



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

January 20, 2011

It's never too late to learn a musical instrument

Contact: Amanda Darche, MSU Community Music School
(517) 355-7661, ext. 16, adarche@msu.edu

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Adults who want to dust off the trombone they played in high school, learn the clarinet for the very first time, or who simply want to play in a band are invited to join the MSU Community Music School's New Horizons Band (NHB). New groups begin the week of Jan. 24, and all adults are welcome. The only requisite is a desire to play in a band. Beginners range in level of experience.

"Many band members are adults who have not played since high school, but their experience runs the gamut," said Patti Kroth, director of the Monday evening group. "We have band members who never played an instrument before, and alternatively, we have members who play one instrument well, but joined to learn another. We accept and work with everyone."

Kroth directs a group that meets on Mondays from 6-8 p.m., and Jack Mike directs a group that meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-11 a.m. Both directors are music educators with experience teaching musicians of all ages. Each band also has an assistant director to ensure that those who need extra help receive it.

In addition to teaching at the Community Music School, Kroth teaches at MacDonald Middle School, and Mike conducts the Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony.

"We have a great deal of fun in NHB. We give at least one big concert each semester, but usually more," said Mike. "We regularly do outreach concerts to retirement communities such as Burcham Hills and Independence Village. We also have several optional groups, created in many cases by the band members themselves, such as chamber music and jazz band."

NHB programs are offered throughout the nation to adults who wish to play an instrument. The program was introduced at the MSU Community Music School in 2003 and since has grown from just 14 members to 64. The cost to attend a 15-week session once a week is \$128.75.

More information about the New Horizons Bands at CMS is available at www.cms.msu.edu or by telephone at (517) 355-7661. Students may enroll in-person or by telephone. Additional information and the philosophy of the nationwide program can be found at www.newhorizonsmusic.org.

MSU Community Music School (CMS) is located at 841-B Timberlane Street in East Lansing. Founded in 1993, CMS is the outreach division of the MSU College of Music. The mission of CMS is to provide comprehensive music education – quality instruction, related music services, and educational programs – for interested individuals of all ages and levels with financial assistance for those in need.

###