



GBBA Newsletter

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Volume 1, Issue 4

November 2018

2019

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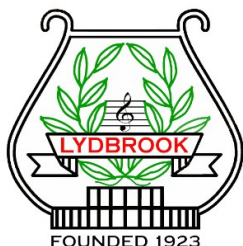
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Lydbrook Band Remembers

On Saturday 10th November Lydbrook Band has been invited to take part in a Remembrance weekend concert in the chapel of Cambridge University's Trinity College.

Through the diligence of composer-in-residence, Liz Lane, the band will have the privilege of playing in a 560 year old building which, as far as we can ascertain, has never seen or heard a brass band before.

The highlight of the concert will be Liz Lane's '*Silver Rose*', written in 2014 for brass band and narrator and based around the poems of Isaac Rosenberg, a Bristol poet. This will be the band's fifth performance of *Silver Rose*, having performed it every year since 2014 to commemorate WW1.

Rosenberg spent 18 terrible months in the trenches in France scribbling poems on scrap paper and sending them home for his sister Annie to type up. He made the ultimate sacrifice on dawn patrol on 1st April 1918. The poems will be read by Rosenberg's great nephew, Dr. Micha Lazarus.

Other programme items will include *Enter the Galaxies*, *Suite Gothique*, *Nimrod*, *Procession to the Minster* and a 'world premiere' cornet solo from Liz Lane, *Stars are not too Far*, to be performed by principal cornet, Phil Storer. The programme will be directed by Ian Holmes, the band's principal conductor.



International Flavour for Gloucestershire's Youth Band Leaders

Sunday 6th January 2019 Sir Thomas Rich's School, Gloucester

Want some tips on conducting ?

Ever wondered how you can create the next successful youth band?

The Gloucestershire Brass Band Association and Gloucestershire Music have joined forces to provide Youth Band Leaders and local musicians with some free training to help them develop their skills. Tom Davoren will lead a session on the basics of conducting (bring your instruments) followed by an open discussion with Tom Davoren, Piet Visser (Brass Band Leader from the Netherlands) and Remi Vilys (EBBA Rep for Lithuania) on successful youth band programmes.

The day will conclude with the opportunity to listen to the newly formed Gloucestershire Youth and Reunion Brass Band. To find out more details and to register your interest, please complete the survey money at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MW6DJXF>

Calling all past GYBB members

On Sunday 6th January we will be inviting past members of the Gloucestershire Youth Brass Band to join us under the baton of Piet Visser. If you are or know someone who is a past member, please spread the word. You can register interest by emailing steve.legge@gloucestershire.gov.uk or via Facebook (search GYBB Reunion).



Brass on the Radio

Forest of Dean based community radio station **Dean Radio** relaunched over the summer with a new FM radio frequency.

Previously broadcasting online for many years under the name of Triangle Radio, **Dean Radio** can now be heard across the Forest of Dean on 105.6FM as well as online. The station's brass music show has run for over 3 years now.

Strike Up The Brass gives a unique platform for bands from the Forest of Dean and the GBBA area as well as playing the latest CDs from the top bands. Many lower section bands never get to make CDs so presenter Dave Jury goes out to bandstands, churches and village halls to record the bands playing in their communities. Listeners will hear our local bands on every show. Recordings you won't hear anywhere else.

Bands can get free publicity for their concerts, events and vacancies.

Please contact Dave Jury

dave@forestmedia.co.uk or www.twitter.com/StrikeBrass

Tune in every Monday at 6pm on 105.6FM or www.deanradio.co.uk

A.W. Parker (Drybrook) Band Fund Raises at Pershore Abbey

On Saturday 27th October, the A.W. Parker (Drybrook) band performed at Pershore Abbey, and raised over five-hundred pounds for the Midsummer Brass Festival, which will be held on the 6th July next year.

The band, under the musical direction of Joshua Ruck, opened with Sandy Smith's uptempo and exciting arrangement of *Valero*, which was met with great applause from the large and enthusiastic audience. Next was the band's first soloist, principal cornet Trystan Jones, with a superb and virtuosic rendition of *Tico Tico*. Once the applause had died away, Josh introduced the piece receiving its debut performance by the band, *Poppy Fields*. The band's resident composer, David Crowe, penned the work while visiting Belgium's Tyne Cot Memorial, aiming to encapsulated the feeling of both peaceful serenity and great loss that one experiences when visiting such a place. Throughout the work, images of the 'Last Post' are heard in the distance, over a calm and reflective hymn-like melody. With the 100th anniversary of the first world war fast approaching, this was a timely and fitting piece to debut in such a wonderful venue.

