

The BRASS BAND Bridge



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

ISSUE 19
FEBRUARY 1985

Courtesy of YAMAHA Musical Products

News From Wenatchee

The WBBB is looking forward to a full season of performances, starting February 10 with "Love's Old Sweet Songs." This concert will feature standard BBB arrangements including "Men of Harlech," "Laura's Theme," "The Girl I Left Behind," "All Through the Night," and "Colonel Bogey on Parade." A traditional WBBB sing-a-long will also be part of the program.

Also in February, the WBBB will perform for the Music Educators Northwest Conference (February 16) in Spokane, Washington. "The Eagle and the Lion" featuring Gordon Higginbottom is planned for April 25, and eleven days later, the WBBB will play a free concert in Wenatchee as part of the Washington State Apple Blossom Festival. On October 13, the band will hold "World Ports of Call," and on December 1, "And The

(continued on page 6)

Gordon Higginbottom To Be Featured Twice

World renown tenor horn virtuoso Gordon Higginbottom will be the featured soloist with the River City Brass Band as well as with the Wenatchee British Brass Band. The Pittsburgh performances by this outstanding player be on two evenings, April 20 and 21 while the Washington appearance is scheduled for April 25.

During a working holiday in the United States, Higginbottom and his wife will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary.

The Higginbottoms will be guests of Robert Bernat, founder-music director of the RCBB while they are in Pittsburgh. Following his appearance with



the River City Brass Band, the Higginbottoms will travel to Washington State for a three day stay, with the WBBB.

Abilene Brass Report

THE ABILENE BRASS (organized November, 1984) held its first concert on December 7 at the Mall of Abilene, Abilene, Texas. The informal Christmas concert was well-received by a large crowd who interrupted their shopping chores to hear "Christmas Triptych" arr. James Curnow, "Green-sleeves" arr. Gordon Langford, "Sleigh Ride" by Anderson/Tomlinson, "Jesu, Comfort of My Heart" by Bach/Ball, and several selections from "Christmas: Short and Suite" arr. William Himes.

Band director, Jim Jones, shares his duties with several members of the band. Local band directors Tommy Fry of

McMurry College, Scott Mather of Hardin-Simmons University, and John Whitwell of Abilene Christian University each rehearsed the band and conducted a piece on the program. The use of special conductors adds a bit of freshness while all get to play their instruments and learn from others' musical ideas. Half of the band is comprised of college and public school musicians making it a very discriminating group.

The unique quality and relatively unfamiliar medium of the British brass band in the area has been met with very pleasing results by the membership and those who attended the Christmas concert. One AB member remarked he has participated with smaller brass ensembles in similar situations before and that

the audiences tend to "come and go." Not so, with THE ABILENE BRASS! Curious listeners came and stood throughout the entire fifty minute program! The players were very impressed by this and are looking forward to some "shared" concerts with local public school and university bands this spring.

—James Jones

Editor's Note:

Douglas Fry is Chairman of this new British brass band while Gary DeShazo serves as Vice-Chairman. Tom Fry is Secretary-Treasurer. The Board of Directors for the Abilene Brass are Lawson Hager, James Jones, Warren Thaxton and John Whitwell. Jim serves as Musical Director.



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

Editor J. Perry Watson
Music Department
NCSU — Box 7311
Raleigh, N. C. 27695

This issue provided through the courtesy of the Yamaha Musical Products in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Please address all correspondence to the Editor.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

April 30, 1985
July 31, 1985
October 31, 1985
January 31, 1986

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

LEADERSHIP MEMBERS:

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The following reviews were recently printed in THE BRITISH BANDSMAN, Peter Wilson, Editor. We wish to thank Peter and the reviewers, for the opportunity to bring this information to our readers.

MUSIC

A BARCHESTER SUITE Derek Bourgeois

(R. Smith & Co)

Having spent many hours creating music for one particular set of circumstances it is always rewarding for the composer when he can adapt all or some of the material in another form. Derek Bourgeois provided the music for the BBC television series 'Barchester Chronicles' and some of those themes now appear in this brass band work.

There are in fact two points in the score where there is a slight pause before proceeding with the next section. However, the composer obviously wishes conductors to be aware that the suite is conceived as a whole unit and long gaps must be avoided.

Because of the attractive melodic appeal audience appreciation is assured. In the performing time of about 10 minutes the composer has produced music in contrasting styles which should test the musicianship of conductor and players alike. The full score is clearly printed and adequately bound.

This recent publication has been selected as the test piece for the 1985 3rd section of The National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain area qualifying contests.

