

The BRASS BAND Bridge



BRIDGE: a link, a tie, a bond, an alliance,
a connection, to band together, to unify.

ISSUE 22
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Courtesy of Musical Instrument Division, Yamaha International Corporation

N.A.B.B.A. To Offer Brass Band Workshops

The North American Brass Band Association is pleased to announce that during the summer of 1986 it will offer an American Festival of Brass Band Workshops. Sponsored by the Musical Instrument Division of Yamaha International Corporation, these two day workshops will be held in San Francisco, California; Denton, Texas; Madison, Wisconsin; West Chester, Pennsylvania; and Raleigh, North Carolina. J. Perry Watson will be the instructor.

In order to accommodate the many high school band directors needing certification renewal credit, North Carolina State University has agreed to offer one certification renewal credit for any one of these workshops.

Details of the exact location and dates are currently being worked out in the various locations.

A tentative schedule at each location indicates that the workshop will be held starting at 6:30 on Friday evening lasting until 10:00 and continuing the next morning from 9:30 to approximately 5:30 Saturday evening. A registration fee of \$25.00 per person will cover all registration fees, materials, supplies, etc.

Details and specific information about each workshop will be forthcoming within the very near future.

Brass Band Archives Established

The North Carolina State University Archivist, Maurice Tolar, has agreed to be responsible for establishing the North American Brass Band Association archives. This means that anyone wishing to pursue research, or to find out about brass band activities in this country and Canada, will have a central location in which to do their investigation.

Since N.A.B.B.A. is a North Carolina corporation, Mr. Tolar gladly agreed to serve as the custodian of all pictures, printed programs, pamphlets, brochures, and other such items pertinent to the British brass band movement throughout the two countries. Anyone having such items is encouraged to send these materials to:

Brass Band Archives
Campus Box 7311

North Carolina State University
Raleigh, N.C. 27695

This location will provide ample space and accessibility for the brass band materials which are accumulating. Information stored so far includes the materials collected from the first three contests, programs and other information submitted by various brass bands throughout the last several years, and material which has been collected from various sources. There is to be a complete classification and cross reference catalog dealing with the brass band movement. For further information, please write the Brass Band Archives at the address indicated.

N.A.B.B.A. CHAMPIONSHIPS
April 19, 1986 • Indianapolis, Indiana

Is This Your Last Issue Of The Brass Band Bridge???

Due to the rising cost of producing this newsletter, the N.A.B.B.A. Board ruled (beginning with the next issue) that only members of the Association will receive this publication. To continue receiving the BRIDGE, please mail your application (found elsewhere in this issue) as soon as possible. Continuing members should check their membership card for renewal date.

THE BRASS BAND BRIDGE has grown and developed into an important communication medium for and about brass band throughout North America. The North American Brass Band Association needs your support in order to continue to promote brass banding throughout the country. Without the Yamaha Corporation's generous support, the BRIDGE would not exist. Your membership in N.A.B.B.A. will ensure not only the publication but the success of the brass band movement itself. Won't you join?

TAC BRASS BAND **Bridge**

For, about and by British-type brass bands throughout North America.

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Assistant

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This issue is provided through the courtesy of the Musical Instrument Division, Yamaha International Corporation.

Please address all correspondence to the Editor.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

January 31, 1986
April 30, 1986
July 31, 1986
October 31, 1986

N.A.B.B.A.

The North American Brass Band Association proudly recognizes the following for their support:

LEADERSHIP MEMBERS:

James Poyner
Raleigh, North Carolina

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CRITIC'S REVIEWS

DANCES AND ARIAS, The Cory Band, Major A.H. Kenney, Conductor

Polyphonic PRL 025D (disc) CPRLD 025D (cassette)

Contains: *Continental Caprice* (Goff Richards), *Dances and Arias* (Edward Gregson), *Doyen* (Goff Richards), *March Paraphrase: Men Of Harlech* (Edward German, arr. Denis Wright), *Siegfried's Funeral March* (Richard Wagner, arr. Derek Barnes), *The Year Of The Dragon* (Philip Sparke).

It is the cassette version of this recording being reviewed, and it has been eagerly awaited by brass band freaks because it contains the first commercial recording of 'Dances and Arias', appropriately by the band which won Britain's 1984 National Brass Band Championship playing it - a hat trick for Cory and Major Kenney. In 'Dances And Arias' Mr. Gregson has given us a major new work that is the synthesis of much of what he has written for brass bands in the last decade. Devices and ideas used earlier in 'Partita', 'Patterns', 'Tuba Concerto' and even a direct quote from 'Connotations' are here made a part of his most integrated piece of brass band music yet. 'Dances And Arias' also finds Mr. Gregson using a harmonic language which has a less focused tonal centre than previous compositions, with the possible exception of the 'Horn Concerto'. This is particularly true of the 'Arias'.

