

the Brass Band BRIDGE



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

ISSUE 9, JULY 1982

YAMAHA MUSICAL PRODUCTS,...of Grand Rapids, Michigan has again sent a check to cover the printing, typesetting and mailing costs for four additional issues of this newsletter. (As mentioned before on several instances, your editor donates his efforts "to the cause"). We all owe the folks at Yamaha our sincere and genuine appreciation for the help they provide "in building bridges." This eminent music instrument manufacturer has come to the fore in helping visibility of the growing brass band movement in Canada and the U.S. And for this fine assistance we all can, in turn, purchase our brass band needs from Yamaha. Their complete line of musical instruments will fit the instrumental requirements of any brass band. So, we say a special thank you and a tip of the hat to Yamaha Musical Products! !

A NEW STORY OF SALVATION ARMY BANDING,...is being written during June and July, 1982, with the World Tour of the New York Staff Band and Male Chorus. This tour highlights the 95 year history of the NYSB and focuses international attention on its ministry in music.

The tour will take the band to Salvation Army Congresses in Norway and Sweden, Centennial Celebrations in Sydney and concerts in Melbourne, Australia, as well as Festivals in Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand. Over 20 Festival performances are scheduled for the 17 non-travel days of the tour alone, with 5 days scheduled as "free" for sight-seeing, laundry, and catching up on lost sleep. The remaining days are devoted to traveling and engagements.

Widely acclaimed as "America's Foremost Brass Band," the NYSB has the dual responsibility of presenting the message of the Gospel in music and conveying the spirit of God's love.

The band, under the baton of Bandmaster Derek Smith has demonstrated its vast repertoire, which ranges from transcriptions of the great symphonic works to contemporary sounds to traditional "Army" marches and hymn-tune arrangements, in concert halls and cathedrals, on television and radio, as well as on street corners.

Regularly released, professionally produced record albums

are available, the most recent releases being "BRAVO," featuring Philip Smith, Co-Principal Trumpet with the New York Philharmonic, former cornet soloist with the NYSB, and son of the bandmaster of NYSB, Derek Smith; and "THE AMBASSADORS," the official 1982 World Tour souvenir album. "The Ambassadors" will be available at festival locations and both are available from The New York Staff Band, 120 West 14th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011.

The New York Staff Band, comprised of 30 officers and employees of The Salvation Army in the Greater New York area, is a volunteer group; time spent rehearsing and playing at engagements is in addition to the bandmen's responsibilities in Salvation Army finance, legal, youth, public relations, property, social service and evangelism departments.

Although this is the first world tour for the staff band, the band has toured the United Kingdom and Europe in the past, as well as extensive tours throughout the United States and Canada.

Activities that will be coming up after returning from this tour include the following:

September 18, Welcome Home festival — CMT — New York

September 26, Sunset Park Corps. — Brooklyn

October 16, Calvary Evangelistic Church — Essex Fells, N.J.

— James C. Kisser, Jr.

THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN BRITISH BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS,...are being planned for April 23, 1983. The location will be at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. This past May, the British Embassy brought over Mr. Peter Wilson, former organizer of Great Britain's National Brass Band Championships and present Editor of THE BRITISH BANDSMAN, to help the Founding Committee develop plans, operations, rules and regulations, and policies as close as possible to the way the British contests are run. Although not quite complete as this issue of THE BRIDGE "goes to press," plans for the funds to administer the Championships, prize money to be awarded, and other such

necessary financial support are being sought from a large international firm. Negotiations should be completed in the very near future and public announcements will be made. The Founding Committee for the first NABBB Championships is made up of the following: Bill Bennett, Harvey Bosell, Richard Trevarthen, Perry Watson, Bert Wiley, and Peter Wilson.



THE RIVER CITY BRASS BAND OF PITTSBURGH, BOB BERNAT, CONDUCTOR

THE METROPOLITAN SILVER BAND OF TORONTO... through Laurie Brookes, sent this writer a recording of the band and a very informative letter. It is our pleasure to share this information with our readers. Laurie writes as follows: "This band goes back a long way. We have just celebrated our fiftieth birthday. The band is unique in that it was originally a church band, playing at the Metropolitan Church every Sunday morning and evening and in the summer in the afternoons. We presented band concerts on the lawn, etc. Over the years the band has changed (as we all do) with the church still as our home but most of the concerts occurring in and around Toronto with frequent trips out of town. Our repertoire is very broad, as you can tell from the record, as we play to a wide variety of audiences. We are also very fortunate in that our band manager, Ken Allen, is an accomplished arranger, which helps enhance our repertoire. You will hear one of his arrangements "Here's That Rainy Day" on the record. Our membership averages forty with a wide range of ages from late teens to middle seventies. Many of the members literally grew up with the band and at one time there were several father and son combinations. We are also proud of the membership of a young lady on flugelhorn, which breaks with old traditions of male only. We have made a total of three records, all successful with the last recording down to the last remaining dozen records. Have any other bands cut records? How about tapes?"

