



Cornwall Youth Brass Band

Band Brest an Yowynkneth Kernow

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our 2017 rehearsals have already begun and we can look forward to an exciting Easter Course which will be led by Paul Holland the very successful musical director of The Flowers Band. He will be joined by our guest soloist Paul Richards the soprano player with Flowers who is no stranger to us, having been brought up in Cornwall and was a member of CYBB.

The Christmas course was a great success, despite rather low in numbers, and was the first since our new catering arrangements began following Jim Gore and our catering team deciding to stand down and take a well-earned rest. We are very grateful for their hard work over many years. This coupled with a number of increases in costs meant a rise in course fees, which are now heavily subsidised by CYBB funds.

Trustees are working hard to find help with funding as our aim is to continue to expose the young band members to the very best personnel in the Brass Band world.

2017 also sees changes to the Band's secretarial arrangements with the resignation of Phillip Hunt from the role after 13 years. We say a huge thank you to Phillip for his tremendous enthusiasm and hard work since he took on the secretarial role. However he remains a Trustee with responsibilities for publicity and archives.

This is now a busy time for all Band members with the Area Contest not far away and I wish all CYBB members every success.

Brian Minear

MORE ON THE CHRISTMAS COURSE

Cutting short their Christmas Festivities, forty two musicians of the Band gathered at Truro High School for Girls on December 27th for their four day Christmas Residential Course, under the baton of Guest Musical Director Ian Porthouse.

Ian, making his third visit to the Band, led the musicians, aged from 12 to 19, through intensive rehearsals and study of a varied programme of music, from the classic Test Piece Labour and Love, to more recent works, such as Shine as the Light by Peter Graham and Fire in the Blood by Paul Lovatt-Cooper.

He also conducted the CYBB in the World Premiere of Characters, an exciting new work which he brought with him by the Austrian Composer Stefan Unterberger who was born in 1978. After musical training at the local State music school on the Tenor Horn and Trombone, Stefan followed this up with study at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg. As well as his busy composing career he plays Tenor Horn with the Austrian Champions, Brass Band Oberösterreich, of which Ian is Guest Conductor.

Ian has a record of conducting the CYBB in first performances, having given the World Premiere with them in 2008 of Penlee by Simon Dobson, commissioned by the CYBB, and which has gone on to be played all over the world and which has now been chosen as the Championship Test Piece at this year's National Youth Championships. The Intermediate Test Piece at the Championships, Smoke Sketches, has been specially commissioned from Daniel Hall, a former member of The Cornwall Youth Brass Band.

On this Course Ian was joined by his wife, Leanne, who generously sat in with and coached the Cornet Section, as well as their young son, Harry, who was welcomed as an Honorary Member of the Band on Third Cornet.

The end of Course Concert was held as usual at St Michael's Church, Newquay, attended by the Mayor of Newquay and the Deputy Grand Bard of Cornwall, as well as a large audience of relatives of the Band's Musicians and local supporters. During the Concert a Presentation was made to Phillip Hunt, who was stepping down as Secretary of the Band after 13 years in the post.

THE CORNISH GORSEDH MUSIC SHIELD

The Cornish Gorsedh exists to promote the Celtic History and Culture of Cornwall, and to recognise those who individuals and organisations who make a conspicuous contribution to those aims. Each year it invests individuals as Bards to recognise their personal contributions and makes Awards to cultural bodies who have fulfilled those aims in the County. The Music Shield is a magnificent hand crafted Newlyn copper Shield, which has been awarded to the Cornwall Youth Brass Band at the Open Gorsedh four times since the Award was introduced in 1984. Firstly at Perran Round, Perranzabuloe in 1992, then Looe in 2008, and St Austell in 2015.

In 2016 the Music Shield was awarded to the Band for the 4th time for commissioning a major brass band work on a Cornish theme. This was The Mermaid of Zennor, by composer Philip Harper, to mark the CYBB's 60th Anniversary. The first performance of The Mermaid of Zennor, An Vorvoren a Senar in Cornish, was given under the baton of the composer at the CYBB Easter Concert in 2015. Based on the ancient Cornish Legend, the descriptive piece was chosen as the Third Section Test Piece for the 2016 Regional Finals of the National Brass Band Championships, where it was played by nearly 100 Bands around the UK.