The next piece, Sparke's *Jubilee Overture*, was a great contrast, with its driving rhythms and technical intricacies; juxtaposed against the sonorous and rich harmonies of *O Magnum Mysterium* which followed it. This was originally written for A Cappella choir by Morten Lauridsen, but had been masterfully arranged by Phillip Littlemore.

Philip Sparke's fun and engaging arrangement of the 60's classic *Under the Boardwalk* was performed by Rebecca Aston with great style and spirit. The first half of the concert was concluded with the 'Interlude' from *Year of the Dragon*, which featured some superb soloistic passages from solo trombone Chris License, and the exciting 'Cossack Wedding Dance' from *Call of the Cossacks*.



After the interval the band returned with two pieces featuring their young percussion section, Strauss' tone poem *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (known famously from the 1968 film, '2001: A Space Odyssey') and Lovatt-Cooper's *Enter the Galaxies* which, combined, opened the second half's space theme with flair and brilliance. The audience was then treated to an outstanding contemporary solo, performed by solo euphonium Mandy Hamer. Composed by Jonathan Bates, 'Sleeping Earth' from *Stratos* featured phenomenal virtuosic technique from the soloist, and vocal accompaniment from the band. *Cantina Band* (from Star Wars) and Holst's *Mars* followed this, maintaining the pace and excitement of the concert while showcasing the percussion section again.

The final soloist of the day was Andrew Jones, who expertly delivered a fine performance of The Hollies' *He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother*, which was followed by a piece that showcased the fine acoustics of this wonderful venue, Arthur Sullivan's *The Lost Chord*. As a finale the band had selected Ray Farr's arrangement of *Toccata in D Minor*, which was performed at an exhilarating pace, leaving the audience on their feet in a standing ovation.

This thrilling and diverse concert was greatly enjoyed by the keen and spirited audience, particularly the poignant performance of *Poppy Fields*, which was perfectly suited to being debuted in the glorious surroundings of Pershore Abbey. The band is greatly looking forward to performing in Pershore again at Midsummer Brass 2019.

Neil Crowe

Dementia Friendly Band Champion

Kevin White, in his role as a Community Dementia Link for the Forest of Dean area, is running 40-minute sessions for the whole band. Many people suffer from Dementia conditions and music is a proven therapy for supporting sufferers, helping them to reconnect and reminisce. If your band would like to become Dementia friendly, please contact Kevin for further information (Kevwhite55@hotmail.com or 07986 050432). The sessions are free and all participants get a free pin badge!

2019 Contests

January

12/13th Butlins Mineworkers Festival (Skegness)

19th **WEBBA Committee Meeting**

February

16th Welsh Open Entertainment Championship, Porthcawl

16/17th SWBBA Mid Winter Workshop, West Buckland School, Devon

23/24th Oxford DBBA Winter Contest, Malborough School, Woodstock

March

9/10th West of England Regionals, RICC, Torquay

Other regionals :

North West 24/25th Feb. (Blackpool)

Yorkshire 2/3rd March (Huddersfield)

Midlands 9/10th March (Bedworth)

London and SC 16/17th March (Stevenage)

Wales 16/17th March (Wrexham)

North 16/17th March (Durham)

23rd

April

7th Leicestershire BBA solo, duet & quartet Spring Festival, Loughborough School

21st SEWBBA Championships, Merthyr Tydfil

26/27th European Brass Band Championships, Montreux, Switzerland

May

18th 99th Spring Festival, Winter Gardens, Blackpool

26th All England Masters, Kettering

June

14th Whit Friday March Contests, Saddleworth & Tameside

15th West of England Bandmen's Festival, Bugle, Cornwall

September

7th 167th British Open, Birmingham

14/15th Section 1-4 National Finals, RaceCourse, Cheltenham

21st

October

12th National Brass Band Championships of GB, Royal Albert Hall, London

November

17th 43rd Brass in Concert, The Sage, Gateshead

Please check with individual organisers as details may change.