We are pleased to share this information about this band with the readers of this newsletter. The recording received was well done and contained a nice assortment of light and entertaining music. Thanks to Laurie and the Metropolitan Silver Band for sharing this information with us. Laurie may be contacted at 649 Glen Grove Avenue W, Toronto, Ontario M6B 2H9.

THE CAPITOL ENGLISH BRASS BAND IN SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH... had many good rehearsals through the winter months (having had to cancel only a couple of times due to severe snow storms). We had several concerts this spring. In one performance, the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Salt Lake City, the band rode on a float provided by Capitol Glass Company, our sponsor.

Roland Held, our first chair tuba player, is doing a tremendous job on two tuba solos: "Tuba Tapestry" by Michael Brand and "Rondo" from Mozart's 4th Horn Concerto. Roland will perform one or both of these solos in future concerts. Other concert selections will include — "Punchinello," "Men of Harlech," "Pirates of Penzance," "Irish Washerwoman," "Paloma Blanca," "Rondo" Mozart arranged for Eb tuba, "Russlan and Ludmilla," "Playmates" (cornet duet), "Waltzing Matilda," "Billy Boy," "Imperial Echoes," and "Battle Hymn of The Republic."

Jack Wynn, our conductor, is doing some fine writing and arranging for our band. Some of his arrangements now in our library include — "Come, Come Ye Saints," "Battle Hymn of The Republic," "Paloma Blanca," "Beautiful Dreamer," "Alford Fantasia," "Russian and Ludmilla."

Armed Forces Day held at Salt Lake's Fort Douglas was a good exposure for the band playing a noon concert. Among the many visitors to the Fort were two guests of the band sponsor, Doug Brown and his wife, Joy. The visiting couple, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Earle, hailed from England's charming town of Bogner Regis on the south coast. These brass band enthusiasts said the most enjoyable number played by the band was "Sensation," a dixieland number arranged by conductor Jack Wynn.

The band also played for the traditional Memorial Day services before a very fine audience which had many military as well as city dignitaries. Once again the band was highly praised for its performance. A stirring Echo Taps was sounded by musicians Manuel Garcia and Dave Runyan, our solo and assistant cornet players. The July 23 and 24 concerts will again be presented in the Mormon Tabernacle here in Salt Lake City.

The Band has grown in strength to twenty five dedicated players, so this should improve the band's performances during the remainder of the summer season.

— Cecil T. Garrison

SINCE ITS REORGANIZATION A YEAR AGO... the Chester Brass Band has made musical strides that place it among the finest community bands in the Maritimes. Under the direction of Gordon McGowan, the fame of the band has spread to the point of recognition in the international band press on both sides of the Atlantic. As one music critic has said: "it has now been transformed into a complete and highly trained brass band, including both local talent and other brass enthusiasts from a wide area."

At its first concert last November the Chester Brass Band was given a standing ovation before a large and enthusiastic audience. On that occasion the Band was heard in concert with the Dartmouth Choral Society. The idea of bringing together vocal and instrumental talents was continued in "Sounding Brass and Voices," a Festival Concert produced on Sunday the 16th May at the Chester Municipal High School. On that occasion the choral talent was provided by the Aeolian Singers, under the direction of Claire Wall. The Band was conducted by Gordon McGowan, and the Master of Ceremonies was Ron Hill, host of CBC Radio's program "Bands in Concert."

The Aeolian Singers, a choir of some forty women's voices from Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, come from various musical backgrounds and collectively sing in five languages with a diversity of repertoire spanning five centuries. The choir has sung in numerous communities in Eastern Canada and been heard frequently on CBC Radio and Television. For the Chester concert the choir featured music by Bach, Fa...

Elgar and Martini in classical vein, and devoting one section of the program to a group of folk songs.

The Chester Brass Band played music by Meyerheer, Gordon Jacob, and brilliant arrangements by the most popular of contemporary writers for brass band — Gordon Langford. The concert was the occasion of a premiere performance of the *Divertimento* by the dean of brass band composers — Eric Ball. This three movement work was written for the brass band contests that are a feature of the international band movement. It provided a highly technical and musical challenge to the band, yet one which appealed to the general audience for its melodic content and contrast of style. To round out the program three selections paid tribute to the F.E. Butler Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, this year celebrating fifty years of existence and service.

