

the Brass Band BRIDGE



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

ISSUE 7, JANUARY 1982

SPECIAL THANKS ARE SENT TO... Robert Avis of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, George Boyce of Unionville, Ontario in Canada, and the Wilson Community British Brass Band, Inc. for their recent checks made out to *The Brass Band Bridge*. The financial support provided by the readers of this newsletter is sincerely and genuinely appreciated. It permits us to serve the brass band movement in the United States and Canada and to focus on the various activities as we find them. Just as everything else continues to escalate in cost, so we are finding it difficult to print, and mail this newsletter on the original grant provided by the Yamaha Musical Products. So, the contributions voluntarily sent are most important in helping us to "build bridges."

THE BUFFALO SILVER BRASS BAND... sent information regarding their activities. A recent concert was a combined program with the Newfane Senior High School Band. Both of these fine organizations are conducted by Herman Erbacher. Nelson Starr is the stellar soprano cornet performer with the Buffalo Silver Brass Band and has kept in touch with the writer of this newsletter over the last several years. His many contributions about the activities of the Buffalo Silver Band are sincerely appreciated.

A program of the Buffalo Silver Brass Band's most recent concert includes the following selections: *Radetzky March* by Johann Strauss, *Indian Summer* by Ball, the cornet solo *Tucker* spotlighting Wayne Lenihan as soloist, written by Eric Leidzen, *The Merry Widow Waltz* by Lehar, *Ballycastle Bay* by Barrat/Siebert, *Gallions Reach* by Yorke, and *The Conqueror* by Moorhouse.

The Buffalo Silver Brass Band is over 65 years old and has been in constant operation since its founding. The band maintains a most active schedule of concerts and programs throughout the year each year. Several of the members of the Buffalo Silver Brass Band are also active with Salvation Army Bands. We are pleased to note their activities and to pass this information on to our readers. We have been writing Nels at 3924 Nottingham Terrace, Hamburg, N.Y. 14075.

FEATURED CONDUCTOR IN THIS ISSUE... is James Curnow, Conductor of The University of Illinois Brass Band. Jim is the third brass band conductor to be highlighted by this newsletter. He has been involved with brass bands for a good many years and has made many contributions to both the Salvation Army Band scene as well as brass bands throughout

this country and abroad.

Jim received his Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and his Master of Music degree from Michigan State University in East Lansing. He has taught on the public school level (grades 6 through 12) four years and the college-university level for the past eleven years.

Jim's experience has been involved in all areas of instrumental music which includes concert band marching band, jazz ensembles, and British brass bands. In 1974, he received an Outstanding Educator of America Award and a National Band



James Curnow

Association "Citation of Excellence" in 1980. He has traveled throughout the United States and Canada as clinician, composer, and conductor. Jim's present list of publications available numbers in excess of eighty-five with another thirty waiting to be published through various firms. These compositions include everything from marching band to brass band as well as vocal ensembles and music published by the Salvation Army international publications in London, England.

Jim has won several awards for band compositions including the Volkein Band Composition Contest in 1977 and 1979, the American Bandmasters Association Ostwald Award in 1980 and the annual A.S.C.A.P. Awards for significant con-

tributions to the band literature of America.

Jim is presently Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has just recently initiated the University of Illinois Brass Band. We are pleased to bring this information about this fine composer, conductor, and music educator to the readers of *The Bridge*. We look forward to bringing our readers more information about this young man destined to add many more musical contributions to the American musical scene in the future. Jim may be reached at the Harding Band Building, 1103 South 6th Street, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

THE CAPITAL ENGLISH BRASS BAND, . . . sent a nice cassette recording of a most successful concert presented in the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. This was a most interesting recording and one which was thoroughly enjoyed. As readers of *The Bridge* will recall, Doug Brown started this band as an amateur brass band patterned after those found in the British Isles. Jack Wynn is the conductor and the latest word received indicates that Cecil Garrison has been appointed the assistant director of the band. Cecil is also to serve as the correspondent to *The Bridge*.

The selections performed by the Capital English Brass Band for their Mormon Tabernacle concert were as follows: *Napoleon Gallop* arranged by Barsotti, *Loch Lomond/Comin' Thro' The Rye* arranged by Gordon Langford, *Frolic For Trombones* by Heath, *HMS Pinafore* arranged by Rimmer, *Our Boys Will Shine Tonight* arranged by Gordon Langford, the march *The Cossack* by Rimmer, *The Girl I Left Behind* arranged by Gordon Langford, the hymn *Come, Come Ye Saints* arranged by Jack Wynn, *Men of Harlech* arranged by Gordon Langford, *Battle Hymn of the Republic* arranged by Jack Wynn, and *Waltzing Matilda* arranged by Gordon Langford.

