

## ISSUE 8, OCTOBER 2022

### Wind Band Association Events Return!

Mali Konczak



October 2021 saw the return of Wind Band Association Events with the annual Festival. The Wind Band Festival was held in Edinburgh for the first time and was a huge success.

Despite the social distancing, Lateral Flow testing and bubbles for socialising, everybody had a great time and there was definitely a party atmosphere! The theme being Arabian Nights, there was an interesting mix of camels, monkeys, genies and stars 'ceilidh dancing' around the dance floor.

The weekend's music was a great selection of 'Arabian' related titles, all ably conducted by our Chair, Kevin and some of our Regional Representatives. There was one exception to this—our 'finale' which consisted of two of our Tuba players, Kat Annand and Peter Snaddon, joining the band on Bagpipes!



We are very much looking forward to returning to the same hotel this year for "A Space Odyssey" and I anticipate some 'Out of This World' costumes.



As well as the festival, a Big Blow was held in Hamilton in May 2022. This was attended by 35 people from around Scotland (and Caroline all the way from Tamworth!) and a fun day was had by all trying out some new repertoire and making music together. It was fantastic to be able to play in a wind band with no social distancing—the first time I had been able to do this since the start of Covid.

A highly successful Conductors' Workshop was held at the beginning of October in Berwick upon Tweed. Directed by our Chair, Kevin, all participants—both conductors and players—had a challenging yet rewarding weekend!

We would love to hold more events around the country in 2023. Get in touch with your Regional Representative if your band would like to host a Big Blow, a Conductors' Workshop, or any other activity that may be of interest to you and your band.



**We're on  
Facebook!**

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## Starting Up A Wind Band

### Sutton Coldfield Wind Orchestra

Caroline Price

After leaving school, I was no longer able to play in the Birmingham school's ensembles and struggled to find a band that was within 20 miles of Sutton Coldfield.

I played in a few for a while, but after having children it became harder to commit to the long drive.

I had been hoping to start up my own band for a few years and with the music world being a small place with everyone known to each other I knew a few people to help me get started.



In 2018 I finally got the courage to give it a go and contacted the local church and applied for a grant from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust. I was lucky to be awarded enough money to pay for a year's rent in advance, buy some music and folders and pay for Making Music Membership, which also includes public liability insurance.

I used Facebook for advertising and Google Forms to take details of interested musicians. The response was great and in April 2019 we had our first rehearsal.

Since coming back from Covid we have built up our numbers and now have 22 regular players including a bassoon and two French horn players. We play two main concerts a year and I am starting to build up relationships with the local school to bring more music to children and encourage future musicians.

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## Starting Up A Wind Band

### Skye Wind Band

Lynne Anstice Brown

Ah the beautiful Isle of Skye!

The heather-clad mountains, misty lochs, soaring golden eagles and the delightful otters running along the shore. It's not just visually that Skye impresses; the sound of bagpipes, fiddles and penny whistles fill the village halls and ceilidh houses. This wonderful and traditional image is changing though and there's a new kid in town - Skye Wind Band has arrived! If you listen carefully you'll hear Disney tunes, TV and film themes, pop songs filling the glens, or at least the local village hall.

Thanks to two forward thinking music teachers on Skye, Lynne Anstice Brown and Jacqui Ross, Skye now has a community wind band for all abilities and all ages. They both attended the WBA Festival in Edinburgh last October, and came away so inspired they set about planning and organising a band for Skye.

So how do you actually start a band? Well, you need musicians, instruments, music, somewhere to rehearse... With an island as large as Skye, 'where to rehearse' is perhaps the biggest challenge - just to put it into perspective, Skye's coastline is almost the same length as Cornwall's. You also need a conductor, or stick waver. Actually, you also need a stick. "Dear Santa, I'd like a stick please" - job done. Good old Santa!

Finding musicians was relatively straight forward. As a woodwind teacher on Skye, all my pupils were well up for joining a band - that's what I told them anyway. Brass players might be trickier to find. But wait, hubby used to play trombone - he's in. Jacqui knows someone who plays the tuba. The phrase 'plays the tuba' is an understatement. Mike used to play tuba in the Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band no less! Wow!! But he doesn't have an instrument. So we'll find him one. How do you find a tuba up here? You ring your friend Pam of course! Pam knows stuff on Skye, she knows people, and it turns out she knows tubas too. She had one in her shed all along.

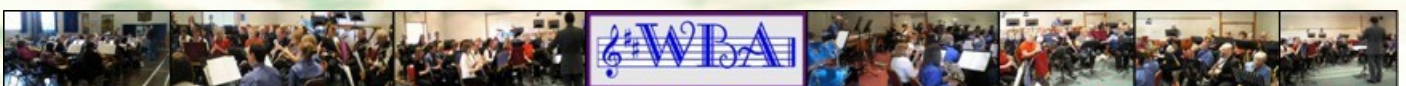


A quick post on Facebook, a village hall booked, music bought, and a cake baked. All set for our first rehearsal. February 14th was the day magic happened on Skye. A community wind band for everyone. Young and not so young, beginners and ex-professional players, all meeting up and sharing this wonderful musical adventure together.

