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up to date engagement news as well as reports and pictures from previous events. The Band's website also links to the following sites: Internet Bandsman's Everything Within and The Brass Band Portal.

Other good sites to view are www.4barsrest.com a magazine type-site with all up to date news. They cover all contests with comments and results being published extremely quickly. They also have an area for advertising engagements and players.

www.TheMouthpiece.com is a brass band forum where any item can be discussed. It has any Brass Band topic that you can think about with many hundreds of hits a day.

www.underwdemon.co.uk/L&SCR/ is a website from our Regional Committee. It holds all the information for the Regional contest present and past, with a page that also gives links to all the other bands in our region.



Brian Keech

More on the Test Piece

As Brian has reported, the music that has been selected for the Third Section contests is 'Vizcaya' by Gilbert Vinter.

This is a description of this piece taken from the sleeve notes to the recording made by Faireys in 1993.

'Vizcaya' in common with some of Gilbert Vinter's "lighter" pieces, started life as an orchestral work. His interest in the national music of other countries was with him all his life and the MLO broadcast many of his works which were based on folk music

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from around the world. Fête Basque (1966) was one of these, describing the atmosphere of a festival in the Basque region of the South-West region of France.

Vinter used the piece as the basis of 'Vizcaya' arranging it the following year for band whilst also adding a slow introduction based on two further Basque melodies and altering the ending for the sake of musical completeness. It has to be said that there are moments in the work when its orchestral origins have led to unidiomatic brass writing, but it remains an intoxicating optimistic piece, full of Mediterranean sunshine.

Gilbert Vinter was born on May 4, 1909, in Lincoln, England. He played bassoon in the BBC Wireless Band and the London Philharmonic, and taught at the Royal Academy of Music. During World War II, he was a member of the Royal Air Force Central Band and later led several RAF bands.

After the war, Vinter was staff conductor with the British Broadcasting Corporation. Many of his works were for brass band. Among his finest works is The Trumpets, which is scored for a large brass band, chorus, and bass soloist. He died in Tintagel on October 10, 1969.

(the following with acknowledgements to 4barsrest.com)

Without Gilbert Vinter the brass band movement would have died of musical boredom – suffocated by blandness, lack of invention and foresight, killed by parochialism and narrow mindedness. The early 1960's were a monochrome time for the brass bands; grey and uninteresting, a diet of second-rate original compositions and unimaginative arrangements of overtures – Gilbert Vinter changed all that forever.

With a series of breathtaking pieces that combined vibrant colours and moods, explored new textures, had wit and darkness, yet were crammed full of great tunes, new ideas and technical challenges, Vinter changed the course of brass composition.

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Hints for Rehearsing Area Test Piece

This year's chosen test piece for the Third Section national qualifying competition is Gilbert Vinter's "Viscaya". This is a deceptive piece of music because its first few minutes are quite easy. However, the more the work unfolds, the more difficult it becomes. Try practising any solo passages after you have been playing for a while.

Practise the bits you can't play, not the bits you can.

Practise exercises that will help your weaknesses

Don't be afraid to ask for help from other players

Record yourself playing solo passages

Listen to professional CD recordings

Practise a little often rather than just at weekends

The Sound of Silence

Imagine the excitement and anticipation. 2,000 people packed into the Barbican theatre to hear the British premiere performance of a work by a famous American composer.

An orchestra of 91 players on stage in full evening dress, the conductor mounts the rostrum. The audience goes quiet and the baton is raised. There follows a note-perfect performance of the music, a piece by John Cage in three movements entitled 4' 33" (4 minutes 33 seconds), the title referring to the length of time it takes to play. A perfect performance is what you would expect from one of the world's leading orchestras but this composition would hardly test their considerable musical talents. It consists of total silence! The composer's intentions are that you become more aware of the sounds around you thereby creating your own music.

As it was being broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, their emergency backup systems were switched off to allow the station to broadcast this live rendition. The

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systems would usually kick in automatically when silence is detected. As Cage's work is silent, it was necessary to disengage the backups to avoid the piece being interrupted by filler music.

Audience reaction understandably was mixed. There were those who found it fascinating, others were left feeling they were being cheated after paying a lot of money for their tickets. This is the musical equivalent of an empty room being displayed as a work of art with the artist being hailed as a genius.

Money for old rope I would say. Can't wait for the brass band version to be published, better still why not choose it for a test piece? I'd love to hear the adjudicator's comments on this one!

Perhaps not though, I can't believe that a band could sit there that length of time without a mute being knocked over or a mouthpiece dropping on the floor with a resounding clang.

U.S. military now use digital bugles

The U.S. Department of Defense has begun a six month study on the use of a "digital" bugle. The bugle is like any other and can be played by a bugler; however, when a bugler is not available, a device which looks like a mute is inserted into the bugle, and it is from this device that "Taps" (the U.S. equivalent of "The Last Post") is played. A non-bugler can simply put the bugle to his or her lips and press a button to start the music. The device is weather-resistant, has a volume control, and is powered by two 9-volt batteries. 50 bugles have been shipped to military units and veterans groups in Missouri for the study.

