



Welcome to eNEWS, the PMEA Retired Member Network... an informal alliance and forum for interconnecting retired music educators, and sharing their ideas, stories, successes, news, and views. Thank you for staying involved in PMEA and our profession!

A satirical article on retirement: "The History of Retirement"

by Mary-Lou Weisman. Also quoted in the book *Purposeful Retirement* by Hyrum Smith (Mango Pub. 2017) <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/03/21/jobs/the-history-of-retirement-from-early-man-to-aarp.html>

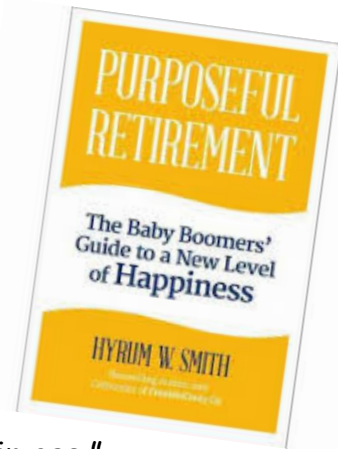
"In the beginning, there was no retirement. There were no old people. In the Stone Age, everyone was fully employed until age 20, by which time nearly everyone was dead, usually of unnatural causes. Any early man who lived long enough to develop crow's-feet was either worshiped or eaten as a sign of respect. Even in Biblical times, when a fair number of people made it into old age, retirement still had not been invented and respect for old people remained high. In those days, it was customary to carry on until you dropped, regardless of your age group -- no shuffleboard, no Airstream trailer. When a patriarch could no longer farm, herd cattle or pitch a tent, he opted for more specialized, less labor-intensive work, like prophesying and handing down commandments. Or he moved in with his kids."



Click on the above link to read the entire article. This is a "must-read," and it is extremely funny. Just consider the sub-headers she uses:

- Elder Hostile
- Cotton Mather's Big Idea
- Bismarck Invents Retirement
- Pasture-izing the Elderly
- Factory Rejects
- The Big Payoff
- Leisure Wearing
- The Great Migration
- Seniors Are Born
- The "R" Word

Take a first look of Hyrum Smith's new book (Amazon review): <https://www.amazon.com/Purposeful-Retirement-Boomers-Guide-Happiness/dp/1633535037> ↓



Hyrum W. Smith sums it up in the introduction to his book, *Purposeful Retirement*: "Clearly, Weisman's words are satire, but she strikes on an idea that rings true to some people: retirement is an unnatural, modern invention. It's a weird little creation von Bismarck came up with. And now tradition dictates that someone gets to tell us to stop working simply because we arrive at a certain age."





Practical jokes played on symphony musicians – part 2

Excerpts from "5 Great Orchestra Pranks" on the Baltimore Symphony's website

Related book: *The Mastery of Music: Ten Pathways to True Artistry* by Barry Green

<https://www.bsomusic.org/stories/5-great-orchestra-pranks.aspx> (more to share in a future eNEWS)

Barry Green's book *The Mastery of Music: Ten Pathways to True Artistry* is full of pranks and practical joke stories from musicians in some of the most esteemed orchestras in the country. Green suggests that humor (at the right times) is a great way to bring an ensemble together and foster a loose, creative environment.

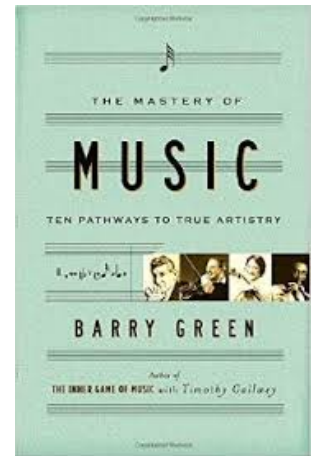
In one story, bassist Inez Wyrick recalls donning a long blond wig, Viking headpiece, pie pans for breast plates and a huge dress for a rehearsal of Wagner's *Die Walküre* with the Amarillo Symphony to welcome the new music director — a gesture everyone enjoyed save the music director. In another, bass trombonist Douglas Yeo explains that he and trombonist Eric Carlson regularly pulled pranks on one another while playing with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in the early 1980s.

"I thought I had trumped him one time by filling his straight mute with water... but nothing could have prepared me for the night when I picked my own trombone up off [its] stand for an entrance. When I blew, absolutely nothing came out — for a second — and then whoosh!" Yeo says in Green's book.

Carlson had filled Yeo's trombone slide with the water from his spray bottle, and the air pressure from Yeo playing forced the water out of his mouthpiece, showering him from head to toe during a performance.

