With fall comes the sound of bands back to rehearsal and concerts in the offing. It is exciting to be back in the band room with both familiar and new faces. In New England, the leaves are just beginning to turn but we are already working on new material for our series of Christmas concerts. The NABBA Championships are but a few months away and programming decisions need to be made. It is an exciting time for all of us.

The NABBA Board of Directors had its interim meeting at Indiana University Southeast on September 14-15. I cannot recall being part of a more focused, labor intensive and rewarding series of hours than those days in the orchestra room at IUS where the board wrestled with many issues that, in the end, came together to make NABBA stronger and able to move forward in exciting new directions. Over the summer, the decision was made to strengthen the board’s committee structure, and we were able to propose, discuss and adopt many new ideas that will see NABBA branching into new activities while doing familiar things in an even better way.

The contest committee, chaired by Joe Johnson, was charged with reviewing the NABBA Championships contest rules and devising a plan for the implementation of the 2008 Championships. The development committee, under Pat Herak’s leadership, is working to expand NABBA’s activities through North America, developing strategies to link bands together through regional liaisons and regional activities. While many of these ideas will take time to get established, it is exciting to see new initiatives beginning with enthusiasm. The music committee, which I chair, reviewed dozens of pieces that were considered as test pieces before coming up with our recommendations of the pieces you find listed in these pages – works that are at their heart excellent pieces that will be able to enter the repertoire of our bands but which will also provide challenges that will make them effective test pieces.

One of the board’s major undertakings was the revision of NABBA’s bylaws. After the annual meeting of the Board before the 2007 Championships, then-President Anita Cocker Hunt recognized that NABBA’s bylaws were in need of revision. Originally written at NABBA’s founding in 1983, they had been revised from time to time to the point that they were often in conflict with themselves. Jim Grate chaired the bylaws committee which came up with an entirely new revision that worked to clarify NABBA’s mission as being specifically tied to the work of “British-type brass bands” as NABBA’s founders intended and detailing new ways for the board to work and do its business. This revision was the subject of many hours of discussion at the board meeting and at the end of the process, we had a new document that will serve NABBA well into the future.

Visit nabba.org to see this work by our board and the changes therein that will affect NABBA members and bands.

The changing of the guard – with the election of a new President (Russell Morris) and Vice President (yours truly) – brings NABBA a new leadership group. We extend our thanks to Anita Cocker Hunt and John de Salme for their many years of service as officers. Rusty and I, along with treasurer Jim Grate and secretary Linda Detman, pledge to honor the vision to Anita Cocker Hunt and John de Salme for their many years of service as officers. Rusty and I, along with treasurer Jim Grate and secretary Linda Detman, pledge to honor the vision of NABBA’s founders as we help steer NABBA into its next 25 years. North American British-type brass banding is well and growing as you can see in the following pages. It is a pleasure to serve you as we work together to strengthen NABBA in new ways.
Greetings NABBA Members,

As I begin my tenure as President of NABBA, I first want to express my thanks to some people. First would be to Anita Cocker Hunt and the example she has set as President for the past six years. NABBA has shown tremendous growth during Anita’s tenure as President and I plan for that growth to continue. Next would be the past Presidents of NABBA. These gentlemen laid the foundation for the success of NABBA and their contributions and hard work are immeasurable. I want to thank the current Board of Directors of NABBA for your faith and confidence in electing me to this position. I do not take the responsibility lightly and I very much look forward to working with you in the coming years. I want to say thanks to the NABBA Executive Board, Doug Yeo (newly elected Vice President), Jim Grate (re-elected as Treasurer), and Linda Detman (Secretary). I am extremely fortunate to have people like you around to guide and assist me. Closer to home, I need to thank my wife for her understanding of my passion for brass banding and encouraging me to undertake this endeavor. To my band in Little Rock, the Natural State Brass Band: your support, encouragement, and commitment has pushed me to levels that I did not know existed within me. For this, I am eternally grateful.

You guys and gals are the best! Last but certainly not least, to you, the entire membership of NABBA. The Board of Directors exists to serve you and promote brass banding in North America. You have a very strong and committed Board in place that will work to ensure that growth continues for not only now but also in years to come. However, the NABBA Board of Directors cannot do this alone. We will need help from you, the membership, to maintain and continue this upward spiral of growth.

Last month, the Board met in Louisville for its interim meeting. We had a mountain of work to accomplish and thanks to the efforts of everyone at the meeting, every important item that had to be addressed was done so in a terrific manner. Two of the most important items of business were amending and approving the new Bylaws and re-writing the Championship (contest) rules. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to Jim Grate (Chairman, Bylaws committee) and Joe Johnson (Chairman, contest committee) for their tireless work on both of these important documents. There have been changes to each, some very subtle, some a bit broader. I strongly encourage each of you to look over these documents and become familiar with each one. It is your responsibility to know the contest rules and abide by them. You should be aware of the purpose of NABBA as contained end of music. We are breaking new ground by having the Championship bands perform their choice items on Saturday evening at the Brown Theater. This will be a continuation of the judging from Saturday morning, so a great deal will be at stake for each band. It will be an evening you will not want to miss!

In closing, I want to say how very proud and humbled I am to be selected to serve as President of NABBA. Together, we all can do great things. I will need your help though. If you have questions, comments, or ideas about anything NABBA, please send them to me or any other Board member.

