

# **CORNWALL YOUTH BRASS BAND**

## **Spring Newsletter 2011.**

### **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas course working with Dr Robert Childs and appreciate the honour of playing under such an eminent conductor.

What an impressive sight to see and hear the massed bands of the Cornwall and Gwent Youth Bands on stage at the Festival Of Brass, Royal Northern College Of Music, Manchester. I hope you all found the experience rewarding. It was a massive undertaking to organize such an event and special thanks must go to Phillip Hunt for his work in achieving this. I felt very proud to be associated with you all.

The pressure was on at the Hall for Cornwall with little rehearsal, but the experience of playing in such a venue with an appreciative audience makes it worth the effort. It was great to read the letter from Jake on leaving the Band, it makes all the work done seem worthwhile, we wish him continued success.

We are very much aware that this season has been exceptionally busy and would not want to make this the norm, as to inflict too much upon your time and that of your parent Band. Thank you all for your effort and let's finish the season with a good thank you Concert for Truro College and a great Easter Course with Allan Withington and Michael Dodd.

Leonard

### **FROM THE MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR**

Since commencing our new season in September 2010 the Band has been kept very busy, and it is credit to all young musicians who have worked so hard. Our first rehearsal in September was in preparation for the Christmas Course taken by Dr Robert Childs the Musical Director of The Cory Band. They are the current World and European Champions ranked No 1 in the world. The music studied was very demanding as we had been invited to combine with Gwent County Youth Band at the end of January in Manchester in what is considered the most prestigious festival for Brass Bands in the world. At this event only serious original Brass Band music is played, so time would not permit us to rehearse a completely different programme for the Christmas course. However we were able to intersperse the music at the Christmas course with some "lighter music" and featured sections of the Band in place of inviting a guest soloist.

The Christmas course went well and Dr Childs is always very popular with the young people. All those in the Band benefited from his knowledge and experience, and the course ended with an excellent concert at Newquay.

Christmas had hardly passed before we met again in early January to commence rehearsals for the Easter course, but also recapping on the Christmas music to keep it fresh in the minds for the Manchester Concert. This trip was a wonderful experience with the Band performing at the Royal Northern College of Music once again under the direction of Dr Childs. The Band are to be congratulated on a great performance which gained much praise from many quarters.

The trip to Manchester also gave those who wished a chance to attend the concert by the World famous Venezuelan Brass ensemble. Those who did not take the opportunity to hear this world famous group of Brass musicians missed a performance which received rave reviews and will live in the memory of those who attended for a long time.

The Band, however, were not allowed to rest as two weeks later they appeared in the Hall for Cornwall giving a repeat of their Christmas programme directed by Jeremy Willcock and myself. Again the Band played exceptionally well with congratulations received from a number of people.

The busy period for the Band continued as they met on the following day to continue rehearsals for the Easter course. Our guest conductor for the course will be Allan Withington who is greatly involved with Bands in Norway and is the professional Conductor of the famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Michael Dodd who is the Grimethorpe Band Solo euphonium player will be our guest soloist.

I can assure you that the music, although at times challenging, will be completely different in nature from the Christmas course as Mr Withington is renowned for his interesting and innovative programme planning, so be prepared!!

We need to keep our standards high and always to be proud of being part of CYBB. Please tell your friends and hopefully they will consider auditioning to be part of this wonderful organisation.

Brian

## **CHRISTMAS RECORDING**

A CD recording of the Christmas Concert is available from PM Sound, Tel 01872 263300. A DVD of the 2010 Easter Concert is still available from the Secretary.

## **MANCHESTER EXCITEMENT**

One of the highlights of the brass band calendar is the Festival of Brass held in Manchester at the Royal Northern College of Music. Some of the world's greatest bands get invited to play, but in previous years there has never been youth bands asked to perform. It was an absolute honour for Cornwall Youth Brass Band to be invited to play alongside the Gwent Youth Brass Band at this prestigious event.

Our annual Christmas course and concert this year was conducted by the famous Robert Childs, currently the conductor of Cory Band, which are presently World Champions. As well as conducting our Christmas Course he also spent time with Gwent Youth for their Course. He joined us on stage in Manchester, which was a great privilege.

It was an early start for everyone, getting up at the crack of dawn to meet the coach at various places in Cornwall. After a staggering 8-hour journey we finally arrived in Manchester with just enough time to check in to our hotel and to relax for an hour before heading to a rehearsal with Gwent Youth at the College. When we reached our destination everyone was feeling quite nervous and intimidated. But when we left everyone was relaxed and happy, having thoroughly enjoyed spending time with another youth band.

The day of the Concert was an important one and backstage before the Concert you could barely move in the changing rooms and the excitement was infectious. The performance itself went very well and it was elating just imagining some of the world's greatest musical figures would be watching. It was lovely to have met youth players from a different part of the country similar to us, but we had to say our goodbyes following the Concert. After playing on stage we had the fantastic opportunity to either watch the internationally known Venezuelan Brass Ensemble or to sample the shops that Manchester's Trafford Centre has to offer.

A very busy weekend finally came to a close. By this point on the trip everyone was very tired but sad that it was over, travelling back the same day. The whole Band enjoyed the trip and anticipates knowing what's in store for Cornwall Youth Brass Band in the future...

Bethany Telling

## **CYBB MUSICIANS AT THE PROMS**

You may have seen the e-mail from Phillip Hunt? Harriet, Jessica and Mum Teagle did and signed up. The BBC was recruiting for a family orchestra and chorus made up of musicians and singers of all ages and abilities, to perform at the Proms. Half from Cornwall, half from London. Basically anyone who wanted to put the effort in could take part, parents or grandparents no longer condemned just to be a taxi driver, dusted off their schooldays instruments and joined in!

