



Cornwall Youth Brass Band

Band Brest an Yowynkneth Kernow

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2014

Blown away! It has not just been the horrendous gales that have blown me away recently but the playing of Own Farr on the Christmas course. I hope that all the players realise what a talent he is and that they feel honoured to have played along with him. Our thanks again to Besson for supporting his visit. As for Richard Evans what more can be said, a true legend.

The next couple of months will be busier than normal with the two concerts at the Hall For Cornwall and I hope you all make the effort to support them.

Easter will soon be here when we will welcome Ian Porthouse who I know will guide us to another fine concert, enjoy.

Leonard Adams, Chairman

CONCERT THANKS

The following message was received from the Chairman of Cornwall Council, Councillor John Wood, after he had attended the Christmas Concert. "Thank you for a most delightful event at the Gala Concert on 30th December. My Wife and I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the musicians and were amazed by their performances. I would be most grateful if you would pass on my praises to all that performed at the event."

ORDER YOUR CD AND PHOTOGRAPHS

A CD of the Christmas Gala Concert is available from PM Sound, 01872 263300. The Annual CYBB photograph can be ordered from the Secretary, as well as a photograph of the majority of the siblings in the Band.

FAMILY AFFAIR

The Cornwall Youth Brass Band is fast turning into a Family affair with no less than seventeen pairs of siblings, one trio of sisters and one trio of brothers among its eighty six member musicians.

WELCOME

This season nineteen new musicians have joined the Band following their successful Auditions, and quickly settled into their various positions, enjoying the monthly Rehearsals and the Christmas Course.

DENNIS ARBON

We are sad to learn of the death of our Vice President Dennis Arbon MBE, on Sunday September 29th 2013. He had taken a keen interest in the CYBB for several years and had provided us with much wise counsel and generous support.

He was appointed an MBE in the 2013 Birthday Honours List for his outstanding services and philanthropy to the arts and the community in Cornwall, particularly those involving young people. Two of our Trustees, Sally Wilkins and Jim Gore were invited to attend the Presentation of his Award by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall.

TWO EXTRA CYBB CONCERTS AT THE HALL FOR CORNWALL TRURO

7pm Monday March 17th

HUBSTRAVAGANZA FESTIVAL OF YOUTH MUSIC

Tickets £9 & £6, Family Ticket £24.

The Cornwall Youth Brass Band will open this Concert by a selection of youth Cornish Musical Ensembles, organised by Cornwall Music Education Hub.

7pm Tuesday March 25th

CORNISH YOUTH MAKES MUSIC

The Cornwall Youth Brass Band is joined by the Cornwall Boys Choir and Cambiata Cornwall Choir, a total of some 200 young Cornish Musicians, in this Concert which is a tribute to the support given to young musicians in the County by the late philanthropist Dennis Arbon and which will financially benefit the Band.

The Concert will include the Premiere of a new work by former CYBB Member Simon Dobson for Band and Choir, which Dennis commissioned, as well as Kernow by Vyken, a new piece by Russell Pascoe, arranged for Band and Choir by Hannah Hawken.

ALL TICKETS £11 available from the Hall for Cornwall Box Office, 01872 262466 or www.hallforcornwall.co.uk

CYBB musicians will shortly receive a Booking Form asking them to confirm their participation in these Concerts. In the meantime we ask everyone to spread the word about the Dennis Arbon Concert in particular and to encourage as many people to book Tickets as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our Easter Course with Ian Porthouse, Musical Director of the Tredegar Band, the British Open Champions, will include a work by Dan Hall, one of our musicians.

At Christmas 2014 we will welcome back Tuba Virtuoso Les Neish, this time as Guest Conductor rather than Soloist. He is successfully leading the Junior Band at the Royal Northern College of Music among other conducting positions.

The Course will be on the usual dates, Saturday 27th to Tuesday 30th December. Gala Concert Tuesday 30th December 7pm. Guest Conductor Les Neish. The Concert will include the First Performance by Lowenna Taylor of a Tenor Horn Concerto by Christopher Bond, which she has commissioned. Both Lowenna and Christopher are former members of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band.

Easter 2015 will see the 60th Anniversary Course of the Band, from Friday 3rd April to Monday 6th April. The Gala Concert on Monday 6th April at 7pm will include the First Performance of a new work by Philip Harper, commissioned by us to mark the Anniversary.

Philip, who, as well as a noted composer, is Musical Director of the Cory Band, current National and European Champions, will be joining us as Guest Conductor, his fourth visit to the Band.

WORLD PREMIERES FOR THE CYBB

In addition to the new work, mentioned above, by Simon Dobson, Lowenna Taylor, our former Principal Tenor Horn player, has, as a result of her Harry Mortimer Memorial Trust Award, commissioned another of our former musicians, the composer Christopher Bond, to write a Horn Concerto for her. As mentioned above she has agreed to give the first performance with the Cornwall Youth Brass Band at our Christmas Gala Concert in 2014, with Guest Conductor Les Neish.

In addition our Guest Soloist last Christmas, Owen Farr, asked Christopher to write a new piece for him, which he played for the first time with the CYBB on the Course and at the Gala Concert.