Best of luck to all of the bands as you finish up 2007 and begin your preparations for the 2008 Championships!

rnorris61 @ comcast.net

NABBA President Russell Morris and Vice President Douglas Yeo at the NABBA Board of Directors Meeting, Indiana University Southeast, September 14-15, 2007.
The NABBA Board of Directors met at Indiana University Southeast on September 14 - 15, 2007. This interim meeting of the board is one of two gatherings when the board meets together to chart NABBA’s course and take care of various business items as prescribed in NABBA's bylaws (the annual meeting of the board occurs just before the annual championships each year).

The agenda for the meeting contained an unprecedented amount of business including a complete revision of NABBA’s bylaws and revisions to the Championships rules. A new format for the 2008 Championships was approved, new officers were elected, test pieces for the 2008 Championships were approved, and NABBA’s newly strengthened committee structure proved to be an effective new model of doing business.

Complete minutes of the meeting, the full text of the newly approved bylaws and Championships rules, and contact information for all board members may be found at nabba.org.

JIM GRATE - Treasurer
Trombone
Brass Band of the Tri-State

THOMAS SCHEIBNER
Percussion
New York Staff Band of the Salvation Army

QUENTIN SHARPE
Tuba
Derby City Brass Band

KEVIN STEES
Director
James Madison University Brass Band
Massanutten Brass Band

KEITH WILKINSON
Director
Brass Band of the Western Reserve

LINDA YEO
Bass Trombone
Prairie Brass Band

NABBA OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES (AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2007)

OFFICERS

RUSSELL MORRIS - President
Director
Natural State Brass Band

DOUGLAS YEO - Vice President
Director
New England Brass Band

LINDA DETMAN - Secretary
Trombone
Sunshine Brass Band

NABBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14 - 15, 2007

DIRECTORS

STEPHEN ALLEN
Director
Princeton Brass Band

DONALD BOOKOUT
Euphonium
Bend in the River Brass Band

BARBARA BURTCH
Baritone
Illinois Brass Band

JOHN W. DE SALME
Director Emeritus
Eastern Iowa Brass Band

SUSAN HENTHORN
Tenor Horn
Lexington Brass Band

DIANA HERAK
Baritone
Brass Band of Columbus

PATRICK HERAK
Tuba
TBDBITL (Ohio State Marching Band Alumni Band)

ANITA COCKER HUNT
Director
Cincinnati Brass Band

JOE JOHNSON
Director
Georgia Brass Band

SUSAN REIGLER
Tenor Horn
Commonwealth Brass Band

COMMITTEES

(NABBA President Russell Morris is an ex-officio member of all committees)

Executive Committee:
Russell Morris, President
Douglas Yeo, Vice President
Linda Detman, Secretary
Jim Grate, Treasurer

Contest Committee:
Joe Johnson, Chairman
Donald Bookout
Jim Grate
Susan Henthorn
Diana Herak
Linda Yeo

Development Committee:
Pat Herak, Chairman
Barbara Burtch
Linda Detman
Jim Grate
Anita Cocker Hunt
Susan Reigler
Quentin Sharpenstein

WWW.NABBA.ORG

THE BRASS BAND BRIDGE, ISSUE 106

3
Music Committee:
Douglas Yeo, Chairman
Stephen Allen
John de Salme
Kevin Stees
Keith Wilkinson

Bylaws Committee:
Jim Grate, Chairman
Russell Morris
Douglas Yeo

Publications Committee:
Douglas Yeo, Chairman
Jim Grate
Susan Henthorn
Diana Herak

Archivist
Diana Herak

Volunteer Coordinator
Linda Yeo


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dick@sldbrass.com
ANNOUNCEMENT OF NABBA XXVI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008 TEST PIECES

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

ST. MAGNUS
by Kenneth Downie
publisher: SP&S

HONORS SECTION

JOURNEY INTO FREEDOM
by Eric Ball
publisher: Studio Music (Boosey & Hawkes)

CHALLENGE AND ADULT OPEN SECTIONS

VARIATIONS ON LAUDATE DOMINUM
by Edward Gregson
publisher: SP&S

EXPLORER SECTION

HINEMOA
by Gareth Wood
publisher: R. Smith

YOUTH SECTION

OCCASION
by Edward Gregson
publisher: Novello, distributed by R. Smith
NOTE: THIS IS A DIFFERENT PIECE THAN GREGSON’S Prelude for an Occasion. Occasion was composed in 1986 for the National Youth Brass Band Championship of Great Britain.

YOUTH OPEN SECTION

VALERIUS VARIATIONS
by Philip Sparke
publisher: Anglo Music

Solid Brass Music (sldbrass.com) is the official supplier of NABBA test pieces.
A NEW CONTEST OPEN TO ALL NABBA BANDS

At its meeting in August 2006, the NABBA Board of Directors voted to initiate a new NABBA contest for the “NABBA Recording of the Year.”

PURPOSE

The “NABBA Recording of the Year” contest is designed to promote quality sound recordings of NABBA member bands.

This contest will be held annually and the winning entry will be awarded the title, “NABBA (YEAR) Recording of the Year.” The starting year for the contest will be 2007, for recordings released between December 16, 2006 and December 15, 2007 under consideration. John de Salme will coordinate the first contest.

QUALIFYING DATE

The recording must be released for the first time (not a re-release) between December 16, 2006 and December 15, 2007. Entries must be received by December 31, 2007. The result of the contest will be announced before the 2008 North American Brass Band Championships and the presentation of the award will be made at that event.

