

the Brass Band BRIDGE



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

ISSUE 5, JUNE, 1981

OUR THANKS GO TO.....Douglas Brown, Sr. of Salt Lake City, Utah, Mrs. Valerie Lumb of Middle Island, N.Y. and to Nels Starr of Hamburg, N.Y. for their contributions recently received. The help and support of so many readers has been the backbone of this newsletter. Without this financial aid, it would have been impossible to carry-on and to be able to continue with *The Bridge*. So, a special word of appreciation to one and all who have sent their checks "to help the cause". We hope that our small effort will help to focus on the British brass band movement rapidly developing in this country.

WHAT A PLEASURE IT IS TO ANNOUNCE.....that the YAMAHA MUSICAL PRODUCTS of Grand Rapids is assuming the complete cost of these next four issues of *The Bridge*. Due to this generous offer, we plan to have a newsletter sent out each quarter. The following are tentative deadlines: October 31 for Issue 6 (November, 1981); January 31 for Issue 7 (December, 1982); and March 31 for Issue 8 (April, 1982). This set of deadlines may appear to be a "wee-bit" ambitious, however it is hoped that the information, announcements, questions, suggestions, and just "plain-old-news" will continue to come our way. If so, we will be permitted to continue to serve our readers by printing this newsletter. Our very special thanks to the good folks at YAMAHA for their continuing support of the emerging British brass band movement over here. And to you, dear reader another request,.....what's happening, where, when, and with whom???? Let us have your information and other items to be included in *The Bridge*. Do not worry about the content or be concerned that "your story" is not very important. We will attempt to include everything we possibly can in the up-coming issues of the newsletter. So,.....send 'em on!!

FEATURED CONDUCTOR IN THIS ISSUE.....is Douglas Field, Conductor of The Weston Silver Band of Weston, Ontario in Canada. Doug is the second brass band conductor to be spotlighted by this newsletter. He has been involved with brass bands for over thirty years which started when he began playing Eb soprand cornet in the local Salvation Army band in his home town of Grimsby, England. Doug's work with the Salvation Army bands con-



Douglas Field

tinued when he moved to Canada as a teenager. He went on to become a bandmaster in four different Canadian cities as his work with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (Canada's public broadcasting service) took him across the country.

Doug became a conductor of the Weston Band in April of 1978 and, under his leadership, the group has expanded its activities, both in the variety of engagements accepted and in the scope of music performed. He confesses to a "missionary zeal" for original brass band music and includes several original compositions on almost every concert. The Weston Silver Band is an amateur adult band whose members play for recreation rather than education, therefore Doug feels that programming modern works must be balanced out with a rounded diet of other music. Doug's admiration for the musicianship of the Weston Band is most obvious by the music which is programmed for con-

certs and other appearances.

1980 was the Weston Silver Band's 60th anniversary year. The most significant undertaking to mark the occasion was the recording of the band's first album, "Weston Road." The record is selling well both in Canada as well as in this country. The band's recent appearance at the Annual British Brass Band Festival held at North Carolina State University each April was its first out-of-town engagement in several years. 1981 is the centenary of the Town of Weston and the band's contribution has been to commission a centennial march, *Weston 100* from the well known composer William Broughton. It will receive its first performance during the town's celebrations at the end of May.

Doug says that his work with the Weston Band is a perfect counterweight to his professional life as a planning consultant at CBC's English network headquarters in Toronto. Although he claims no hobbies, his interests (in addition to brass banding) include collecting brass band recordings, paperback thrillers, Noel Coward works, and the study of the developments in the home entertainment industry. His favorite composer is Mozart. His favorite brass band composers are Eric Ball and Edward Gregson. His two sons, Allister and Cameron, are deeply involved in music at high school and the Salvation Army, where they are members of the internationally famous Etobicoke Temple Youth Band. (Note: Doug may be reached at P.O. Box 513, Station "A", Weston, Ontario, Canada M9N 3M3.)

