

The Word On The Wind

ISSUE 7, OCTOBER 2021

“THE LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL”

Kevin Lamb



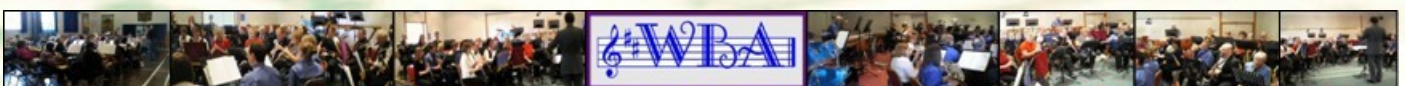
It's now two years since our last Festival. An enormously successful event which celebrated twenty years of marvellous music-making and socialising! We also celebrated a highly successful composer competition which rewarded us with three outstanding winners: “Vicennial Celebration” - Karl D.A. Whelan; “The Innocence of Youth” - Robert Ely; and “Kendal Castle” - Stuart Rynn.

Some six months later a dark cloud hung over the world - COVID-19. Amateur music-making was forbidden for a year, and in some parts of the UK, for eighteen months.

Amateur music-making is gradually returning - ‘The light at the end of the tunnel’ gives us hope. The Wind Band Festival 2021 gives us hope. Many musicians have found it extremely difficult to keep their enthusiasm alight over these long dark days. Some are still struggling with the thought of returning to music, especially as the virus has yet to be totally defeated. Yet our Festival this year has seen an amazing response from our supporters. We are fully booked! Maybe it's the thought of dressing up as Cleopatra or the Genie from Aladdin!?! (our theme for the weekend is ‘Arabian Nights’) Or perhaps it's the thought of once more playing an eclectic mix of good music with like-minded friends in superb surroundings.



Music does ‘soothe the furrowed brow’. It can lift the down-hearted. It can inspire and rejuvenate. But above all, it allows us to join together in friendship and harmony.



**We're on
Facebook!**

WBA COMMITTEE

**CHAIRMAN
KEVIN LAMB**

CHAIR@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

**SECRETARY
JEAN ALDRED**

SECRETARY@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

**TREASURER
SUE PARRY**

TREASURER@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

**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
BRIAN O'CARROLL
TONY FLEMING
STEPHEN BIDDLECOMBE
TED MILNER
TOM FEENIE

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

MAILI@WINDBANDASSOCIATION.CO.UK

Desert Island Discs

Maili Konczak

I am sure that everybody has heard of Desert Island Discs, where guests to the show are asked to choose 8 tracks, a book and a luxury to take if they were to be stranded on a desert island.

In a slight twist to the original, I asked our committee for their 8 all time favourite pieces to play.

Maybe you will find some inspiration from our committee on what to play next!

Brian O'Carroll - South East England Representative

1. Acrobat by Greenwood

Colin Porter does a superb drunk act for the audience.

2. The Blue and Gray by Grundmand

Forerunner to an American Trilogy by Elvis in my youth.

3. Clarinet Polka by Schemer

My wife plays it with such verve.

4. Conquest of Paradise - Vangelis

Approximately 11 years ago, when I took early retirement from the Police Service, a You Tube piece went viral of the twin Polish acrobats painted head to toe in gold paint performing a dance at the Beijing Circus. It was the first time I had ever heard the piece, which was stirring and forceful to say the least.

5. Funiculi, Funicula by Denza

Such glee and toe tapping music.

6. Instant Concert by Walters

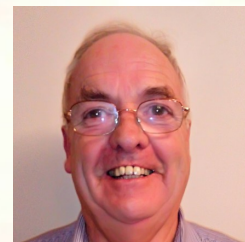
Forerunner of 70's Instant Classics.

7. Thievish Magpie by Rossini

Most interpretive music I have heard.

8. West Side Story by Bernstein

I am a romantic at heart.



THE WIND SECTION
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 visit the WBA website at :

<https://windbandassociation.co.uk/membership/> where you can complete an online membership form, or download one. Alternatively contact the Secretary who can send one to you.

Downloaded forms can be emailed to secretary@windbandassociation.co.uk or sent to the Association Secretary at 104 Boswall Terrace, Edinburgh, EH5 2BW.

The subscriptions are £15 per year, next payable on 1st April 2022. Cheques should be made payable to **Wind Band Association**.

If you wish to pay by Bank Transfer 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.