CONTEST RULES

Eligibility. Bands entering must be a paid up member band of NABBA in both the year of recording and the year of the announcement of the winner. All guest soloists (non-roster players) must clearly be identified.

Media. Compact disc only. No more than one recording per band per year may be entered in the contest.

The recording cannot be a solo feature CD. Discs that predominately feature soloists will not be considered.

CDs must be a minimum of 60 minutes in duration.

To be eligible, CDs must be commercially manufactured releases (not home-made discs) with all appropriate copyright and mechanical rights secured. Issue 98 of The Brass Band Bridge featured an article, Recording a CD With Your Band, by New England Brass Band Music Director Douglas Yeo. In it, there was a lengthy discussion of the process of securing, executing and paying for mechanical licenses. You can download Issue 98 with Douglas Yeo’s article from The Brass Band Bridge website at nabbabridge.org. It is imperative that mechanical licenses be secured for any disc that is submitted for this contest. The winning band will be required to submit copies of their mechanical licenses before the award will be made.

Adjudication

A judge who does not have any official affiliation with NABBA or any NABBA band will be selected by the contest coordinator to adjudicate the contest. The judging will be weighted according to the following criteria:

• 50 points: Musical performance
• 20 points: Musical content/ Entertainment value/ Salability
• 15 points: Presentation/ Artwork
• 15 points: Quality of Recording

Entry Fee

Along with the contest entry form and a copy of the compact disc, a $25.00 entry fee (payable to NABBA) should be sent to the contest coordinator. The entry form appears on the following page.

Prize

The winning band shall receive a mini-banner and a cash award of $200 and each member playing on the winning recording shall receive a copy of a new Steven Mead CD (CDs courtesy of Steven Mead). ©
NABBA 2007 RECORDING OF THE YEAR
ENTRY FORM

NAME OF BAND ____________________________________________________________

NAME OF RECORDING ______________________________________________________

CD RELEASE DATE _________________________________________________________

BAND CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS _________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

BAND CONTACT PHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS __________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

By entering this contest, I certify that the band featured on this entry is a NABBA member band in the year of the compact disc’s release (2006 or 2007) and will be a NABBA member band in the year of the announcement of the winner (2008) and this release conforms to all rules for the contest.

I further certify that this compact disc is a publicly available commercially manufactured release (not a home-made disc) and that all necessary permissions and mechanical licenses from copyright holders have been secured for all tracks.

(signed by Band Contact) ________________________________________________

Entries for recordings released between December 16, 2006 and December 15, 2007 must be received by December 31, 2007. CD entries remain the property of NABBA and will not be returned.

Send this form, the compact disc and a $25.00 entry fee (check payable to NABBA) to:

John de Salme
NABBA Recording of the Year
3718 Cottage Reserve Road NE
Solon, Iowa, 52333-9225

Address any questions and inquiries to the contest coordinator, John de Salme at: john_dealme@southslope.net

This application and contest rules can be downloaded as a pdf file at www.nabbabridge.org/roty.pdf
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE NABBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NABBA President Russell Morris has issued a call for applications from NABBA members who would like to serve on the NABBA Board of Directors. NABBA members who have a passion for brass banding and NABBA, and wish to be part of the hard working group of people who make up NABBA’s Board are invited to make application to be a member of the Board of Directors.

As per NABBA's Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall have 21 members. Currently the Board has 19 members. When the number of members of the Board falls below 21 Directors, the Bylaws call for an election to be held to bring the Board up to 21.

Directors will be elected to a term from January 15, 2008 - June 30, 2010. Those interested in submitting an application to become a Director should become familiar with the workings of the Board and duties of Board Members as contained in the NABBA Bylaws which are available on nabba.org

Below is the timetable for the election of the two new Directors, as set by President Morris:

October 15, 2007 - Announcement of two open seats on the NABBA Board of Directors in The Brass Band Bridge, on nabba.org and via email to all NABBA member band conductors and band contacts.

December 1 - Deadline for applications. Applications (with any supporting documentation) will be reviewed by President Morris and then distributed to all members of the Board of Directors for consideration.

January 1, 2008 - The NABBA Board of Directors will vote for two new Directors.

January 7 - Voting concludes. The two applicants who receive the highest number of votes (winning applicants will need to receive at least 10 affirmative votes, representing a majority of the current Board of Directors) will become new Directors. If there is a tie, a runoff election will be held.

January 8 - Announcement of new Directors or begin runoff election.

January 15 - New Directors join the Board of Directors and receive committee assignments OR announce result of runoff election.

February 1 - If a runoff election was required, new Directors are announced and join the Board.

Applications may be downloaded at nabba.org and should be received at the address below by December 1, 2007:

Russell Morris, NABBA President
#5 Big Stone Court
Little Rock, Arkansas 72227
ACROSS THE BRIDGE

NOVEMBER 10, 2007
U.S. Open Brass Band Championships, hosted by Prairie Brass Band. More information at usopenbrass.org

FEBRUARY 2, 2008
Big Bend Brass Band Festival. More information at BBBB.org

MARCH 8-9, 2008
Ohio Brass Arts Festival, Columbus Ohio. Hosted by Central Ohio Brass Band. More information at ohiobrassbands.com

MARCH 28-29, 2008
NABBA XXVI Championships. Indiana University Southeast and Louisville, Kentucky. NOTE: Due to several large conventions in Louisville during the NABBA Championships weekend, hotel rooms should be reserved IMMEDIATELY. For more information about the NABBA XXVI Championships and updated details about hotel room availability, visit nabba.org and click on “Contest Info 2008.” DO IT NOW!

