

Metropolitan Wind Symphony FY 2016 Annual Report

The mission of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony is to foster the musical education and enjoyment of the public by providing musical performing experiences for talented and interested members of the community, programs for the performance of traditional and contemporary wind music, and a channel for the commission and presentation of new musical works.

This FY 2016 Annual Report contains highlights of our artistic and organizational accomplishments, community involvement and feedback, and a financial overview for the 45th season of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony which ended on August 31, 2016.

Awards / Recognition:

In February 2016, the Metropolitan Wind Symphony received the **2015 Sudler Silver Scroll Award**, *North America's Most Prestigious Award for Community Concert Bands*. In the congratulatory letter informing Music Director Lewis Buckley of this honor, Dr. Ron Keller, chairman of the selection committee wrote:

The purpose of this recognition is to "identify, recognize and honor those community bands who have demonstrated particularly high standards of excellence in concert activities over a period of several years, and who have played a significant and leading role in the cultural and musical environment in their respective communities." In the opinion of the selection committee, your band certainly met or surpassed these criteria.

To qualify for the award the band had to undergo a rigorous application and review process. The music director must have tenure of at least five years, and the band repertoire has to reflect the high standards of the Foundation. The selection committee examined musical programs, press releases, and concert reviews going back three years. The Band submitted a CD comprising highlights of live performances from the past two years, which was ranked against other applicants in a blind audition. We also submitted numerous letters of endorsement from the community which spoke to our artistic quality and community involvement.

MetWinds also competed in the **2015 American Prize in Band Performance** receiving 3rd Place in the Community Division. On the award certificate chief judge, David Katz wrote:

—in recognition of your recorded performance— may this honor inspire you to continue to strive for the highest levels of quality in all your musical endeavors as we today celebrate your American Excellence in the Arts. Congratulations. David Katz, chief judge

Artistic Highlights:

In honor of our 45th Anniversary season we showcased the talent found within our ensemble and within the greater band community including:

- Chris Wilhjelm- Guest conductor (11/1/15)
- *Alleles* by Jason Huffman, World Premiere (11/1/15)
- Kristin Parker, flute and Elana Lorance, oboe, performing *Concerto for Flute and Oboe, Mvt 1* by Salieri/arr. Buckley (11/1/15)
- David Minot, clarinet and Wolcott Humphrey, clarinet, performing *Fantasy for Two Clarinets* by Lewis Buckley (2/28/16)
- Mark Olsen, cornet and Dan Lasdow, cornet, performing *Side Partners* by Herbert L. Clarke (5/1/16), (7/21/16) (7/25/16)
- Molly Callahan, soprano, performing *Angels in the Architecture* by Frank Ticheli (2/28/16) (6/11/16)
- Grace Allendorf, soprano, performing *Angels in the Architecture* by Frank Ticheli (3/14/16)
- Lewis Buckley, MetWinds Music Director/Trumpet soloist performing *Carnival of Venice* by Arban, arr. Buckley (7/28/16)
- Two original works written by MetWinds Music Director, Lewis J. Buckley and performed by MetWinds: *Honor the Founders* (11/1/15), *Music for Life* (5/1/16)
- Four works arranged by MetWinds Music Director, Lewis J. Buckley and performed by MetWinds: *Christmas Fanfare* (12/5/15), *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (12/5/15), *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* (12/5/15), *Christmas Sing-Along* (12/5/15)
- *Christmas Variations 2015* by MetWinds Saxophone, Steve Ferrandino-World Premiere (12/5/15)
- 28th Annual Boston Festival of Bands, Faneuil Hall, Boston, featuring bands from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine Attendance: 2475+ (6/11/16)
- Hastings Park Outdoor Concert Series, Lexington. 2 performances (7/21/16, 7/28/16) Attendance: 350+
- Pinebank Promontory, Jamaica Plain outdoor concert cosponsored by The Emerald Necklace Conservancy and Boston Parks and Recreation. Attendance: 540 (7/24/16)

Organizational and Educational highlights:

- Continuum 2016: Celebrating Lifelong Music-Making featuring the Foxborough High School Wind Ensemble, Stephen C. Massey, MIT Wind Ensemble, Frederick Harris, and MetWinds, Lewis Buckley (3/14/16)
- 33 select middle and high school student musicians from thirteen area towns performed on stage with MetWinds (5/1/16)
- MetWinds' Student Award presented to a student enrolled in a college music program. 2016 Recipient: Olav Serres, trumpet. Olav is enrolled as a performance major at St. Olaf College.
- 2 Outdoor Concert Sponsors funded the Lexington concerts. The family of Drew Hannah chose to honor him with the opportunity to conduct Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever* (7/21/16); Kenneth Traub sponsored and conducted *Stars and Stripes Forever* (7/28/16)
- MetWinds is now on YouTube- reaching a wider audience via our YouTube channel with videos of our best indoor concert performances. They can be accessed at: www.youtube.com/metwinds

MetWinds in the Community:

Each year MetWinds donates goods and/or services to many worthy causes in our community. In FY 2016 we donated:

- Yachad Silent Auction: Two adult 2016-17 Season Passes
- St. John of Damascus Church: 2015 Holiday concert
- Town of Lexington: two summer outdoor concerts- free admission to all
- Full concert videos of our Lexington indoor concerts are available through the local cable company, LexMedia, who films and rebroadcasts our concerts for the enjoyment of local Lexington residents and also makes the video available for wider viewing via their website at: www.lexmedia.org
- 28th Annual Boston Festival of Bands, Faneuil Hall, Boston- free admission from 11 am to 6 pm (6/11/16)

Feedback from our Audience, Student musicians, Parents, Members:

- *I very much like the mix of well-known pieces with newer pieces, and hearing works by unfamiliar (to me) composers.*
- *Terrific program, exciting variety of literature. I would love to get a DVD of your performances to show my student as an example of professional playing!*
- *The band is overwhelming beautiful.*

- *Great selection of pieces... Excellent musicianship. Congratulations on the Sousa Award!*
- *Excellent as always! A very impressive and amazingly talented conductor and group of musicians!*
- *I really enjoy the pre-show chats with the background information. It makes it more relatable to lay people like myself. Thanks!! I enjoy the younger kids playing along also.*
- *We can't tell you what a great opportunity this was for my daughter. Such a generous, valuable experience. Thank you so much.*
- *It was great for (our son) to see how he can continue with his music throughout his life. We all enjoyed a beautiful afternoon of music!*
- *Wonderful! So important to acknowledge and celebrate those who are important to MWS (composers, past leaders, etc.) and to share your love of music with students!*
- *My child thoroughly enjoyed seeing adults who have found a way to continue their passion for music. Thank you so much for this incredible opportunity. It has been a very memorable experience for both our child and us!*
- *The professionalism yet friendliness of this group reminds us (of) why we play!*
- *The band was excellent. Enjoyed the music tremendously!*
- *Wonderful concert. Excellent and interesting program beautifully performed. Lewis Buckley's remarks so worthwhile! He's a delight. What a wonderful introduction to the MWS.*

Financial overview

As our most recent IRS Form 990 will show, MetWinds remains a solid, financially stable organization with a good balance between cash on hand to underwrite our everyday needs and investments to provide for future needs. We are blessed with a solid support system consisting of generous patrons and friends, audience members, performing members, small businesses, a host of volunteers as well as support from state and local grant programs. Our artistic, organizational, and financial strength provide a firm foundation for continued growth.

For the past three years this report has focused on the substantial impact of donated in-kind services by a large network of community volunteers. We will continue to report on this as it illustrates the depth and breadth of volunteerism within the Metropolitan Wind Symphony and validates our

worth to the community. Put simply, without these volunteer services MetWinds simply could not survive as the organization you know today.

- *Over 10,000 hours valued at over \$206,000 were donated in FY 2015*
- *130 volunteers including MetWinds board members, playing members and community members*
- *Their hours were the equivalent of 5.6 full-time employees*
- *Our cash expenses totaled \$57,000*

These statistics were gathered and submitted to the Massachusetts Cultural Council as part of the Cultural Investment Portfolio grant program to which we belong.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie A. Hansen
President, MetWinds
October 1, 2016

