



Frustrated Maestros - Eastern Sharps & Flats

November 2023 Newsletter



17th Annual Music Camp was a 1st

Music Camp this year was held the last week of September, and like the past several years was the week preceding the Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR). Like GEAR, it was held at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in Lewisburg, WV.

While this was the 17th Annual Music Camp, it was in many ways a rally full of “firsts”. Many of the participants were “first timers” to one of our Music Camps. They were David & Marie Breeding, Orion & Evelyn Kujala, Dave & Janet Lambert, Walt & Bonnie Porter, Horst Schaller & Joanne Baker, and Susan & Jack Walter. It was also the first time that we had Ron Hazelett as our Music Director; it was the first year for Music Camp shirts, and finally, it was the first time that we devoted 50% of our time for the nurturing of small groups and ensembles. Everyone sang or played in at least one group and many performed in several.



Music Camp shirt modeled by President Bruce Taylor

Morning sessions were devoted to playing through music that participants requested or brought with them, as well as time for Ron to familiarize himself with the vast libraries of music that we have available including both RED Books, the GEAR Library, and now the Marston Library (formerly the Marston Yellow Pages).



The Greenbrier Bluegrass

The experiment with small groups was a big success. The Greenbrier Bluegrass, led by Walt Porter (banjo) included Bonnie Porter (mandolin), Nick Heffner (guitar), Dave Lambert (harmonica), Susan Walter (banjo) and additional singers Gail Taylor and Jackie Thackery. Walt Porter also organized an acapella group named the Maestro Pellas which included Nick Heffner, Ron Hazelett, Marie & David Breeding, Gail Taylor, Bonnie Porter, Rick Taylor, Paul Monat, Dave Lambert, Dale Averill and Jackie Thackery. A third group called themselves the Polka-Holics. It was led by Horst Schaller (accordion) along with Joanne Baker (sax), Susan Walter (banjo), Nick Hefner(sax), Paul Monat(tuba), Cliff Freed(clarinet) and Dave Lambert(harmonica). Horst also played a trio with Orion Kujala playing Euphonium and Paul Monat playing Tuba, along with singers Gail Taylor, Dale Averill, and Joanne Baker. They called themselves Edelweiss (guess what they performed?). And last-but-not-least a Brass Quintet of Canadian Brass wanna-be’s included Paul Monat (tuba), Walt Porter (trombone), Bonnie Porter (French horn), Jackie Thackery (trumpet), and Bruce Taylor (trumpet). They called themselves the Lewisburg Brass.



Edelweiss



The Lewisburg Brass

As always, social activities were a big part of the Music Camp experience. The kick-off meeting Monday evening concluded with Potatoville, the Maestro version of a Potato Bar with all the fixin’s complete with chocolate cake with peanut butter frosting (thank you Kathy Averill). Every day included Happy Hour. Wednesday we went to Carlitos Mexican Restaurant. On Thursday we all went to Carnegie Hall (the one in Lewisburg, not New York—duh) to see a performance called Artrageous, a high energy traveling show featuring music, dance and hand painting. It was part of the Lewisburg Entertainment Series (thank you Jackie Thackery for coordinating and negotiating a group discount for us). The show was unique and very good.

On days when no other activities were planned and after a long day of playing and singing, Maestros did what they love to do most of all—they jammed.

For Maestro spouses who were neither instrumentalists nor singers Kathy Fuller led day long excursions on Tuesday and Wednesday. Based on how tired they were when they returned each day, it must have been great.

By all measures the 2023 edition of Music Camp was a huge success. Everyone had fun!



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Maestros Entertain Early Arrival GEAR Volunteers

The finale for Music Camp was a Friday Evening Concert for friends, family and invited guests. The Eastern Area Officers and other volunteers already on site for GEAR were invited to come. The concert included performances by all of the small groups formed during Music Camp as well as several selections featuring the full ensemble and chorus.

Because we had just learned of the passing of Rich Kale we dedicated the concert in his memory. Many of the selections performed were arrangements done by Rich including what is believed to be the last one he did for the Maestros. It was the *Navy Hymn* that was done in Memory of Dave Ricketts. The concert closed with another Rich Kale favorite, *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*.

Small group performances included the Polka-Holics doing *The Beer Barrel Polka* and *The Happy Wanderer*; Edelweiss doing, you guessed it—*Edelweiss* and the acapella chorus, Maestro Pellas, singing *Java Jive*. The Greenbrier Bluegrass sang *This Land is Your Land* and *Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms*; the Lewisburg Brass presented the Canadian Brass arrangement titled *Three Spirituals*.



The Maestro Pellas: Ron Hazelett, Rick Taylor, Dale Averill, David Breeding, Dave Lambert, Paul Monat, Nick Hefner, Walt Porter, Jackie Thackery, Marie Breeding, Gail Taylor, and hiding behind Gail was Bonnie Porter



A Short Note From Our Music Director

Hello everyone!!

I hope your journeys have taken you safely to your destinations. Rick and I are back in northeast Ohio, where it's a cold 30 degrees here this morning. Yes, winter is coming, and the snow will soon be falling. But when I think of all of you, and your willingness to share your souls, your music, with me it certainly warms my heart. Something magical happened for me this October in Lewisburg, West Virginia, and it came from each and every band and choir member there. We worked together as one, and the result was Fantastic music making.



I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for helping make each concert a success!!! We received rave reviews from audience members after each performance. I can't Thank You enough for your help with such a big undertaking. From Nick and Cliff's Stupendous Sax Solos, to Walt and Horst's Blue Grass and Polka Favorites, this band and choir make up a top notch ensemble. I wish you all Happy Trails until we meet again, and I'm counting the days until that time. Thank You All So Much,

Ron Hazelett



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GEAR: From a Maestro Point-of-View

The Great Eastern Area Rally (GEAR) has always been one of the favorites for the Frustrated Maestros and this year's was no exception. We had great support from the top down including both National Officers and Eastern Area Officers and we had great audiences that were enthusiastic and appreciative of the Maestros.



