



Hampton Roads *Making a Difference*

MUSIC OF THE HEART

Art and music are really important to Newport News Shipbuilding Electrical Designer **Monica Clark**. “Everyone is talented in some form of art,” said Clark. “We just have to find it within ourselves.”

Clark has been playing the clarinet with the all-volunteer Hampton Roads Metro Band (HRMB) for eight years. Her daughter Alicia, one of the younger members of the band, enjoys sharing the stage with her mother when she is in town. “Volunteering for the band allows me to use my talent to touch other people,” explained Clark. “Our music can lift the spirits of everyone, especially those who don’t usually have those types of musical opportunities.”

Since 1934, HRMB has been entertaining audiences at special events, assisted-living facilities, retirement homes, charitable organizations, churches and synagogues. The more than 90 members of the band perform a diverse repertoire of music, from patriotic

selections, Broadway musicals, Big Band, and easy-listening genres.

NNS Communications Technician **Wiley Williams** leads HRMB’s trombone section. He has been playing music since he was 3 years old, and has mastered several instruments, including saxophone, trombone, guitar and piano. As a professional musician, he has played with Sheila Ray, the Virginia Symphony Orchestra, and Bones Apart, one of the most renowned brass groups in the world.

“I love music, but what I love more is when I see the lights in people’s eyes. Then I know we’ve had a positive impact and made a difference in that person’s life,” said Williams. | By Jeremy Bustin

▲ Shipbuilders **Monica Clark** and **Wiley Williams**, members of the all-volunteer Hampton Roads Metro Band, prepare for a concert at Virginia Beach Town Center. Photo by Dar Deerfield-Mook