A final story from Green's book suggests you might want to pick your spots for pranks. In 1938, the Pittsburgh Symphony was on tour in Quebec under conductor Fritz Reiner. Green writes that Reiner was known for his incredibly small and slight baton movements and efficient but statuesque conducting style.

A bassist named Gerald Greenberg loved practical jokes and shopping for antiques while on tour. On one of those shopping trips, he bought a telescopic spyglass, which he decided to pull out during a concert as if he was searching closely to find the conductor's tiny baton movements. According to the story, the concert continued but Reiner wrote "You're fired" on his shirt's cuff. Green suggests that last detail is probably an embellishment, but the bassist was no longer a member of the orchestra a few weeks later.



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More online articles on retirement!

- "4 Things to Eliminate from Your Life for a Happy Retirement" (*Retire Fabulously*) by Dave Hughes: <http://retirefabulously.com/blog/2017/04/18/4-things-to-eliminate-from-your-life-for-a-happy-retirement/#more-2699>
- "A Dozen Great Retirement Careers with Job Tips" (*SuperScholar*): <http://superscholar.org/great-retirement-careers/>
- "The 9 Keys to a Happy Retirement" (*Forbes*) by Richard Eisenberg: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/nextavenue/2016/03/27/the-9-keys-to-a-happy-retirement/#41b52fd640e8>
- "Retirement" - numerous subjects... (*U.S. News & World Report*) <https://www.usnews.com/topics/subjects/retirement>

Jean Potuchek's summer reading list

One of my favorite bloggers is a sociologist who has documented "stepping into the next phase of my life, retirement, after more than thirty years of college teaching." Her journals are posted at <https://stepintofuture.wordpress.com/>.

Summer is traditionally considered the time when people focus on new releases (although, since retirement, any season is a good time to sit down with a good book!). With everyone getting ready to take vacation trips or sit around the pool, summer reading lists are popular. Jean's recommendations for "retirement transitioning" are:

- *The Number: A Completely Different Way to Think About the Rest of Your Life* by Lee Eisenberg (Free Press, 2006)
- *The Experience of Retirement* by Robert S. Weiss (ILR Press, 2005)
- *Taking Retirement: A Beginner's Diary* by Carl H. Klaus (Beacon Press, 1999)
- *Ditch the Rocking Chair, Trash the Remote, and Do What You Love* by Mary Lloyd (Hankfritz Press, 2009)
- *The Retirement Maze: What You Should Know Before and After You Retire* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2012)



Two interesting articles on her "Step into the Future" site:

- "Pleasure and Joy" <https://stepintofuture.wordpress.com/2017/04/04/pleasure-and-joy/>
- "Not What I Expected" <https://stepintofuture.wordpress.com/2017/03/27/not-what-i-expected/>





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by Paul K. Fox, PMEA Retired Members Coordinator

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PMEA Summer Conference 2017 in a nutshell

<https://www.pmea.net/2015-pmea-summer-conference/>

It's time to return to the center of the state... where the ice cream is creamier, art displays are artsier, festivals are more festive, attractions more attractive, and the accommodations are more accommodating. (Really? Well, I think that's what the visitor's bureau is "selling" us about State College!)

The PMEA summer professional development workshops will be held at the Penn State on July 18-19, 2017 (Executive Board and council meetings are scheduled on July 17).

PMEA Executive Director Abi Young released the tentative schedule on June 7 in the *PMEA Early June Update*: <http://www.pmea.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2017-PMEA-Summer-Conference-Tentative-Schedule.pdf>.

Conference registration for Retired Members is only \$35 (discounted \$15) and includes all sessions, lunch and dinner on Tuesday, breakfast and a boxed lunch on Wednesday. What a deal!

Of interest especially for retirees, the planners are bringing back "hands-on" reading workshops for band, chorus, strings - "bring your instrument" (or voice) to collaborate in a little sight-reading and discovering new literature - just like a community band, choir, and orchestra! In addition, your Retired Member Coordinator will provide a one hour+ focus session entitled "**Retirement Planning - It's Not About the Money.**"

This trip offers opportunities to do some sightseeing or visit the Penn State Campus. If you like to experience nature and a little exercise, and you're thinking about bringing the grandchildren, there are "family friendly" events, including the **Spring Creek Canyon** adventure ("getting outside is good for your mind, body and spirit") sponsored by Centred Outdoors:



<https://www.centredoutdoors.org/sites/spring-creek-canyon/5>

"Get reconnected with your health and community by walking along the banks of the beloved Spring Creek. While there, discover the creatures living below the creek's surface and the joys of fly-casting. Guests may participate in a taste test while learning how to make healthy snacks that are perfect for future outdoor adventures!"

So, what are your plans for mid-July?

Happy trails, retirees. Enjoy your summer! Let's hear from you! PKF

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