Other music performed in recent concerts by this fine group includes *The Floral Dance* by Moss, William Rimmer's *Rule Britannia*, *Lustspiel Overture* by Bela, the well known march *The BB and CF*, the soprano cornet solo, featuring Manuel Garcia, entitled *Londonerry Air*, and the classic William Rimmer march, *Punchinello*. And, current undertakings include a concert for the elderly at a place called Friendship Manor, a program for the handicapped children at the Hartvigsen School, and preparation for a visit by John Kincaid (see article elsewhere in this issue concerning John's many activities in Colorado).

We were delighted to learn of the activities, the music performed and personalities prominent with the Capital English Brass Band. In addition to presenting many concerts throughout the year, both Doug and Jack are quite interested in establishing some kind of brass band contest for that part of the country. Readers interested in organizing a brass band contest should contact Doug or Jack. Both may be reached at 3515 South 300 West, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115.

THE RIVER CITY BRASS BAND, . . . founded and conducted by Robert Bernat made its concert debut on November 21. As readers of *The Bridge* will remember, this is a most unique and very unusual enterprise which is the brainchild of Bob. In essence, Bob has founded a professional British brass band in Pittsburgh, Pa. We understand this is probably the first professional band to be initiated in this country in many years. Pittsburgh was selected as it is strategically located in Pennsylvania and at the same time is close to Ohio and West Virginia.

About a year ago, Bob founded a nonprofit tax exempt corporation for the purpose of establishing the River City Brass Band. This is a typical twenty-seven piece British brass band of twenty-five brass players plus two percussionists. This pro-

fessional band is to be guided by a Board of Directors consisting of twenty-five, and an Executive Committee of eight selected from the Board, with an Advisory Committee of internationally recognized personalities. The Advisory Committee is made up of such men as Andre Previn, Peter Wilson, Roy Newsome, Ambassador William Middendorf and others.

Bob spent an entire year of his own time organizing and gathering all the information together to make certain that the River City Brass Band would be a reality and could function. Bob indicates that the news articles and publicity received show that this brass band is much more successful than he at first thought or dreamed it could be. He has received great publicity from the local newspapers, radio and television. Ticket sales have been a resounding success and concert bookings indicate a fine future.

As Bob explained to this writer, the purpose of establishing a professional brass band was to have a group of brass players of the highest playing ability to present concerts in order to stimulate interest in amateur brass bands and brass band music throughout the tri-state region. Hopefully, this will encourage the establishment of amateur British brass bands in the various communities in which they perform. This professional group would also serve as a musical model for amateur brass bands within the region and provide a resource of highly qualified and specially trained musicians. Also, and probably one of the most unique aspects of the River City Brass Band, this band is to serve as a fund raising resource for worthy civic projects through the presentation of benefit concerts in association with appropriate nonprofit organizations. Bob additionally hopes that the River City Brass Band will foster greater knowledge and appreciation of the British as well as the American brass band traditions.

It strikes us that Bob has a most unique formula for attempting to develop an environment in which brass bands will be established. Certainly the thrill of hearing a fine performing brass band will stimulate many folks and hopefully will help them to form amateur British brass bands wherever and whenever possible.

Bob has several printed items which are worth receiving and worth knowing about. One in particular which this writer recommends is a publication entitled "Partners In Performance." Bob says he will be pleased to send any reader a pamphlet if those requesting the information will include a legal size self addressed stamped envelope for his response. This is a very fine idea and one which is recommended for everyone to read. If you need ideas concerning fund raising and association with other worthwhile organizations, then this publication is a must for you to see. Send your S.A.S.E. to Bob requesting this brochure.

Bob's latest correspondence brings some interesting news for the readers of *The Bridge*. The River City Brass Band has scheduled four Saturday evening concerts in Pittsburgh's Carnegie Music Hall. The dates for the programs will be January 16, February 13, March 13 and April 3. The January concert will feature Williams Mathias' *Vivat Regina* which was composed in 1977, while the program in March will spotlight Sir William Walton's *First Shoot*. Bob indicates that this latter selection was premiered at the Proms in London by the Grimethorpe Colliery Band (conducted by Elgar Howarth) earlier this year. Anyone in the general area of Pittsburgh will want to attend all of these programs.