—Michael Kenyon

RECORDS

ELGAR

Desford Colliery Dowty and Foden OTS)

Conductor Howard Snell

(POLYPHONIC EHS 001D and EHS002D)

These two discs are among the finest brass band recordings ever made, both technically and musically. The most remarkable item is Eric Ball's wonderful arrangement of the *Enigma Variations* in its entirety; it would surely have impressed Elgar himself, who knew a lot about brass bands, and it is magnificently played by the combined bands. Howard Snell, as one of Britain's best orchestral trumpet players, must have played this work in its original form countless times, and his conducting of it reveals experienced insight; he gets from the players the kind of subtlety one normally expects from the best orchestras, as well as a degree of enthusiasm that could be a lesson to many a hardened professional orchestral musician. No praise could do justice to Eric Ball's remarkable skill and imagination in scoring the work for brass — he is the doyen of brass band composers and arrangers, and I still have vivid memories of his inspiring conducting (and conversation) when I was a young lad. His other arrangements on this record are equally fine: the overture, *Froissart* (Foden), the *Prelude to Gerontius* (Desford), and the *Imperial March* (Foden).

There are also Elgar arrangements by other expert hands, Derek Bourgeois (the second and third movements of the *Cello Concerto* arranged for euphonium and miraculously played by Robert Childs — it almost convinced me, but not quite!), Glynn Bragg (*Triumphal March* from *Caractacus*), Arthur Butterworth (*Canto Popolare*), Bram Gay (pieces from *The Wand of Youth*), Bram Wiggins (Two Interludes from *Falstaff*), and Denis Wright (*Chanson de matin*). Here is a feast of brass playing, splendidly recorded.

—Robert Simpson



Part of the cornet section of the Mississippi River Band. left to right are: Jim Buckner, Debbie Priest, and...

Mississippi River I

The weekend of January 25-27 was a Illinois area. Brass players from Illinois weekend of intense rehearsing, lectures climaxing in an exciting concert on Sunday the *Mississippi River Brass Band*. J. P. conductor and guest clinician for this challenged and inspired by his presentation.

Opening with the new "Fanfare for N included many favorites, highlighted by Suite — *Shout Salvation* by Maj. Robert Dew by Stephen Bulla. Soloists for the *Varied Mood* by Ray Woodfield, Jim Buckner, Clowns arranged by Frank Bryce, and *Your Smile* arranged by Denis Wilby. The *Lomond/Comin' Through the Rye* and Langford. These selections, combined with for an ambitious and varied program (especially met before this and had only the weekend locally received by the Quincy audience.

Under the strong influence of Anne (the Smoky Mountain British Brass Band) the organized with a Board of Directors and has plans. Members plan to go to Toronto to observe to participating in them in '86.



The Board of Directors of the North American Brass Band Association Inc. asked a class in the School of Design to undertake the designing of a suit semester long project, a class of twelve present a graphic representation of the Association is. The winning design was from Concord, North Carolina. Matthew NCSU. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. C.

This new logo will be made available in other categories of membership in the new logo be displayed on printed selection of various size logos is available.



ver Brass Band of Quincy, Illinois. Pictured from
l Hunter, Charles Brooks and Anne Buckner.

Brass Band Formed

pecial one for many people in the Quincy,
Missouri, and Iowa came together for a
demonstrations, and brass comradeship
y afternoon. The result of this experience is
erry Watson of Raleigh, NC served as the
event. The band participants were both
ions and leadership.

A.B.B.A." by James Curnow, the program
the *Impressario Overture* by Cimaroso,
t Redhead, and *Blow Away the Morning*
concert were Fred Cherny (euphonium) on
kner (E-flat soprano cornet) on *Send In the*
Al Hunter (flugelhorn) on *The Shadow of*
e concert ended with the traditional *Loch*
Famous British Marches, both by Gordon
th other pieces the band performed, made
pecially considering that the band had never
to rehearse). The concert was enthusiastically

nd Jim Buckner (former members of the
Mississippi River Brass Band has organ-
ans for many performances and activities.
e the '85 Championships and look forward

—Dennis Bingheim

Board Accepts Logo Design

th American Brass Band Association,
sign at North Carolina State University
ble logo for the Association. During a
enty-five design seniors undertook to
what the North American Brass Band
as made by Matthew Monk, a native of
s a senior studying graphic design at
eorge R. Monk.

e to all members, member bands, and
ABBA. The Board suggests that this
programs, posters, stationery, etc. A
lable from the editor.

RCBB Busy

Now in its fourth season, the River City Brass Band has already developed the third largest music audience in Pittsburgh. Attendance at the three fall series programs alone increased from 3,054 in 1983 to 5,877 in 1984, while series subscribers have increased from nearly 700 to more than 1,400.

Founder — music director Robert Bernat estimates that the RCBB will perform almost 60 concerts during the 1984-85 season, a better than 50 percent increase over the 34 concerts performed last season. A large portion of the increase is due to an expansion of run-out and tour concerts, activities which are managed by RCBB booking representative Helene Morrow, a 30-year veteran of the concert management profession.