JUNE 13-15, 2008

JUNE 21, 2008

BUILDING BRIDGES:
NEWS FROM NABBA BANDS

MOTOR CITY BRASS BAND

Motor City Brass Band (Craig Strain) is thrilled to begin another exciting season of performances. The traditionally terrifying Halloween concert, "Horns & Howls VII", will open their 2007-2008 concert series on October 28 at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, MI. An equally fantastic season of concerts will follow, so stay tuned for more updates!

The band successfully finished their 2006-2007 concert series in June with a jet-setting musical trip around the country on, "American Portrait, A Musical Journey." This high-energy performance featured special guest SGM Woodrow English, principal trumpet and soloist of the U.S. Army Band, “Pershing’s Own.” Costumed band members acted as tour guides through the concert, introducing the music and describing the varied locales to which the audience would be aurally transported.

Karolyn Byers (trombone) of Fenton, Michigan was selected as the Motor City Brass Band 2007 Youth Scholarship Winner. In its 2nd year, this scholarship provides young musicians a $500 award as well as an opportunity to perform with the band at a concert on the summer series. Ms. Byers, a junior in high school, gave a stellar performance of Morceau Symphonique with MCBB in August.

Continuing to be in high demand all summer, MCBB performed throughout the metro Detroit area at fireworks displays, outdoor community concerts and other events. Of special significance was a concert with five other brass bands on the Salvation Army’s Brass Band Spectacular, and a featured performance at the 2007 convention for the American School Band Directors Association.

The band is also pleased to announce that young area musicians are benefiting from the creation of a new ensemble, the Motor City Youth Brass Band. Formed in January 2007, the youth brass band provides students across the metro Detroit area the opportunity to learn and perform in an environment that fosters growth and professionalism.

Trombonist Mike Case playing the role of Officer Krupke for Motor City Brass Band’s performance at the 2007 convention for the American School Band Directors Association.
ILLINOIS BRASS BAND

It’s been an active summer for the Illinois Brass Band! Under the direction of Dr. Ryan T. Nelson, the band placed third in the Championship Division for NABBA 2007. After that exciting achievement, the Illinois Brass Band was invited by the Waukegan Municipal Band to participate in the first annual Waukegan Band Festival, performing alongside the Great Lakes Naval Band, the Chicago Brass Band, the Waukegan Municipal Band, and the Northshore Concert Band.

The Illinois Brass Band continued its summer season with an Americana theme, including works such as Barn Dance & Cowboy Hymn (Philip Sparke), Dunlap's Creek (Robert Bernat), and Hoe Down from "Rodeo" (Aaron Copland, arr. Howard Snell). Concerts held in Plainfield, Evanston, and Arlington Heights entertained crowds of 200 happy concert-goers.

After taking a brief hiatus in August, the band will return in the fall, preparing music from the historic Elgin Watch Factory Band library for its fall concert. Join us on October 20, 2007, at 7:00 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church of Elgin. For more information on the band and our upcoming concerts/events, visit our website at www.illinoisbrassband.org or call 847-604-4817.

PRAIRIE BRASS BAND/U.S. OPEN

The fifth annual US Open Brass Band Championships, hosted by the Prairie Brass Band, produced by Brass Bands International Corp. and in partnership with sponsor Buffet Crampon (manufacturers of Besson & Courtois), are pleased to announce the line up of bands who will take the stage in competition on November 10, 2007 at St. Viator School in Arlington Heights. Doors Open at 9:00a.m. and the contest will run until 4:30 p.m.

Performing will be three-time defending Champions, Brass Band of Central Florida, as well as the Eastern Iowa Brass Band, Fountain City Brass Band, Illinois Brass Band, Milwaukee Festival Brass, Motor City Brass Band, Prairie Brass Band and, making their debut, the Wingates Band from Westhoughton in Bolton, England. Three of these bands are currently ranked among the top 50 in the world.

The bands will be competing for the following awards and cash prizes:

Championship Trophy and $1,000.00, sponsored by Buffet Crampon, a Partnership Sponsor.

Most Entertaining Band Award and $500.00, sponsored by Sam Ash Music, a Gold Level Sponsor.

Second Place Trophy and $250.00, sponsored by York, a Silver Level Sponsor.

Best Featured Soloist Award and $250.00, sponsored by Smith-Watkins, a Silver Level Sponsor.

Best Performance of a March Award and $250.00, sponsored by Yamaha, a Silver Level Sponsor.

Best New Arrangement or Composition for Brass Band, $250.00.

Unique to the contest is the famous Buskers Award, a trophy for the best small ensemble of the day, judged by a “mystery adjudicator.” This has proven to be a hotly contested portion of the contest and hugely popular with musicians and audience alike. Additionally, the Buskers’ Preview is held Friday night at a local Irish pub and is free and open to the public.

Buffet Crampon is once again the sponsor of the award for the Best Cornet Performer of the Day. The recipient will be presented with a special, custom built Courtois cornet, which will be engraved with, “US Open - Best Cornet - 2007”. This award will be presented immediately following the performance by the last band.