Played without a break, and lasting c. thirteen minutes, the music consists of three Dances interspersed with two Arias. In the Dances we are treated to further examples of Mr. Gregson's penchant for rapidly changing time signatures, but now they are no longer a precocious display of his ability to do simple fractions. Listened to with the score they bring a knowing smile. Heard without it, the rhythms are seamless and logical, due in no small measure to Major Kenney's firm grasp. In the Arias the composer shows that he understands the brass band to be essentially a *lyrical* ensemble. Rarely since the slow movement of Holst's 'A Moorside Suite' has the band been given such difficult music. Many bands will negotiate the Dances with relative ease; few will survive the Arias unscathed. 'Aria II' gives us the opportunity to hear flugelhorns in duet (the second played by the first cornet player) and now we know what we have been missing. But again, the composer puts this device at the service of fine music; it is not used merely for effect, but we hope that other composers and arrangers will take note. (It would also be nice to hear four trombones, as in Salvation Army scoring. We really must begin to take a more flexible attitude to brass band scoring.)

The Cory Band's performance is outstanding with full-bodied tutti and exceptional playing from the horns and baritones. It is marred by only a couple of indiscretions which could have been fixed by re-takes. Occasionally unison trombones have pitch problems, as do cornets which take over a line from other cornets. Throughout one wished that the soprano player had taken a more aggressive attitude to his part (Major Kenney's preference? The engineer's fault?) and that the E-flat bass soloist in the 'Connotations' quotation had played *senza vibrato* and with his high 'G' and 'A' more securely pitched. The most difficult parts are those for the percussionists (three of them playing sixteen instruments plus four timpani). Quite apart from the logistics (the score includes a floor plan), the experience of being part of the melodic and harmonic fabric is fairly new to many brass band percussionists, and in this performance they are the equal of their brass-blowing colleagues.

In summary, an important new piece of music given an outstanding performance. On the evidence of this recording, the Cory Band and Major Kenney deserve their place of honour.

A 'must buy' for anyone interested in the development of original music for brass band.

— DOUGLAS FIELD



The Milwaukee British Brass Band

The Milwaukee British Brass Band performed at the United Methodist on the program included Holst's *A Moorside Suite* and Langford's *Fantasy On British*



The Chester Brass Band of Nova Scotia performed at the Chester Go School farm training center for the presented for the opening of a new United thirty miles away. October finds the band length film about Russian spies and the music while some foul plot is being made. Development Campaign, Chester will present. In November the band will be a part of memorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. This performance pipers and band. Also in November is Royal Canadian Legion. December 1st concert in another village nearby and at Tantallon for the St. Margaret's Bay

Aside from performing, the band contemplates for securing a band room which band. The band will raise money, hope add on and renovate the building which present they use various facilities and

A Junior Band Development Program and a fund well over \$7000.00. Chester is the Assistant Postmaster of Chester

During January and February the band begin serious rehearsals with emphasis

British Brass Band

A warm North American welcome to the England. They have joined N.A.B.B.A. as some brass band enthusiasts. They are a band country and were originally formed group have included the famous William Albutt now leads the band. You may contact Richard Brier 37 Hangingroyd Lane England HX7 7DD.



nd - Wayne M. Becker, Conductor

d gave its premier performance on t Church of Whitefish Bay. Selections *orside Suite*, *Arnold's Little Suite For h Sea Songs*.

River City Brass Band

RECORDED FOR A MOVIE

ia has been quite active. In September, f Club in aid of the Bonnie Lea Farm, handicapped. A formal concert was ted Church of Canada in Pentz, about **being filmed for a movie!!** It is a full and is to play sweet, innocent sounding le. To raise funds for the Junior Band esent a concert with two school bands. A Festival Of Remembrance to com- nadian Legion and the 40th Anniversary orformance will include readers, choir, the band's only parade, again for the is a busy day performing an afternoon evening concert a little further afield at creation and Community Association. ntinues to be active. In the works are a the village is willing to lease to the ully through corporate sponsorship, to was used years ago for a tea room. At ump their gear around.

has been started with nineteen registered 's euphonium player Bob Warren who r will be training the young players. d plans to rest from engagements and on rebuilding the repertoire.

— Gordon McGowan

Joins N.A.B.B.A.

the Hebden Bridge Band, West Yorkshire a member band and hope to connect with 4th section band from the heart of brass d in the 1870's. Past conductors of this Rimmer and Fred Mortimer. Mr. David act these fellow brass banders by writing hebden Bridge N^R Halifax West Yorks

THE PROFESSIONAL'S CORNER

RCBB

RIVER CITY BRASS BAND

"PREMIERE" RECORDING

The River City Brass Band has received grants from The Hillman Foundation and The Pittsburgh Foundation to produce its first recording for sale to the general public.

The RCBB recording, to be titled *PREMIERE BRASS*, will consist of selections from live performances at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Music Hall and will include some of the audiences' favorite pieces. Included will be cornetist Bernard Black's beautiful solo *Summertime* from *Porgy and Bess*, Aaron Copland's *Hoedown* from *Rodeo*, the dazzling *Galop and Finale* from the *William Tell Overture*, euphoniumist Joseph Zuback's virtuosic *Believe Me, If All Those Endearing Young Charms*, Gilbert Vinter's exciting *Spectrum* and, of course, two marches by John Philip Sousa: *El Capitan* and *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

The grants for the RCBB recording, totalling \$24,000 were matched equally by the two foundations. The Hillman Foundation is a private foundation. The Pittsburgh Foundation with assets totalling \$70 million, is a community foundation established to receive charitable funds from individuals, families, and organizations. From these funds, the Foundation awards grants to a broad range of nonprofit organizations primarily in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.

