

Comments from the Survey
February 2019

1 When it comes to skill level, I want to be challenged to improve, but not to the point that playing ceases to be an enjoyable experience. In other words, it is important that my playing skill improves.

2 Since I play a different instrument in the afternoon than in the morning it is important that I can still do this. Playing in the Odyssey band is more important to me than playing clarinet in the morning bands.

3 The music chosen by the conductors is appropriate for the less skilled members of the lower 2 bands.

4 That the bands be switched around. ie one lower level band in a.m. and one in p.m., The same for higher level bands one in a.m. and one in p.m. This would give more members of PNHB to play all of Wednesday.

5 re. FRIENDS.

I welcome making new "acquaintances/friends" in PNHB. I feel (somewhat) sorry for those who feel "tied" to existing "friends". I suspect that in some (numerous?) cases, 'friends' means "significant other", e.g. spouse.

RE. TIME OF DAY.

I prefer a morning time-slot on Monday, owing to a commitment on most afternoons.

6 I would love the Jubilee or second level band to be on a day other than Wednesday. (Just a personal preference, as I have other things on Wednesdays as well)

7 There is a discrepancy between skill levels in Jubilee. There needs to be a band between Green and Jubilee. One year in Green holds back players who have played for years and have had musical training. They just need more experience and confidence.

8 Actually, I have found everyone to be friendly and that is important, especially for those of us who are widowed. I do enjoy challenging music, but I can get that elsewhere. There are many days when I think it would be nice to have an afternoon free-4 seems quite late some days!

9 Mornings are much more preferable.

10 I think that harder music in green or easier music in jubilee would enhance my enjoyment greatly

11 I think which ever band you play in you will find friends so that is why it is of less importance. I prefer afternoons but could accommodate mornings. I would be willing to play with people below my level but would probably feel intimidated with those above my level.

12 I think that harder music in Green or easier music in Jubilee would enhance my enjoyment greatly. Thank you

13 My most enjoyment comes from the friendships I play with. Without that, Band would lose a lot of its attraction to me.

14 Playing at a matching skill level doesn't provide enough of a stretch for me. As frustrating as it can be when starting a new piece the challenge helps with skill development and hones practicing methods. I do think there is a place for a level between Green and Jubilee or possibly two levels of Green.

15 I would prefer jubilee in morning and allegro in afternoon. Skylark in morning and Odyssey in afternoon. This way if you were in two bands, your skills it would move in sync between morning and afternoon.

16 Insist on member feedback once new band rosters are compiled. Members should be consulted if a change in their current band is necessary before the revised rosters are made public.

Remember premise that "your best is good enough and keeps getting better". PNH is all about learning and fun; always best to try to maintain a balance.

17 It is also important for my playing level to be challenged in addition to being an enjoyable experience.

18 My main interest is playing. The social part of the band, which is great for a lot of folks, is not my top priority. I really enjoy it when the parts come together and we start making good music together. That's why I'm keen to end up in a group with a tighter range of skills than is presently the case. Thank you for this initiative!

19 I am very concerned about the huge leap from Green Band to Jubilee. I don't want to stay in Green as I want to keep challenging myself, but feel I could become very discouraged in my first year in Jubilee. Seems like a lose/lose situation. Hope something can be done to make the transition easier.

I love playing with Peterborough New Horizons. The coaching and our conductor Mark Hiscox have been amazing. Made new friends, never thought this would happen at my age.

Love the socials and the kind attitude of the people who make New Horizons such a great organization.

20 Please provide lots of opportunity for member input and communication throughout the restructuring process.

21 I enjoy the morning practice as I have to come in from a long distance and can do chores after practice

22 Would like to play with others who are at or above my level. If moved to a lower skill group I would find it difficult to grow.

23 Members of all the bands are my friends that's why I scored so low for how important it is I play with my friends. I prefer playing in the afternoon but don't mind the morning if necessary.

24 I believe that the expectations are greater in jubilee than they should be.

25 I play both a.m. and p.m.

26 I'd prefer afternoon. Day of the week is probably much more critical than time of day, though; I tend to have multiple commitments on Thursdays and Fridays so they wouldn't be good dates for band. I'll also note that I do find the music in Jubilee is often a stretch for my skill level, whereas by comparison Music Lab, I feel, is much more in my range. Given this, I am generally supportive of a restructuring at the Jubilee level. Finally, though, in slight contrast to what I just said, there are some advantages to having more advanced players in Jubilee and any band, both to learn from, and to help round out the band on more complex or challenging pieces.