In addition, Buffet Crampon is also the sponsor of Frank Renton, “The Voice of the US Open,” as well as judges John Bell of Southern Illinois University and Joe Allison of Eastern Kentucky University. Completing the judging panel will be veteran US Open judge John Phillips from Toronto, Ontario, who will once again be serving as the chief judge of the contest.
“We are extremely pleased by the growth of the U.S. Open this year, both in terms of the number of bands competing and in terms of the ongoing generous support from our sponsors,” said Clark Niermeyer, president of the U.S. Open board. “We believe that this will be the largest U.S. Open yet, and that is all due to the enthusiasm shown for the event by the competing bands, our audience, and by our sponsors.”

Additional sponsors include: Getzen, DANSR, and DF Enterprises.

This promises to be the largest US Open contest yet and those who want to attend or become a sponsor or advertiser are urged to check out the website at www.usopenbrass.org for further information.

TBDBITL ALUMNI BAND

Over 850 brass players and percussionists participated in the 39th Annual TBDBITL Alumni Band Reunion this past September 1, 2007. Members of TBDBITL, as well as The Ohio State University (OSU) Marching Band, performed for both pre-game and halftime shows for the OSU vs. Youngstown State University football game at Ohio Stadium in Columbus, Ohio.

HANNAFORD STREET SILVER BAND

The award-winning Hannaford Street Silver Band opened its 24th season with a celebration of that cherished brass tradition “The Village Band” directed by distinguished guest conductor Elgar Howarth on Sunday, October 14, in the Jane Mallett Theatre, Toronto, Canada.

The Hannaford Street Silver Band’s 2007/08 season celebrates the many traditions of the brass band as an art form. “The Village Band” is an evocative title meant to stimulate thoughts of concerts in the park. This season opener on October 14 used this as a starting point, with Herbert Clarke’s The Three Aces featuring cornet soloists Robert Venables, Norm Engel and Richard Sandals; and Franz von Suppe’s Poet & Peasant Overture; the program also demonstrates contemporary music thoughts and repertoire with Elgar Howarth’s Parade and Boddington Variations; John Philip Sousa’s Liberty Bell and Gilbert Vinter’s Spectrum. “The Village Band” theme is also represented by Gary Kulesha’s Romance for Band and Howard Cable’s Good Medicine, a Charlie Russell Suite.

This concert also featured the North American premiere of Philip Harper’s Legend of Sangeet for Sitar and Brass Band.
A pre-concert chat with Elgar Howarth, hosted by the HSSB’s Executive Director and Co-founder Ray Tizzard, took place in the lobby of the Jane Mallett Theatre. For more information about the Hannaford Street Silver Band, visit the band’s website at hssb.com

TRIANGLE BRASS BAND

The Triangle Brass Band, an auditioned 30-piece volunteer, community ensemble based on the British Brass Band tradition, is in search of a new Music Director. The TBB is a non-profit organization based in the Research Triangle area (Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill) of North Carolina. Brass band experience is desired, but not required. Duties include (but are not limited to) directing weekly rehearsals, selecting material, programming and conducting performances. The Music Director will assist in defining and implementing the long-term vision of the organization. For more information visit www.trianglebrass.org. Interested parties should send a cover letter, resume, and references to Triangle Brass Band, C/O Matt Edwards, 306 Blanchard Rd., Fuquay-Varina

www.torbanners.com

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BEND IN THE RIVER BRASS BAND

The Bend in the River Brass Band proudly announces the appointment of Dr. Timothy Zifer as Music Director. Dr. Zifer is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Evansville where he is Director of Bands and Professor of Trumpet. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in music education from Ohio University in 1990, his Master of Music degree in trumpet performance from Louisiana State University in 1993, and a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree in trumpet performance with a minor in wind conducting from Louisiana State University in 2000.

Dr. Zifer has studied wind conducting with Ronald Socclarelli (Ohio University) and Frank Wickes (Louisiana State University). Since his tenure the UE Wind Ensemble, under his direction, has toured over 20 states, serving as the opening ensemble for the 2001 International Trumpet Guild Conference, competing in the Hawaiian Festival of Music (gold medalist), and performing at the 2005 and upcoming 2008 Indiana Music Educators Association State Convention in Indianapolis.

Dr. Zifer serves as principal trumpet with the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra and the university faculty brass quintet, Shepard Brass. He served as the 2001 International Trumpet Guild Host in May 2001 on the campus of the University of Evansville. He has performed as recitalist and soloist both nationally and internationally. Most recently he was guest trumpet soloist with the Hong Kong Baptist University concert tour to China in January of 2007.

Dr. Zifer joins the Bend in the River Brass Band as the group prepares to return to New Albany to compete for its second year in the 2008 NABBA Championships.
SUMMER BANDING IN THE UK

As the successful bidders of an e-bay auction benefiting Brass Band Aid, Pat and Diana Herak were able to perform in a concert with the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, following their win at the English Nationals 7 days earlier! After attending two rehearsals with the band (Gary Cutt, conducting), the concert took place in Bacup, Lancashire, England on July 7, 2007.

In addition, Pat and Diana took part in the Brighouse March and Hymn Tune Contest with the Eagley Band (July 1), and performed with the Harrogate Band at the Durham Miner’s Gala (July 14). They were also invited to participate in 2 rehearsals with the Sellers International Band (Phillip McCann, conductor), and when they were in need of an Eb Bass player for a concert, Pat stepped right in!

The Heraks wish to thank all their wonderful hosts throughout their “banding holiday” in the UK.