COLORADO WILL BE THE SCENE.....for two brass band workshops in July 1981. Both of these one-week offerings will be conducted by John Kincaid of the Western State College faculty. John writes that "both of these workshops are designed to give interested persons the opportunity to experience performance in a brass band, and to become acquainted with some of the best contemporary concert and contest works for brass band. The preparation of a concert performance, working in both "A" and "B" grade literature, will be the major thrust of both of these workshops. The first offering will be the week of July 6-10 at Western State College, Gunnison while the second workshop will be held the week of July 13-17 at Metropolitan State College, Auraria Campus in Denver." John has been very active in the brass band activity in Colorado. He spent a lot of time in New Zealand visiting various brass bands in that country in addition to attending the contest for which New Zealand brass bands are so famous. John is no stranger to brass band workshops as he has offered them several times before; each time there has been a very favorable turnout and the results were highly successful. John may be contacted at the Division of Music, Western State College, Gunnison, Colorado 81230.

NEW BRASS BANDS.....being brought to this writer's attention include the Hartford British Brass (band) conducted and founded by Jeff Schultz. Jeff is the Salvation Army Music Director for the Southern New England Divi-

sion, a graduate of the Hartt School of Music and a member of The Salvation Army New York Staff Band (Eb Tuba). Jeff writes to say that "this 28 member brass band was established in the Fall of 1980 with membership including Hartt students, music teachers, Salvationists and others who have a keen interest in brass banding." In the information received it was noted that the band, outside the Conductor, is organized by a band committee which consists of a manager, librarian, public relations director and an assistant conductor. The band rehearses weekly throughout the Fall and Spring semesters at the Hartt School of Music, presenting concerts and programs at the school and other outside engagements. Jeff indicates that the membership is really enjoying the brass band literature and the band is providing a very enjoyable experience for one and all. It was good news to learn about this development and to know about Jeff's involvement in this kind of activity. Jeff may be reached at P.O. Box 628, Hartford, Conn. 06101.

The other notification received concerning a new British brass band comes from C. William Bailey. Bill sends word that April 1981 was the month that plans were initiated to start a brass band at Broward Community College in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. We have not been informed as to the outcome of this activity. However, we look forward to learning of the results of the undertaking. Bill may be contacted at 6701 S.W. 4th Street, Plantation, Florida 33317.

THE PREMIERE PERFORMANCE.....of the National Brass took place in Washington D.C. on March 15. Included in the concert was the initial performance of Stephen Bulla's composition *A Festive Prelude*. In addition to this selection, Holst's *A Moorside Suite*, Gregson's *The Plantagenets*, Lear's *Parade*, and Horowitz's *Euphonium Concerto*, featuring Glenn Call as soloist, were programmed. The National Brass is a new band which Glenn Call reported about in the last issue of *The Bridge*. It is conducted by Tim Foley and includes Washington's finest professional and amateur brass performers. Glenn may be reached at 3224 South Sixth Street, Arlington, Va. 22204.

AND SPEAKING OF PREMIERE PERFORMANCES.....it is particularly pleasing to report on the initial concert which was presented by the Smoky Mountain British Brass Band (formerly called the Waynesville British Brass Band). For their first concert, held on the campus of Western Carolina College in Cullowhee, North Carolina, April 23, 1981, they were conducted by Richard Trevarthen and performed the following music: *Prelude For An Occasion* by Gregson, *A Moorside Suite* by Holst, *America The Beautiful* arranged by Trevarthen, *Punchinello* by Rimmer, *Famous British Marches* arranged by Langford, plus two American popular songs. This band is the second of two North Carolina pilot brass band projects instigated through the splendid help of the **Yamaha** Musical Products of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Dick tells us that the 25 brass players are enjoy-

ing the challenges presented by the music selected and that the listeners (most of whom have never heard a British brass band before) are impressed with the unique sound which a British brass band is capable of presenting. The Smoky Mountain British Brass Band is formed as a non-profit association, has elected a Board of Directors, and is in the "swing" of things arranging concerts, demonstrations, and other performances. Dick says that the band will operate throughout the summer and invites one and all to stop by for a visit whenever they are in the area. Dick may be contacted at 800 Thomas Places Waynesville, N.C. 28786.