— J.R. Fraser

ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRASS BAND,

...better known as their Brass Sinfonia, conducted by Professor James Mosher, was invited to participate in that community college's Festival of the Arts this past April. Jim was kind enough to send a program indicating the type of music they are performing and a list of their personnel. This is the typical brass band utilizing a conical bore instrumentation in conjunction with the two tenor and one bass trombones. Among the music the Brass Sinfonia presented was "A Festive Prelude" by the American, Stephen Bulla, "Arioso and Caprice" featuring Stuart Smith on flugelhorn solo, by Ronald Hamner, "Summertime" featuring Fred Houser as vocal soloist, by Gerishwin, and "Call of the Sea" an overture by Eric Ball.

CHARLES LIETWILER HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

...for the pleasure of our readers. Charles reports that he went to hear the U.S. Army Band's new brass band last April. He says they are using French horns and an Eb trumpet due to intonation problems with the tenor horns and Eb cornet. Charles states that their program was extremely ambitious and included twelve different selections. Among those were Elgar Howarth's "Parade" and Dean Goffin's "Rhapsody in Brass." James Cox was featured as horn soloist in "Swiss Melodies," John Muller was featured as euphonium soloist performing "Believe Me if all Those Endearing Young Charms" and Henry Sgrecci played "Napoli" on cornet. Charles writes that this brass band will not be able to play another concert until the Fall because of the very full schedule of other commitments. Captain David Dietrick is the conductor of this brass band. He has a Salvation Army background and wanted the brass players to have the opportunity to play something other than the music they normally play for ceremonies and other functions.

The Rockville Brass Ensemble has worked out an arrangement with Dr. Ernest Wolfle and the Montgomery Community College. Dr. Wolfle will become the conductor of this group and this band will rehearse at the college giving two concerts per semester. He will also direct any outside concerts this brass band presents.

Charles also writes to remind everyone that he has transposed parts for many brass band selections for Bb tubas and trombones. Some other instruments also have bass clef parts. For further information please contact Charles at 11123 Schuylkill Road in Rockville, Maryland 20852.

BRITISH BAND WORKSHOPS,...were offered this summer in three different locations. John Kincaid held a brass band workshop from Monday, June 28 through Friday, July 2 at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado. As readers of *THE BRIDGE* might remember, John has traveled to New Zealand twice to visit brass bands and the National Brass Band Championships there. He also attended the Sounding Brass offering at Marlborough College in England. He has

visited a number of brass bands now organized throughout the United States. Also offering a brass band workshop was Robert Bernat and the River City Brass Band of Pittsburgh. Mr. Roy Newsome, internationally recognized conductor, adjudicator, composer, and arranger, was the special guest of this event. The dates for this event: July 12 through July 23. This offering was sponsored by the William C. Whitney Foundation. Finally, North Carolina State University held a four day short course on July 6, 7, 8 and 9. Richard Trevarthen, conductor of the Smoky Mountain British Brass Band and yours truly provided the leadership for this offering. Glenn Call served as guest clinician and soloist as well as participating in this short course.

A YEAR WITH THE SMOKY MOUNTAIN BRITISH BRASS BAND,

...Being a general manager of a brass band makes it uniquely possible to see the band operations on a daily basis; to keep in very close, literally daily contact with the director; it gives one the opportunity to see a band grow, to develop, and to see the moments of crisis, pressure and jubilation.

All these I have seen and more too, in my first year as manager of the Smoky Mountain British Brass Band. I am a confirmed believer in the brass band. I love the sound, the music, the camaraderie. But it is a full life, a busy life the manager leads.

Smoky Mountain British Brass Band is young, less than two years old, but the growth has been absolutely phenomenal; not



in numbers, but in performance quality, coherence within the group, and the number of programs presented.

Within the past year, approximately September of 1981 to July/August 1982, the band has performed well over twenty times. There have been relatively few changes in the personnel. We are not yet playing to overflow crowds, but every performance is enthusiastically received, often with cheers, bravos, standing ovations, and lots of applause. This makes us all feel the worthwhileness of our endeavor.

Weekly rehearsals, selection of new music, arranging works, writing and commissioning new works for the band...if the growth has been tremendous, so has the work and the involvement of each person within the group. The band has played on college campuses, for local arts councils, governmental agencies, the Knoxville World's Fair, and self-sponsored concerts. One of the highlights of our year was to be a participating band in the Fifth Annual British Band Festival held on the campus of NCSU in Raleigh, North Carolina, April 24.

The band has been so well received that we often get requests to play and have even had to refuse offers to perform. But we are seeking the opportunities to share our tremendous musical heritage with others.

Yes, it costs money to travel, to buy music, to print programs, and to keep our currently small operations going. We are financially in the black, we are most happy to report, but presently nearly our entire income must be steered toward payments for our fine Yamaha instruments. The commitment of each band member is truly unique as we all must travel long distances to our weekly rehearsals. This does not represent sacrifice, but outstanding dedication to the organization as no

member receives even travel expenses at this point. We are in hopes that will change before long.

