

BEDFORD TOWN BAND

Barnardos Benefits

Possibly the most prestigious engagement of 2008 in the Bedford Town Band's calendar, was at the Corn Exchange fund raiser for Barnardos Children's Homes.

The Town Band accompanied top guest soloist Richard Marshall (principal cornet player for Black Dyke Band) who played
 CHARIVARI (A LATIN FANTASY)
 RUSALKAS SONG TO THE MOON Dvorak,
 WILLOW ECHOES and POST HORN
 GALLOP .

Richard was joined by Paul Mayes and Tony Wiles for Bugler's Holiday.

Paul Mayes and Kevin Nicholls shared conducting duties. Highlights from the evening included John Williams 'Hymn to the fallen' and Chris North's 'Berceuse for Babara'

Bedford Town Band and their supporters raised a magnificent £305.91 for this worthwhile cause.

picture above
 Paul Riggett, Richard Marshall, Chloe Palmer
 below
 Paul Mayes, Tony Wiles, Richard Marshall



Wedding Bells

Bedford Town Band provided a dramatic musical setting for the wedding service of trombonist Mary and percussionist Josh, when they married in November 2008.

Mary walked down the aisle to the famous Olympic theme, composed by John Williams for the 1984 Olympics – ‘Enter the Heroes’. During the signing of the register, the band played ‘Fanfare For The Common Man’, by Myles Copeland. The happy couple left to the very dramatic sounds of Howarth’s arrangement of Mussorgsky’s classic, ‘The Great Gate of Kiev’.

Mike’s New Arrival

Christmas came early for our flugel maestro, Mike



Stratham. Mike has now started using an Anton Cortois flugel, reconditioned by Paul Rigget. The band raised the money for this instrument through the proceeds generated by the half time cuppas served at rehearsals by the very dedicated Barbara and Christine.

In fact their efforts have helped purchase several instruments over the years, as well as, lifting some flagging bandsmen!

Carry on Carolling

Players from all bands took part in carolling over the build up to the festive season, at various venues and locations.

Christmas Cracker

Bedford Town Band’s first Christmas concert in conjunction with the Bunyan meeting rooms was held on Saturday 13th December.

Joining the Town Band, were choristers from the Bedford Choral Society and the up and coming soloist, Jenny Carson. The near full main meeting room, were treated to a wide selection of Christmas favourites, including ‘White Christmas’ and crowd favourite ‘Stop the Cavalry’.

Bedford Choral Society performed Britains’ number one carol, ‘In the Bleak Mid Winter.

Jenny Carson performed a selection of Christmas classics, including ‘Winter Wonderland’.

It is hoped this occasion will become a regular date in the band’s Christmas calendar and a bigger event each year.

Fond Farewells

The band said farewell to two players after the Christmas season; Colin Randall (tenor horn) and Marshall Edwards (baritone and trombone). Marshall has been with Bedford Town Band for a few years and is moving to a band



Colin Randall

closer to home to cut down on his travelling. Colin is taking up the baton at Wolverton Band, Milton Keynes, for his first appointment as a musical director. Colin has been playing principle horn with Bedford Town Band since 1993.

We would like to thank both players for their effort and commitment, and wish them the very best of luck for the future.

Tune in to the Town.

Bedford Town Band's contribution to Radio 3's series 'Discovering Music' will be broadcast on 25th January 2009 at 1700-1730 in a programme hosted by Charles Hazelwood and Stephen Johnson.

The band spent the day at BBC's Maida Vale studios, recording four pieces for use in the 'Discovering Music' programme. The 25th January programme focuses on music and musical influences of American composer Charles Ives. The band recorded three pieces typical of the music played by American ensembles heard by Ives. The fourth piece was a large ensemble collaboration. The band joined forces with Elstree wind band and the BBC Symphony Orchestra family chorus to create a piece using the compositional techniques of Charles Ives.

Copies of all four pieces are available through Bedford Town Band's website:
www.bedfordtownband.org.uk

Malta

Members who visited Malta in 2005 will be pleased to hear Alfred has had a new addition to his family "bimbo" (baby) Manuel, born 8 January 2008. Alfred co-ordinated the bands visit and was later awarded a prize by the Maltese Tourism Authority for his support to the industry. Following our enjoyable visit to the Feast of St Mary in Mqabba Alfred has been pleased to host visits by several other bands but he hopes that one day Bedford Town will return.



Decibels, the bands 10 piece ensemble

Decibels are now rehearsing together monthly and so wish to take on more public engagements.

In the current economic climate it is difficult to find work and so we are seeking organisations who may wish to hold an event at which Decibels can perform. We will then be happy to discuss how we can mutually support one another. If you know of anyone

that may be interested please put them in touch with Sue Blunt, telephone (01234) 406015.

Our programme content can be planned to match the needs of the occasion with a variety of music on offer. We are currently fortunate to have such enthusiastic, experienced musicians and a talented Musical Director.



In Memoriam.

Sadly we have to report that Alan Litchfields' wife Sheila passed away on Wednesday 3rd December 2008. All members of the 3 Bands offer Alan their deepest sympathy.

The funeral Service took place at 2.30pm on Thursday 18th December at Christ Church, Denmark St Bedford.

CONCERT BRASS in DECEMBER 2008.

4 concerts plus an out door Carol service saw a busier than usual end to 2008, starting on Friday 5th December when Concert Brass were at the Annual Sue Ryder Charity concert held this year at Priory Methodist Church, Newnham avenue, Bedford. This is a joint concert with the Bedford High School for Girls junior girls choir, who opened the evening entertainment.

The band followed with 'March Militaire' and a sensitive version of 'Amazing Grace' with a special mention made by Kevin Nicholls, for the young players on the 2nd row cornets who took a bow. The applause was extended to the Repiano Cornets.

The 1st half finished with 'Square Dance', a jazzy foot tapping piece.

The 2nd half was given over to Popular Christmas compositions finishing with the band playing out the evening with Jingle Bells, with assistance from the audience on 'vocals' and 'percussion'.

The following Friday 12th December saw the band at Clophill where the audience of approx 100 were tightly packed into the intimate surroundings of Clophill Methodist Church hall, for their annual Christmas Tree Festival concert. The success of the evening owed as much to the playing by the band and contributions from solo 'performers' as to the ability of Kevin Nicholls to act as M.C. and engage the audience with his witty repartee.

Saturday 13th December saw a group of 14 players at St. Marks Church Brickhill for an outdoor carol concert, and where, as conditions were particularly 'wet and windy' the service was moved inside for cover.

Thursday 18th December and Concert Brass were at what is probably the last of the Annual Zipper Club Concerts. The Zipper Club comprises members of the British Cardiac Patients Association who have undergone 'open heart surgery', but, as heart by-passes have become a relatively commonplace phenomenon nowadays, their membership numbers have dwindled.

This years concert included the presentation of a Christmas Hamper to Kevin Nicholls in appreciation of his work over the previous 12 months, and was followed by some 20 approx. members including Kevin going out to a local restaurant for hot spicy food.

Finally, in the somewhat darkened setting of the main hall of Goldington Middle School, the Band played for the Hope Church carol service between 3.45 and 5.15pm on Saturday 20th December. This was a well attended function with plenty of singing and many verses to test the lips of the cornet players.

The above all took place within the space 15 days and did not even account of the various small ensembles who played carols for Bedford Hospital Headway Brain Injuries Unit and outside the various major supermarkets!

It was necessary on occasion to draft in some Town Band players who were kind enough to give of their time despite there own busy December schedule.

The increasing number of engagements bodes well for the future and Concert Brass can now select new music to practice for their next 2 bookings in March and April 2009.