Bandleader Publications Ltd.
are proud to continue to support the
Wind Band Association &
the Wind Band Festivals.

We're also pleased to continue
to offer all WBA members
20% off our music.

Visit our website,
choose your music
& enter the code BL-WBA
at the checkout.



Bandleader Publications Ltd.
24 Old Furzebrook Road, Stoborough,
Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5DD.
www.bandleader.biz
info@bandleader.biz

Jean Aldred – Secretary, Wind Band Association

The eight pieces I would take to my desert island are the following. All bring back memories of playing my Clarinet but they are in no particular order of preference.

1. Popular Song from Façade by William Walton

This piece was the first one I ever played in the school orchestra and was also the theme tune to the popular TV series at the time. Name That Tune.

2. Mozart's Clarinet Concerto 2nd Movement

I had to play this for my O Level at school. It was a very challenging piece for me at age 15.

3. Weber's Clarinet Concerto

Another O Level piece, this one had to be played from memory. I could always play it all apart from two bars, which I couldn't remember. I was so lucky, because in the exam they said 'that's fine, stop there, we have heard enough' just before I reached them.

4. Highland Cathedral by Korb/Roever

The first time I heard this was on the esplanade at Edinburgh Castle played by the BB Pipe Band which three of my daughters were in. The first time I heard them playing in public, it was very emotional.

5. Marche Militaire Francais by Camille Saint-Saëns

Played by the Capital Concert Band when we went to Verdun to play in a concert for peace in 2011. It brought the house down.

6. Gabriel's Oboe by Enio Morricone

The main theme for the 1986 film The Mission, written by Italian composer Enio Morricone. I played this piece in the first concert band I ever played in and have always loved the unforgettable melody.

7. Dr Who theme by Ron Grainer

This reminds me of playing at a Sci-Fi convention and as we played, a life-size Dalek was going back and forth in front of the stage.

8. Stirling Castle by James Howe

The Capital Concert Band had the honour of playing in a fund raising concert to raise funds for Erskine and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Regimental Trust actually in the Grand Hall of Stirling Castle and is an event I will never forget.

9. The Impresario composed by Cimarosa

A lovely challenging piece that we play. Arranged by our Chairman Kevin G Lamb. It is full of charm and rhythmic vitality.

Note that Jean can't count... but I left it in anyway. Too many good memories to cut one out.



Ted Milner – North West England Representative

1. Take Five by Dave Brubeck

One of the first pieces of music I played when I was a member of the Junior Musicians Troop Army Band at the tender age of 15.

2. Toccata for Band by Frank Ericsson

The Chester Symphonic Band played at the BASWE music competition we gained a silver medal and I was privileged to be their conductor.

3. Dam Busters by Eric Coates

This was played at the Chester Festival by the Chester Schools Concert Band. It's a piece that stirs the audience and one I enjoyed conducting in flying gear!

4. Lion King by John Williams

A great show piece which both my twin boys enjoyed playing with me conducting. A great piece for the audience and one which the whole band enjoyed performing.

5. Hook by John Williams

A piece that keeps the band on their toes with all the time changes

6. In My Dreams by Pete Roberts

This was written by my old army friend one which I enjoyed playing as an Alto Saxophone solo at the Duke of Westminster's Gardens a great programme filler which give the band a bit of a rest during performances.

7. Weber Clarinet Concertino

This was played by one of my students who achieved an ATCL diploma later that year. She gave a great performance with the band in a very demanding piece.

8. The Symphonic Beatles by Lennon & McCartney

The Liverpool Police Band played this to a school in Liverpool I had to step in at the last minute to conduct the band a the last minute. To watch the children enjoy this and to sing along with all the staff was a very emotional performance.

Stephen Biddlecombe – South Central England Representative

I found it difficult to stay with any set of choices so sent these before I changed my mind once more.

1. Crown Imperial by William Walton

A classic piece that I found awe inspiring in my youth. It evokes so many emotions.

2. Pirates of the Caribbean by Hans Zimmer

Once again it conjures up each scene so vividly

3. Les Miserable by Claude-Michel Schönberg

Once again an awesome musical score. Full of hopes, despair, humour.

A medley from the musicals also works for me.

Tony Fleming – South West England Representative

Selection of the eight concert / wind band pieces that I would take, in alphabetical order by composer—not in any order of preference.



1. Eagle Squadron by Kenneth Alford

There would have to be a march by 'The British March King' whose excellently crafted parade marches have never been surpassed. This is one of the less familiar ones, but none the worse for that.