During the current season the RCBB has widened the range of its concert activities beyond the Greater Pittsburgh region through performances in western New York State, northern and central Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia and, furthest of all, a one-day airborne excursion for a performance in Phoenix, Arizona on January 22.

Dedicated to fostering an amateur brass band movement in the Greater Pittsburgh region, the RCBB this season has helped organize an amateur brass band sponsored by Carnegie-Mellon University, and is helping in the development of a middle-school brass band in the Pittsburgh schools which will bring functioning during the second semester. Both bands are under the direction of RCBB bandsman, as is the North Hills Brass Band which the RCBB helped organize last year.

—Joan Kimmer General Manager

New Conductor For Greensboro, N.C.

The North State Silver Cornets of Greensboro, NC began their third season on January 20th . . . under the baton of Ned Gardner. Ned is a former trumpet soloist with the U.S. Army Band, and is currently a DMA candidate at the University of North Carolina. With degrees from North Carolina School of the Arts and Catholic University, Ned returned to North Carolina from Washington and taught at North Carolina School of the Arts, at Winthrop College, and at Western Carolina University. While teaching, he continued to appear publicly with the Piedmont Chamber Orchestra, the Charlotte Symphony, and the North Carolina Symphony . . . and Ned was a founder of both the Piedmont Brass Quintet and the Chanticleer Duo. He was Artist-in-Residence for two years at Cullowhee, and then spent two years each at Winthrop and Martin Community Colleges as part of North Carolina's Visiting Artist Program. Ned can be heard on Crystal and Laurel records, and he still performs as a recitalist and as a clinician . . . and from time to time as a soloist with the Silver Cornets!

One of the pieces we read at the January rehearsal was Jim Curnow's new "Fanfare for N.A.B.B.A." The parts were transcribed professionally, and we'll be delighted to share them with other bands. Send your request to PO Box 19283, Greensboro, NC

27419. Please enclose \$5 to help defray costs.

For 1985 we've divided our season into three twelve-week sessions, with a comfortable vacation period between each . . . that way our musicians can support the brass band with steady attendance at rehearsals, yet still have 16 Sunday nights a year for their own schedules. Formal concerts will be given at the end of each session . . . 21 April, 18 August, and the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend . . . we'll augment those with 3 or 4 light outdoor shows during the summer, plus appearances at several street fairs in the fall.

Our Thanksgiving 1984 concert, a fund raiser for the local Unitarian Church, was given in the small auditorium of the Greensboro Coliseum . . . our name on the same lighted marquee with Willie Nelson! Paul Morton, trumpet senior at NC School of the Arts, played Goedicke's "Concert Etude" (Dick Trevvarthen's arrangement), and the band polished up a program originally given in 1983: "Fantasy on British Sea Songs," "Moorside Suite," "West Side Story," and "The Thunderer." Variety in the program was provided with a Dixieland Band warm-up act (brass and drums from our band, keyboards and reeds from the community), plus two pieces from a traditional brass quintet as an intermission.

—Tom Morris

BRASS BAND TRIVIA

The Walt Disney film, "The Littlest Horse Thieves" used a British brass band for the background music. What is the name of the brass band playing this music?

For the answer, look in the next issue of THE BRIDGE.

Editor's Note: A tip of the hat to Karen Kneeburg for this idea!

MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT TUNE

The Maritime Band was organized 3 years ago. It is an all brass band for practical reasons. Most of our performances are parades although we do an occasional concert.

The Band has a nautical look. This reflects my Maritime Service background as well as the nautical heritage of Long Island, where we are situated.

I have always been a disciple of the British Band System. On the street I emulate a British Drum Major.

On Long Island we do not have as many marching brass players as we would like to have. We are hoping that organizations as the North American Brass Band Assoc. and the Brass Conference would encourage a greater interest in brass playing.

Here on Long Island with a population of 2.4 million there are only 5 community marching bands. These few have certain problems.

The Maritime Band participates in Firemens Parade, patriotic parades and ceremonies, yacht club flag raisings and at fairs and exhibitions.

Max Fogel, Director

River City Brass Band Seeks Substitutes

The River City Brass Band is seeking several highly qualified brass bandsmen (cornet, euphonium, baritone, tuba) to serve as substitute members of the RCBB during several weeks of touring during the 1985-86 season. Those interested must be highly proficient on their respective instruments, excellent sight-readers, members of the American Federation of Musicians, and free to travel for two-three weeks in the fall of 1985 and spring of 1986. (Tubists must also be able to read treble clef parts.)

