

Monroe Community Concert Band

GETTING TO KNOW THE BAND, Marshall Matthews

Education: Marshall went to grade school in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Arlington, Virginia. Junior high and high school in Minneapolis. He attended college in Wheaton, Illinois. Marshall went on to medical school in Houston, he served his internship in Minneapolis, his residency in San Francisco (obstetrics and gynecology), with additional training in cancer surgery at University Hospital, Seattle. Marshall added multiple courses in military medicine and tactics during a 20 year career in U.S. Army. He had courtesy appointments to medical faculties of Universities of Hawaii and Washington, where Marshall said he probably learned more from his students than they learned from him. His patients taught me the most.

Professional Career: Marshall was drafted into the Army Medical Corps during his internship, and spent the next 2 1/2 years as a general medical officer at a small hospital in France. He had a wife and child by then, so signed on for more Army time and did a 3 year residency at

Letterman General Hospital. Marshall had very little musical outlet then, but did enjoy the 8-track tape player in my '66 Mustang. Schubert's Trout Quintet still goes through his mind whenever he thinks of it. In France Marshall sang in a little chapel choir and at need even directed it. After His residency he was sent to Heidelberg, Germany. There he sang in a chapel choir and a German men's chorus (2 hours of singing followed by 3 hours in the beer hall). The musical highlight of his time there was performing the Bach Matthew Passion - double choirs and orchestra - once in English, once in German.

Next Marshall and his family moved to Tacoma, Washington where he was on the teaching faculty at Madigan Army Hospital. He played bassoon with the Pacific Lutheran University orchestra, with the highlight being the Beethoven 9th Symphony along with a big college choir. Marshall was blessed with another baby and found a young Air Force bassoonist to play duets with him.

The last Army assignment was as chief of the OB-gyn department in Tripler Hospital, Honolulu. Marshall checked out the Honolulu City band, but was disappointed. Although he did join the Honolulu Chorale (after a rather tough audition) and had the thrill of singing for two performances of the Brahms Requiem. After retiring from the Army in 1983 Marshall and his family moved to Moses Lake, Washington, where he practiced obstetrics and gynecology for several years.

Family: Marshalls grandparents were farmers and schoolteachers in North Dakota. His parents grew up on ND farms, then graduated from Jamestown College in the middle of the depression. Both parents took pre-med science courses and his father learned to play football well enough to be selected as all-conference lineman - playing both offense and defense, as was usual, at a strapping 130 pounds. Marshall's mother taught school for several years. His father was an executive in the

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From the Board

The next Board meeting is currently scheduled to occur on November 19 @ 6pm New Hope Fellowship Church - All members are invited to attend.

Did you know?

Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 7 May 1840 – 6 November 1893 [was a Russian composer of the Romantic era. He wrote some of the most popular concert and theatrical music in the current classical repertoire, including the ballets Swan Lake, The Sleeping Beauty and The Nutcracker, the 1812 Overture, his First Piano Concerto, seven symphonies, and the opera Eugene Onegin.

Tchaikovsky was born into a middle-class family. Against the wishes of his family he chose to pursue a musical career, and in 1862 entered the St Petersburg Conservatory, This formal, Western-oriented training set him apart, musically, from the contemporary nationalistic movement

Although enduringly popular with concert audiences across the world, Tchaikovsky has at times been judged harshly by critics, musicians and composers. However, his reputation as a significant composer is now generally regarded as secure. In the early and mid-20th century, Western critics dismissed his music as vulgar and lacking in elevated thought, but this disdain has largely dissipated.

For sale or need Instruments

Bundy Tenor Saxophone for sale. S/N 657608, Looks brand new, no scratches or dings. Hard case, cleaning kit, reeds. New mouthpiece and cover. Rubank Method books avail. seperately. Asking \$450. Doreen dflanik@yahoo.com 425-691-8708
Bach Stradivarious 36BO Tenor Trombone. F-attachment. Nickle finish. Great sounds, plays great. New soft side gig bag. 2 mouthpieces included. Asking \$850. Thanks!! **Doreen dflanik@yahoo.com 425-691-8708**

If you have any information on instruments for sale, need an instrument, need lessons or give lessons please contact: waxworks.lillian@comcast.net to be included in this newsletter.

