



Members of the woodwind section in the North Coast Symphonic Band.

Symphonic band celebrates 40th season with popular tunes

BY JONATHAN WILLIAMS

A core group of musicians haven't missed a downbeat once since the beginning of the North Coast Symphonic Band 40 years ago.

Flutist Janet Bowler, brass players Dennis Hale and Lee Stromquist, bassoonist Judy Shatto and clarinetist Carole Anderson have played with the band since 1979.

It was a different music scene on the North Coast when

the group started. There were few ensembles. Local groups like the American Legion and Elk's Lodge had house bands and there was the Columbia Symphony and Seaside Symphony. But there wasn't an organized symphonic band to cater to the area's community musicians.

The North Coast Symphonic Band, a program originally started through Clatsop Community College and carried on independently in 2004, has sustained the test of time.

"The first concert I remember we had about 15 people," Bowler said.

The group is now the largest band on the North Coast and is kicking off its 40th season at 3 p.m. Sunday at the

Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center. The band will be led by guest conductor Michael McClure and will perform its most popular pieces over the last 40 years, including "An Ellington Festival," "Washington Post March" and "Hands across the Sea," both marches by John Philip Sousa, Vaun Williams' "Sea Songs," Bernstein's "Slava!," Debussy's "Engulfed Cathedral" and vocalist Amdanda McClure will sing "As time goes by."

Diverse backgrounds

In addition to music teachers and current and former

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