

CORNWALL YOUTH BRASS BAND

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2009

FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

I hope you all enjoyed the new experience of listening and playing alongside the musicians from the Army Corps of Music. The weekend has helped to even further enhance the reputation of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band. The intense rehearsal with Captain Barringer and the sectionals with the Army musicians were great and I would hope that we can offer something similar again in the future.

I am sure you all appreciate that events like this take a considerable amount of organising and our thanks again go out to all those involved. We must now move on and look forward to another Easter weekend of music making and enjoyment. Keep practising.

Leonard Adams.

MESSAGE FROM DAVE DANFORD after the Christmas Course..

“I was made to feel very welcome and had a great time performing with the young musicians. The standard of the playing was much higher than you usually expect to hear from a youth band and my contribution as a soloist was made far easier thanks to the support of everybody involved. I would love to come and work with the band again in a future course. Obviously you need to vary the soloists you use from year to year but I wouldn't think twice about returning if invited.”

At the Concert the Band gave the world premiere of Penlee by Simon Dobson, which the Band had commissioned using funds from a generous legacy from Mike Pickett. The Concert attracted a great deal of very positive publicity and comments, the Band certainly made a lot of new friends, some of whom wrote to us as shown below.

Part of the review which appeared in Living Cornwall in The Western Morning News on Tuesday January 6th 2009 under the heading, Pride and pain at world premiere of “Penlee” by kind permission of the author, Simon Parker.

“To a hushed church, Penlee opened with an amalgam of phrases ranging from brooding to celebratory, before almost immediately giving way to a scene of pre-Christmas jollity; after all, no one in Mousehole or anywhere else had any inkling of the horror to come and were therefore engaged in normal festive activities on that December evening. Rather than creating an impressionistic piece, Simon Dobson chose a clearly programmatic approach, literally telling the story, through music, of four decisive hours that led to the loss of 16 lives and changed the lives of countless others forever. Unsentimental, but brimming with emotion, throughout this 15-minute salute the composer sought to create a narrative, using all the instruments in the brass band palette to awesome effect.

In the audience, representing Solomon Browne families and the RNLI, was Janet Madron, widow of second coxswain and mechanic Stephen Madron, who died, aged 35, in the disaster. Mrs Madron, who is chairman of fundraising for the Penlee RNLI branch, said afterwards: "It is a wonderful piece of music, but it was also a very painful experience because you never forget. I found it extremely emotional, thinking right back to that night again. Cornwall Youth Brass Band played absolutely wonderfully, they are a wonderful band and it is lovely to see such talent in youngsters"

Some of the comments received from Representatives of the RNLI who attended the Concert.

Just a word on behalf of myself, my wife, and all representatives of Penlee Lifeboat you were kind enough to invite to the splendid CYBB concert on 30th December. The 'Penlee' piece, which was the principal reason for our attendance, was amazing. Like many others I was so awestruck at its overall power that I could not fully appreciate the musical details, and I cannot wait to hear it again. It is sure of a great deal of attention in future, so congratulations on creating its world premiere. I can only say it was both moving and inspiring, to us in particular, but no doubt it is destined to have the same affect on everyone who hears it.

Best wishes, Mike Sagar-Fenton, Press Officer, Penlee Lifeboat

I had heard a lot about Simon's music, but nothing could have prepared me for what we heard last night - it was amazing and really set the scene of what happened on that awful night over 27 years ago - as a young volunteer crewman at another Cornish Station at the time it is a memory that still seems just as vivid today as it did then. The quantity and quality of the music that the band members had mastered over the four days was outstanding, which is a credit to everyone who gave up their time, especially the music tutors, and it was clear from the evening that the band had formed a very strong bond with Ian and David.

Dave Nicoll, RNLI Area Fundraising Manager (Cornwall & Isles of Scilly)

The Penlee music was extraordinary and superbly played. I am sure it was appreciated by us all, but I cannot begin to imagine the thoughts and feelings of those who attended who were involved with the lifeboat station at the time of the incident.

Tamsin Thomas, RNLI Media Relations Manager (South)

The CD of the Concert is available at £10 from Paul Martyn at PM Sound on 01872 263300.

LOOKING AHEAD.

To obtain the top Conductors to join us for our Courses it is necessary to book them well ahead and we have an exciting selection over the next couple of years. Easter

2009, Philip Harper. Christmas 2009, Garry Cutt. Easter 2010, Richard Evans. Christmas 2010, Dr Robert Childs. Easter 2011, possible Guest from Europe.

DID YOU REALISE ?

That everyone involved with The Cornwall Youth Brass Band, with the exception of our Guest Conductors and Soloists, who quite properly receive a Fee, works on an entirely voluntary basis. This is why the cost of the Courses can be kept so reasonable in comparison to similar local and national organisations, who may not have this advantage. With the generous support also received from The Cornwall County Music Service and Truro College we are able to keep the running costs of the Band as low as possible, as has been the case since the Band was founded in 1955. We are always pleased to welcome offers of extra help, particularly on the Residential Courses, when there are a lot of routine, but enjoyable tasks to be carried out. Just let Phillip know if you or anyone you know who might be interested.

EASTER ANNIVERSARY.

The Easter Course marks the 50th year since the Band held its first Residential Course, camping out in August 1959 at Porthpean near St Austell, with the Concert being held in the open air at Poltair Recreation Ground in the Town. Many now well known Cornish musicians played on that first course, including Goff Richards, our Music Advisor and Brian Minear, our Music Co-ordinator. During the Course this Easter we are organising a get together on the Saturday evening with as many of those musicians as possible, along with an exhibition of memorabilia and photographs from the Course. If you know anyone who played with us on that Course, please ask them to get in touch with Phillip.

CYBB SCREEN DEBUT.

Music played by the CYBB and taken from recent Concert recordings will be heard as part of the background music in a new film shot in Marazion. Called, Dancing in The Streets, it is has been professionally filmed and is centred around the Annual Marazion Town Carnival.

CYBB WEB SITE.

Andrew Julian spends a lot of time ensuring that there is always something new on our Award Winning Web Site. Please make sure you have a regular look, you might even find your own photograph at www.cybb.co.uk Why not Google CYBB ?

PLEASE pass on the Newsletter to your Parents/Guardians and Friends after you have read it.

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