DENIS WICK VISITS THE USA

In June, thirty three year veteran of the London Symphony and one of the leading mouthpiece and mute designers, Denis Wick, visited the U.S. for planning and training meetings with North American importer, DANSR, inc. in Chicago. Denis also visited the Music For All Summer Symposium at Illinois State University in Bloomington Normal, IL where he met with the faculty and attended a DANSR/Wick sponsored concert of the Synergy Brass Quintet. Denis completed his tour by conducting a master class at the Illinois Summer Youth Music trombone camp held at the University of Illinois under the direction of Elliot Chasanov.

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“It was such a pleasure to have Denis here in the states,” commented DANSR president Michael Skinner. “Not only is Denis one of the finest designers of brass mouthpieces and mutes, but he’s an extraordinary teacher. His tone development lesson using the practice mute is just as innovative as his mouthpiece designs.”

Denis Wick has been designing brass mouthpieces and mutes for over thirty years and has developed a line that includes a mouthpiece and mute for every brass instrument. His philosophy of designing mouthpieces to solve unique problems has propelled the sales of his mouthpiece and mutes to over two million mouthpieces and mutes worldwide. DANSR, Inc., became the North American distributor for Denis Wick in July, 2006. ☮

The New England Brass Band wishes to thank its audiences, friends and supporters for their generosity during our 2006-07 season fundraising partnership on behalf of Brass Band Aid. We raised over $4,500 to help with the construction and equipping of the new school in Adet, Ethiopia.

Visit our websites:
brassbandaid.com
&
newenglandbrassband.org

Denis Wick [center] with staff of DANSR.

Denis Wick with students at the All-Summer Symposium at Illinois State University.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION

DUE TO A LARGE CONVENTION SCHEDULED IN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY FOR THE SAME WEEKEND AS THE NABBA XXVI CHAMPIONSHIPS (MARCH 28-29, 2008), IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NABBA BANDS INQUIRE ABOUT AND MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PLEASE VISIT NABBA.ORG

AND CLICK ON “CONTEST INFO 2008” AND THEN ON “HOTEL INFORMATION” FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT HOTEL ROOM AVAILABILITY. MOST DOWNTOWN LOUISVILLE HOTELS ARE ALREADY BOOKED. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW SO YOU WILL HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF RESERVING ROOMS IN THE HOTEL OF YOUR CHOICE.
NABBA ARCHIVES:
CALL FOR MISSING ITEMS

The NABBA archives, which is superbly organized by NABBA Board member Diana Herak, is looking to increase its holdings. The archives contain significant materials relating to NABBA’s history as well as music, photographs, Championships programs, and copies of The Brass Band Bridge. The archives is currently looking for copies of the following items:


If NABBA members have any extra copies of these they are willing to donate to the archives, or if you have a copy you could loan to the archives to be scanned and returned, please contact Diana Herak at: herak95@insight.rr.com
NABBA BAND

CONCERT PROGRAMES

SUNSHINE BRASS BAND, JAMES CHEYNE, CONDUCTOR


NATURAL STATE BRASS BAND, RUSSELL MORRIS, CONDUCTOR


CINCINNATI BRASS BAND, ANITA COCKER HUNT, CONDUCTOR


Programs were selected from the following:

- The Star Spangled Banner (arr. Erik Leidzen);
- American Rhapsody (Emil Soderstrom);
- Helter Skelter (W. G. Lemon, arr. Ray Woodfield);
- Jake Brandyberry - xylophone soloist; March – God and Country (William Himes);
- When the Saints Go Marching In (arr. Gordon Langford);
- Solo Secondo (William Himes), David Cianco - second tenor horn soloist;
- Festival Arrangement – Light Walk (Barrie Gott);
- Armed Forces Salute (arr. Bob Lowden/Wes Flinn);
- Fanfare Prelude on “Lancashire” (James Curnow);
- America the Beautiful (Samuel Augustus Ward, arr. Carmen Dragon/Mike Gallahue);
- Connotations (Edward Gregson);
- Summon the Dragon (Peter Graham);
- Marche Militaire Francaise from Suite Algerienne (Saint-Seans, arr. Michael Kenyon); My Old Kentucky Home (Edwin Franko Goldman, arr. Theodore M. Tobani), Steve Bone - cornet soloist; The Rifle Regiment March (John Philip Sousa, arr. William Gordon); My Fair Lady (Frederick Loewe/Alan Jay Lerner, arr. Norman Tailor);
- Semper Fidelis (John Philip Sousa, arr. C. W. Hewitt);
- “Superman” Main Title March (John Williams, arr. Stephen Lytle);
- Fanfare for Europe (Allen Schmidt);
- Ragtime for Horns (Scott Joplin, arr. James Curnow);
- James Bond Collection (arr. Goff Richards); March “1941” (John Williams, arr. Mike Gallahue);
- The Stars and Stripes Forever (John Philip Sousa).

TBDBITL ALUMNI BAND, DR. PAUL DROSTE, CONDUCTOR


Eric Ball’s Point of View...

“The audience really must be taken into account, for in a public concert we do not play for ourselves alone; and here I would like to say that in my opinion intelligent audiences are not so rare as some would have us believe. Even the uninitiated can tell an efficient band from a group of buskers, and time and time again it has been noted how superlative playing of well-written music has a subtle attraction for listeners who make no claim to musical knowledge, and who could in no way explain what it is that attracted them. ‘A thing of beauty is a joy evermore,’ and beauty of itself has an influence upon all who come within its influence, whether consciously apprehended or otherwise. The audience must always be respected by the performers.”