The Shield is shown being received below by CYBB Vice Chairman Jim Gore from the Grand Bard, Merv Davey, at the Cornish Gorsedh Awards Concert at St Keverne Church in September 2016. This was in recognition of the Band's achievement in the creative arts in commissioning a piece of music reflective of Cornish culture, under the revised scheme of Music Awards created by the Cornish Gorsedh.

The new scheme has drawn work from the creative arts, Cornish studies and community service and merges the former children's and adults competitions with the long established Gorsedh Kernow Council awards, creating a new range of Awards for adults and a separate range for young people under 18 years of age.

"Awards are being given to entries that express the Celtic spirit of Cornwall and demonstrate exceptional endeavor or quality of work," said Grand Bard of Cornwall Merv Davey, *Telynor an Weryn*. The new Gorsedh Kernow Awards

are more flexible and less prescriptive,” said Merv Davey “and allow for entrants to demonstrate creativity in a variety of ways, including the use of digital media which has attracted an amazing number of entries in the under 18 age groups.”



NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR ST DENNIS & CYBB

Extracts from a 4barsrest report on our star Cornish Band St Dennis, who became National Champions at Cheltenham last September. Former CYBB Trustee Jayne Joy, mum of CYBB flugel Ellie, calculated that no less than 21 of the musicians on stage, including Darren, have played with or now play with the CYBB. Not a bad record for the Nation’s leading County Youth Band.

“St Dennis certainly gave the judges the type of balance they were looking for between imaginative musicality and technical proficiency just before the mid-point break as they claimed the title in engaging, balletic fashion.

Directed with fluency and understanding by their talented MD Darren Hawken, who is also Lead Local Conductor of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band, was a 'Ballet for Band' of tasteful discernment and gracefulness; a performance that had just the right 'style' they were looking for, especially from their remarkable 15 year old flugel player Ellie Joy, who, after the results, they made a very specific point of congratulating for her contribution.

'Some blips and blops but it has character, yet it is reserved — just letting go just at the right time time,' Alan Morrison wrote in his remarks before concluding with; 'Fine musical direction. Super playing here, with a masterful reading that brought the music to life and painted so many pictures. Well done.'

John Maines was equally as impressed in his concise summing up: 'Overall a fine performance that captured the spirit of the music.' Those key elements made the difference as many rivals failed to give due care to even the opening octave leap, whilst the subtle dynamic variances and tempo graduations that followed were also all too often careless portrayed and over emphasised.

Blown away

"I'm blown away," a rather shell shocked MD said as he held the National Trophy in a very warm embrace. "We are developing the band for the long term and want to keep making the right steps in the right direction. The players are brilliant, the organisation is great and the atmosphere and friendship is something special."

Chairman and former player Rodney Richards, who played soprano with the band in the halcyon top flight days of the great Eddie Williams, said, "St Dennis is a proud Cornish community band. We have had our ups and downs over our history, but this is certainly one of the best 'ups' I can remember." Last autumn Darren had the privilege of conducting the St Dennis Band in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, at Poundbury in Dorset on Thursday 27th October.

Royal occasion

The Queen, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, as well as HRH The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, and The Duchess of Cornwall, were in

Poundbury for the Queen to unveil a statue of The Queen Mother in Queen Mother Square, at the heart of the new Town, the brainchild of HRH Prince Charles. The St Dennis Band played throughout the day at the express Invitation of Prince Charles, by virtue of the fact they are the current holders of The Royal Trophy, awarded to them at The West of England Bandsmen's Festival in June this year. This unique Trophy, presented to the Festival in 1913, by the then Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, is awarded to the Winning Band in the Championship Section each year. Prince Charles has taken a close interest in the Festival, with its Royal connection, becoming Patron of the Festival in 2014.

COMPOSING SUCCESS

CYBB gives you unrivalled opportunities, when working with top class Guest Conductors and Soloists, as Daniel Hall found when the Tredegar Band announced the appointment of the former CYBB musician as its new 'Composer in Association'.

The Welsh Regional Champion has previously worked with the talented young Cornishman on commissioned concert and concert pieces, and as MD Ian Porthouse said, it's hoped that the new link will provide yet more exciting new compositions. Ian Porthouse first met Daniel in 2014, and recognised his talent, when he was Guest Conductor at the CYBB Easter Course in 2014, and the Band played Dan's Heaven's Shower.