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Department of Agriculture, dealing with grain stored under the price support programs, and with aiding famine suffering countries around the world. Marshall's older brother played piano and trombone, continuing through college on trombone, and loved jazz music all his life, which ended a few years ago. His sister sings soprano in a big church choir and plays piano to accompany Marshall and others when they perform. His father used to assume our dish-washing chores so that Marshall and his sister could make music for him. Marshall's wife, Marilyn, played bass clarinet in our college band and still plays piano for hymn singing in our retirement community/home.

Music: Marshall's parents both loved music, but had little or no experience beyond singing in church and at home. They started Marshall and his older brother on piano in 3rd grade. When Marshall's progress exceeded that of his brother he changed to violin. His proud father went to a music store and bought the sheet music for the familiar Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Mendelssohn. Fortunately, his parents and teacher did not insist that he try to play it. Marshall moved to Minneapolis a year later, and took 2 more years of violin from a nice Sister Francis at the nearest Catholic church. Marshall tried to volunteer for orchestra in 7th grade at the next school, but the gruff old band leader got out an old, beat-up bassoon, put on some new pads, blew cigarette smoke through it, and told him to take it home, get a book, and learn to play the thing. Spoken by a true cornetist. Most of what Marshall could not learn by

myself he picked up during summers at the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. By means of challenges and hard work Marshall moved up from 9th chair to 4th chair. But the bassoon was still a piece of junk. We performed a new full concert every week, and played lots more during weekly sight-reading sessions. During the two years there he played a very large part of the standard orchestral repertoire. He also played in the high school and junior high concert bands, and borrowed a euphonium to play in the brass choir before chapel services. Marshall's fellow campers seemed to be spoiled rich kids who complained about the homely uniforms and who had fine instruments and years of prior private lessons. His loneliness was more than compensated by the great music that surrounded him. Marshall's high school band director was a showman, not a musician. He had the use of a good student model bassoon for the few concerts and graduation. He quickly learned to march, and it did not much matter what or how one played, as long as it was loud. Marshall played in the cornet, saxophone and trombone sections respectively. He bought a used, very old Conn cornet and a new tenor sax he then borrowed a trombone for the senior year. Marshall thought marching in the front row was a treat, but the St Paul winter carnival was tough on all of them - especially for the girls playing metal clarinets with holes cut at the tips of their gloves.

In college Marshall played bassoon in the concert band and orchestra and community orchestra, tenor sax in the

pep band and baritone sax in the ROTC band. During medical school in Houston he played bassoon with the U of Houston orchestra for one season only. Marshall was challenged by a lab tech to learn to play recorder, so he did. Marshall has enjoyed playing in recorder groups ever since. He even played duets with a flute-playing plastic surgery resident that later on murdered his heiress wife - see the book *Blood and Money*.

A musical epiphany of sorts came to Marshall when the Wenatchee British Brass Band came to Moses Lake for a concert. He loved the sound, and just had to be part of it. For the next several years he managed to drive the 70 miles to rehearsal in Wenatchee, starting on 2nd baritone, then 1st baritone, and eventually to the responsible job of solo euphonium.

Marshall's wife gave permission to buy a professional quality compensating euphonium from Switzerland. She also (some years before) bought Marshall a fine bassoon that he continues to play for Messiah concerts each year, and with chamber groups as possible. He used the bassoon for the Summer Music Camp at Walla Walla also, and has participated in some of the Summer Sings that the Seattle Symphony Chorus sponsors.

When a person has a psychological review, he may be asked to identify himself. After the expected responses of human, Christian, husband, father etc. Marshall would have to list first of all MUSICIAN, then former doctor and teacher of my specialty, then pro-life activist (formerly), Music is and has been the central, lasting love of my life.

Performance schedule

The next scheduled performance is our Christmas Concert scheduled for Sunday December 13th with a tentative time of 7:00 pm.

Next is the Festival of Lights at Warm Beach Christian Camp Saturday December 26 at 5:45. We were well received last year. The Lights are beautiful, bring your family or friends and enjoy the holiday atmosphere

Please check our google calendar often for updates.

Fund Raising

Great Success! We made almost \$500 at the Wine tasting event. Wine Styles has invited us to do this as often as the band would like! We are going to continue to plan for 2 fundraisers every season. We will plan to have another Rummage sale in the July time frame as well as another WineStyles event in October again. For the WineStyles events we are going to call upon our woodwind and brass ensembles to make us proud!