

ISSUE 6, DECEMBER 2020

From Darkness into Light by Kevin Lamb

We said goodbye to 2019 with great hopes for the future following an exhilarating Wind Band Festival which celebrated our 20th year. It soon became apparent however, that things were going to get tough.

By mid-March the United Kingdom was succumbing to COVID-19 and we entered a long dark period of lockdown. Music-making took a horrendous hit – especially amateur music and bands in particular. Our political leaders and senior scientific brains hadn't a clue what to do with choirs or bands. Sadly it hasn't changed. Furthermore, the advice the politicians have been given by musical experts has, in my mind, been shown also to be lacking. I was always taught that there were five distinct families of instrument: Voice; Strings; Brass; Woodwind; and Percussion. It therefore irritates and saddens me that the politicians (in all four countries) refer to the tight restrictions on "wind and brass players"!! Brass instruments don't use wind?!?

Here in Scotland, wind bands, brass bands and pipe bands have not been allowed to play together since the first lockdown in mid-March, yet Scotland boasts of its musical heritage. This heritage in Scotland isn't brought about by professional musicians, it's created by the many amateur musical groups throughout the country. And I suspect the same sentiments can be said up and down the length and breadth of the other three nations. Gymnasiums are allowed to stay open and it can be argued that the physical exertions of those people inside, lead to 'aerosol transmission' on a scale similar to Woodwind, Brass and Singers - so why are bands and choirs being penalised???

Amateur musical groups, including bands, support and indeed nurture our culture and heritage, they entertain our local communities, and perhaps more importantly, provide the country with a 'feel-good factor' that is sorely missed right now.

Whilst a vaccine is now beginning to be rolled out, I believe we also need to prepare a 'musical tonic' for the United Kingdom. To this end, could I please ask you all to write to your local MP and national government's MSP/MLA etc. and demand that amateur music-making and in particular wind bands, be given the opportunity to rise from the ashes as soon as possible.



**We're on
Facebook!**

WBA COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
KEVIN LAMB

SECRETARY
JEAN ALDRED

TREASURER
SUE PARRY

**REGIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES**
MAILI KONCZAK
BRIAN O'CARROLL
STEPHEN BIDDLECOMBE
TONY FLEMING
CAROLINE PRICE
TOM FEENIE
TED MILNER

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

EDITOR
MAILI KONCZAK

JEAN ALDRED
KEVIN LAMB

CONTRIBUTORS

KEVIN LAMB
JEAN ALDRED
TOM FEENIE
BRIAN O'CARROLL
TONY FLEMING

**TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE
OR LETTER CONTACT THE
EDITOR**

*East Binnythorne
Binny Park
Ecclesmachan
Broxburn
EH52 6NR*

*Windbandassociation
@virginmedia.com*

What have Bands been up to in 2020?

Maili Konczak

2020 has been a testing year for all amateur bands, so I asked our committee to let me know how the bands in their area have risen to the challenge.

As you will have read in Kevin's article, here in Scotland we have been unable to meet to play in any capacity whatsoever.

South East Scotland

Capital Concert Band have held several Quiz Nights over Zoom and in the summer we recorded a rendition of 'Marching Around Scotland'. We each recorded our own parts to a backing track and Kevin, our Musical Director, expertly put them together. **Bristo Concert Band** have been hosting weekly online meet ups and I have to say I'm very impressed with their commitment. **Dunedin Band** also had an online play along session, where everybody muted themselves and played along to a backing track. Linlithgow Reed Band have been holding some online social events over Zoom. Back in June they also created a video of them playing to remember

members of the reed band family that have been lost this year.

South West Scotland

Some bands have tried playing music on Zoom, or creating a piece of music together as Kevin did for CCB, but most said it was hard work, especially if you are not up to speed with modern tech. They have, however, been using the time to re-organise their Library, and clean up many aspects of their rehearsal rooms, a good clean oot was the answer.

South West England

Malmesbury Concert Band have been getting together to socialise on Zoom on their normal rehearsal evening – just on a fortnightly basis rather than weekly. They have also tried individual recordings to a click-track (or similar), which have then been stitched together by those with the appropriate technical skills to produce a 'performance' – this has had the advantage of some multi-instrumentalists being able to ap-

THE WINDSECTION

Brass & Woodwind Specialists

The Wind Section is a specialist brass and woodwind shop that takes pride in its expert staff, fantastic range of instruments and high-quality repair facility.

