



Cornwall Youth Brass Band

Band Brest an Yowynkneth Kernow

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As we enter 2016, the Christmas Course and Concert is still very fresh in the mind. The band was slightly smaller than in previous years, but again we were treated to a concert of the highest quality, and now look forward to the challenges of the Easter Course.

We were delighted that Mrs Margaret Hunt accepted the trustees' invitation to be a Vice President of the Band. They recognise the tremendous support she gives to Phillip and the long and valued service she has given the Band.

We began the season with the resignation of our lead local conductor, Alan Pope, who has given sterling service for 13 years, and is taking a well earned rest from his CYBB duties. We are grateful to Darren Hawken for taking over the role, and to Aaron Harvey who agreed to assist and support him. They proved to be a great partnership leading up to and during the course.

I am confident that our young members are getting the very best direction the Brass Band world has to offer. They were given a great deal of useful advice from both Michael Fowles and David Thornton and I am sure it can only be of value to the players as they return to their parent Bands.

With the Area Contest just around the corner I wish all CYBB players and their Bands every success.

Brian Minear

FROM MICHAEL FOWLES

To all members of Cornwall Youth Brass Band and everyone else in any way connected with this year's Christmas Course. Thanks for such a great concert and few days. So much musical maturity on display from such a young band. An absolute pleasure to work with

Congratulations!!!

Michael

CYBB SOUVENIRS

A CD of the Christmas Gala Concert is available from the Secretary for Members or from PM Sound, 01872 263300. The Annual CYBB Band photograph can also be ordered from the Secretary.

LOOKING AHEAD

At Easter we will be welcoming Tom Davoren as our Guest Conductor, along with Dean Wright as Guest Soloist. Tom is originally from Wales. He studied Tuba with Nigel Seaman at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. He founded the Flowers Youth Band and held his first position with the BTM Band from 2008 to 2012. Since then he has established the Bristol based Filton Band a Championship Section Band and holds positions as Musical Director with the Desford Colliery Band and Associate Conductor with the Fairey Band. He is Associate Composer with Brassband Buizingen in Belgium, and we shall be playing some of his music on the Course.

Dean Wright studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He is Principal Trumpet of the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, and also teaches at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama. Dean has also played Cornet with some of the top brass bands in the UK including Leyland Daf, Britannia Building Society, Besses o'th Barn and Sellers Engineering bands. In 2010, Dean was a panellist for the Brass Final of the BBC Young Musician Competition.

At Christmas Ian Porthouse, Musical Director of The Tredegar Band, will be making a welcome return on his third visit to the Band as Guest Conductor.

Easter 2017 sees us joined by Paul Holland, Musical Director of the Flowers Band, as Guest Conductor. We are delighted he will be joined as Guest Soloist by the Flowers Band's soprano player, Paul Richards. Paul is a former member of the CYBB, and his Father Rodney was the CYBB's first Soprano player, back in 1955.

By Easter next year 7 out of 10 of the Musical Directors of the Top Ten graded Bands in the world will have recently been Guest Conductors with us at the CYBB, to say nothing of the number of recent Guest Soloists from those Bands.

TRUSTEES

We are pleased to announce that Lee Rouse has been appointed a Trustee of the Band. Lee has been involved for many years with the Lanner Band, where he plays Cornet, and his daughter Siana is presently a member of the CYBB.

LUCY ABROAD

Cornet player, Lucy Moore, joined the Band in 2011. After a major personal fund raising effort she travelled to Cambodia last year, as she recounts below:

At the end of July last year I was lucky enough to travel to Cambodia for four weeks with volunteer organisation Camps International. During my time out there I got to see and do some incredible things, including taking part in construction projects for a local School, teach an English class and trek for four days through the jungle, getting to experience parts of this beautiful country that you would never see as a tourist.

I lived with my Team of about 20 students in different two Camps, first, Beng Mealea, and then Beng Pei. I also got to experience the cities of Siem Reap and the old Capital, Phnom Penh, where we stayed for a couple of nights between Camps, and then between leaving Beng Pei and coming home. Of all the things I got to do, highlights of the whole trip would definitely be visiting Angkor Wat, making friends with the local children and having a Tuk Tuk race through the streets of Siem Reap!