A VISIT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND OF THE SALVATION ARMY (LONDON)

By Douglas Yeo

While on tour in Europe with the Boston Symphony Orchestra this past September, I had the pleasure of attending a rehearsal of the International Staff Band of the Salvation Army. The invitation came from Gordon Camsey, bass trombonist of the ISB, who I had first met in 2001 during recording sessions for my CD with the Fairey Band and British trombonist Nick Hudson, Two of a Mind. Since my tour schedule found me in London on a Wednesday night, Gordon kindly invited me to the ISB rehearsal which, as it turned out, was their first of the season after several weeks off.

I left the rehearsal with several strong impressions:

This is a fine band. Most readers of The Bridge know this but rehearsals usually tell me more than a concert and certainly more than a recording. From 5:45-8:30 PM every member stayed in his/her seat. No tuneup, no warmup. Just immediate music making. Had I not been told it was their first rehearsal back after a hiatus, I would never have known.

Stephen Cobb is one fine bandmaster. He is more than a conductor; he understands the music. The band was preparing for a concert in tribute to Ray Steadman-Allen so several of his works were being rehearsed. Stephen Cobb’s ear is well tuned and he has well thought out ideas that he can communicate clearly. There is nothing fussy or ostentatious in his conducting: the players get what they need and he trusts them to deliver.
I will never complain about our bandroom being too small. I have rehearsed in bandrooms of several fine brass bands in the UK including Black Dyke, Pennine Brass, Fodens and Fairey. Of them, Fodens has the largest rehearsal space. But the ISB space is less than half the size of the Fodens band room and even smaller than the old Dyke bandroom. A low ceiling with fluorescent lights completes the picture. That this fine band rehearses (even with the full tilt, zenith apocalyptic fortissimo) in such a small space may actually be part of the secret of their success: the clarity of hearing each other is excruciating and once in a large performance venue, the work of being so close together in close quarters pays off with a tremendous bloom in the sound.

This band is focused. I got to the rehearsal early along with Gordon Camsey so I got to see virtually every band member arrive. It was heartwarming to see old friends meet up again with handshakes, hugs and cups of coffee in hand. But when the downbeat came, everyone was ready to play. Nobody had to ask for a pencil. When Bandmaster Cobb announced a starting point, horns went immediately up and all were ready in three second’s time to start to play. Nobody got up and left the rehearsal halfway through, and the band’s attention was superb.

This band understands its purpose. At the mid point of the rehearsal, Lt. Col. Trevor Davis, a non-playing member of the band, gave a brief devotional followed by a time of prayer. As a “church band” I expected this, but this devotional time came in lieu of a traditional rehearsal break. You could have heard a pin drop. After 90 minutes of playing, the band listened intently as Lt. Col. Davis asked the band a rhetorical question: “What is the worst thing that could happen to this band this season?” Answer: “That we forget why we do what we do.” While the ISB will have a different motivation for “doing what we do” than a non-SA band might have, the simple truth of this statement – “We need to keep on message” – is something all bands can benefit from. While the ISB is one of the world’s leading brass bands and in recent years has enjoyed increasing collaboration with non-SA bands (especially with Black Dyke), this success has not gone to the head of either the band members or the conductor. Yet this important reminder at the beginning of the season seemed to resonate deeply with the band as it certainly did with me.

Even the ISB has groupies. There were several guests attending the rehearsal. Apart from me, there were long time supporters of the band, former bandsmen and even composers who came to hear their works being read. I enjoyed a nice conversation with composer Kenneth Downie, whose St. Magnus is the NABBA XXVI Championship Section test piece. I brought him greetings from NABBA (although this rehearsal came before the NABBA Board had selected his piece for the 2008 Championships) and we talked about the things bandsmen talk about when they get together – music and music making. Seeing how these “fans” of the ISB were so engaged with the rehearsal made me smile: many cameras were busy taking photos of favorite players.

It was good to meet up with friends old and new. Gordon Camsey is a good friend and a very classy gentleman – to say nothing of his fine bass trombone playing. But it was also good to see Philip Cobb again. Philip – son of Stephen Cobb – is the second chair solo cornetist with the ISB who had traveled to Boston to play as soloist with the New England...
Brass Band in June at the International Trumpet Guild Conference. He is a superb player and it was good to see, hear and talk with him again. It was most gratifying to see Philip in his element in the band – not up front getting his much deserved recognition as soloist as he was when he played with the NEBB, but rather lending support to principal cornetist Kevin Ashman and pulling his weight as a member of the section. This is a young man who will go far because he has his head screwed on right.

In all, my visit to the International Staff Band rehearsal left me with a suitcase full of memories and things to consider. No matter how long one has been involved in a life of music, there are things to learn. Their vibrato may be different than the one our bands use here in the USA, but at their core, the ISB and North American bands are both parts of the same long stream of music making that, while taking on regional flavors in all corners of the world, has at its heart the joy of artistry and the deep satisfaction of collegial music making. My life was made richer for this visit to the ISB and I shall never listen to one of their many fine recordings in the same way.

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CAMP 2007: A RETROSPECTIVE

By Bill Harris

It’s three days of very intense playing. It’s preparing four pieces for the IMC Worship Service and five selections for the closing concert. It’s 10 hours of brass band rehearsal. It’s the officially sponsored Summer Camp of NABBA. And it’s marvelous!