27 Over the last 10 years I have moved levels 3 times, I am happy where I am.

28 Because I currently play in two bands, I would prefer to have practices on the same day.

29 Good luck

30 At least 5+ years ago, Sal was approached with this issue and the result was the formation of Music Lab, bridging the gap between Green and Jubilee Bands. That individual still plays in Music Lab today. Music Lab, at the beginning, was more for the members with little or no music background who found the transition very overwhelming.

31 I think when moving from one band to the next the section should be shuffled in their seating. Don't put all the newbies together.

32 I found the fall session of Jubilee very challenging after 'graduating' from Green. Either Green didn't prepare me/us for the move up or the music was too difficult. I think the later even if some former members of Jubilee might not have been challenged. The music that we have in the 'winter' term is much easier and I think would have been more appropriate for the fall session. I fully support being challenged with the music selected by the conductors but it shouldn't be from the sandlots to triple AAA, if I may use a baseball reference. I believe Green and Jubilee should be used to establish proficiency on

one's instrument. Bands beyond should focus on music of increasing difficulty. If such were the case then members who become 'bored' might be encouraged to move 'up'. If they don't then don't gripe! Finally I think 5 bands is more than enough to accommodate all levels of expertise. By the way my answer to the first question is 10.

33 Although I am now in Allegro, thinking back to Green and Jubilee, I would say the most important consideration for me would have been matching my skill level.

34 Best if hubby and I are both in the am or pm. Right now we are both in the am.

35 I much prefer mornings to practice, but could adjust if I had to. I am on LOA for medical reasons and won't be back until fall. I like being challenged, but I don't like to feel conspicuously inept. I don't need the kind of basic instruction of the fall term Green band, but I am not quite up to the Jubilee level technically. I don't feel comfortable performing on stage when I get lost so easily. I am not afraid of making my own mistakes. I just don't like reflecting badly on others.

36 It is difficult to select music for players of such varied abilities in a band such as Jubilee.

37 I come to play for fun with people I can laugh with and enjoy talking to. I enjoy learning new things and I don't want the stress that existed in my job. Let's keep the fun and pleasure in band.

38 There's definitely a need for balancing the Green/Jubilee bands, both from a skill and instrument point. My concern with adding another band is; are we getting too big and risk losing the family feeling which is important.

39 I look forward to hearing how skill level will be determined.

40 Everyone should be flexible so this transition is able to work for the benefit of all members. The difference between green band and jubilee is just too great.

41 I'm getting what I need which is learning to read music so I can apply it to other music groups.

43 Question 2 bothered me as I had to answer it to be able to submit my answers to the survey. I would need to know more about the restructuring of the bands to be able to answer this question. If I say yes and the change suited me then I would be ok with a move, but if I say yes and then I'm moved to where I would not like to be, then that would not be good. So, if the conditions were suitable then my answer of yes stands. Otherwise, my answer would be no.

44 Would be great to have a band between Green and the next level. I winter away, and don't feel good enough to move up to the next level, but to keep repeating Green is a bit

frustrating, would be nice to have something just a little more challenging but not be out of my depth. Thanks for all the work you all do to make this band possible.

45 I regard all 3 of the choices as equal in my answers. Re skill level, I certainly appreciate having some challenge in terms of learning but am not prepared to go into a situation where it is too stressful, nor do I want to go back to a band where I might not have as much learning. I really do not want to change bands

46 Keeping the 5 bands, reduce the difficulty of Jubilee and Allegro accordingly. The highest level band (Odyssey?) would continue at it's level of difficulty. I would want the option of staying put if I were struggling in my band. I wouldn't want to be forced to move up. Thanks for allowing members to give input.

47 This sounds good to me

48 I currently play in 2 bands with 2 different instruments and hope that I can still play each if a restructure happens.

49 People are important to me but the more bands / ensembles you play in, the more folks you get to know. So it can be a win/win to try something different.

50 Playing at my skill level is important but it is also important to learn and stretch. so playing with people slightly better than me is just as important. For those of us with no musical background it is also important that conductors take the time to explain to us terminology.

51 I play in both Green and Jubilee, I'm really not good enough to play in Jubilee!! --- but it provides some challenges beyond the Green level - where I'm very comfortable. I would very much welcome the opportunity to play at a level somewhere 'in between'. Thank you for your efforts to try to accommodate those of us who are in that transition zone of just past Green but not near Jubilee skill levels.