As I write this, we have a rehearsal this evening and we have our first gig on Saturday. We're playing at the Struan Gala. I simply can't wait. Community music making at its finest.

If anyone reading this is planning a holiday on the Isle of Skye, please get anin touch. You'd be more than welcome to join us at rehearsals. You might even get some cake!

[www.facebook.com/skyewindband](http://www.facebook.com/skyewindband)



## How to Join the Association

To become a member of the Association please visit the WBA website at :

[www.windbandassociation.co.uk/membership/where](http://www.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](mailto:secretary@windbandassociation.co.uk) or sent to the Association Secretary at 104 Boswall Terrace, Edinburgh, EH5 2BW.

The subscriptions are £15 per year. 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.



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## Platinum Jubilee Concert – Perth Concert Hall

Maili Konczak

Capital Concert Band were delighted to be invited to play at a highly prestigious Platinum Jubilee Concert on Thursday 2nd June in Perth Concert Hall.

The concert was a sell-out and the 1100 seat auditorium was full. We started the second half of the concert with The Herald Trumpets of Scotland and played the march "Holyrood" by Kenneth Alford and "The Road to Balmoral", an original work by our M.D. Kevin G. Lamb.

We were then joined by the Perth & District Pipe Band for their set, before finishing off the concert with a massed bands rendition of the ever popular Highland Cathedral.



The concert raised over £2000 for SSAFA – The Armed Forces Charity and was a great success.

I thoroughly enjoyed taking part – it was such a good experience to play in front of such a large audience in a marvellous concert hall.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Since writing this article, the sudden news yesterday evening of the passing of our Monarch, Queen Elizabeth, has sent the whole of the United Kingdom into shock and great sadness. She was a remarkable woman, whose selfless dedication to us all will never be forgotten. Capital Concert Band are extremely proud to have been able to celebrate her amazing 70 years as our Queen.



## The Lochaber Silver Fling

Robin Gillies. Chair of LCWB.



On Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd April, 30 Brass, Woodwind & Percussion players from all over Scotland and the UK ventured to Lochaber. They were heading along the winding roads to Fort William and the wild and wonderful Highlands. They had been invited by the Lochaber Community Wind Band to come and join them for a weekend of music making at the foot of Ben Nevis and to celebrate their 25th year of operation, under the leadership of guest musical director Mr Vaughan Fleischfresser of Peebles, in the Scottish Borders.

As community band conductors all over the country will know from experience, it's hard to pick music for an unbalanced ensemble with players of widely disparate musical abilities and tastes. Playing in such a group is also a very different experience from playing in a full band. The "Lochaber Silver Fling" set out to provide an opportunity for members of relatively small, unbalanced bands to take in the thrill of playing in a 55-piece band with players on every part, and with sufficient numbers of experienced players to take the pressure off the novices. Repertoire was chosen for the weekend, based on our firm conviction that musical development is achieved through grappling with challenges.

At the start of 2022 repertoire was sought of a wind band grading up to 4/5 and included new compositions alongside standard repertoire. An emphasis on British based composers or arrangers was the main element of the weekend, from the concert programme.

All fears of the challenges ahead were allayed the moment Vaughan lifted his baton. With just the right mix of laid-back congeniality and concentrated musical focus, he coaxed and motivated, insisted and encouraged, with what appeared to be an instinctive ability to sense where his efforts would be best spent. Fully appreciating that the weekend was more about musical challenge and experience than putting together a flawless concert, Vaughan and the band worked through the repertoire at the all day rehearsal on the Saturday and again on the Sunday morning.

At the concert on Sunday afternoon, Vaughan fronted a band of players who were red-cheeked with excitement and smiling from ear to ear, at having overcome what had seemed insurmountable challenges only the previous morning. With the help of John Whyte the Lochaber band M.D, Vaughan transformed the Silver Fling group from a tentative scratch band to a musically assertive and attentive ensemble.

We will forever be grateful to Vaughan for giving so generously of his talent for our collective and personal benefits. The band had such great fun at the weekend and the large and appreciative audience lifted the whole occasion to great heights.