2. Academic Festival Overture by Johannes Brahms arr. James Curnow

There are numerous Concert Band arrangements of mainstream orchestral pieces and this is as good as many—not a direct transcription but an effective edited version that retains the most memorable features of the original.

3. Vanguard Overture by Frederic Curzon arr. Norman Richardson

I am a great enthusiast for British light music from the middle of the 20th century, now sadly neglected. Again, there is a huge choice from which I have selected this as an example.

4. A Childhood Remembered by Rossano Galante

This modern light lyrical composition captures youth and innocence through the eyes of a child.

5. Tall Ships by Ron Goodwin

Written for the 1996 Royal Tournament, this piece develops its pseudo-classical theme through a most effective fugue.

6. Choral and Rock Out by Ted Huggens

This blends the best features of early classical music with 'big band' rock music.

7. An Original Suite for Military Band by Gordon Jacob

There would have to be one of the 'classics' of original music for military band from earlier in the 20th century—if not this one, one of the Military Band Suites by Gustav Holst or the Folk Song Suite by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

8. October by Eric Whitaker

A beautiful, engaging and demanding modern lyrical piece by this, most popular, choral composer.



Tom Feenie – South West Scotland Representative



This has been exceedingly difficult for me to decide which music to take with me & I would probably need a huge suitcase ! I decided to make it a lifetime of music & why I would choose each piece.

1. High School Cadets by JP Sousa

I was first introduced to the Clarinet at an incredibly young musician in the army. With some training and lots of Hymns, I progressed to marching band. This was exceedingly difficult, especially the co-ordination of marching and playing at the same time. This was the very first march I had to play. Even to this day it brings it all back.

2. Folk Song Suite by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Still with the Army I was fortunate to attend the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. Playing in outdoor summer concerts with over 240 musicians was an amazing experience. This piece brings back great memories of that time.

3. Fingal's Cave by Mendelssohn

What can you not say about this piece of music – a brilliant composition. I went to see the cave in 1976 and I played the music on my Walkman, truly what an experience.

4. Knights of Dunvegan by Richard Meyer

I visited Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye. The music evokes a sense of the castle history to me. I love the lilt of the Scottish music.

5. Out of Africa by John Barry

This is written by John Barry, one of my favourite composers. He has musical style that inspires – when I first heard this piece of music the hairs on the back of my neck stood up, and even today I still feel them. The horns in this piece are wonderful. I just love this piece of music.

6. Highland Cathedral by Korb/Roever

Another vote for Highland Cathedral – enjoyed by all Scots. Written in 1982 by two German musicians, Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb, it is one of those tunes that never leave you, it is always at the back of your mind. I love this piece when played with the bagpipes.

When I'll come home once more.

7. Hootenanny by Harold Walters

This was the first piece I played in the army that wasn't a march or a hymn. I doubt there isn't a wind band musician who hasn't played it. Outrageously full of fun, you either love it or hate it.

8. Big Band Music

Any type of Big Band Music will do. Ever since I started to play Bass/Rhythm Guitar & later Bari Sax, I have loved this type of music. My wish is to get my own Big Band started .

Maili Konczak – South East Scotland Representative

It only seems right that I add in my own choices, so here's the 8 pieces that I would choose.

1. Musket, Fife & Drum by Jim Parker

The theme tune to Soldier, Soldier, a popular tv programme when I was a teenager. I loved playing this in the school band. The most memorable occasion was when we played it at a competition. To our horror, one of the judges stood up at the end & told us he had composed it... we were awarded Silver, so we must have done something right.

2. Song of the Highlands by Darrol Barry

This piece starts & ends with nothing but a solo Flute. And I absolutely love the effect. I played the solo in Gibraltar with Capital Concert Band – one of the most nerve wracking things I have ever done, but also one of the best.



3. Rakes of Mallow by Leroy Anderson

I just love the Piccolo part in this. One day I might even play it right! I was very proud to play the Piccolo solo in this on one of the rare occasions my parents were able to come & watch the band play.

4. At the Menin Gate by F. Frayling-Kelly

When I first played in a band in Edinburgh, we used to go to Ypres for Armistice Day & we had the opportunity to play under the Menin Gate. It's a very emotional & sobering experience. This piece was written by our Musical Director for the Drum Major in the band & evokes the feelings perfectly.