THE CAPITOL ENGLISH BRASS BAND.....sent their line-up of scheduled activities through next October. It reads as follows: March 14, St. Patrick's Parade; April 24, fund raiser concert for a local school; May 2, concert at Hogle Zoo; May 25, Memorial Day ceremony at Fort Douglas, Utah; July 4, concert; July 23, Bountiful Handcart Parade; July 24 & 25, concert at Mormon Tabernacle Temple Square; August 2, concert at Fort Douglas; October 17, band contest with Elkalah Shrine Band and Salt Lake City Post Office Band. Sounds as this group of brass banders has a complete and full schedule. Both Doug Brown and Jack Wynn invite one and all to attend any and all of these events. If any reader is in or around Salt Lake City, Utah, be certain to give these folks a visit. Both Doug and Jack may be contacted at 3515 South 300 West Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 85115.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL BRASS BAND FESTIVAL.....was held on the campus of North Carolina State University on April 29, 1981. Participating in this event were the North and South Carolina Salvation Army Divisional Band, conducted by Robert Jackson; The North and South Carolina Salvation Army Youth Band, conducted by Capt. John White; The Weston Silver Band from Canada, conducted by Douglas Field; and the N.C. State University British Brass Band, conducted by J. Perry Watson. Also participating in the massed band finale were some members of the Smoky Mountain British Brass Band. Earle Braunhardt and Richard Trevarthen each conducted one massed band selection.

The Divisional Youth Band opened the program by presenting the Bearcroft march *To Regions Fair*, the Ray Steadman-Allen arrangement of the cornet solo *In The Love Of Jesus* featuring Glenn Fite, Jr. as soloist, and the hymn setting *Fairest Lord Jesus* arranged by Tom Noblitt.

The Divisional Band presented the Steadman-Allen march *Exultation* as an opener following with the Dean Goffin prelude and fugue *Arise, My Soul, Arise!*

The Weston Band selected the Edward Gregson *March Prelude*, the Roy Newsome cornet solo *Concorde* featuring Warren Nicholl (an outstanding performance), and the Eric Ball suite *The Young In Heart*.

The N.C. State University British Brass Band presented the Gordon Langford arrangement of *Fantasy Of British Sea Songs* as an opening selection, followed by the Frank Bryce arrangement for Eb Soprano cornet of *Send In The Clowns* featuring Dan Pruett as soloist, the Derek

Ashmore arrangement for Eb Horn of *Feelings* featuring Martin Mincey as soloist, and concluded with the Ken Madison arrangement of *Bobby Shaftoe*.

For a finale to this most successful event, a massed band of over 130 presented the following program: the Richard Holz march *Jamaica Citadel* conducted by Capt. White and featured the Divisional Timbrel Brigade, Mrs. Captain John Roy Jones, Leader; the Donald Osgood arrangement of *How Sweet The Name ('French')* conducted by Earle Braunhardt; the A. H. Jakeway arrangement of Mozart's *Ave Verum (Love Devine)* conducted by Douglas Field; *America The Beautiful* arranged and conducted by Richard Trevarthen, and the Erik Leidzen selection *This Is My Story*, conducted by Robert Jackson. J. Perry Watson served as chairman and host for this event.

The steering committee met during the day and elected to hold this Brass Band Festival at North Carolina State University for one more year. It was agreed that another location would be considered for future Festivals. A final decision would be made at next year's event scheduled for Saturday April 24, 1982.

THE HIGHLANDS BRITISH BRASS BAND.....of Fayetteville, North Carolina is about to wrap-up their first year of activities and a most successful year it was. Earle Braunhardt reports that there was not enough time to accommodate all the requests the band received for concerts and appearances. He also said that there is a waiting list for membership in the band. Earle and the band's Board of Directors were pleased to report that the Black and Decker Company of Fayetteville will continue their support for another year. Requests have already been received from various locations in the state for the Highlands Band to present concerts and programs for next year. Earle indicates that the Board and members of the band are genuinely pleased with the musical achievements made this first year of operation and anticipate another outstanding year for the year up-coming.

A BRITISH BRASS BANDS SHOWCASE WAS HELD.....on the campus of North Carolina State University last March 14. Funded by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc. and sponsored by the North Carolina Arts Council and the North Carolina State University Music Department, a group of twenty-six brass players and two percussionists from across North Carolina convened to form a British brass band in order to study and perform some of the literature written specifically for this medium. Mr. Denzil Stephens, Conductor of the Cory Band and Mr. Peter Wilson, Editor of *The British Bandsman* were the special guests who directed this Showcase. The Showcase band, conducted by Mr. Stephens, presented a delightful program and demonstration during the morning session. This presentation included a wide variety of music from Mr. Stephens' own arrangement of *Alfie* to portions of Gilbert Vinter's *Symphony of Marches*. Mr. Stephens appeared through the courtesy of Wright & Round, Ltd., music publishers in Gloucester, England.