In May we all met in Truro for a rehearsal. Lincoln Abbots, the project leader, had us doing some crazy stuff with clapping, singing and loopy mind bending exercises to wake us up and get us working as a team. Members of the BBC Concert Orchestra including Cornish Lass Kate Moore, who is their principal Trumpet, were there to help whip us into shape.

Graham Fitkin a Cornish Composer (Google him!) had been commissioned by Radio 3 to write a piece of music for us to perform at the Proms. He named it PK. The theme of PK

stems from the telecommunication station sitting on the beach down at Porthcurno (yes that's weird inspiration for a piece!) From that hut on the beach in 1870 the first Morse code signals were sent out to the rest of the world via an underwater cable. The 10 minute piece contains chunks of Morse code messages which each section of the orchestra composed themselves, secret messages!

The strangest bit; there was no musical score for us to follow. We had to learn the piece and memorise. A new system of hand signals was developed to show which theme or rhythm was coming up next, there were 12 conductors in total including main conductor Keith Lockhart (Google him too!) Mind blowing at first, but practice, practice, practice and it came together like a well oiled machine for the Proms performance.

In August the Cornish people traveled to London by train to stay at Imperial College right next to the Royal Albert Hall. We met the London contingent and rehearsed all together with the BBC Concert Orchestra at the huge Maida Vale studios. The BBC musicians were great to spend time with; they are amazingly talented but good fun too.

A spin off from this; Harriet being invited to play with CYO and taking a trip to London to play and record a symphony with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

Prom night on 30th August 2010; 300 of us walked out on stage, with our families, with our fellow Cornishmen/women, with our London friends, with the BBC Concert Orchestra. Performing to 5007 people in the audience, and live on Radio 3, this could have been terrifying but we played, we remembered, we sang, we smiled, we bowed and we were so proud to be at the Royal Albert Hall.

Harriet and Jessica Teagle

(Jenny Boase and Charlie Hodge, with Parents, also took part in the Prom as a result of the E Mail.)

## **MESSAGE received by the Secretary from JACOB PRITCHARD**

Hope you are well, just a quick e-mail to say how much I enjoyed last weekend in Manchester. It was an excellent performance and really enhanced the reputation of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band and hopefully other projects such as this could continue into the future.

As I mentioned on the Christmas course my schedule is very busy at the moment and I can now confirm that I will defiantly not be able to take part in the Easter Course due to European Championship commitments with Tredegar.

I am sad as this would have been my last "official" course with the Band at the correct age and so unfortunately this means that after almost ten years this Saturday's concert will be my last outing with the Cornwall Youth Brass Band. In that time I have attended I

believe 17 courses under some of the finest musicians in the country and made the most amazing friends.

Without the Cornwall youth brass band I would not be the player I am today and would not have had the wonderful experiences that have come my way at this point in my life. As it may be hectic on Saturday I would like to say in this e-mail now a huge thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band and wish you all the best of luck in maintaining this musical vehicle in Cornwall which has produced some of the finest musicians in the world. If ever the band needs my help as player or tutor I will do my best to help.

Jake Pritchard.

## **WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?**

Several thousand young musicians have enjoyed the benefit of membership of the Band since it was founded in 1955. There is hardly a Band in Cornwall that does not have some players or a Conductor who has been a member. Many have gone on to become professional musicians at the highest level. For instance, Goff Richards, Mark David, Principal Trumpet of the Philharmonia Orchestra, Bryon Fulcher, Principal Trombone of the Philharmonia Orchestra, Cathy Moore, Principal Trumpet of the BBC Concert Orchestra, Graham Sibley, Principal Tuba of The City of Birmingham Orchestra, Nicholas Hitchins, Principal Tuba of the Orchestra of English National Opera, Jamie Prophet, Principal Trumpet of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, to name just a few. Many of them are happy to give advice to any player in the Band regarding making music their career, full details and contacts are available from Phillip.

Likewise there are many involved in our top Bands, recently these include, Zoe Hancock at Black Dyke, Jacob Pritchard and Lowenna Taylor, both members of Tredegar Band when they won the British Open last year and now about to play with them at the European Championships in Switzerland. Many have become musicians in the Bands of our armed forces, for instance, Adam Gore, Michael Smith and Paul Saggars are serving as Bandsmen in HM Royal Marines Band Service. Plus of course all those who may not now be playing, but continue their interest in the CYBB and brass band music.

We are delighted that Tony Mansell, a former member and well known local historian and author from St Agnes has volunteered to finish the complete list of players which was started on the Web Site some time ago. He is working through all the old Concert Programmes we have in the Archive, but there are some missing. If anyone has any of the following, or knows where we can find them please let Phillip know. The years we want are,

1955–1956 -1957-1958. 1960-1966-1968. 1975. 1984-1986. 1990-1991-1992-1993-1997-1998. 2002.

Finding these will enable to complete the list of past players and the collection of Programmes in the CYBB Archive. We are happy to copy them and return or accept them as gifts.

## **TRURO COLLEGE CONCERT**

The CYBB is taking part in a Concert at The Mylor Theatre at the College which features Ensembles connected to the College under the title of A Musical Extravaganza. The date is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm, tickets at £5 and £3 are available from The Hall for Cornwall Box Office on 01872 262466.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Our Guest Conductor at Christmas this year will be Michael Fowles with Guest Soloist Richard Marshall, Principal Cornet of Black Dyke. Dr Nicholas Childs will be with us at Easter next year.

Please this Newsletter on to anyone else you think may be interested.

## **WEB SITE**

We are very grateful to Rebecca Thomas for taking on the job of Web Master and for taking most of the photographs at our recent events which are now on there. Please make sure you take a regular look at the Site, as new items are continually being added.