



Stony Stratford
Saturday 18th September

Bradwell Silver Band presented their fourth annual concert in the Parish Church of St. Mary and St. Giles, Stony Stratford. A large audience had gathered in anticipation and were treated to an entertaining evening, the proceeds of which are going towards rewiring the church.

With a prior engagement preventing new MD Kenny Durbin from making his conducting debut tonight, it was Keith Jones who was left to wave the stick.

The evening started in dramatic fashion as the car belonging to the percussionist who was helping us had broken down with a snapped throttle cable. With a bit of improvisation (something drummers are pretty good at!) a piece of string was used to effect a temporary repair and the start of the concert was only delayed by about ten minutes.

The opening item was the march "Barnard Castle" which was crisply played. The Robbie Williams selection "Swing When You're Winning" was next and even though we were playing with a guest percussionist this flowed along very nicely.

As a complete contrast to this big band number, the hymn tune setting of "Amazing Grace" was performed with the back row cornets doing particularly well.

Our first soloist of the evening was Nicky Davy with "Lazy Trumpeter". Never short of confidence, Nicky stood in front of the Band and performed his cornet solo without music as though he had been doing it for years. A very accomplished performance fully deserved the prolonged applause that followed.

Our next item was a special request from a church member responsible for organising the concert. This was "Gabriel's Oboe", the main theme from the motion picture "The Mission", which is often

The Bradwell Bugle

featured on Classics FM This is a very expressive piece of music with some tricky rhythms but was superbly handled with some fine individual playing by Helen and Adam. The person who requested this item sought Keith out during the interval to express his pleasure with the performance.

"Can You Feel The Love Tonight?" from the Walt Disney motion picture "The Lion King" and "Light as Air" which features the horn section followed in fairly quick succession.

The last item before the interval was Bizet's "Farandole (L'Arlesienne)" which was played with pace and style.

Refreshments were taken and then following the draw for the raffle our second half kicked off with "Aces High" the march Ron Goodwin wrote for the film Battle of Britain.

Adam Keech was our second soloist of the evening and his skilful performance of "The Way We Were" with some excellent band accompaniment was very well received by the responsive audience.

"Clog Dance" swung along very nicely and was followed by "Going Home" in which Sian Haseldine shone through with the playing of the opening solo theme.

The audience were then reminded that when we were here last year, the next item was also on the programme. Unfortunately the soloist was hospitalised in the week preceding the concert and another item had to be included as a late change. No such problems this year and David Harris was in superb form with "When I Fall In Love".

The penultimate item was "Irish Blessing" which to me was the highlight of the evening. We have played this before but tonight's effort was probably the best. The opening ensemble playing by Adam, Sian, Pat and David was sensitively phrased and the full band entry marked *ppp* (very very quiet!) was superb. This was followed by a tremendous crescendo before the melody line was handed back to the ensemble for the conclusion.

Well played indeed

3

Our finale was “Born Free” after which the Band stood to receive more generous applause. We were thanked by the Church for providing them with superb entertainment and played “Lincolnshire Poacher” by way of an encore.

We have already been invited back for next year by which time the electrical refurbishment will have been completed.

Special thanks to our guest players for the evening, Karen Boote from Woburn Sands Band on soprano cornet, Byron Cox from Wolverton Town Band on first horn and Brian Chapman from Ware on percussion.

Well done to Emily who was making her concert debut on trombone tonight and was warmly welcomed by the audience as she stood up after being introduced.

Sadly this was the final engagement for the time being for Kevin Haseldine who is off to university and a presentation was made to him during the programme. We wish him well in his studies.

This was our first concert since the recent changes and every playing member should be pleased with their efforts. We should be able to go forward with confidence.

SUPPORTERS CLUB

The Supporters Club are again looking to raise funds for the Band through the sale of items from the Webb Ivory catalogue.