Additionally, Bob writes IF there is sufficient enrollment they will be holding a British Brass Band Institute in Pittsburgh for one or two weeks during early July, 1982. Bob indicates that Roy Newsome, Bob Childs (reigning instrumental champion of the North of England), Arthur Taylor (author of the 1979 book *Brass Bands*) and he are currently discussing all the details of such an Institute. Bob adds that the RCBB

will be in residence. All those interested in attending this fine offering should contact Bob.

Our sincerest congratulations and a tip of the hat to Bob Bernat and the River City Brass Band. They are charting new ways and developing new avenues for establishing British brass bands. Well done! Incidentally, Bob's address is P.O. Box 6436, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212.

BRASS BAND MUSIC IS BEING IMPORTED... to this country by the Magna Music-Baton, Inc., 10370 Page Industrial Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132. Of particular interest to the readers of this newsletter is the fact that all the music being imported contains, in addition to all the usual treble clef parts, bass clef parts for trombones, euphoniums, baritones, and tubas as well as the horn parts transposed to F.

Norman Goldberg, of the Magna Music-Baton, Inc., is the gentleman responsible for bringing this music to our attention. In addition to attending the University of Illinois and working under the great A.A. Harding as a student, Norman also served as Dr. Harding's assistant in the band department for two additional years. He says he recognized immediately the value of this music he is importing and set out to have the transposed parts available for the entire series. The music is all published by Chester Music of London and Norman brings it to this country adding the transposed parts after it arrives. As of this date, there are twenty selections available. The music titles and composer/arranger are as follows: *Hogarth's Hoe-Down* by W. Hogarth Lear, *Barney's Tune* by W. Hogarth Lear, *Paris Le Soir* by W. Hogarth Lear, *Chinese Take Away* (Cornet trio with band) by W. Hogarth Lear, *Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair* (euphonium solo with band) arranged by Elgar Howarth, *Parade* by Elgar Howarth, *Red Sky At Night* by W. Hogarth Lear, *Ritual Fire Dance* arranged by Allan Street, *Berne Patrol* by Elgar Howarth, *Greensleeves* arranged by Elgar Howarth, *Six Dances* by Tylman Susato arranged by John Iveson, *Cornet Cosmology* by Stanley Woods, *Nightflight* by Arthur Butterworth, *Mr. Lear's Carnival* by W. Hogarth Lear, *Little Boy Blue* by Stanley Woods, *Dunlap's Creek* by Robert Bernat (conductor and founder of The River City Brass Band of Pittsburgh, Pa.), *The Lass Of Richmond Hill* by Roy Newsome, *Fantasy For Brass* by Bram Wiggins, *The Amazing Mr. Arban* (solo cornet and band) by Elgar Howarth, and *Sardana* by R. Gerhard.

The availability of such outstanding music by these well known composers and arrangers, complete with bass clef parts, will be a real help to the brass band movement in the United States. Of particular interest to this writer is the fact that both treble and bass clef parts will be available. We would encourage all bands to purchase this music to show our good faith in wanting the available bass clef parts for genuine brass instrumentation. We certainly intend to do just that.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE BRITISH BANDSMAN... we have selected the following music review. We wish to thank both Peter Wilson, Editor of the *Bandsmen* for the privilege of re-printing the information and Michael Antrobus for his musical insights.

Slavonic Dance No. 8

Dvorak arr. D. Wright

(Hansen) Approx. \$16.00 score and parts

Valdres March

by Johannes Hansenn

(Hansen) Approx. \$16.00 score and parts

Saul and David

Prelude to Act 2

by Carl Nielsen

(Hansen) Approx. \$19.50 score and parts

The Dvorak and Nielsen works are both arrangements from

the well-known and respected pen of Denis Wright. He captures the joyous spirit of the **Slavonic Dance** in some astute scoring. I am slightly suspicious of the leaps in the soprano tessitura in mid-phrase, especially when a smoother line is within range, and why is there no tympani part? The composer wrote for it when transcribing his orchestral transcription from the original piano duet!

As an inveterate lover of Nielsen's music, I am delighted that it is appearing in the band movement. This stunning prelude opens the second act of his opera **Saul and David** which Nielsen composed between 1898 and 1901, whilst employed as a violinist in the Royal Theatre Orchestra, Copenhagen. This arrangement loses nothing in this transcription. Did you know that Nielsen also played the trombone?