To be entrusted with these first performances is a great honour for the Band and continues the tradition the Band has of being invited to give premieres by such eminent composers as Malcolm Arnold, Eric Ball, Elgar Howarth, Philip Harper, Darrol Barry and Simon Dobson, as well as two previous works by Christopher.

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOME PRACTICE FOR CYBB MUSICIANS **Practical tips from Aaron Harvey**

In my last article for the Summer Newsletter, I talked about how the music was chosen for each course and highlighted that one of the restricting criteria was our limited rehearsal time. This leads me on to the importance of home practice for each of the members.

When you pass your audition and join the CYBB it is because you are considered one of the best young players in the county with the potential to progress and improve. This will be as a result of your own desire to develop your playing standards and through being amongst a group of similarly-minded people. I can be pretty certain that you made sure that you were well

practised for your audition and probably nervous before your very first monthly rehearsal – both a sign of your desire to do the best that you possibly can.

Throughout your time with CYBB you need to ensure that you keep that same philosophy – you are a member of a large team, each as important as the other, where you have to play your part (quite literally!).

The fact that we are able to play challenging music with such limited rehearsal time can only happen if you take time to practise at home.

How to Practise

A lot of people see practising as a chore but strangely enough the more you practise, the better you become and the more you will WANT to practise.

Try to practise in a place where you feel relaxed and are not likely to disturb anyone unnecessarily. I know this can be difficult with brothers and sisters trying to do homework etc but maybe you could practise in your band room, if it's close by – as a boy I used to practise in our garage! Listening to your practice routine may not be especially soothing for those in the same house but it could give you a good reason to ask for a practice mute next birthday or Christmas.

It is important to give yourself realistic aims when you practise – just blowing through anything soon becomes tiresome when it sounds the same as it did 30 minutes before. Instead, highlight an aspect of a piece, maybe a slow section or a tricky passage, and try to improve it by thinking about ways to make it better – would false-fingering make it easier, can I breathe in a different place etc. Try these things and when they are successful you will have a real sense of achievement – practising will make sense.

Section Tutors

During the monthly practices and the course, we are here to guide you and use our own experience to get the best from your playing (many of us were your age once and also played in the CYBB!). The most effective way to use the sectional is to make sure you have practised the music as hard as you can at home and to know the parts that you need to work on when we meet up. Tutors are quite happy to answer questions and help the whole group master the harder aspects of the music – in fact it is great to hear you say “I’ve tried this part but I’m still having trouble with it”. Once again there will be a great sense of achievement for the whole group when you work together to get it right.

Remember we are totally dependent on each other to achieve the best standard we can, with the rehearsal time that we have – “Practice and preparation make for a perfect performance.”

Good luck, Aaron Harvey

CYBB INFLUENCE LASTS FOR LIFE

Our Chairman recently received this message from a former CYBB Musician.

Dear Leonard,

Just a quick e-mail to say how good it is to see the CYBB still running so successfully and to hear of the course with Richard Evans who we had worked with many years before.

The Cornwall Youth Brass Band has a very important place in my memories and I am very proud to have been a founder member back in 1958 (I think) - I still have the programme of our first Drumhead Service and Concert in 1959 conducted by Dr Denis Wright - a hard taskmaster as I recall! The CYBB had a major influence on my musical life and subsequent career.

I hope you are well and please pass my kind regards to anyone who may also have been involved in those days and is still around.

Happy New Year.

Paul Hiley

NEW TRUSTEES

We are delighted to welcome two new Trustees to the Band, Matthew Julian and Jeremy Meddows-Taylor, and appreciate their willingness to join the existing Trustees in helping us to go forward in continuing to provide our musicians with challenging and exciting experiences.

TWITTER

CYBB Trustee, Matt Julian, has set up a successful Twitter Account, which is building up an impressive list of followers, numbering 548 at the moment, including many well known names in the brass band world.

The address is @Thecybb please follow it and make use of it as much as you can.

FRIENDS OF THE CORNWALL YOUTH BRASS BAND

Why not become a Friend of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band, which is a self-funding charity. 100% of every £1 you donate will help our young musicians. All our trustees and local tutors give their time to the band entirely without charge.

It is an expensive business running two four-day residential courses for the band, directed by eminent conductors, one at Christmas and one at Easter, to say nothing of the cost of music, percussion instruments and other essentials. We are, therefore, always grateful for donations to help us provide

the best possible and most stimulating musical experiences we can for our young musicians.

Ways in which you can be a Friend

- Set up a standing order
- Make a one-off donation
- Make a gift aid declaration, if you are a UK taxpayer, and enable us to claim 25p from the government for every £1 you donate at no cost to you.

As a Friend, you will be entitled to receive our email Winter and Summer Newsletters to keep you up to date with news about the band and its activities. Your donation will be acknowledged in our Concert Programmes.

Full details of how to make a donation can be found on the CYBB Web Site, www.cybb.co.uk

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER on to anyone else you feel may be interested.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CYBB is on our Web Site, www.cybb.co.uk Follow us on TWITTER, @Thecybb

CONTACTS

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