What Time is it?
It's Polka Time!!

With just one day off between Music Camp and rehearsals for the Rally, the Maestros were back at it on Sunday afternoon and full-day rehearsals Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday morning was a final run through before our first performance Wednesday evening. Selections for the full ensemble (band & chorus) mostly came from the Marston Library and the GEAR Book Library. Music Director, Ron Hazelett put together a Master Play List with sets grouped into 50/60s "Radio Memories", Musical Show Tunes, "At the Hop", Patriotic Music, Bluegrass & American Folk Music, and Spiritual & Inspirational Music. In addition to the Ensemble most of the groups formed at Music Camp were included—the Polka Band led by Horst Schaller and Joanne Baker with a medley of Polkas; The Acapella Chorus led by Walt Porter singing *Java Jive*; the Bluegrass Band performing *This Land is Your Land*, *Roll in My Baby's Sweet Arms*, *Boil them Cabbage Down*, *Worried Man Blues* and *I'm On My Way Back to the Old Home*; and, The Brass Quintet led by Bruce Taylor performing the Canadian Brass arrangement, *Three Spirituals*.

The Maestros were invited to play for a variety of events beginning on Wednesday night preceding the Ms. GEAR Pageant. We played to a full house. The next event was the Pancake breakfast on Thursday Morning—again, a full house. On Friday afternoon we played at the Ice Cream Social—you guessed it: another full house (ice cream works even better than pancakes). Friday and Saturday were the customary "morning coffee" performances. On Saturday, as always, we recognized our active and retired military with the Military Salute Flag presentation. Many thanks to our FMCA Military Chapter for providing flag bearers for each of the services. The Saturday performance ended with Rich Kale's arrangement of *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*. Amen.

By any measure this was a great showing for the Frustrated Maestros. A special thanks to all who made it happen including Joanne Baker et al. for putting our Chapter Fair table together. It looked great. And of course, a special thanks to Ron Hazelett for serving as Musical Director. Ron joined the Eastern Sharps & Flats at the Rally last year and he has already left his mark on the Frustrated Maestros. He is a skilled teacher, a great director and an exceptional musician.



Ron Hazelett may look like he is playing the keyboard but he is actually playing the Tuba part for the Brass Quintet minus one.

Stay connected to the Eastern Sharps & Flats on Facebook. You do not need to have a Facebook Account to see the latest news. Just follow the link below. Give it a try.

The Facebook link is <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084150331800>



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Eastern Sharps & Flats Annual Meeting

The Eastern Sharps & Flats Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 in Lewisburg. Minutes of the meeting will be included with the next Newsletter.

The meeting was preceded by Happy Hour (of course) and boxed lunches from Subway. Subs seemed to be a welcome change from pizza. Subway gave us cookies. Horst & Joanne brought us Kringles (ymmm) !!

The main business at this meeting was the Annual Election of Officers. Nick Hefner, representing the nominating committee, presented the following slate of Officers:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| President | Bruce Taylor |
| Vice President | Philip Fuller |
| Secretary | Kathy Fuller |
| Treasurer | Gail Taylor |
| National Director | Bill Murton |

With no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the slate was elected by acclamation.

No Maestro Gathering is complete without Happy Hours



Many Thanks to Kathy Averill for many of the photos used in this Newsletter



2024 Rally Planner

Be sure to check out all of the Rallies as shown in your *familyRVing* magazine. Here are some that may be of special interest for the Eastern Sharps & Flats Frustrated Maestros:

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Southeast Area Rally | Great Lakes Area Rally | Midwest Area Rally | Eastern Area Rally |
| Sun 'N Fun Expo | Darke Co. Fairgrounds | Amana RV Park | WNC Agricultural Center |
| Lakeland, FL | Greenville, Ohio | Amana, Iowa | Fletcher (Asheville), NC |
| February 7-10, 2024 | June 5-9, 2024 | July 24-27, 2024 | October 23-27, 2024 |

Remember that Frustrated Maestros usually have early arrival dates scheduled 2-3 days ahead of the Rally.

And finally, the Eastern Sharps & Flats 18th Annual Music Camp will be October 14-19, 2024 which is the week prior to the Eastern Area Rally (GEAR). The location is TBD.



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In Memory of Richard Dean Kale November 16, 1944—September 13, 2023



It was with great sadness that we learned during Music Camp that Rich Kale passed away while on vacation in Michigan on September 13, 2023. He leaves behind his wife Freda of 36 years, two sisters and their spouses and a niece and a nephew.

Rich was a Frustrated Maestro for many years and had done over 80 arrangements for the FMCA Frustrated Maestros. Sixty three of his arrangements found their way into the Marston Library and some additional pieces are in the GEAR Library. Most of Rich's arrangements are also available to the Maestros on the Maestro CD compiled and maintained by David Ricketts prior to his death. Many of Rich's arrangements were done for specific FMCA members as solos or ensembles and are so notated on the manuscripts. Rich's memory will live on through the Music in the various Frustrated Maestro Libraries.

Rich was a saxophonist extraordinaire and an exceptional music educator & band director. He played in numerous concert bands, big bands, Dixieland bands and combos during his career. As a Frustrated Maestro he would not only play in the band but would often direct or co-direct at a Rally. He frequently would take responsibility for ensembles at specific venues during a rally—dinners, ice cream socials, etc.

Rich was truly a friend to the Frustrated Maestros and he will be missed by all that knew him. Please keep Freda and the family in your thoughts and prayers.