Full Steam Ahead for Pillowell in BBC Birthday Video

It was full steam ahead for members of Pillowell Silver Band, who feature in a special video to celebrate BBC Radio Gloucestershire's 30th birthday. With a cast of around 100 people from across the county and the film-making skills of students from the University of Gloucester, the radio station has recreated the hit that was number one in the charts on the day it went on air in 1988 – He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother.

The song also features some of the county's well known personalities like Eddie 'the Eagle' Edwards and other local heroes, and was shot at various iconic locations across Gloucestershire. Pillowell members found themselves on board the Dean Forest Railway earlier this month after filming was nearly cancelled due to heavy rain.

Pillowell MD Ian Whitburn said; *"It was a real privilege to be involved in such a lovely project to celebrate not just BBC Radio Gloucestershire's 30th birthday, but also the colour and heritage of the county. Brass bands are at the heart of the Forest of Dean, and it's fitting that this heritage was included in the video.*

I would also like to thank the Dean Forest Railway for coming to the rescue and providing such a fantastic location for us when heavy rain nearly stopped play on the day of the filming. We have performed in some unusual venues, but a moving steam train is definitely a first!"

As well as making their film debut, it is a busy month for Pillowell, who are also preparing for a number of contests and Christmas concerts. Mr Whitburn said; "With a great mix of concerts and contests, our friendly band is much in demand and we always welcome new players of all abilities."

Pillowell Silver Band can be contacted via their website www.pillowellsilverband.com, by email info@pillowellsilverband.com or calling Ian on 07894 998225.

The anniversary video can be found on BBC Radio Gloucestershire's facebook page or <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06pv81t?fbclid=IwAR0I-NvTX-RtbgTagugTJnTsVWIL57luTlMs0hWXiUdIGDZqdc8tJeifTewY>





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for inclusion in
the next issue

www.gbba-online.org.uk

www.webba.org.uk

www.brassbandsengland.co.uk

2018 Calendar

November

- 10th Lydbrook Band, Trinity College, Cambridge
- 18th GBBA March & Own Choice Competition**
- 18th LBBA Open Contest, Leicester
- 17th/18th Brass in Concert, The Sage, Gateshead
- 24th SEWBBA Autumn Festival, Merthyr Tydfil
- 24th Wessex Winter Contest, Bournemouth

December

- 1st Cinderford Band, Wesley Church, Cinderford
- 1st City of Bristol, St Michael's Church Centre, Stoke Gifford
- 1st Nailsworth Silver, Christchurch, Nailsworth
- 2nd Phoenix Brass, Catholic Hall, Lambourn, Wilts
- 4th Bristol East, St Aidan's Church, St George's, Bristol
- 7th Frampton Band, Cadbury Hall, Frampton on Severn
- 7th Pillowell Silver, Clubhouse, Sling
- 8th Ross-on-Wye, Larruperz Centre, Ross-on-Wye
- 8/9th Tewkesbury Band, Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury
- 9th Cheltenham Silver, Dursley Tabernacle
- 9th Gloucester Brass, Tirley Village Hall
- 9th Stourport-on-Severn, Stourport Sports Club
- 12th Phoenix Brass, Newbury Racecourse
- 13th Flowers Band in aid of Maggie's, Christchurch, Cheltenham
- 14th Cirencester Band, Cirencester Parish Church
- 14th Pillowell Silver, Clubhouse, Sling
- 15th Lydbrook Band, Dene Magna School, Mitcheldene
- 15th Thornbury Town Band, United Reform Church, Thornbury
- 15th Wotton & District Silver, Kingswood Village Hall, Wotton
- 16th Chalford, Subscription Rooms, Stroud
- 16th Flowers & Cheltenham Bach Choir, Pump Rooms, Cheltenham
- 16th Forest of Dean Brass, Lydney Town Hall
- 16th Swindon Pegasus, St Barnabus Church, Gorse Hill, Swindon
- 17th A.W. Parker (Drybrook), Drybrook Memorial Hall
- 19th Wotton & District Silver, Chipping Sodbury Town Hall
- 23rd Stourport-on-Severn, Arley Station, Severn Valley Railway
- 25th Cirencester Band, Cirencester Hospital
- 26th Cirencester Band, Cirencester Park

Please check with individual organisers as details may change.

Merry Christmas

