



Metropolitan Wind Symphony
Annual Report
FY 2023

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1. Overview

The mission of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony (MetWinds) is to contribute positively to the musical education and enrichment of the community through public performance of traditional and contemporary wind music, serve as a channel for the commission and presentation of new musical works, and provide an enjoyable, challenging, inclusive, and educational musical experience for the members.

This FY 2023 Annual Report contains highlights of our artistic and organizational accomplishments, community involvement and feedback, and a financial overview for the fifty-second season of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony which ended on August 31, 2023.

2. Artistic Highlights:

- Richard Wyman- first full season as new MetWinds Music Director and Conductor
- World Premiere of *Latinoamerica Despierta* by Ruben Dario Gomez, winner of the MetWinds North American Student Composer Contest (11/6/22)
- David Minot, MetWinds Clarinet soloist, Winter concert (3/5/23)
- Premiere conducting performance by newly- appointed MetWinds Assistant Conductor, Meghan MacFadden (3/5/23)
- 33rd Annual Boston Festival of Bands, Faneuil Hall, Boston, featuring seven bands from Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Attendance: 1,800+ (6/10/23)
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- Christian Dow, MetWinds Euphonium soloist, Hastings Park c oncert (7/13/23)
- Hastings Park Outdoor Concert Series, Lexington
- 2 performances (7/13/23, 7/20/23) Attendance: 262+

3. Organizational and Educational highlights:

- Richard Wyman began his tenure at the beginning of FY2023 as MetWinds Music Director and Conductor

- Meghan MacFadden was selected as our new Assistant Conductor
- Bob Piankian and Esther Horwich sponsored the 7/13/23 Hastings Park Outdoor Concert and Matt Fishman guest conducted *Stars and Stripes Forever*
- 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

4. MetWinds in the Community:

Each year MetWinds donates goods and/or services to many worthy causes in our community. In FY 2023 we donated:

- St. John of Damascus Church and Dedham TV: 2022 Holiday concert and concert video
- Town of Lexington: two summer outdoor concerts- free admission to all (7/13/23, 7/20/23)
- 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
- 33rd Annual Boston Festival of Bands, Faneuil Hall, Boston- free admission from 11 am to 6 pm (6/10/23)

4.1 Audience member Feedback

- So refreshing to see young musicians play with seasoned musicians. This program was very different than other more traditional classical music we usually see. Well done!

- Very emotional, excellent quality, super unique with exceptional musicians. Enjoyable and entertaining concert, surprising and lovely. SPECIAL!
- Always enjoyable and done well. Rick Wyman is a great addition to MetWinds. Keep up the great work!
- We were searching for a concert to take our 11 year old grandson to— both one he would enjoy since he plays the flute and one we would enjoy as well. It turned out to be such a wonderful choice— Wonderful varied program, excellent musicians, interesting, accessible pre-concert lecture, convenient location and parking, excellent price. We plan to come to all future concerts. We had a wonderful experience at “Party On”. Thank you to everyone involved!
- Very unique music! Love the energy. Conductor is informative and personable. I really like the diverse choice of music.
- For this concert I loved the clarity, the way each theme and instrument group stood out. Nice mix of band classics and new music.
- This was great fun! I am a clarinet player and I found David Minot’s solo inspiring. Now I need to learn how to bend notes for my Klezmer playing. It is important to be inclusive in selecting what a band will perform. I loved the Donjuan. I can’t wait for the next concert.

5. 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.

This support system plus previous savings and investments “for a rainy day” became vitally important during the COVID-19 lockdown. With no public activity to generate earned income, we had to rely on generous donors, grants, and our savings to pay day-to-day expenses. When we cautiously reopened in the fall of 2021, COVID was still active and in-person attendance lagged. Attendance gradually picked up throughout

2022 with the winter, spring, and summer concerts. We are optimistic that this trend will continue.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie A. Hansen President, MetWinds November 1, 2023.

5.1 FY2023 Income and Expenses