The International Music Camp is held at the International Peace Gardens straddling the border between the United States and Canada (between North Dakota and Manitoba). Various sessions, primarily aimed at students, take place from June until the end of July. The final session of the 52nd year of the IMC was the Community Music Workshop, held July 28 – 31, 2007. This session is for adults, in fact participants must be 21 years or older. Campers can select from six activities, concert band (either intermediate or advanced), brass band, string orchestra, mixed chorus, women’s barbershop and jazz band. Many individuals sign up for two and sometime three groups! Many members of the Brass Band also played in the Advanced Concert Band. Which does mean that they end up with 20+ hours of rehearsal in three days!

The Brass Band was conducted by Anita Cocker Hunt, past President of NABBA, for her second year. Placement in the band is not auditioned but normally the principal chairs are filled by experienced brass banders. Instrumentation is totally based on “who shows up with what instruments”, this year the band included 48 musicians with a minimum of 2 players on every instrument. The Brass Band is on stage twice during the Camp, for the worship service on Sunday morning and for the final concert on Tuesday night. The Worship Service requires the Brass Band meet for the first time late on the first day (Saturday) and early on Sunday in order to provide the Prelude, Postlude and Hymns. Most of the Campers who attend the Service are amazed that after only 2 rehearsals the Brass Band could sound so great! It is a delight for first time brass banders to play such excellent arrangements so well, so quickly. It is a testament to the skills that Anita brings to the podium that allows this initial success.

The remaining Brass Band rehearsals are spent working on performance selections for the final concert. Anita brought a number of selections that the band read quickly in the first rehearsal. That reading gives her an idea of what best to prepare and rehearse for the remainder of the camp. The pieces selected for the concert were:

Courageous (Kevin Worbury) an energetic march written for the Spring Valley, New York Salvation Army, at the request of its bandmaster. It features the hymn tune, Cardiff, and is full of dynamic contrast and rhythmic vitality.

Hannaford Overture (J. Scott Irvine) which was written for the Hannaford Street Silver Band of Toronto, Canada in celebration of the International Year of Canadian Music(1986). Scott Irvine said of the piece “My intention was to write a light, “audience-friendly” Canadian concert opener, reminiscent of some of the English and American band music I enjoyed in my formative years.” This selection required much rehearsal time but the band rose to the occasion at the final concert.

John Williams in Concert (John Williams).
From movies to television to important national events, the thrilling music of John Williams continues to inspire audiences everywhere. Included are: *Theme From E.T.*, *The Mission* (NBC News), *Star Wars*, *Imperial March*, *Cantina Band*, *Olympic Spirit*, and *Theme From Jaws*. This selection included a blood curdling scream, at the end of the *Jaws* theme!

The Brass Band is traditionally the first group to perform at the final camp concert, Tuesday evening, and is tasked with playing the Canadian and U.S. National Anthems.

At the end of the camp the Brass Band musicians had developed into a very good band. Anita’s conducting style and her attention to detail drive the players to play at their best. At the same time, we were all there to not only learn and play but to have fun. Mission accomplished! Almost half of the band members are repeat campers, and that adds to the enjoyment to see old friends! And the accepted ritual, at the end of the day after all rehearsals and guest concerts, is to leave the camp to visit the Kelvin Klinic and find something to cool our throats. The added enjoyment is the music in the bar is provided by IMC musicians!

IMC Brass Band 2007 wants to thank Anita for her conducting and leadership and NABBA for their support of the International Music Camp. If any of the *Bridge* readers are looking for an opportunity to enjoy a summer camp, play great music, meet nice people and visit a beautiful location, then consider the International Music Camp. The camp fee covers room, meals and tuition. More information is available at www.internationalmusiccamp.com
The views expressed by writers whose work appears in The Brass Band Bridge are not necessarily those of the North American Brass Band Association.

The Brass Band Bridge welcomes news, materials for review, communications, photographs, advertising, and scholarly articles on all aspects relating to and for the benefit of North American brass bands and their members. The Brass Band Bridge will print small ads, gratis, from NABBA member bands on a space available basis. Only one gratis ad per band per year will be printed.

Materials for inclusion in The Brass Band Bridge must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents and photos must be submitted as JPEG files (300 ppi [pixels per inch] resolution). Materials may be edited for content. A style sheet for Bridge submissions may be found at nabbabridge.org. Address all materials for publication (including queries about advertising rates and sizes) to: Douglas Yeo (email: bridge@yeodoug.com), 9 Freemont Street, Lexington, MA 02421.

Recordings and books for review should be sent to: Ronald Holz, Music Department, Asbury College, 1 Macklem Drive, Wilmore, KY 40390.

New music for review should be sent to: Colin Holman, 31 Joseph Lane, Glendale Heights, IL 60139.

The Brass Band Bridge is published four or five times a year, with major issues appearing in February (Championship preview), May (Championship review) and October (announcement of Championship test pieces). Issue 107 will be published on December 15, 2007. The deadline for submission of materials for inclusion in Issue 107 of The Brass Band Bridge is November 15, 2007.

The Brass Band Bridge is created using Microsoft Word, Adobe InDesign CS2, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Acrobat 7.0 running on a Macintosh Dual Core Intel iMac. Wayne Wilcox, design and layout consultant.

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