

## WEEKEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC – A BRIEF HISTORY

Due to a millage failure in June of 1978, the Detroit Public Schools was forced to eliminate various band & string classes. A meeting was held that summer between

Don Blancett – Director of Public Relations – Wayne State University Music Department and Shirley Harbin – Director of Special Activities – City of Detroit Recreation Department

To possibly create a temporary “stop-gap” program to provide group lessons to students in the Detroit Public Schools until funding was obtained to reinstate the band & string classes.

This brand-new Saturday Arts for Youth Program was a “Weekend School of Music” co-sponsored by the Detroit Recreation Department and the Wayne State University Department of Music and would be under the direction of Professor Harold Arnoldi – Director of Bands at Wayne State University & Dr. Morris Hochberg, Professor of Strings at Wayne State University.

Our Fall Semester 1978 was a ten (10) week session that started on September 23, 1978 and ended with a recital held in the Community Arts Auditorium on Saturday, December 2, 1978.

Tuition was \$10.00 for the semester and the Detroit Recreation Department assisted with a \$500.00 grant.

There were 55 students enrolled in the Fall Semester of 1978:

02 Flutes  
12 Clarinets  
02 Saxophones  
06 Trumpets  
03 Trombones  
03 Snare Drums  
03 Guitars  
18 Strings  
10 Pianos

As you can see from the back of your program, there were twelve (12) Wayne State music students serving as instructors in the program at the onset.

## WEEKEND SCHOOL OF MUSIC – A BRIEF HISTORY

Over the years, there have been 126 individuals involved in the administration and operation of the Weekend School of Music. In fact, we have had former students return as instructors in the program and have also had former students enroll their children in the program.

This Fall Semester begins our 40<sup>th</sup> year as a “temporary stop-gap” program and is also our 115<sup>th</sup> Semester.

### *For the record:*

Over 26,800 students have been enrolled in the Weekend School of Music since the Fall of 1978

Dr. Shirley Harbin assisted with the Program for a total of 96 semesters from the Fall of 1978 until her retirement in the Summer of 2011.

Professor Arnoldi served as Director of the Weekend School of Music for a total of 64 semesters from Fall of 1978 until Fall of 2000. Jeff Cutter taught double reeds and assisted Professor Arnoldi with the program from the start until the Fall of 2000 and have handled the operations since for a grand total of 115 semesters.

Our Senior member of our Staff is Joe Brilla, who is finishing his 54<sup>th</sup> semester during his 18 years as our Guitar Instructor.

Next senior member is Stewart MacLean who is completing his 47<sup>th</sup> semester during his 15.5 years as our Woodwind/Brasswind Instructor!

Ella Koons who assists with Registration and other activities has been with us for 12 years and used to work with Dr. Harbin in the Special Activities Division of the Detroit Recreation Department.