In the comfort of your own living room you can choose from a huge selection of Christmas items and a fantastic range of products within the Cards

The Bradwell Bugle

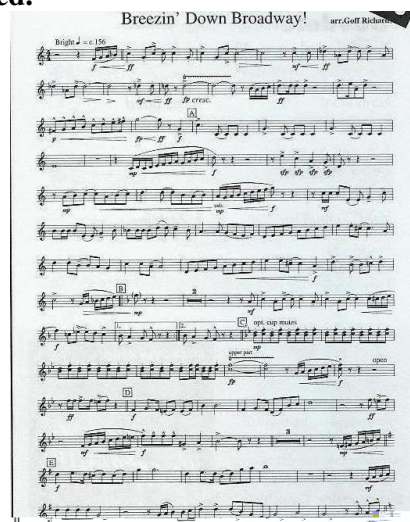
& Wrap section. Catalogues available from the bandroom and orders should be placed through Liz who has once again kindly agreed to co-ordinate this process.

New Music

With the arrival of Kenny Durbin as the Band’s Musical Director we have been introduced to some entertaining and challenging new music, some of which will be aired for the first time at the St. James concert on October 9th.

Brass bands have always played selections from musical shows going from the days of Gilbert & Sullivan to the latest Lloyd Webber compositions. These are well received by audiences who are already familiar with the tunes.

Our latest addition to this category of music is “Breezin’ Down Broadway” an arrangement from the masterful pen of Goff Richards and specially commissioned by the St. Breward Silver Band. As the title suggest, we go on a whirlwind tour of New York’s theatre district with a lively selection that includes “Another Opening, Another Show”, “There’s No Business Like Show Business”, “Get Me To The Church On Time”, “Oklahoma!”, “That’s Entertainment” and “Seventy Six Trombones”. This has quickly become a favourite piece with the Band and although far from easy to play it should be an audience pleaser whenever performed.



Another piece from the musicals is “All That Jazz” which is the main theme from the musical and motion picture “Chicago”. The original Music and lyrics were by John Kander and Fred Ebbs and almost inevitably it is Frank Bernaerts who has made an arrangement for brass band.

Playing music with a Jazz feel does not normally come easily to a brass band who are more used to playing strict tempos and rhythms. However with this item you do get a change to “swing” and with a bit of practise this will also become a popular item.

An altogether different piece of music is “Serenade for Toni”, specially commissioned by the Brass Band Full of Switzerland and composed by Philip Sparke. There are some beautiful melodic themes and a very tricky middle section where we face the unusual time signatures of 5/8 and 8/8. I’m not sure who the Toni in the title is but it is a lovely piece of music.

We also have a new march in “A Bridge Too Far”, suitably topical as we recently had the 60th anniversary of the allied landings in Holland. From Cornelius Ryan's book “A Bridge Too Far”, Richard Attenborough’s film was based on the doomed allied airborne operation, Market Garden.

The film had some star names in the cast but despite the grand line-up it did not enjoy critical acclaim when first released, although it has always made a favourable impact when shown on TV. The initial reception may perhaps have awoken too many memories amongst those still living and who participated in some way in what is seen as a glorious failure.

The theme music is by John Addison. As a young tank commander in the 23rd Hussars he pulled a friend from their burning Sherman tank during WW2. He clearly brought a special sense of engagement to an assignment that he pursued the moment he heard that the commission to write the theme music was available. A toe tapping item which should be a good opening item with it’s fanfare style introduction.

The Bradwell Bugle

Edward Gregson is one of the best modern day composers and had contributed a substantial number of original works for brass band including “Music For Greenwich”. This has been used as a lower section test piece and is not to be treated lightly.

A majestic but somewhat discordant fanfare type introduction leads to a fast and playful tune with most sections having a turn with the melody line. A slower more tender theme tests the band to the full with both dynamics and ensemble playing. This leads us back to the playful mood followed by a reprise of the introduction before driving forward to a fast and lively ending. A great example of brass band writing, which adds interest to a normal concert programme.

A new solo for flugel horn is “Marianne” written by Martin Bunce. This is a big band favourite and has been arranged for brass band by David Lever.

Bunce is a new name to me but a quick trawl of the internet tells us that he studied at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London, achieving his Associate ship Diploma in the mid 1970's. He first achieved fame as a soloist with the National Youth Jazz Orchestra and was a featured artiste on the BBC 2 programme 'In Concert'.

As a freelance trumpet player, he has performed and recorded with many UK leading orchestras, most notably the London Symphony Orchestra. He is currently employed as a peripatetic brass teacher for 3 London boroughs and is musical director and conductor with various theatres.