RCBB REPLACES DRESDEN SYMPHONY

The River City Brass Band was scheduled to replace the Dresden Symphony Orchestra at the Chatham Concert Series in Chatham, New Jersey on Saturday, November 2nd.

The Dresden Symphony, under contract with the Kazuko Hillyer Agency, recently cancelled its scheduled American tour, leaving the Chatham Concert Series organizers without an attraction for their November 2nd subscription concert. Mr. Jack Paddon of New York Life, one of the series organizers, had heard a cassette tape of the River City Brass Band that had been given to him by a local fan of the group. He decided, on that basis, to bring the 27-member brass ensemble to New Jersey for a performance.

Although this will be the RCBB's first performance in New Jersey, it will not be the first time the group has been hired to travel long distances for a single performance. Earlier this year, the American College of Thoracic Surgeons flew the brass band to Phoenix, Arizona to perform a concert for their annual banquet.

In addition, the RCBB has just returned from a weekend tour of eastern Pennsylvania, performing at Marywood College in Scranton, College Misericordia in Dallas and at the Strand-Capitol Theatre in York. On October 19 and 20 the band traveled to West Virginia for concerts in Martinsburg and at the newly-renovated Rosegarden Theatre in Clarksburg.

CONCERT SALUTES ANDREW CARNEGIE WITH "SCOTLAND THE BRAVE"

The River City Brass Band presented the last concert program of its Fall Series when it celebrated the 150th birthday of Andrew Carnegie with a concert entitled *Scotland the Brave*, which was presented on Saturday, November 16, at Carnegie Music Hall, and repeated on Sunday, November 17, at the South Hills Theatre and on Tuesday, November 19, at Gateway High School.

RCBB's music director, Robert Bernat, visited the Andrew Carnegie's birthplace in Dunfermline, Scotland this year in preparation for this salute. "I was intrigued to discover that both the Carnegie U.K. and the Carnegie-Dunfermline trusts were actively involved in supporting brass bands in Scotland and other parts of Great Britain," reported Bernat.

"The people at both trusts were very aware of Andrew Carnegie's love of brass band music, and were interested to hear about all the brass band developments in America."

"The Carnegie-Dunfermline Trust invited the RCBB to perform at their own Carnegie birthday celebrations in Scotland this month, which proved not to be feasible for us. However," said Bernat, "the BBC Scotland has asked to broadcast our November concert in its entirety, and we're still in the process of making the arrangements for that."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My good friend Perry Watson sends me *The Brass Band Bridge*. I must comment on Ronald Ward's European Championship report in which he says "The warm, easily resonant sound, with wobbly vibrato in evidence, a sound the British Band has been known to produce is beginning to falter as an ideal. The old sound . . . may be making its reluctant exit due to the more 'modern' symphonic sound . . ."

The warm, round, velvet like sound of the British Brass Band is the sound of the British Brass Band. The lyrical, smooth style is that of the British Brass Band. It is a unique sound. Vibrato is not to be condemned but put to proper use. We, in British Brass Bands (for the most part) do not like the lazer beam approach, where the tone is hard and the playing mechanical, however brilliantly it is conveyed - and the band blows the roof off. If brass bands wish to become brass groups then it might be well to use trumpets instead of cornets and french horns instead of tenor horns. Then we haven't got a British brass band.

I could fill two issues of BBB on this subject but if it is the intention to form British style Brass Bands in the USA it might be well to heed these words.

My very best wishes to our colleagues in America.

Trevor Walmsley.

Former Conductor of Black Dyke, Brighouse & Rastrick,
Yorkshire Imperial and now of the Band Advisory Service.



From The Editor's Desk

We are honored to be editors of this publication. In order to serve you the members, we welcome your ideas, suggestions, stories about your band, its activities, its ups, its downs . . . anything you want to read about . . . let us know!! We for two would like to put in an **IDEAS COLUMN** where you may send some tid-bit of information that your band does for whatever reason to share with the rest of us. How's this for a starter . . .

The Chester Brass Band has a news-

letter that was sent to us along with the "happenings" of the band. It is one of two that they have produced and we found it to be a great idea!!! It consists of information about the group (welcome to new members, thanks to helpers, N.A.B.B.A. activities) . . . everything. We found it to be informative, humorous and very "bandy".

We will look forward to hearing from you and your ideas.

— K.D. & Don

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Tampa, Florida 33620



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Effective September 1985

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JOIN N.A.B.B.A.

APPLICATION FORM

(please print or type)

Name _____

Address _____

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Are you a member of a brass band? _____

If so, what band _____

What instrument do you play? _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| I/We wish to join NABBA as | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate/Institutional — \$100.00 |
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