

Program: Popular WWII Era Music plus Patriotic and Military Service Songs

Speaker: New Horizons Swing Band

Sponsored by: George McCord, MD

Attendance: 86

Guests: Janet Eigenbrod, Donna Holl, Linda Pendleton, Jim Stohler, Wanda Riesz, Ken Lewis and Al Lewis **Scribe:** Don Mink

Editor: Ed Nitka

The first New Horizons Band was formed by Doctor Roy Ernst at the Eastman School of Music in 1991. The Indianapolis New Horizons Band was formed in September of 1994. A main feature of the New Horizons concept is creating an entry point for adult beginners – especially senior adults – and a re-entry point for people who have been away from active music making for many years. The band practices two mornings a week in a local church and performs at retirement homes, senior events, and local parks. New Horizons Music is now an international organization with over 200 bands, orchestras, and choirs boasting more than 10,000 members worldwide. The program offers intellectual stimulation and an opportunity to socialize with fellow members who had previously relied upon the workplace to provide social interaction which has been proven vital to healthy aging. “The Band” lends individual support, concern, and assistance to each other and is a very important part of each member’s life.

The New Horizons Jazz Band that performed was conducted by Al Spangler, retired band director at Speedway HS. Don Hein, former sports director on WTHR TV Channel 13, was the emcee and provided historical insight and trivia.

Presented today were selections from the WWII “Big Band” era. Name dropping included Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Lionel Hampton, Glenn Miller, and, Louis Prima. The presentation included patriotic tunes along with American military service songs, respectfully played in anticipation of the upcoming Veterans Day remembrances. Members of the audience who have served their country in the military branches represented by the corresponding songs stood for recognition when their song was played.

Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife.
— Khalil Gibran



George McCord and Bill Dick



New Horizons Swing Band