5. Sons of the Brave by Thomas Bidgood

I had to pick a march & this one is fun to play & has a good Picc part! Many happy memories of playing this marching down Princes Street & Leith Walk.

6. Poet & Peasant Overture – Franz von Suppé

This is just one of those pieces that makes me happy to play. It has lots of little bits which show off the different instruments, but mostly I just love the warm rich sound you get when the whole band is playing together.

7. Finlandia by Jean Sibelius

Another one from my marching days . We played an arrangement with the bagpipes. The band would march in the middle and the bagpipes down the side. Ear plugs were a must – the Piccolo part soars over the top of the Bagpipes and is so much fun to play.



8. Toccata in D Minor by JS Bach arr. K Lamb & R Farr

We are currently rehearsing it in band & it has reminded me how good it sounds when it all comes together. Admittedly being conducted by the arranger has it's moments, but we'll leave that for now. I originally played this piece in my school band & on the concert one of the pupils played the organ for the opening bars. This has stuck in my mind ever since & I'm delighted to be playing it again.

Kevin Lamb – Chair, Wind Band Association



It's not as easy as you think! Choosing your 'favourite' eight pieces of music from the last fifty years of performing and conducting just can't be done. However, as it was my idea, I'd better make a stab at it!!

1. Beyond The Horizon - Rossano Galante

A stunning opening piece for a concert. Capital Concert Band performed this in a three-nation 'Concert for Peace' in France. The reaction of the audience (and the musicians) was amazing.

2. Le Roi D'Ys - Edouard Lalo

An overture which is sadly, not a well-known item in a wind band's repertoire. An immense work, and challenging - especially for the brass in the finale. It has a beautiful romantic solo, played by the Euphonium. It's in the high register of the instrument and absolutely soars - all good Euph players should aspire to play it.

3. Aria & Allegro - Gregory Pascuzzi

This is a stunning major work - written for Soprano Saxophone (yes, I do like Saxes!). Highly challenging for both soloist and band. It takes your breath away!!

4. I Was Glad - C. Hubert Parry

This is a famous choral work and not a familiar piece in the wind band repertoire. If you are considering giving a concert with a choir, this is worthy of consideration. It is such an uplifting work. I was privileged to lead the Fanfare Trumpets of The Royal Military School of

Music, Kneller Hall in 1981 at the royal wedding of HRH Prince Charles to Lady Diana - an occasion I'll never forget. This piece was one of the highlights of the wedding.

5. The Impresario - Cimarosa

My musical life started in brass bands and one of my earliest memories of playing a serious piece of music was the overture *The Impresario*. A 'jolly little piece', it has remained a close friend of mine since. So much so, I had to arrange it for wind band!

6. Blue Rondo A La Turk - Dave Brubeck

I had the privilege of knowing the jazz great Dave Brubeck. An amazing musician and a wonderful human being. I was, and still am, struck dumb by his ability to create jazz from any idiom and in any time signature!!

7. Hunting Polka - Johann Strauss Jr.

Pure entertainment. The woodwinds, especially Clarinets, will have their work cut out, but 'all in a good cause'. Give the audience paper bags to blow up and then bang at the appropriate gunshot moments. Musical mayhem!

8. Trumpet By Candlelight - Terry Kenny

Major Terry Kenny was my first Director of Music when I joined the army. The band was The Royal Artillery Mounted Band and thankfully they had given their horses back a few years earlier. He was an outstanding composer & arranger - we would travel to a concert and he would compose a piece of music whilst on the bus, and we would perform it when we got there! *Trumpet By Candlelight* was one of these pieces and I'm pleased to say that it was written for me (and obviously not too difficult!).

9. The Marriage of Figaro - Mozart

Pure fun! It's Mozart at his best. No need to say anything else.

10. Toccata in D minor - J.S. Bach

Pure indulgence. Ray Farr and I collaborated on the arrangement back in 1984. It was first performed by the Regimental Band of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the same year. It's been a constant companion of mine ever since.

Kevin loves to point out to the band that we can't count. Perhaps it is catching...

Making Music

By Jean Aldred

Do you know that we have a Making Music page? We'd love you to come and join us!

You will get details of the Wind Band Association events, receive regular newsletters from Making Music and receive emails from them advising of any events they are running.

Simply go to www.makingmusic.org.uk then click on the tab "Membership and Insurance". Click on "For Individuals" then scroll down to "Link to Group" and click on that. You will then have to register. Once you have registered you can search for the Wind Band Association.

