

# CORNWALL YOUTH BRASS BAND

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2010

What another great course with Richard Evans and Owen Farr, enjoyed by all, players, supporters and audience. Now we look forward to new challenges with Dr Robert Childs for the Christmas course and the appearance at The Festival of Brass, Manchester in January. The fantastic Alan Withington with Michael Dodd on the euphonium at Easter. Give all your friends the details and invite them to be part of this exciting new season by joining the Cornwall Youth Brass Band.

Leonard Adams, Chairman.

FROM THE MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR

Most of you will be in the midst of a very busy summer season with your parent Bands with the summer being such an important time for Brass Bands in this part of the Country. However, I know having met many of you at Bugle Contest, that you are eagerly awaiting the Autumn when you meet many friends as we resume rehearsals for the CYBB Christmas Course.

Looking back to Easter I am quite sure that Richard Evans and Owen Farr were a real hit and the course was thoroughly enjoyed by all Band members. Apart from the enjoyment it was also a very fulfilling musical experience culminating in an excellent concert in Newquay.

We look forward to our Christmas Course with Dr. Robert Childs with whom I have already been discussing the musical content, which will not only be used on the course but again in January when we meet with Gwent Youth Band to give a combined concert at The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. You will have all received details of auditions for Principal positions in the Band from Phillip and there is a reminder of closing dates in this Newsletter. Enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Brian

FROM RICHARD EVANS.

I wish to put on record my delight in the Easter Course of our beloved Band. The work rate and enthusiasm of all the young players was a treat to behold. Not only do these musicians show a keen-ness for learning and performance, they possess an ability to have fun and happiness whilst they work. It has to reflect on the teaching and admin staff who oversee the Band throughout the year. The kitchen staff are an inspiration, so well organized and able, the food was superb. The Band and all its players from 3<sup>rd</sup> Cornets, 2<sup>nd</sup> Horns, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trombones, to the principal players can feel very proud of the progress made. Thank you.

From two of your greatest fans, Richard and Pam.

THANKS. The Trustees are most grateful to York Instruments for their support in making the visit of Owen Farr possible.

## NEXT SEASON.

We are sorry to say that the proposed joint Course with The Greater Gwent Youth Brass Band at Christmas will not now take place. Taunton School, where we had planned to hold the course, suddenly withdrew their offer of accommodation and despite extensive enquiries it did not prove possible to find an alternative. We did however receive a firm offer from the organizers of The Festival of Brass in Manchester to give a joint Concert with the Greater Gwent Youth Brass Band on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January at The Royal Northern College of Music. This Festival is the most prestigious weekend of serious brass band music in the Country. This is the first time that a Youth Brass Band has been invited to take part and we will be in such famous company over the weekend as Black Dyke, Cory, Leyland, Grimethorpe and, Fodens as well the 50 young players of the Venezuelan Brass Ensemble. Dr Robert Childs will take our Christmas Course and Concert on the usual dates, he will then take the Gwent Course the week after, rehearsing the joint items on each Course. We intend to travel to Manchester on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January in time for a joint Rehearsal with Gwent. We stay overnight before the Concert on the Sunday morning and then travel back late afternoon. As previously advised there will be no charge to CYBB Musicians for the trip, however to qualify for the trip Musicians must have attended the monthly Rehearsals and the Christmas Course.

At Easter we welcome Alan Withington, Professional Conductor of The Grimethorpe Colliery Band as well as their Solo Euphonium Michael Dodd.

2010/2011 SEASON DATES. Please note these in your Diary now. Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October. Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November. Christmas Course with Dr Robert Childs 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January. Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February. Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April. Easter Course with Alan Withington and Guest Soloist David Dodd. 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> April. Monthly Rehearsals at Truro College, Courses at Truro High School for Girls.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January, joint Concert with The Greater Gwent Youth Brass Band, at The Festival of Brass at The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.

## YOU CAN DO IT AS WELL.

I have been asked to write a small article for the summer newsletter, so I thought I'd talk about composition and how easy it really is.

I still have the first piece I ever wrote - it was a hymn, only eight bars long for piano and voice that I wrote when I was eight. And here I am, ten years later going to the Royal Welsh College of Music in September to study the subject!