"It's great to welcome Daniel to this role," he said Daniel's works are full of invention and innovation — elements that we enjoy, and he has already provided us with something new to get our teeth into. I'm sure it's going to be a productive musical partnership."

Daniel wrote 'Colours in Rain' for Tredegar which was premiered at the pre-British Open Gala Concert in Birmingham in 2014 and followed that up with 'Al Sharq' which they premiered at the Brass in Concert Championship.

He has also worked with Grimethorpe and Brass Band Oberostereich, with whom he wrote a work for the world-wide unveiling of a new motorbike from the world famous KTM maker.

Daniel, who is currently studying composition at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff under John Hardy said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to work with a world class band. As mentioned above, the Intermediate Test Piece at the National Youth Brass Band Championships, Smoke Sketches, has been specially commissioned from Daniel.

Other now well-known young composers who have been members of the CYBB include Simon Dobson and Christopher Bond.

Such opportunities also apply to CYBB players. There are many examples, such as Stephanie Wilkins and Hannah Plumridge, who now play Cornet with the world's top brass band, the Cory Band. They first met the Band's Musical Director, Philip Harper, when he was directing CYBB Courses. Of course with all these young people their talent took them to where they are today, but membership of the CYBB played a major part in providing them with important opportunities.

CORNISH FESTIVAL OF BRASS

Many members of the CYBB were in action with their Parent Bands at this new and very successful venture by the Cornwall Brass Band Association at Newquay on Saturday February 4th. Fourteen Cornish Bands took part in the Festival, each playing a 30 minute Programme on a non-competitive basis. A large audience enjoyed a wide selection of music, with very few repeats, in the relaxed atmosphere.

PETER MINEAR 10th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL CONCERT

This very special open air Charity Concert by the St Austell Town Band and St Dennis Band will be taking place at Molinnis Park, Bugle at 12 noon on Sunday 18th June, the day after The West of England Bandsmen's Festival. Peter, a lifelong Bandsman, was a member of the CYBB throughout the 1960s and later served on the Committee. It is 10 years since his passing and his Family have arranged this special Concert in his memory. It will be compered by his Brother Brian, present Chairman of the CYBB, who was a former

member of the Band at the same time as Peter. Tickets @£5 on the Gate or from the Bands involved.

NEW TRUSTEE

We are delighted to welcome Hannah Hawken as a Trustee of the Band. A former member, Hannah has supported the Band as a Cornet Tutor for many years, and is Principal Cornet of the St Austell Band as well as a busy accompanist and teacher. We are sorry that Nigel and Jayne Joy and Andrew Tellam have stepped down as Trustees, and thank them for their support and dedication over the last four years.

AUDITIONS

Why not invite your friends to come and join the Band. We will be holding Auditions and an Open Rehearsal for new musicians from 2pm on Saturday 15th April, during the Easter Course, for those wishing to join us for our next season in September. We have another exciting season lined up and hope that you will encourage many of them 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 are on our Web Site, www.cybb.co.uk

LOOKING AHEAD

For our Easter course this year we will be joined by Paul Holland, Musical Director of the Flowers Band, as Guest Conductor, and as Guest Soloist, Paul Richards, their soprano and former Member of the CYBB. Paul's father Rodney was the CYBB's first Soprano player when it was founded in 1955. The Easter Course will be held from Friday 14th to Monday 17th April, with the Gala Concert at St Michael's Church in Newquay at 7pm on the 17th.

For the Christmas Course this year we are delighted to welcome back Dr Stephen Cobb, Band master of The International Staff Band of The Salvation Army. Stephen was last with us in 2007, when he was accompanied by his son Philip, as Guest Soloist. We are hopeful that Philip, now principal Trumpet of The London Symphony Orchestra, will be able to join us as well, his orchestral duties permitting.

TWITTER & FACEBOOK

Our successful Twitter Account continues to build up an impressive list of followers, over 1000 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.

The Band also has a Facebook page, facebook.com/TheCYBB. Keep an eye on it.

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 THE CYBB is on our Web Site, www.cybb.co.uk

Follow us also on Twitter, @Thecybb and Facebook, facebook.com/theCYBB

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