52 the band is as much a social event but is also good for the brain and lots of fun with friends! and you're learning at the same time!!

53 I enjoy a morning practise best.

54 I prefer to play later in day but am fine with a morning practice. I believe playing with some who are more skilled than myself is helpful.

55 I love the band and have made some lovely friends, however, I want to play in a band that excites and challenges me to grow as a musician. Playing with people who are far better than me will not challenge, but discourage me. I prefer mornings, please. We also love Mark and would love it if he were a part of the new package. :)

56 However the bands are arranged, I think the music will need to be kept at an appropriate level and remove some of the overlap in level bands are rated for. For example if Jubilee is the first band and it's expected to be grade 1 level music, the conductors shouldn't be trying grade 1.5 music with them. The emphasis could be on further development of playing skills, expression, dynamics etc. to keep players interested and developing. If that was the case, I think as people develop more skills they will want to move to the next band to play higher grades of music. Or some will want to stay where they are to play with friends, but the music should not exceed the planned level of the band to accommodate the skill level of some band members.

57 I enjoy playing in all bands...the time of day is not important...comparable skill level makes it comfortable for playing.

58 Although playing with others at the same skill level is important, it is also important to increase our skill level, which might mean having music that is a little above our comfort level.

59 I don't live in Peterborough, so it would be difficult for me to get to a 9 a.m. rehearsal.

60 As to playing in a band matching my skill level, if I had to change, I would probably prefer playing in one better than my skill level rather than one less skilled.

Re time of day, I prefer mornings, but I think most of us could adapt to a change, unless we have something else on.

61 Good luck with this effort. There are many differing opinions on the role of the bands in general. I prefer to play with other players about my level, and to keep learning. The social side of the enterprise is of less interest to me, but I know that is not the case for everyone.

62 I currently play in Jubilee band, having been a complete newbie in Green 2 years ago. I like a challenge, so not too worried about being presented with harder pieces, but I also don't want to hold back whatever band I'm in. That's the rationale for matching skill level being so high. If Jubilee were to begin to play simpler music, I would still want to be very comfortable with it before challenging Allegro.

63 I enjoy playing in Jubilee. I was in Green band last year and while I find that some of the music can be a bit challenging, it's important for me to gain experience with a more advanced band. I have no problems sight reading and interpreting the music as I have a music background, but sometimes my fingers cannot keep up. Having a band between Green and Jubilee is a nice idea.

64 If there's anything else I would like, It's more options re instrumentation. Speaking personally, my instruments of choice have been recorder and ukulele (don't laugh), and I would like to be able to play them in an ensemble situation supported by the New Horizons band structure.

Don't get me wrong, I think PNHB is great, and I'm very thankful for it. Also, I may be able to play ukulele in the associated swing band, which would be great.

65 Hi I would like to play with my own skill level. After coming from green band I found it very confusing when all the music gets thrown at you and you don't know where to begin. I also would have liked to continue in the achievement book 2. I also am ok with wed mornings and afternoons are imposible any other day would be great. Also a floor plan so we know how many chairs and rows to make so everyone has a seat when your holding music and instrument with nowhere to sit.

66 I think the primary purpose of playing in a band is to get better with your instrument. Being with friends is nice but it is not the main reason for the bands. If I was still working, time of day would likely be more important to me than it is.

67 In all cases I find band rehearsals too long. Would suggest 9:30 - Noon and 1:00 to 3:30. Perhaps shorten breaks to 20 min.

68 Thank you for considering this. I think it is extremely important. I do not know if the numbers I chose show correctly as it appears to enter incorrectly. I picked 10, then 4 and finally 8 to answer the last three questions.

69 Skill level should be determined by tutors or conductors.

70 Get someone to formulate a survey with more pertinent questions. There is much unrest n the membership. The time factor for teaching has grown unbearable. The playing time has been reduced to the point of quitting the band.

71 Playing with friends is great but there is also an advantage to playing in a group where you know few people. A great way to make new friends. Time of day is really not important as long as its not in the evening.

72 Morning would be my choice, but I am playing Wednesday afternoon right now. (Skylark) I would suggest that a new band should be between Jubilee and Allegro or Allegro and Skylark, to accommodate the push from Green, particularly saxes.

73 I can be fairly flexible.

74 I have no problem with the current arrangements.

75 I suppose morning would be preferable / convenient but really not very important