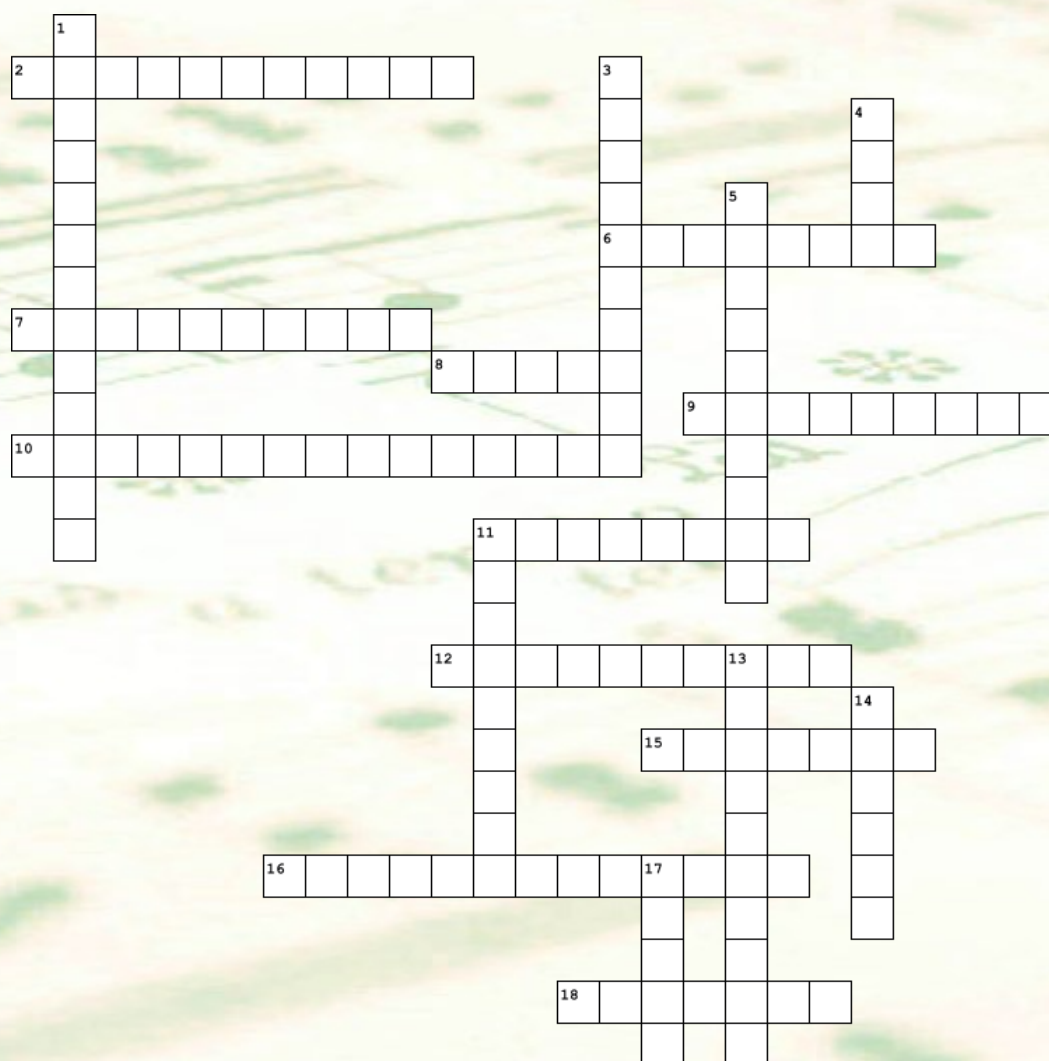
Lochaber Community Wind Band are overwhelmed and very much humbled to have attracted such wonderful people along to our weekend. We welcomed back many musicians who we had played with in the past and met many new musicians for the first time. We are deeply encouraged to host and be involved in similar band weekends and workshops in the future.



## Crossword Competition

Can you complete our Wind Band Association crossword? The winner will receive a £25 voucher for Bandleader Publications.

Send your answers to Maili@windbandassociation.co.uk and the winner will be drawn on 1st November 2022.



Across

Down

2. Who composed the winning composition for our 20th year?
6. What instrument does our Treasurer play?
7. Where does our editor come from originally?
8. Who is the Norse God of music?
9. Who is the representative for NW England?
10. What is the name of the second oldest bridge visible from this year's festival venue?
11. Where was the first Wind Band Festival held?
12. In which century were music stands first commonly used?
15. What kind of a bore does a cornet have?
16. What is the theme of the festival in 2022?
18. Where will next year's festival be held?

1. What is the largest instrument we've ever had at a Wind Band Festival?
3. What instrument did the tuba replace in the orchestra?
4. How many times has the festival been held in Scotland?
5. What does "TC" stand for on a euphonium part?
11. What instrument does our outgoing Chair claim to be his "favourite"?
13. In which century were conductor's batons first introduced to the UK?
14. The people from where our Secretary was born call themselves "Terries" - which town is this?
17. How many bands are currently members of the WBA (as at 7th October 2022)?