The Norse folk-lore is evident in Herbert Moller's scoring of the famous **Valdres March**. Described in the introduction as 'simple' it requires, amongst other difficulties, a virtuoso soprano cornetist.

This publisher deserves credit for presenting full scores, instead of the popular anti-conductor compromises. Extra solo cornet parts, four in total are supplied so that there is, no excuse for slacking on individual practice. Bass clef parts are added for all instruments in score order from baritones downwards, and magnifying glasses are not needed to see these instrumental parts.

THE WHITBY BRASS BAND... of Ontario, Canada was kind to send some information which they intended to share with our readers. The conductor of the band is Mr. Roland Hill. For almost as long as there has been a Whitby, there has been a town band. We are informed that photographs held by the town historical society show the band and its members as far back as 1885. Although they do not claim there are founding members still playing with the band, they do claim to have the same enthusiasm that must have prevailed in those past years.

Roland's musical background is rather extensive involving military service in the Royal Air Force. As a tuba player, Roland indicates the competition bug never left him as just two months prior to coming to Canada he was able to perform in the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall in London. The test piece was *Checkmate* by Eric Ball. Roland indicates he would love to witness and take part in a North American Brass Band competition.

The music performed by the Whitby Band embraces the traditional brass band music as well as classical arrangements and in addition to popular and modern music. They strive to display the wide range of music which is available to brass bands. As an example, Roland sent this writer several programs recently performed by the Whitby Band. Among the selections included were; *Mexican March* by Barsotti, *The New World Fantasy* by Gordon Langford, *Air and Rondo* by Heath, *Slavonic Rhapsody* by Carl Friedman, *Marlowe Militaire* by Gounod, *Bass In The Ballroom* by Roy Newsome, *All In The April Evening* by Robertson, *Hey Mr. Music Man* by Derek Ashmore and *Hootenanny* by Harold Walters.

Several other selections included *Lincolnshire Poacher* by Derek Broadbent, *Solitaire* by Steven Corbett, *The Shadow of Your Smile* arranged by Dennis Wilby, *All Through the Night* arranged by Gordon Langford and *Colonel Bogey* by Kenneth Alford. We were pleased to receive this information and we are delighted to inform our readers. We salute the work of this fine band and will pass on additional information as it is received. Roland may be contacted at 311-37 Garden Street, Whitby, Ontario L1N 3W3, Canada

THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN BRITISH BRASS BAND,...has sent word regarding their yearly calendar. Along with this information was a copy of a program they recently performed. Dick Trevvarthen is the conductor of this band and also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The information received indicates concerts on October 1, October 17, October 29, November 17, December 19 and 20, March 21, March 30, April 20 and May 18. This is a very full concert schedule. Included in this list of performances is an appearance at the Fifth Annual Brass Band Jubilee to be held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh on April 24, 1982. In addition to Dick, Carol Underwood serves as Vice-Chairman and Personnel Manager, James Buckner serves as Secretary-Treasurer, his wife Anne Buckner serves as Librarian, with Greg Wilson serving as Instrument and Equipment Manager. Bert Wiley serves as Concert Manager.

The Smoky Mountain British Brass Band's concerts include the traditional and well known literature. As an example, their recent concert included *Prelude for An Occasion* by Gregson, *The Severn Suite* by Elgar, *Viva Brikshaw* by William Rimmer, *Serenade* by Bourgeois, the cornet solo *Napoli* arranged by Geoffrey Brand featuring Anne Buckner as soloist, *Feelings*, the well known horn solo, arranged by Ashmore, *The Girl I Left Behind Me* arranged by Gordon Langford. In addition to this list of music, the band is also playing some of Dick's arrangements of English folk songs.

Dick indicates that the various audiences are finding the sound of a British brass band most attractive. He has received numerous requests for performances at various locations in the mountains of North Carolina. Dick was interviewed by a columnist in the Asheville, North Carolina paper. The article received wide readership and helped to publicize the fact that the folks in the western part of North Carolina have a unique and very musical organization. The reports received are very warm and flattering. We congratulate this group of brass banders and salute their endeavors. Keep up the good work! Dick Trevvarthen may be reached at 800 Thomas Place, Waynesville, N.C. 28786.

