

THE HAMPTON ROADS YOUTH WIND ENSEMBLE

a community band for young people

"As a student, HRYWE got me involved with music on a completely different level than regular high school band class did. It gave me the opportunity to meet musicians and make friends across all of Hampton Roads. Now as a teacher, I constantly search for ways to involve my students in outside programs. HRYWE is the perfect example of a place where students can get involved with music in their community and where they can grow outside of my classroom."

*-Amy Kurosawa
Band Director Lexington High School
HRYWE Alumna*

The Hampton Roads Youth Wind Ensemble, (affectionately called "H-R-Y-wee" by its members) has been in existence since 1999. Housed in the beautiful campus of Old Dominion University and sponsored by its Community Music Division, it is, essentially, a community band for young people in grades 8 through 12, who are truly serious about making music. Countless band students from throughout the area have grown up through the program all the way until their high school graduation. Some have gone on to major in music. Many keep music-making an important part of their adult life.

HRYPE is for those who desire a concert band experience outside of their normal school requirements. It is for those who desire an opportunity to showcase their talent to a wider community. It is for those who are mature, professional-minded and dedicated to enriching their own individual music education.

Students who participate in HRYWE meet and network with other young people outside of their everyday circle; they become friends; they keep in touch. They remember the experience fondly.

THE SEASON

The HRYWE season runs throughout the spring. Auditions are held in February. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6 pm to 8:30 pm, from March to May in the Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center at Old Dominion University. A final concert is held at the beginning of June.

"HRYWE has always been a great chance for me to make new friends and have fun performing throughout the community."

*-Rick Kalinauskas
Music Major, Freelance Musician
HRYWE Alumnus*

"I view HRYWE as an excellent learning experience. It allowed me to think outside the box in terms of the directors and students that I worked with. Studying with students and teachers that I did not see everyday made me adjust to new personalities, which in turn prepared me for similar situations that I have faced as a college student."

*-Cierra Staton
Music Major Norfolk State University
HRYWE Alumna*

ABOUT OUR DIRECTOR

Mr. Victor Hugo happens to be an alumnus of Old Dominion University. Before returning to the area to form HRYWE, he spent time up north conducting the Pioneer Valley Wind Symphony and the University of Massachusetts Youth Wind Ensemble, finally earning his Master of Music degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Immensely dedicated to helping young people discover their fullest potential, he then moved to Dallas, Texas for a year as a volunteer counselor in an urban youth center.

Since then, Mr. Hugo has directed high school and middle school bands in Windsor, VA and now in Suffolk. He performs saxophone with the Virginia Wind Symphony and teaches private saxophone lessons. Playing a solo at the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago and being a featured performer at a UVA football game have been his most recent highlights of musical joy.

Mr. Hugo currently resides in Virginia Beach with his wife and two sons.



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