As a Yamaha Pro Custom centre, this makes The Wind Section the ideal choice for both the amateur and professional player.

The Wind Section
11/13 Cumberland Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6RT
T. 0131 557 6543
W. www.thewindsection.com
E. info@thewindsection.com



How to Join the Association

To become a member of the Association please download a membership form from the WBA website or contact the Treasurer who can send one to you.

Please complete and send to the Association Secretary at 104 Boswall Terrace, Edinburgh, EH5 2BW.

The subscriptions are £15 per year, payable on 1st April 2021. Cheques should be made payable to **Wind Band Association**.

If you wish to pay by Direct Debit or Standing Order, please contact the Association Treasurer for details.

Benefits at present for members are: discounted fees for the annual Wind Band Festival; all other events presented by the Association, a yearly newsletter, 20% off Bandleader Publications.

pear more than once! They have also tried Zoom rehearsals with smaller instrumental groups, but due to the time delay, these are not overly successful, although positive from a social point of view. They managed a couple of rehearsals in October & are hoping to meet for rehearsals again in January – depending on their Tier allocation.

South East England

Rushmoor & Farnborough Concert Band were all sent parts and a backing track with a string click pulse. After practising, they listened to the backing track through headphones and videoed themselves playing. This was then stitched together to make a performance. **National Scout & Guide Symphony Orchestra / Concert Band** held some virtual collaborations over the summer.

Basingstoke Concert Band met over Zoom for a chat on a rehearsal night at the end of April, which proved really popular. They tried virtual rehearsals via Zoom too, using a click track and a recording of the music – with all members playing their own part on mute. This has proved very popular with 22 members attending. They were hoping to recommence rehearsals in September.

Bagshot Concert Band have been in constant touch with the Musician's Union and others to determine how they can rehearse/play in person and they achieved this in September. They started by meeting in



Bandleader Publications
are proud to support the
WBA & The Wind Band Festival
and are pleased to offer
20% discount on all our music
for WBA members!

Visit our website, download the order form,
add your membership number to the form,
submit your order and receive
your unique discount.
(postal orders only - not available for online purchases)

BANDLEADER PUBLICATIONS
24 Old Furzebrook Road,
Stoborough, Wareham,
Dorset, BH20 5DD
Tel/Fax: 01929 550154
email: bandleaderpublications@hotmail.com
www.bandleader.biz

groups of 6 in gardens & then rehearsed in their local church until lockdown. They intend to resume rehearsals the first week of January.

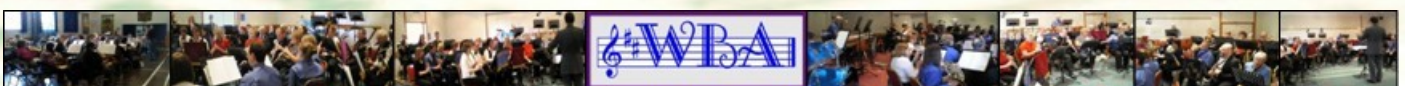
Other Opportunities to Play

There have been opportunities to play with other bands virtually and some bands have been taking part in the virtual rehearsals promoted by the Worsley Concert Band in Greater Manchester. It very kindly shared its weekly YouTube virtual rehearsals, under its enthusiastic Musical Director, playing with a wide range of light, popular and more demanding original music.

My son is in P5, when they are offered to learn an instrument within school. I thought this would be dead in the water this year, but to my delight he signed up to learn the Euphonium at the end of October and has been receiving practical lessons via Teams and theory in school. I am delighted that they are still offering the opportunity under such trying circumstances.

In the words of Tony Fleming:

‘Onwards and upwards’ they say, so we must now be looking forward to 2021 and to practical hands (and lips) on music together including, hopefully, the next Wind Band Festival!



Wind Band Association Festival 2019

By Jean Aldred

The 2019 festival was held for the second year in Hothorpe Hall, Theddingworth, Leicestershire, and was deemed to be our most successful ever.



This was our 21st festival and the theme for the weekend was "Celebration". Not only did the music reflect this theme, but our social on the Friday evening gave people the opportunity to join in all the fun, by even dressing the part!

After the fun of the fancy dress competition our very own resident DJ gave us plenty enjoyable music to dance to.