A luncheon for over 200 was part of the day's activities at which time Mr. Wilson gave a most informative talk concerning the history and current status of brass bands in

the British Isles and throughout the world. His speech also included points about the excellent possibilities for the brass band movement in this country. He directed the audience's attention to the amateur status of the brass band movement world-wide. A special visitor for the day was Mr. Hugh Crooke, Cultural Attache from the British Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Following lunch, the Highlands British Brass Band of Fayetteville, N.C., sponsored by the Black and Decker Company of that same city, presented a concert and demonstration. Earle Braunhardt is the conductor of this band. After their presentation, a question and answer period was concluded with a time for scheduling visits to local communities and industries by Mr. Wilson and Mr. Braunhardt. These two gentlemen spent the week of March 16-20 traveling around North Carolina visiting these locations.

A complete set of instruments needed to perform the music of a British brass band was provided by the **Yamaha** Musical Products.

Invited to the day-long affair were representatives from industry, recreation departments, arts councils, college and high school music educators, county commissioners, and other interested people. The entire event was a great success and interest in British brass bands has been extended all across the state of North Carolina.

TO CONTINUE OUR LISTING OF BRASS BANDS.....carried in a Brass Band Registry this writer is developing, please add the following Canadian bands:

Chester Cornet Band
c/o Gordon McGowan
Box 9, Marvins Island
RR3, Chester Basin
Nova Scotia, Canada
B0J 1K0

Metropolitan Silver Band
c/o Alan Moody
Metropolitan United Church
51 Bond Street
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5B 1X1

Whitby Silver Band
c/o Roland Hill
665 Kennedy Road
Unit 514
Scarborough, Ontario, Canada
M1K 5E2

Oshawa Civic Band
c/o George Quick
831 Hortop Street
Oshawa, Ontario, Canada
L1G 4N8

The above group of bands was provided by our good friend Doug Field. Special thanks to Doug for his continuing assistance in our endeavors. Anyone else who has the name and address of a brass band (outside the Salvation Army) is requested to share all information with the writer of this newsletter. Information we receive is, in turn, shared with all readers, including many Salvationists.

PERMIT US THIS PERSONAL COMMENT.....regarding the future of British brass bands activity here in the United States and in Canada. As we see it, the bands presently in operation need to be made aware of the important role they should play as a resource center in helping to establish additional brass bands in their areas. Time and time again, it has proven to this writer that there are many brass performers who have never had the opportunity to hear, let alone play in, a British brass band. And that given the chance to hear a brass band coupled with an opportunity to help start one, these brass players will produce an interesting and inviting musical organization. We need the "established" brass bands to become spawning grounds for the growth and development of a British brass band movement aimed at the adult amateur. These on-going bands need to develop an "out-reach" attitude which will encourage more British brass bands to form and to develop.

Also, there needs to be some kind of a North American Association of British Brass Bands which will be non-profit corporation. The major function of this group would be to work right along with the organized bands, helping to enrich the environment so that newly formed bands could grow and mature, and to establish some kind of regional and/or national contests. This association could also help to spotlight the various activities found in each location plus sponsoring brass band festivals, commission new brass band selections, and in general "head-up" this new thrust. This writer has received several letters inquiring about how to start a British brass band. We have been pleased to respond to the best of our ability. However, it would be a lot better if these inquiries could be answered from some kind of association whereby a response would reflect the best thinking of several brass band enthusiasts rather than a single person and his ideas. We will certainly be happy to continue to serve "the cause" by answering these letters and would encourage those type letters. However, it would better suit the movement to have some kind of association to help establish a "system" of help and support. Again, we would be pleased to serve in this manner, too, if there was a need and desire to have us do so.

Finally, an organization such as proposed could develop a systematic approach to: funding for national contests and other such activities; keeping amateur adults performing on their instruments; developing lines of communications with brass band association around the world; and sponsoring a renaissance of brass performing which would create a national pasttime or hobby of immense proportions. We are presently looking into ways to fund the initial meeting necessary to instigate some type of association. As plans progress, we will certainly keep you informed of any direction taken and plans proposed. Anyone particularly interested in being involved with this kind of activity is requested to correspond with the writer of this newsletter.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.....that's *fine* for now. Let's hear from you!

J. Perry Watson
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Raleigh, N. C. 27650