THE CHESTER BRASS BAND,... of Nova Scotia, Canada has written to provide us with the most recent information concerning that band, its activities, and the newly elected officers.

The Chester Brass Band was founded and incorporated in 1906 as the Chester Cornet Band. The newest bandmaster of this group is Gordon E. McGowan who received the baton from Harvey Nauss. Harvey has given fifteen years of leadership and forty-five years of service to the Chester Brass Band.

Gordon McGowan started playing in one of Great Britain's finest brass bands, The Rosehill Band, at the age of 14. Later he was a soloist with the International Staff Band of the Salvation Band. When Gordon came to Canada in 1957 he was the principal trombonist with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band. He served in the same capacity with the Halifax Symphony Orchestra and the CBC Halifax Concert Orchestra.

Plans are underway for the Chester Brass Band to open membership in the band to brass players from beyond the immediate area of Chester, Nova Scotia. Plans are also underway to form a junior brass band within the next year. With the ever increasing popularity of brass bands throughout North America, Gordon McGowan, Harvey Nauss, and members of the Chester Brass Band are quite optimistic about the future of the entire movement as well as their own band.

Officers for the Chester Brass Band are as follows: President, Aubrey S. Evans; Vice-President, Carl V. Hiltz; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Rod Fraser; Quarter Master, Harvey Nauss. All correspondence to this fine band may be directed to Gordon in care of Box 9, Marvin's Island, R.R. #3, Chester Basin, Nova Scotia, Canada BOJ 1K0.

THE DENVER BRASS WORKS,...directed by John Kincaid and supported by a consortium of state colleges in cooperation with the Denver Parks and Recreation Department and the Denver Municipal Band, presented a concert and sent this writer a program indicating the music they performed. Members from this band come from the community and most are involved in music education in the area. The beginnings of this band stem from the Colorado Brass Band which was founded by John in 1975. The information received indicates that the instrumentation uses authentic British brass band instruments.

The concert presented as part of a four-day workshop sponsored by the above named groups. During the school year, the band meets regularly two evenings each month. Ken Anderson and Paul Curno are also involved with John in helping to organize and develop brass band activity in Colorado.

Some of the music presented includes the following selections: *Connotations* by Gregson, *The Land of the Long White Cloud* by Sparke, *Rhapsody in Brass* by Dean Goffin, *A Swedish March* by Gregson, *Snowdon Fantasy* by Powellk, and *The Challenge* by Calvert. This selected list of compositions is an elegant and distinguished repertoire for any concert.

THE COLORADO BRASS BAND,...also conducted by John Kincaid, presented a program at Western State College of Colorado. This program was presented as part of the summer activities before John and his wife Georgie attended the Marlborough Sounding Brass Course in England. the list of music performed included: *The Canterbury Flourish* by Jacob, *Prelude for an Occasion* by Gregson, *Chorale Prelude* by Jacob, the march *The Challenge* by Calvert, *Divertimento* by Eric Ball, *A Psalm for all Nations*, *Fantasia on Jubilate Deo* by Ball, *A Swedish March* by Gregson, *The Isle of Avalon* by Catelinat, *High Spirits* by Reginald Heath, and *Colonel Bogie* by Alfred.

We were delighted to receive the information about the Colorado Brass Band and salute John's good work and activities out in the western part of our country. John has been very active in brass band work and has attended the New Zealand championship contests on a couple of occasions. He has spent time doing research on brass band activity on that side of the globe. His activities are now being developed and spread through Colorado. John may be reached in the Music Department at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado.

ACCOMPANYING THIS ISSUE,...is a brochure from Marlborough College in England. The reason this brochure is enclosed is because of the course offering entitled **Sounding Brass**. This year the course will be conducted by Howard Snell and Roy Newsome. These two gentlemen are among the top conductors in the brass band scene of Great Britain.

Your attention is called to the fact that this college offers a most unique family vacation and combined study opportunity. All of these activities are heartily recommended to the readers of this newsletter. You will find the accommodations adequate, the food delicious and plentiful, and the countryside inviting, and the course offerings quite stimulating. It would make a most desirable trip for husband and wife, or for husband, wife and family. Offerings are made available to young children as well as the various courses, provided for adults.

All the necessary information for registration and enrollment will be found in the enclosed brochure. If the writer of this newsletter may assist by answering any individual questions concerning the college or the offerings, he will be very pleased to do so. Our office phone number is (919) 737-2981.

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

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