Anyone who has been honourably discharged from the armed services can receive military funeral honours. Over 1,800 veterans pass away daily, but the military only has 500 buglers. It is for this reason Congress passed a law in January 2000 which allows

taped versions of "Taps" to be played at military funerals. The new "digital" bugle is an attempt by the Department of Defense to provide a more dignified and better sounding alternative to a taped version being played.

According to reports I have read the sound coming from the device is incredible. Part of the reason, I'm sure, is that since it is being played from the bell of a bugle the sound is actually reverberating off of the instrument. This definitely gives the sound a more realistic tone. I don't think real buglers have anything to worry about, though, since no matter how good the recording is there is truly no replacement for the real thing.

100 years Ago

Committee Meeting held February 4th 1904

Present: Messrs, C. Hardwick, Walton, Godfrey, Jones, Ward, Throsby, Walters, Panter, S. Johnson, E. Johnson, J.B. Smith, Mr. Facer vice president F. Tucker

Mr. D. Edwards in the chair

Minutes

Proposed by Mr, Facer and seconded by Mr. Walters that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed.

Parish Council and Band Property

Proposed by Mr. Facer seconded by Mr. Godfrey that the wish of the Parish Council be granted and carried out re: furnishing them with a list of the whole of the Band property and by whom it is held for the purpose of having agreements drawn up properly signed and stamped.

Proposed by Mr. Godfrey seconded Mr. Ward the committee meetings in future be held on 2nd Thursday in each month time 7.30 p.m.

Proposed by Mr. Facer, seconded Mr. S. Johnson that the secretary obtain proper printed notices to acquaint the committee the night of meetings.

Proposed by Mr. Godfrey seconded by Mr. Smith that 2

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auditors be appointed to audit the 1903 accounts of the Band

Propose by Mr. Ward seconded by Mr. Facer that Mr. Sutton and Mr. Grant be asked to audit the accounts.

Proposed by Mr. Grant seconded by Mr. Walton that 100 balance sheets be printed.

Proposed Mr. Throsby seconded by Mr. S. Johnson that the secretary apply to the School Manger for a regular room for the committee to hold their meetings, No: 6 room if possible.

Proposed by Mr. Throsby, seconded by Mr. Hardwick that a vote of thanks be sent from this meeting to Mr. A. Beach for his valuable services during his term of secretaryship.

Proposed by Mr. Godfrey, seconded by Mr. Jones that Mr. Panter attend to the printing instructed to be done by this meeting.

Proposed by Mr. S. Johnson seconded by Mr. Hardwick that the secretary receive 5/- petty cash.

Proposed by Mr. Tucker seconded by Mr. S. Johnson a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.



Article in the British Bandsman

FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS



Engagements will appear here when they are confirmed. Please look at the list carefully.

If you are not going to be available for any of these engagements you must let the Bandmaster and your Section leader know as soon as possible. This will allow time for arrangements to be made to cover any missing parts.

**Sunday February 8th
Milton Keynes Brass Band Festival
Stantonbury Campus
Entertainment Contest**

**Sunday March 21st
London and Southern Counties
Regional Contest – Stevenage**

To meet the demands of these contests there will be additional practice dates for the senior band: All other Tuesday and Thursday practices will be as normal

Monday February 2nd Full Band 8.00 – 9.30pm

Saturday February 7th Full Band 6.00 - 7.30pm

*Sunday February 8th Contest Day
Practise at 9:00 a.m.*

*Monday February 9th
Trombone & Horn sectional 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.*

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*Tuesday February 10th
2nd & 3rd Cornets, Basses 7:00 to 8:25 p.m.*

*Tuesday February 10th
Soprano, Repiano, Solo cornets, Flugel
8:30 to 10:00 p.m.*

*Thursday February 12th Practice for Percussion,
Basses, Trombones, Euphoniums and Basses only
8:00 to 9:15 p.m.*

followed by Percussion sectional to 10:00 p.m.

*Monday 15th February Euphonium and Baritone
Sectional 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.*

*Tuesday March 9th Full Rehearsal with John
Berryman 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.*

Monday March 15th Full Band 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday March 20th Full Band 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday March 21st Contest Day

Other Confirmed Engagements

**Saturday March 13th
Evening Concert, Cheshire Homes, Ampthill**

**Saturday 24th April
St. James Church Evening Concert**

**Sunday 9th May
Soloists Competition**

**Sunday 20th June
Leighton Buzzard Afternoon Concert**

The next edition of the Bradwell Bugle will be published on Thursday 4th March, any contributions to be handed in to the editor by February 26th please.