Thanks to everyone who supported me by buying the cakes I bought in a few months ago. My year and a half of fundraising definitely paid off, Cambodia was the best experience of my life so far!

CYBB ARCHIVES

Among our valued Volunteers, Tony Mansell, has a somewhat low profile. However he carries out the very important task of keeping the records of the Musicians taking part in the Residential Courses, which are shown on the CYBB Web Site. It was Tony who undertook the mammoth task a few years ago of ploughing through all the Course Concert Programmes since 1959 to list the names of all the participants.

Following the Christmas 2015 Course he has calculated that no less than 1219 young Musicians have passed through the band since 1959. That figure is even higher, as the Band was founded in 1955, but sadly we have no Concert Programmes or details until the first Residential Course in 1959, and have only been able to identify 20 or so players from that period.

Tony is a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedh and well known local historian. A former CYBB musician he has written several books on local Cornish history, including the histories of Camborne and St Agnes Bands.

CYBB WORLD CLASS MUSIC

The Cornwall Youth Brass Band has been responsible for quite a few pieces of music that have made a major mark on the brass band world, and have become popular and played by bands all over the world.

The great British composer, Sir Malcolm Arnold, came to live in Cornwall in 1965 and threw himself enthusiastically into the musical life of the County, in particular Brass Bands and specifically The Cornwall Youth Brass Band. The 1966 Annual Course of the Band took place at Fowey with Geoffrey Brand as Course Director. One of the pieces chosen for the course was Arnold's Little Suite for Brass, which he had written for The National Youth Brass Band of Scotland in 1963. In a Foreword to the Concert Programme he wrote "I have known some of the Brass Bands and Choirs in Cornwall for

many years, but it was not until I came to live here that I became aware of what a living tradition of music there is in this part of the world. I am certain that such an organisation as a Youth Brass Band not only does so much good for talented young musicians, but its influence will be far larger in a social sense, than only a musical one".

So impressed was Malcolm Arnold by The Cornwall Youth Brass Band, led on that course by our present Chairman, Brian Minear, that he offered to write a work for them for their next Course. Naturally the offer was gratefully accepted and on January 19th 1967 the score and parts of The LITTLE SUITE No 2 for BRASS BAND were received by Reg Trudgian, the Chairman of the Band at that time. The new work was premiered at Fowey on Easter Sunday that year at the end of Course Concert with the Composer himself conducting the three movements, Round, Cavatina and Galop.

The Suite was received with great acclaim prompting the Composer to write to Reg Trudgian a few days later that "The Concert was a great experience which I shall never forget. Every player excelled themselves and made me realise what a wonderful thing music is". The Little Suite was repeated the following year when Malcolm Arnold, to the delight of the Committee and Band directed the whole Course himself.

In July 1990, supported by the British Council, the CYBB went on a tour of France, Luxembourg and Switzerland under the baton of Leonard Adams. For the Tour, Goff Richards composed THE GOLDEN LADY, which became one of his most popular pieces, played all around the world to this day. It depicts the statue of the Golden Lady in the centre of the City of Luxembourg. It was part of a Memorial to those from the Country who had died during world War One.

When Luxembourg was occupied by Nazi forces in World War II, the Germans dismantled the memorial on 21 October 1940. Several portions of the memorial were rescued, and after the war, the monument was partially restored. The Golden Lady herself however remained missing until January 1980 when she was found hidden beneath the main stand of the national football stadium and restored to her rightful place. Goff's wife Sue came from Luxembourg, so perhaps she too was The Golden Lady.

A trombone player in the Band in the late 1950's, Goff attended the first Easter Course in 1959, which was held under canvas for the first and last

time at Porthpean, and conducted by Dr Denis Wright. Goff went on to become one of the most successful and well known composers in the brass band world, his music as popular as ever since his untimely death in 2011. He continued to take an interest in the CYBB all his life, serving as Music Advisor for many years.

Two other young Cornish composers are presently following in his footsteps. Christopher Bond, a member from 2006 to 2010 is Composer in Residence at the Cory Band, and has just released an entire CD of his music, played by the Tongwynlais Temperance Band, of which he is Musical Director. Daniel Hall joined in 2010 and though only 19 is Young Composer in Residence at the Grimethorpe Colliery Band. He is presently studying at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and on January 30th won the 2016 John Golland Award at The Festival of Brass at the Royal Northern College of Music. Dan won with his quartet, The Rite of Marie Laveau, played by the A4 Brass Quartet. He received £500 and an invitation to write a short work for Brass Band to be performed at a future Festival.

