



# Cornwall Youth Brass Band

Band Brest an Yowynketh Kernow

## Summer Newsletter 2019

### Fantastic Year Planned

We look forward to the next event in the life of this fine band – the 2019 Christmas term. For this course we have the dynamic and inspirational Steve Sykes as guest conductor and Stephanie Wilkins as soloist.

Steve was guest conductor at our Christmas 2012 course so he is no stranger to this Band or to Cornwall having led many of our bands at contests and concerts. We know that the young players of the CYBB are looking forward to playing under him. Stephanie was a member of this Band from 2004 to 2013: she has commissioned a new piece by Yorkshire composer Christopher Binns which she hopes will be available in time for the course.

An exciting new departure is in place for our Easter 2020 course when the CYBB will combine with players from the Army Brass Ensemble. Surely this will make for a most memorable course and concert. The inspiration behind this wonderful initiative is none other than Grace Denford who has handled all the negotiations with the Army.

# Don't miss out on joining this fine Band

Have you missed previous auditions?

It's not too late!

Auditions will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September at Truro College.

No matter what brass or percussion instrument you play there is a place in this band for you so please download your application form from our website: [www.cybb.co.uk](http://www.cybb.co.uk) and send to Robert Kitchen, Boskessy, Cargreen, Saltash, PL12 6PA  
[mail@rgckitchen.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mail@rgckitchen.eclipse.co.uk)

To all brass band members: perhaps there is someone in your band, or there is someone you know, who would benefit from membership of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band. Just persuade them to speak to any past or existing member and they will tell them what an amazing opportunity it is to play with such an enthusiastic group of people and what a chance of a lifetime it is to take part under some of the top musicians in the world.

## Dates for your diary 2019–20

- 29<sup>th</sup> September 2019 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019: Christmas Course at Truro High School for Girls with Guest Conductor Steve Sykes
- 28<sup>th</sup> December 2019: Open Rehearsal and Auditions for January 2020 joiners at Truro High School for Girls
- 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019: Gala Concert at St Michael's Church, Newquay – doors open 6.30pm. Admission £8 each (children under 14 free) is by programme available at the door
  
- 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm

- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 rehearsal at Truro College from 9.30am to 1.30pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020: Easter Course
- 11<sup>th</sup> April 2020: Open Rehearsal and Auditions for September 2020 joiners
- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020: Gala Concert

For those attending auditions there will also be the opportunity to:

- See the Band rehearsing under its Guest Conductor
- Meet the tutors and trustees
- Check out where the course attendees eat and sleep

## A Course full of Pizzazz at Easter 2019

The 2019 Easter course culminated in another excellent concert full of vigour, fun and good music. James Gourlay brought his own form of panache and it was quite clear that the audience enjoyed it. He brought the best out of these talented youngsters and took them to heights some would have doubted could be achieved. Musically, it was a great success but it was so much more – the showmanship and pizzazz made it a night to be treasured for the players and one to be remembered by all present.





The programme

Olympic Fanfare and Theme	John Williams Arr Peter Graham
A Pittsburgh Overture	Philip Sparke
Canterbury Chorale	Jan Van der Roost
Captain America	Alan Silvestri Arr Glenn Liven
Gaelforce	Peter Graham
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Where Eagles Sing	Paul Lovatt-Cooper
Amazing Grace	Traditional Arr William Himes
Apollo 11	Drew Fennell
Malaguena	Ernesto Lecuona Arr Mark Freeh
West Side Story	Leonard Bernstein Arr Eric Crees



(Photos: Tony Mansell)

Grace Denford (Principal Cornet): *"The band this Easter was considerably smaller than in previous years but this didn't stop us enjoying the tuition. James had faith in us and with his skills helped us to perform pieces that both the band and tutors were a little unsure about. His quirky lively manner certainly got the best out of the band. This course gave all of us a taste of what American brass band shows are like. An experience we will never forget and pointers that we will all take home to our own bands. He taught us not only how to improve our playing with breathing and rehearsing techniques, but also how to put on a show and perform to the audience to make them come back. I feel that this was certainly shown in the great show that the band put on for James and the audience. James also showcased his own talents as a player and included our very own percussion section in a little "improv" session which we all enjoyed and found a good bit of fun.*

*Overall, this experience was something a little different but one never to be forgotten. I am sure he has inspired many of the younger players to venture overseas for a musical career with a difference.”*



James Gourlay (Course Director) (Photo: Tony Mansell)

Brian Minear (CYBB Chairman):

*“The CYBB Easter course was a great success. The young people worked very hard under the inspirational leadership of course director Dr James Gourlay.*

*The programme was a great challenge to many of the players, but they enjoyed the experience that the music brought to them, ending in a great concert.*

*We now look forward to the Christmas course under the leadership of Steve Sykes.”*

## CYBB Musicians Awards 2019

Congratulations to those CYBB musicians who received one of our Annual Awards. With the exception of the Players’ Player Award, voted for by the musicians themselves, the musical awards are decided by our tutors.

A R Trudgian and Maurice Westlake Youth Award: Grace Denford and Matthew Opie

Most Improved Player:

Megan Peareth

Players’ Player:

Siana Rouse

Youngest player:

Violet Margetts

Most promising player: Corey Williams  
Player of the year: Siana Rouse  
W A Hunt Award (conspicuous contribution): Grace Denford  
Goff Richards Cup (most promising trombonist): Morwenna Smith

The “conspicuous contribution” award again went to Grace Denford and it was clear that there could have been no other decision. At one stage, the lack of players made it appear that the course would not go ahead and it was due to her efforts in cajoling, persuading or whatever word we can use, that it was back on the rails. Considering its success, what a shame that would have been.

## Become a Player Rep



Player Rep elections will again be held in September.

