

Recruitment

As always we are keen to attract new players, and although we always welcome woodwind players to the Band, we are really keen to attract new brass instrument players. So if you play, or know anyone who plays, Trumpet/Cornet, French Horn, Euphonium, or Tuba then you will be most welcome to join SCB.

Future Concert Dates for your diary:

- June 12th – Music of the West End Stage, St Denys Church, Ibstock
 - October 23rd – **Celebration Concert**, Holy Trinity Church, Ashby
 - November 12th – Remembrance Concert, Holy Trinity Church - Ashby
 - December 4th – Christmas Concert, Swannington Church
 - December 11th – Christmas Concert, Hugglescote Church, Coalville
 - December 18th - SCB Annual Christmas Concert, Holy Trinity Church, Ashby
- To reserve tickets for any of the above concerts please phone Jackie Ashton on 01332 864007 or Pat Maltby on 01530 222934

Review of SCB Barn Dance by Cait Richardson

This was the first evening social event that had been organised since I joined SCB in early 2002 and offered a chance for the band members and supporters to 'let their hair down' together. A local group, 'The Windmill Folk' had been booked to entertain us for the evening with music and dancing.

For many people, this was their first experience of a Barn Dance, however, very few people were still sitting down by the end of the evening. Because the dances are taught by the band, people are not expected to 'know the moves' when they first arrive and people of all ages could easily join in. The dances ranged from fairly simple circle dances, through to some slightly more complicated dances requiring sets of three or four couples. Inevitably, the well ordered steps occasionally descended into chaos but these moments added to the fun and everyone was soon back on track thanks to the guidance of the Band Caller. In between every couple of dances, the band played some traditional music while the dancers rested and regained their breath.

During the interval, a light Ploughman's style meal was provided (thanks to all concerned for their hard work) and people soon returned to the dance floor - if only to dance off the second helping of pudding!

All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable evening and I'm already looking forward to the next one.



STAUNTON CONCERT BAND

'Notations'

June 2004

Welcome to another copy of Staunton Concert Band Newsletter

You will notice in the Future Concerts Dates that we have a Celebration Concert planned for October with one of the UK's top trombone players, Chris Jeans. This the major event of the year for SCB, and represents a significant step forward in our playing and performance standards.

Chris Jeans is currently principal trombone with the Yorkshire Building Society Band. Chris is also a guest conductor with the RHP Band based near Loughborough, and conductor of Youth Brass 2000. Chris will be playing the Ferdinand David concertino for trombone and concert band. Amongst other highlights at the concert will be well known pieces by Bernstein, Holst, Coates, and Elgar, to name but a few. The concert will take place at Holy Trinity Church in Ashby de la Zouch on Saturday 23rd October, at 7.30 p.m. (ticket prices will be announced nearer the concert date).

In November there will be another first for SCB. We have been invited to give a Remembrance Concert as part of the annual Celebration of Remembrance. Local British Legion Associations will come together on Friday 12th November in a Concert of Remembrance at Holy Trinity Church in Ashby. SCB will be joined by the Seaforth Highlanders Pipe and Drum Band. Music in the concert will celebrate and remember the acts of bravery and sacrifice made by members of the Armed Forces during the World War I and II.

Portrait of a player – Liz Morton

Liz sits in the middle of the clarinet section, a stalwart musician whose contribution to the unique 'Staunton Sound' is greatly appreciated. At rehearsals every week and at the concerts she is a committed player giving freely of her time and energy.

Liz's earliest musical memories are of piano lessons with which she persevered until she was eighteen. She remembers with affection her teacher Mrs Vickers, who singled Liz out to play duets with her. She also dabbled with a recorder and a guitar, but was always jealous of the unique qualities of the clarinet. After years of juggling family commitments and a demanding job, she became determined to find some time for herself, which led to Normans music shop in Burton, a new clarinet and lessons.

Her next step was to find another outlet for this musical talent, and when she heard about a then recently formed band rehearsing at Staunton Harold, she and several of her fellow pupils at Normans decided to give it a try. Here she felt at home developing her playing and enjoying the social activities of the band.

Liz's new found musical confidence has stood her in good stead in her job as a primary school teacher. Her musical talent has also rubbed off on her two children; one of them plays trumpet and the other jazz piano. Liz likes a wide variety of music, just like the music played by Staunton Concert Band, but if pushed to make a choice, it is the songs from the musicals that come top of her list.

Are there any pieces you would like us to play?

If you've got a real favourite you think SCB could play then drop us a line or e-Mail and tell us your suggestion - you never know - it could be on a future concert programme! e-Mail: requests@stauntonconcertband.co.uk

The SCB Patrons' Scheme

SCB's Patrons' Scheme continues to attract new supporters who are keen to provide the Band with direct financial support whilst obtaining a number of exclusive benefits. Becoming a Patron costs just £20 per year. For more information contact our Chairman, Dave Curtis, on 01332 810116, or any member of SCB Committee.

What is a Concert Band?

A question that many of you may have asked is 'just what is a concert band?' Well, as Musical Director of Staunton Concert Band let me try and shed some light on that question. A concert band, also sometimes known as a (symphonic) wind orchestra or wind ensemble, comprises many of the instruments that you would expect to see in a conventional orchestra, but without the string instruments like violin, viola, and cello. "What about the double bass?" I hear you say! Well, believe it or not, string basses are part of a concert band, although I have to say they are rarely seen.

So, just what instruments are in a concert band? Well, we have flutes – including piccolo, and clarinets (Eb, the popular Bb, alto, bass, and if you're really lucky, contra-bass). We also have oboe and occasionally cor-anglais (a bigger version of an oboe basically), and bassoon – two if we're lucky. Staying with the woodwind instruments, i.e. those that use a reed to produce the sound, we also have saxophones. In a concert band there are always alto, tenor and baritone saxophones; occasionally there is a part for soprano saxophone, but this is quite rare.

As well as the range of woodwind instruments, there is also an array of brass instruments – much as you would get in a brass band, but with one or two notable differences. Whereas a brass band only has cornets, a concert band has cornet and trumpet parts to play. Brass bands have parts for Eb Tenor Horn, whereas a concert band has a full French Horn section (French Horns are always part of a conventional orchestra as well). Brass bands have parts for baritone and euphonium, whereas a concert band only has parts for euphonium – not that there is too much difference – unless you are a euphonium or baritone player! Finally like a brass band, a concert band also has parts for tuba and trombone.

Finally, more in keeping with a conventional orchestra than a brass band, a concert band also has a full percussion section, including drum kit, timpani, tuned percussion like marimba, glockenspiel, xylophone, etc., plus a huge range of auxiliary percussion instruments for making a variety of sounds and helping to add great colour and texture to the music.

In many respects a concert band bears a great similarity to a military band as you will see playing and parading on Horse Guards Parade at the celebration of the Queen's Official Birthday each year.

So, I hope that sheds some light on what comprises a concert band. At SCB we have most of the instruments you would expect to see – sadly we do not have a string bass, and we do not have a cor-anglais (a very expensive instrument which few oboe players are able to afford). We also lack our own timpani and tuned percussion – we borrow those from Ashby Grammar School when we need them. So look out for some of those instruments next time you come to one of our concerts – I hope this insight into the make-up of a concert band enhances your enjoyment of our music.