters | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concessions | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Ushering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handyman | <input type="checkbox"/> Prelude | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harmony House | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to join the BMC Email Club. | | |