



# Notations

The Ashby Concert Band Newsletter

Adrian Ashton, Director of Music



## Notes from the Director of Music

Well it's been a busy few months again for Ashby Concert Band as we prepare for our forthcoming concert at De Montfort Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> October. As I am sure you recall, the concert is to celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and we are delighted to be sharing the occasion with our good friends the Seaforth Highlanders, who will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

As part of our Anniversary Celebration we decided to hold a dinner on 17<sup>th</sup> June which was attended by nearly all Band members and quite a few of our Patrons. I thought it might be appropriate to recall some of the messages given by David Curtis, our Chairman, and myself in our after dinner speeches.

I started by pointing out just how far the Band has come musically over the past 15 years. During that time we have added no less than 162 pieces to our performance repertoire and many of those pieces represented significant musical achievements because of their technical difficulty, good examples being Mars (Holst), Ride of the Valkyries (Wagner), and Euphonium Fantasy (Sparke). We've also progressed in terms of the concerts we give and the venues we have played; who would have thought 15 years ago that we would perform on the same stage as the Berlin Philharmonic, or travel to France to perform in front of 300 people? And all of this has been achieved because of the exceptional calibre of the members of the Band; we have been fortunate indeed to have had so many players of exceptional ability who are prepared to commit so much to the success of the Band.

As for the future, well from where I stand the future for the Band looks excellent. Plans are in place for us to return to Pithiviers next year – there is the concert in De Montfort Hall to look forward to later this year. We already have a number of confirmed and provisional concerts for 2011 and 2012. We have new music in the library; we have a significant number of pieces we have only had the opportunity to play once or twice which I am sure we will enjoy playing many times more in the future. David and I are both agreed on the fact that there will be no Competitions for ACB. Many bands measure their success by the number of Gold, Silver or Bronze awards they get from participating in national competitions. We measure our success on the size of our audience, the number of new faces we see at concerts and the positive comments we receive from our audience members. I personally doubt whether a competition band would be able to boast 162 pieces in 12 years. We are also fortunate to have such a fine and committed group of members on our Committee, ensuring that our future is at least secure in terms of our finances and our Charitable status.

The future of ACB is in the hands of its members - literally - it is our playing and musicianship that will continue to secure our long-term future and success. As I have said so many times, and I will continue to say in the future, music is about communication – we need to engage with our audience, to draw them in, to the point where they feel that we are talking to each one of them individually through our music. If we can make as much progress over the next 15 years as we have over the last 15 years, then the name of Ashby Concert Band will be providing musical pleasure and delight to the good people of Ashby for many, many years to come.

*Adrian Ashton*

Director of Music

## Dates for your Diary

22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Anniversary Concert, de Montfort Hall	11 <sup>th</sup> November	Concert of Remembrance (Ashby)
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Annual Christmas Concert (Ashby)	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2012	Fund-raising Concert (Ashby)

All concerts are at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Tickets are available from Ashby TIC, the Hub café or by calling Jackie Ashton (01332 864007) or Pat Maltby (01530 222934.)

# “Making music at the heart of the East Midlands”

## Joint Anniversary Concert : 22<sup>nd</sup> October, De Montfort Hall, Leicester

We have decided to forgo our normal 'Portrait of a Player' article this month in order to concentrate on our forthcoming Joint Anniversary Concert with the Seaforth Highlanders. This is a major event for the Band for a number of reasons, not the least being it provides us with the opportunity to play at one of the best concert halls in the UK, said by some to be in the 'top 10' acoustically.

The programme of music has been carefully and thoughtfully selected to demonstrate the versatility of a concert band. We are anticipating that a number of people who will attend the concert will not be familiar with the concert band at all. The Programme of Music will include a number of well known pieces, including Elgar's **Pomp & Circumstance March No. 4**. We will also be playing two pieces by the great film composer John Williams, namely **Schindler's List** and **Star Wars – The Empire Strikes Back**. On the more reflective side we will be playing two folk/traditional tunes – **Suo Gan**, the well known Welsh lullaby, and **Ashokan Farewell**, written to commemorate the American Civil War. We will also be playing **Tall Ships** written by Ron Goodwin for the 1996 Royal Tournament, and **Chorale and Rockout**, that essential repertoire piece for all concert bands. Finally we will be playing a stunning original work by James Curnow, **Where Never Lark or Eagle Flew**, inspired by the John Magee poem 'High Flight'.

In addition we will be playing four pieces with the Seaforth Highlanders. The first of these is **Distant Hills**, the theme music from the TV series 'Crown Court'. Next will be a work commissioned for the Novia Scotia Military Tattoo entitled **Snow on Schiehallion**. The third piece would not normally be associated with the Pipes at all – it is **Gabriel's Oboe**, written by Enio Morricone for the film 'The Mission'. Finally, no concert with the Pipers would be complete without us playing **Highland Cathedral**.

The concert will also feature the Seaforth Highlanders and the Seaforth Dancers performing a number of traditional Scottish themes and medleys, along with a few "surprise items" you would definitely never associate with the Highland Bagpipes.

As you can see it will be a night to remember. However, we must remember that the De Montfort Hall holds 1600 people and we need as much help as possible to help fill it! Please can we ask you to spread the word and encourage as many people as possible to come and support not just Ashby Concert Band and the Seaforth Highlanders, but the whole concept of 'Live Music in our Community'. Tickets cost £8.00, £10.00 and £12.00 and are available from De Montfort Hall Box Office either by telephone (0116 233 3111) or online at [www.demontforthall.co.uk](http://www.demontforthall.co.uk).



## Supporters Acknowledgements

Ashby Concert Band is especially grateful for the continued and extended support of our Patrons,

Mrs. M. Tuckey

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