“Marianne” is a melodic slow rock number and gives the soloist plenty of scope for some expressive playing. This should be a welcome addition to Adam’s growing repertoire of solos.

Test Pieces Selected for 2005
(with acknowledgements to 4Barsrest.com)

The area test pieces for 2005 have been announced For the section Bradwell Band are in, the 3rd Section, the choice is - Tam O' Shanter's Ride (Denis Wright) [after the poem by Robert Burns]

The preface to the score carries the clue to the style of the music.

A cautionary tale of the danger of taking too much strong drink and interfering with the Devil's business. "Whene'er to drink you are inclined, Or cutty-sarks run in your mind, Think! you may buy the joys o'er dear - Remember Tam O' Shanter's mare."

It is a wonderfully descriptive piece, written for the 1956 British Open Championships which on that occasion was won by Harry Mortimer (for the last time) and the Fairey Band. Malcolm Arnold had written his orchestral overture just a year before Wright undertook his work, but nevertheless it is a piece of music that stands both comparison and the test of time.

It is also a work that will certainly test the players and conductors at this level as well, with soprano and bass trombone players in particular in for a hard days work fending off the Devil on horseback as Tam makes his way back from the pub and a night on the whiskey.

It is a piece the bands and the audiences will enjoy, although it will stretch many a band too far we think. Interesting choice though.

100 years Ago

Minutes of meeting held October 13th 1904

Present: Messrs: S. Saunders, Jones, E. Johnson, Ward, S. Johnson, A. Tucker & E. Sykes,

Mr. Facer in the chair

The Bradwell Bugle

Proposed by Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. E. Johnson that the minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed: carried

Proposed by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Saunders that Messrs Wright & Round Band Journal for 1905 be obtained at once: carried

Proposed by Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Jones, that the Annual Christmas Draw be held again this year and the secretary be empowered to have 10,000 draw tickets printed, the Prizes to be the same as last year and the proceeds to be devoted to a Uniform Fund: carried

Proposed by Mr. Saunders, seconded by Mr. S. Johnson, that the question re Band Supper stand over for the present: carried

Proposed by Mr. S. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Saunders that the Music Stand Box be repaired as early as possible: carried

Proposed by Mr. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Saunders, a vote of thanks to the chairman: carried

Meeting closed at 8-25 pm

Other Local Band News

It was interesting to read in the local paper that the Wolverton Town Band has also recently appointed a new musical director. Christopher Leon Johnson has spent many years in Cornwall and played principal euphonium with a number of championship section bands. He now feels it time to give something back to the brass band world and has taking on the task of rebuilding Wolverton Town Band.

The first priority will be to recruit new players and we know ourselves how difficult they can be. Wolverton have a small but hard working core of players who are determined to continue the same local traditions we strive to uphold in Bradwell. We wish them and their new MD well in their efforts to achieve this return to having a full band.

Contact Details for Bradwell Silver Band

Chairman: Lisa Huckle 217429

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Supporters Club: Norman Keech 222298

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Website: www.bradwellband.co.uk

Musical Director: Kenny Durbin (w) 0208 901 6182
(h) 01582 614562
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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.

Saturday 9th October

**Annual Autumn Concert
Parish Church of St James
New Bradwell
Starts 19:30**

The Bradwell Bugle

Thursday 4th November 2004

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 14th November

Remembrance Day

CHRISTMAS ENGAGEMENTS

**Monday 6th December Women's Institute
Christmas 7:30 p.m.**

Tickets only available through the W.I

**Thursday 9th December with the Two Mile
Ash School at Stantonbury Theatre 7.30
p.m.**

Tickets only available through the school

**Saturday 11th December St. James
Church, New Bradwell**

Pay at the door; come early to ensure your seat!
7:30 p.m.

**Monday 13th December with
the Chestnuts School Bletchley
7:30 p.m.**

Tickets only available through the school

**Sunday 19th December Concert in the
Stantonbury Workingmen's Club**

**The next edition of the
Bradwell Bugle will be
published on Tuesday 2nd
November, any contributions to
be handed in to the editor by
October 26th please**

