

“Making music at the heart of the East Midlands”

## Future Events

As you can see from the ‘Dates for your Diary’ below, the Band already has a full programme of concerts for 2009.

We are delighted to have been invited by the current Mayor of Ashby to play a concert in aid of the ‘Wishes 4 Kids’ charity. We have chosen a programme of music to suit the young, and the young at heart. We are also pleased to be joined by the ever popular ‘Seaforth Highlanders’, so listen out for a rousing finale!

In April we will be giving the annual St George’s Day Concert, organised by the Ashby Rotary Club. The concert will feature a programme of music exclusively by English composers, such as Vaughan Williams, Holst, Lloyd Webber, Barry and Lennon and McCartney - something for everyone!

In June we have been invited to perform a concert of popular classical music at The Palace Theatre in Ibstock. The programme will include Viennese classics as well as works by English and foreign classical composers.

In November the Band is taking the lead in organising a Concert of Remembrance in aid of the Royal British Legion ‘Poppy Appeal’. Once again we will be joined by the Seaforth Highlanders and we will be performing ‘Highland Cathedral’.

And finally, our annual Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday 19th December at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby.

## Dates for your Diary

7th March	Mayor’s Charity Concert	<i>Holy Trinity, Ashby</i>
25th April	St George’s Day Concert	<i>Ivanhoe College, Ashby</i>
27th June	Summer Concert	<i>The Palace Theatre, Ibstock</i>
6th November	A Concert of Remembrance	<i>Holy Trinity, Ashby</i>
19th December	Annual Christmas Concert	<i>Holy Trinity, Ashby</i>

Enquiries/Tickets call Jackie Ashton (01332 864007) or Pat Maltby (01530 222934)  
Please note that all concerts start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated.

## Charity Matters

The success of the Band over the last 12 months, and the need to satisfy our Charitable Status commitments required us to have our accounts independently examined by a qualified accountant. We are very grateful to Mr. Andrew Stant of local accountants Johnson, Murkett & Hurst for agreeing to do this work without charge."

[www.ashbyconcertband.org.uk](http://www.ashbyconcertband.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. 1112173



Adrian Ashton  
Director of Music



## Ashby Concert Band - “Notations”

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It is customary to start our first edition of the year with a look back on all we achieved in the previous year, however, on this occasion we have some excellent news to give you which has got our new year off to a flying start.

I am delighted to tell you we have been successful in securing some funding from the National Lottery to allow us to purchase some much needed instruments. We will be using the money to buy three concert timpani and a tuba. This Award has been made in recognition of the work undertaken by the Band in the Ashby community.



## Looking Back - Looking Forward

Once again the Band can look back and be proud of all it has achieved over the last year. Our programme of concerts throughout 2008, which included the Mayor’s Charity Appeal Concert, the three concerts we performed in Germany, the concert at the Palace Theatre in Ibstock, and finally our annual Christmas Concert, were all a great success. The variety of music played at the concerts ranged from popular classical, through to contemporary ‘pop’, including some of the best known music from film and stage. No matter what the genre, the Band demonstrated its prowess and versatility across the musical spectrum.

Looking forward to 2009, once again we have a full series of concerts already confirmed right through to Christmas. As ever, the aim of the Band Committee is to continue to develop the musicianship and standard of the Band whilst at the same time fulfilling our commitment to the local community in Ashby de la Zouch.

We look forward to your continued support and encouragement and we hope to see you at our concerts throughout the coming year.



*Adrian*

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### Portrait of a Player: Amanda Berry

When the band is playing, look to the left of the Musical Director and you will see the flute section. At the front on first/lead flute you will see Amanda Berry. To get to this position takes a high standard of musicianship appreciated by audiences and band members alike, but Amanda's talent goes beyond her ability as a flautist. Any band member who went on the Germany trip last spring will remember Amanda's unfailing ability to find the best Schwartzwalder Kirschtorte in town. The success of the trip was in large part due to Amanda's skill in organisation and attention to detail. Amanda was the one that took responsibility for filling in all those forms that have to be done correctly, or the trip just doesn't happen! Amanda helped draw up our itinerary and she was there to ensure that everyone had clear instructions and was on the bus on time.



Amanda started to learn music at primary school, first playing the recorder and guitar, then piano, starting lessons at the age of 7. When she moved to High School she realised that a piano was a bit large to transport and she wanted to play an instrument in the school band. All her friends played the clarinet, so she thought she was being original by taking up the flute, little did she know then that every band she would subsequently join would have at least 15 flutes and that she would have been more in demand if she had taken up a brass instrument! Throughout High School Amanda was in the band and choir and helped to run the junior music groups; she left school having reached grade 7 piano, grade 8 flute and with the school prize for music.

Despite being destined for a career in science, Amanda chose her university carefully and went to Warwick, where a vibrant music department kept her busy throughout her degree. She continued to sing and play and was on the committee of the university wind band, which she also conducted for 2 years. Since then Amanda has worked in various areas of the country but wherever she has lived she has always found a community band to join. She has played with White Rose Concert Band in Harrogate and Werneth Concert Band in Stockport; she still considers herself an honorary member of WCB, returning as a guest player whenever they will let her, and going on tour with them whenever possible.

Amanda's other hobby is hiking; she met her partner Tim in the university hiking club and they spend their weekends and holidays walking in the Lake District, Wales and Scotland. They also play with a local folk group 'Calling Time'.

### Instruments of the Band

It occurred to us that for those of you not too familiar with the instruments we play in Ashby Concert Band, it might be a good idea to introduce the instruments as well as the players. Our success in obtaining a Lottery Grant to buy new instruments seemed to be the perfect reason to start this series of articles, and where better to start than with the new instruments themselves!

#### The Tuba - 'King of Brass Instruments'



The tuba is the largest and lowest pitched brass instrument. The sound is produced by vibrating or "buzzing" the lips into a large cupped mouthpiece. It is one of the most recent additions to the modern symphony orchestra, first appearing in the mid-19th century, when it largely replaced the ophicleide, (a remarkable instrument that closely resembles a baritone saxophone but with a cupped mouthpiece instead of a single reed).

A symphony orchestra usually has a single tuba. It is the principal bass instrument in symphonic concert bands. It serves as the bass of the brass section. The main tube of an E-flat tuba is 13 feet long; the instrument has four valves which allow the instrument to play all the notes in the harmonic scale. Influential parts for tuba have been written by the likes of Gershwin, Wagner, Strauss, Shostakovich and Prokofiev, to name but a few.

#### The Timpani - 'Power House of the Percussion Section'

Timpani are musical instruments in the percussion family. A type of drum, they consist of a skin called a head stretched over a large bowl traditionally made of copper, and more recently constructed of more lightweight fibreglass. They are played by striking the head with a specialised drum stick or timpani mallet. Unlike most drums, they are capable of producing a selected pitch when struck, and can be tuned, with the use of a pedal mechanism to control each drum's range of notes.

Timpani evolved from military drums to become a staple of the classical orchestra. Today, they are used in many types of musical ensembles including concert bands and even some rock bands.