Are you interested in standing for election?

Yet again, our thanks go to Grace Denford and Matt Opie who have worked very hard on your behalf this year.

There is no age restriction to taking this role but you do need transport as it's important that representatives attend and contribute to the regular meetings of the trustees. Under the Charity Constitution of the CYBB, however, voting on resolutions is not permitted. In relation to the CYBB residential courses they assist in the allocation of rooms, help show musicians to their accommodation and generally assist the trustees and welfare team in ensuring that Health and Safety Regulations, CYBB Rules and School Instructions are followed. They also act as role models for the benefit of the smooth running of the course, assist the welfare team by suggesting and, if necessary, helping to organise social activities during the course. A commitment to attending all the rehearsals and courses is essential.

## Can you help run CYBB?



Andrew Teague is to spearhead the hunt for new CYBB personnel: with Brian Minear retiring as Chairman at Christmas 2019 and Robert Kitchen standing down as Treasurer on 31 May 2020, the hunt is on to find new volunteers to fill these roles. If you are able to help or know of anyone who might be, please contact Andrew at [andrewteague35@gmail.com](mailto:andrewteague35@gmail.com)

John Maines appointed new Lead Tutor.

John is well-known in the brass band world: he is a trustee of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and Musical Director of Bodmin Town Band. We welcome him to this important post.

*“Our dedicated team of trustees, tutors and helpers continue to work on your behalf just as their predecessors have done throughout the long history of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band. Their only reward is to provide Cornwall’s young brass and percussion players with the unique opportunity of participating in this wonderful band. Speaking as one who has benefited from being a member I thank them all, both past and present. We are very grateful.” (Anon)*

## Finances – can you help?



Robert Kitchen, our hard-working treasurer, says,

*“Everyone connected with CYBB is a volunteer but we still need a regular income to meet the significant cost of running such an organisation. Please can you help by making a modest contribution?”*

*You may like to set up a standing order or perhaps you would prefer to make a one-off donation and if you are a UK tax-payer this can be increased by 25% at no cost to you.*

*Every penny of your donation will be used to help our young musicians.*

Becoming a Friend of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band is easy and details can be found on the CYBB Web Site: [www.cybb.co.uk](http://www.cybb.co.uk)

As a Friend, you will:

- Help us to provide the best possible and most stimulating musical experience for our young musicians.
- Receive our emailed summer and winter Newsletters to keep you up to date with news about the band and its activities.
- Be acknowledged in our Concert Programmes.

## Publicity

News of the Cornwall Youth Brass Band is shared as widely as possible – aided these days by email and by Social Media. And why not? For many years the CYBB has been an important part of our wonderful Brass Band movement and news of its activities should be shouted from the hilltops. Over 1200 young musicians have passed through its ranks and it has benefitted the careers of many players who have progressed to the bigger stage. Long may it continue and long may we sing its praises.

## History is Fun – honest!

The Cornwall Youth Brass Band had its beginnings back in 1955, over 60 years ago, and the fact that it is still flourishing is something about which we should all feel very proud. It has enriched the lives of so many young musicians but countless other folk have also been involved, some as tutors and others in administrative roles. Their contribution is acknowledged and recognised in our records.





1972 with Roy Newsome (Photo: unknown courtesy of David Jane)



Cecil Brewer was born in Tavistock of Cornish parentage. When he was about three years old his family returned to Cornwall – to St Austell where he grew up and eventually began working for St Austell Brewery.

He began his playing career at St Austell Band in 1923, on cornet, an instrument he was to play for his entire playing career which included two appearances at the Crystal Palace, in 1927 and 1928.

In 1938 he became the St Austell Bandmaster but the war years intervened and with players leaving to join the armed forces, it was impossible to continue. Following the cessation of hostilities the band re-formed with Cecil Brewer as its musical director, a position he held until the early 1960s. He then conducted Mount Charles before moving to take the baton at St Blazey. He was said to have been delighted to be asked to conduct the massed bands at Constantine Sunday on two occasions.

Cecil's involvement with the CYBB possibly began in the mid to late 1950s. He was still there in 1982 having missed only one of the annual courses. He tutored the cornets and occasionally the basses or, as he always referred to them, the basses – to rhyme with brasses. He was a popular figure with the youngsters with whom he always had time to share a joke and a chat. Indeed, they often found themselves waiting in anticipation for one of his risqué jokes. To most of the players, the tutors were addressed as Mr... but Cecil was the exception, he never objected to being referred to by his first name.

Cecil Brewer is remembered with affection. He was one of the leading figures in the re-formed CYBB both as a tutor and as treasurer, a position he held from 1967 to 1988 when his considerable contribution was rewarded when he was made President of the Cornwall Brass Band Association.

(From CYBB – The Early Tutors by Tony Mansell / Photo: courtesy St Austell Silver Band)

## Please visit us on Social Media

Check out our website: [www.cybb.co.uk](http://www.cybb.co.uk)

We're on Facebook: [facebook.com/theCYBB](https://facebook.com/theCYBB)

We're on Twitter: Twitter, @Thecybb

Our successful Twitter Account continues to build up an impressive list of followers, well over 1000 at the moment, including many well-known names in the brass band world. The address is @Thecybb Please follow it and make use of it as much as you can.

## Contacts

Your CYBB Administrative contact is Robert Kitchen on 01752 847627

[mail@rgckitchen.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mail@rgckitchen.eclipse.co.uk)

For CYBB Music matters please contact John Maines [johnmaines48@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmaines48@btinternet.com)

For CYBB Archive or Publicity matters (including the Newsletter) please contact Tony Mansell on 01872 552098 / 07812 463746 [tony.mansell369@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.mansell369@btinternet.com)

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