On the Saturday after our very successful rehearsals and evening dinner we had our usual quiz and then instead of being entertained as usual by a guest band we entertained ourselves.



Many of us had prepared party pieces to perform and the evening was so successful that people wanted to do the same in 2020.

On the Sunday after the weekends rehearsals we put on a concert for a very small but elite audience and we had the honour of playing two of the winning pieces from the association's composer's competition. Composers were asked to compose an original work for symphonic wind band to celebrate the association's twentieth year. The awards for the three outstanding works were sponsored by the Wind Band Association, Bandleader Publications Ltd and The Wind Section and the cheques were presented to Karl and Stuart who managed to attend.

The winning pieces were

1st Prize: VICENNIAL CELEBRATION by KARL D. A. WHELAN - the wind band music can be found here [Vicennial Celebration - Bandleader Publications Ltd](#)



2nd Prize: THE INNOCENCE OF YOUTH by ROBERT ELY - the wind band music can be found here

[Innocence of Youth - Bandleader Publications Ltd](#)

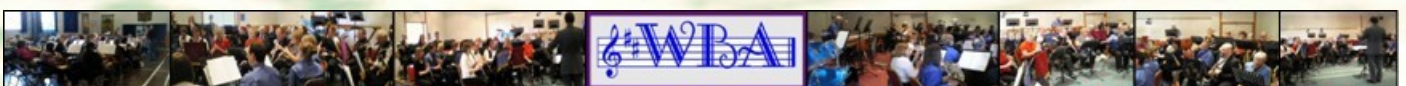


3rd Prize: KENDAL CASTLE by STUART RYNN - the wind band music can be found here

[Kendal Castle - Bandleader Publications Ltd](#)

As it was a celebratory year the committee prepared goody bags for all the attendees and these were presented at the end of the festival. The bag contained things such as, pens, pencils, rubbers, notebooks, quavers which all seemed to be received very well.

The festival attendees also very kindly presented Kevin, Sue, and Jean with presents to thank them for all their hard work over the years in putting together the festivals and these were much appreciated.





www.windbandassociation.co.uk

We're Back!!

Wind Band Festival 2021

The 2021 Wind Band Festival is visiting Edinburgh
and takes place between Friday 15th and Sunday 17th October.



The venue is the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel which is situated on the outskirts of Scotland's capital city Edinburgh. This superb 4 star hotel is set in 10 acres of peaceful parkland between the iconic Forth Road Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing. The hotel offers stunning panoramic views over the River Forth and its three bridges. Its close proximity to the centre of Edinburgh & the airport means it's only a short bus or taxi ride away.

The festival is being hosted by the Capital Concert Band from Edinburgh. They will be presenting a "Scottish Evening" on Friday, complete with a Ceilidh Band, Scottish Country Dancing and traditional Scottish food, including Haggis, Neeps and Tatties! (For the faint-hearted, English food will also be available). The usual optional fancy dress on Friday evening will mirror the musical theme for the weekend - 'Arabian Nights'



The 2021 Wind Band Festival promises all the usual excellent events: exciting and challenging music; the opportunity to see old friends and make new ones; good food; and great entertainment. Capital Concert Band have also kindly offered to supply music stands and percussion instruments so you don't have to worry about transporting them to Scotland!

The approximate* cost for the weekend will be:

Residents:- £210 (WBA members); £235 (non-members).

Non-residents:- £75 (WBA members); £100 (non-members).

Inclusive of all music-making, entertainment and tea/coffee, when served.



Resident's fee includes 2 night's dinner, bed & breakfast, buffet lunch on Saturday & Sunday lunch. Non-resident's fee includes Saturday's buffet lunch & one evening dinner. A single room supplement of approximately* £55 per person for the weekend is payable. There is limited availability of single rooms, therefore 'first come, first served'.

So come and join us in Bonnie Scotland!

For further information contact:

Jean Aldred, Festival Secretary

104 Boswall Terrace, Edinburgh, EH5 2BW

Tel: 0131 539 6188 email: wbasecretary@virginmedia.com

or:

Sue Parry, Festival Treasurer

28 Briarwood, Westbury on Trym, Bristol, BS9 3SS

Tel: 0117 9623830 email: wbatreasurer@virginmedia.com

* costs will be finalised soon!

Merry Christmas from the Wind Band Association Committee &
we look forward to seeing you all in October 2021 in Edinburgh!