We are setting our goals very high and thus we look forward to another year of making music and sharing this music with many audiences.

— Bert Wiley, manager

BASS CLEF PARTS, . . . for brass band music are becoming increasingly available. There are several music publishers now supplying both treble clef and bass clef parts for the tenor trombones and Bb tubes. (In certain instances, euphonium, baritone, and Eb tuba/bass clef parts are also provided.) These new additional bass clef parts are available from the following addresses:

Magnamusic-Baton, Inc.
10370 Page Industrial Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63132

Rosehill Music Publishing Co., Ltd.
The Old House
64 London End
Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 2JD
England

Wright & Round, Ltd.
Pierford Buildings
Parliament Street
Gloucester GL1 1HY
England

Hallamshire Music
53 Meadowhead
Sheffield S8 7UB
England

Additional suppliers of brass band music are as follows:

Banks and Son (Music) Ltd.
Stonegate
York YO1 2AU
England

Chandos Music Ltd.
41 Charing Cross Road
London WC2 OAR
England

R. Smith & Co. Ltd.
P.O. Box 210
Watford, Herts. WD2 4YG
England

Studio Music Co.
77-79 Dudden Hill Lane
London NW10 1BD
England

Boosey & Hawkes (USA)
200 Smith Street
Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735

Theodore Presser Company
Attn: MR. Eugene Moon
Bryn Mawr, Penn. 19010

This list of music publishers and suppliers does not attempt to be a fully comprehensive list, but rather it does offer addresses for those readers needing such information.

TWO-TEN RECORDINGS ARE BACK, . . . issuing new recordings for brass band enthusiasts. Two new issues are available which feature the Fairey and the G.U.S. Bands. These recordings

are available on cassette only in response to the preference from many customers throughout the United Kingdom for tape rather than disc.

The Fairey Band recording, their first under their new musical director, Geoffrey Brand, features the "Carnival Overture," the Eric Ball masterpiece "The Undaunted," a brand new Phillip Sparke composition entitled "Barn Dance and Cowboy Hymn," "Rag-Time Parade" by Satie, a brand new piece by Harold Noble entitled "Nocturne," a flugelhorn solo featured in "Over the Rainbow," and "Prelude No. 22" by Bach, arranged by Michael Brand.

These first recordings on cassette only from Two-Ten are available from R. Smith & Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 210, Watford, Herts. WD2 4YG, England, and cost approximately \$7.25 each plus postage and mailing.

THE WESTON SILVER BAND OF WESTON, ONTARIO, . . . through a letter from their conductor, Douglas Field, indicates that things continue to go well for the Weston Band. There have been several personnel changes during the last year with Ron Williams assuming the position of euphoniumist, a two time national solo champion of Wales. They have added two very fine trombonists, another solo cornet and a new soprano player. Doug says they are still looking for a couple of good percussionists, and with that exception, their membership must be considered closed. He does indicate that they would consider anyone who would significantly improve the band's abilities.

Last year they played over forty engagements and held rehearsals for all but four weeks. Their recording continues to sell well and he says it is now available from the Weston Silver Band at \$8.00 by mail.

The improved standard of playing has meant that they are able to program the following selections: "Kenilworth" by Bliss, "March Bravura" by Himes, "Ritual Fire Dance" arranged by Street, "Music for Greenwich" by Gregson, and "Simon Called Peter" by Vinter. Solo repertoire includes "Fantasy for Euphonium and Band" by Sparke, "Nocturne for Flugelhorn" by Wood, "Grandfather's Clock" by Doughty and for trombone "The Acrobat" by Greenwood.

Perhaps the most interesting news that Doug writes concerns a recent concert of brass band music by the University of Toronto Brass Choir, who played instruments and music owned by Boosey & Hawkes (Canada) sponsor of the event. Doug indicates that it was well attended and warmly received. Doug goes on to write, "Most of the students had never heard a brass band, but what a fine group they could be if they became a fixture! Their program was quite conservative by the University of Toronto standards but it was exceptionally well played — such intonation! They gave us the "Overture Henry V" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, "Resurgion" and "Four Preludes" by Ball, "Doon Valley Suite" by Street, and "Suite No. 2 in F" by Holst. It was a most satisfying event and George Ullmann of Boosey & Hawkes (Canada) is to be congratulated for his initiative."

Many thanks to Doug and the Weston Silver Band for this interesting and informative report. We are pleased to share this information with our readers. The Weston Band may be reached at P.O. Box 513, Station "A", Weston, Ontario M9N 3M3.

This issue is brought to you by the YAMAHA MUSICAL PRODUCTS of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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

J. Perry Watson
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