The CYBB has had the pleasure of giving first performances of several pieces by Christopher and Daniel.

PENLEE by Simon Dobson has gained a unique place in the history of brass band music. In May 2011 it was voted number 106 in the Classic FM Hall of Fame. It was the highest new entry of any genre and Simon Dobson was the seventh highest living composer in the 300 strong list. It has been used worldwide as a Test Piece and has been chosen for the National Finals in Great Britain, Switzerland, and for the North American Championships.

Simon is a former member and Tutor of the CYBB, and it was while he was chatting at a monthly Rehearsal in 2007 that he mentioned his wish to write a piece to commemorate the dreadful Penlee Lifeboat disaster of 1981. It so happened that the Band had just received a legacy from Michael Pickett of Bodmin, and it was decided to use this to commission Simon to fulfil his long held ambition. Penlee was first performed by the CYBB at the Christmas 2008 Concert, under the baton of Ian Porthouse. It was a very emotional occasion, with several relatives of the Lifeboat Men who had lost their lives present. The RNLI also loaned the Bell from the present Penlee Lifeboat to be used in the performance.

The Band's latest commission, made possible by a generous Legacy from Dennis Arbon MBE, was THE MERMAID OF ZENNOR by Philip Harper, commissioned to mark the Band's 60th Anniversary in 2015. The piece was first performed at the Easter Course Concert last year, conducted by the Composer. It has made an immediate impact, being chosen as the Second Section Test Piece for this year's Regional Championships of The National Brass Band Championships, when nearly 100 Bands will be enjoying performing it.

These are just a few of the pieces that the CYBB has given the first performance of, full details of all the pieces can be found on the CYBB Web Site, www.cybb.co.uk under the Course details in the Archive Section.

CYBB AMBASSADORS

The Trustees have established a new role to support the Band, that of CYBB Ambassadors. This Role is to establish and strengthen the existing links between the CYBB and the Cornish Brass Bands, particularly the Youth Bands. It is a proven fact, backed up by many Conductors of local Bands, that membership of the CYBB enhances the abilities of individual musicians, to the benefit of their Parent Bands, as well as the musicians themselves. It is envisaged that the Ambassadors will maintain contact with local Bands, to encourage their young musicians to consider membership of the CYBB at the right time, and mentor and support existing CYBB musicians during monthly Rehearsals and Courses.

We are delighted that Sarah Matthews and Tom Howard, who have recently left the CYBB, having reached the age limit, have agreed to accept these roles and become the first Ambassadors. In conjunction with our Youth Trustee, Matthew Julian, they will be spreading the word about the benefits of belonging to the CYBB in addition to Parent Bands, and shortly making contact with Bands throughout Cornwall.

EASTER OPEN DAY AND AUDITIONS for prospective members

Why not invite your friends to come and see the Band in action at our Open and Audition Day & Rehearsal on Saturday 26th March 2016, between 2pm

and 4pm? This will take place as part of our Easter Course at Truro High School for Girls, Falmouth Road, Truro TR1 2HU. They can,

- See the band rehearse with Tom Davoren and Dean Wright.
- Meet the Tutors and Trustees
- See what the School is like – and where they would eat and sleep on a Course

We will also be holding Auditions for new musicians during the afternoon, for those wishing to join for our next season in September. We have another exciting season lined up and hope that you will encourage many of your friends to join you in the Band, you know how good it is, so why not tell them. There is nothing like personal recommendation, so over to you. More information about the Band, joining details and Auditions on our Web Site for them, www.cybb.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE CORNWALL YOUTH BRASS BAND

We are always pleased to welcome new Friends of the Band. Even though everyone connected to the Band is a Volunteer, we still need to ensure a regular income to continue our work for your benefit. Please ask Relatives or anyone you know to consider helping us in this way. Our formal details about the Scheme are below.

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

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

CONTACTS

CYBB Administration, Secretary Phillip Hunt 01752 843919.

brassmanpgh@uwclub.net

CYBB Music matters, Lead Conductor Darren Hawken 07817 504036.

drhawken@hotmail.com

Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone else you feel may be interested