The whole idea of writing music for a band seems very daunting - so many parts to write for, and how to make each one as interesting as possible for the listener and the players! I always have an idea in my head before I start - a motif or phrase which I can develop. In 'Behold the Power of God' which CYBB performed at Easter, this idea was just four notes - Bb, A, Bb and high F. These four notes, or these intervals I should say, make the basis of the fanfare-type opening, main theme later on, and the slow section in the middle! It's just a matter of developing them into something more substantial - ideally a tune!

If you can hear something in your head, sometimes the difficulty may come when you try to transfer these ideas onto paper. I always break things down and I work it out eventually! It might be a drum rhythm, for example, which you can hear in your head, but don't know how to write it down. Just break it up, work out the time signature and what notes fall on what beats.

Finally, just to say that composition is an incredible introduction to music as a whole, and makes you think about not just your own individual part, but all parts - what they're doing, and how they're linked. I've certainly never looked back, and I'd encourage all young musicians to have a go!

Christopher Bond

ANOTHER REMINDER ABOUT MEMBERSHIP & COMMITMENT. Being a Musician in The Cornwall Youth Brass Band brings many benefits. There is the chance to make new friends, to work with the best known and most talented Conductors and Soloists in the Brass Band World, as well as regularly rehearsing with our local Tutors. With Membership however comes the responsibility to give total commitment, not just to the Band itself, but to your friends and fellow musicians in the Band to ensure the high standards for which the CYBB is renowned are maintained. Many people work very hard voluntarily to organise the Band for your benefit and it is only right that these efforts should be supported by all the Musicians. It continues to be our policy of course that Parent Bands always come first, but beyond that by joining the CYBB it should be understood that you commit yourselves to attending the monthly Rehearsals on a regular basis as well as both Annual Courses. Remember when you sign your Re-registration Form you are accepting this commitment. For those Musicians away at College or University outside Cornwall, application should be made to the Secretary to be able to attend the Courses but to be excused Rehearsals.

CYBB ON CD & DVD. Copies of the Easter Course 2010 CD and DVD as well as the Christmas CD are still available. DVD @ £5 from Phillip only. CD's can be ordered from PM Sound on 01872 263300.

PRINCIPAL CYBB POSITIONS. Auditions for the Principal Cornet and Section Principals now take place each year and it is expected they will be at Truro College on Sunday 8th and 22nd August. The Auditions will be taken by a Panel of our Tutors led by Brian and will be fully documented. Please think very carefully before applying to be a Principal, it is a big responsibility and a total commitment to the CYBB is expected, with attendance required at ALL Rehearsals and both Courses. Details of the Audition requirements for all Principal positions this Season can be obtained from Brian or Phillip.

Your Application for an Audition must reach Brian by Sunday 25th July. He will be pleased to discuss any questions you may have regarding the Auditions. His number is 01726 63686. E Mail, [brian@minear.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:brian@minear.fsbusiness.co.uk) . Address, 40 Sandy Hill, St Austell PL25 3AT .

BAND REPRESENTATIVES. During the first Rehearsal in September it is the responsibility of the Musicians to appoint two Players Representatives. Their Role is to act as a link between the Musicians and the Trustees and to canvas, receive and pass on comments, opinions and suggestions from the Musicians, all of which, positive or not are welcomed by the Trustees. Our thanks go to Jessica Tredrea and Christopher Bond who have worked very hard on your behalf this year.

A means of transport is needed as Representatives should be able to attend the regular meetings of the Trustees and contribute to those Meetings, though under the Charity Constitution of the CYBB voting on resolutions is not permitted. In relation to the CYBB Residential Courses they also assist in the allocation of rooms and help show Musicians to their accommodation, oversee the Course Musicians Survey and generally assist the Trustees and County Welfare Team in ensuring that Health and Safety Regulations, CYBB Rules and School Instructions are followed and act as Role Models for the benefit of the smooth running of the Course. Also to assist the County Welfare Team in suggesting and if necessary help to organise Social Activities during the Course and make a collection during the Course to purchase suitable Gifts for the Guest Conductor & Soloist. During the end of Course Concerts propose a Vote of Thanks and make Presentations to the Guest Conductor and Guest Soloist and at the Easter Course assist in organising the Voting for Players Player of the Year. Naturally a commitment to attending all the Rehearsals and Courses is essential.

THINKING ABOUT PRACTICE.

We all know practice makes perfect and David Loukes has prepared a set of helpful notes to enable you to make the most of it. He has kindly made these available to the CYBB Musicians. They are too long to include in this Newsletter, but a copy can be obtained on request from Phillip.