Those meeting the above requirements may receive additional information about touring periods, audition requirements etc. by writing before March 1, 1985, to:

Todd Pascuzzi
Personnel Manager
River City Brass Band
P.O. Box 6436
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

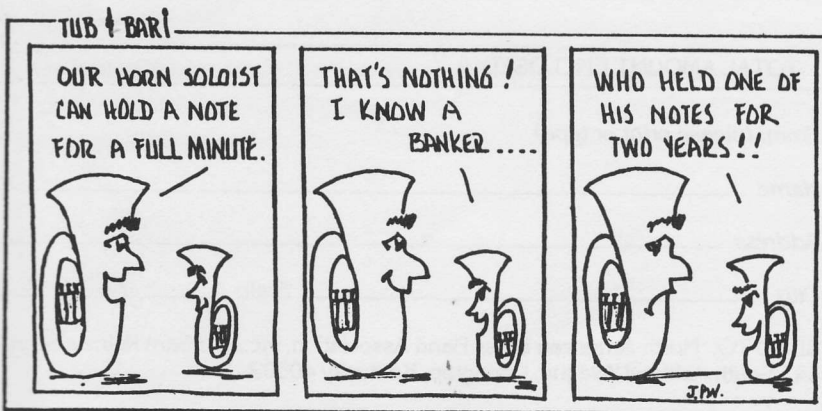
WELCOME ABOARD

We have received word that the following brass bands have been formed or are in the stages of being organized:

Mississippi River Brass Band
c/o James Buckner
Quincy, Illinois

Oklahoma State University Brass Band
c/o Thomas Walker
Stillwater, Oklahoma

St. John's River City Band
c/o Willis Page
Jacksonville, Florida



JOIN N.A.B.B.A.

APPLICATION FORM

(please print or type)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Are you a member of a brass band? _____

If so, what band _____

What instrument do you play? _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

I/We wish to join NABBA as

☐ Associate/Student — \$10.00

☐ Individual Regular — \$20.00

☐ Member band — \$50.00

☐ Corporate/Institutional — \$100.00

☐ Sustaining — \$250.00

☐ Patron — \$500.00

☐ Leadership — \$1,000.00

Make check payable to:

North American Brass Band Association, Inc.

Mail to:

Mike Swaffar, Treasurer NABBA, 225 W. Maple Ave., Lancaster, KY 40444 USA

ORDER YOUR N.A.B.B.A. T-SHIRT TODAY!

Gold design on a royal blue shirt made of 50% cotton, 50% polyester. Price \$7.50, postage included. Special price to all NABBA members: \$6.00 including postage.



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----------	-------	--------	-------	-------------

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

From: (please print or type)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SEND TO: North American Brass Band Association, Inc., c/o Sam Rainey, Secretary,
443 South Ashland Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky 40502

FLORIDA BAND REPORTS

Sunshine Brass has been very busy since Championships II last April. In July, some brass banders contacted us wishing to meet and attend one of our rehearsals. Geoff Mason, director of the Portsmouth City Brass Band (Portsmouth, England) and his wife Betty took time out of their busy vacation schedule to have dinner with us and attend a rehearsal. Geoff sat in on flugelhorn and conducted the band in Malcolm Arnold's Little Suite For Brass. We enjoyed meeting Geoff and Betty and wished them well on their U.S. journey.

As August approached, and our nation was preparing for the annual Muscular Dystrophy fund raising drive, SB donated its services for a local walk-a-thon picnic and was guest conducted by the poster child who was in attendance. October was our busiest month having three performances within a two week period. December 12th marked our annual Christmas concert held at a local community college and was well attended.

IN MEMORY

Ray McLaughlin, age 34, died of cancer Monday, December 17, 1984. Ray was principal Eb tubist with Sunshine Brass and his last performance was at the 1984 North American Brass Band Championships. Ray was a graduate of the University of Michigan, a member of T.U.B.A. and taught in the Polk County School System (Florida).

Our spring schedule is as equally busy having performances at the Florida Music Educator's Association Convention in January, the Florida State Fair in February, the Gasperilla Arts Festival in March along with our "mock" contest concert, and of course, Championships III in April!

Not every moment is glorious in community brass banding. In a rapidly growing area such as ours, personnel change much too frequently creating problems in group stability. We lost our rehearsal space at a local high school due to changes in state law governing the use of public facilities by non-profit groups. We were lucky to receive support from the University of South Florida Department of Music by allowing us to use their rehearsal room. One of many of our borrowed instruments had to be returned forcing the band to replace it within 24 hours. We were fortunate to find a used flugelhorn that would fit our financial situation and we now own a grand total of three instruments. We have started a fund-raising program specifically for the purchase of instruments, however with so many organizations asking for money in our area, the procedure is going quite slowly. Not all news is bad... we recently learned that General Telephone Company of Florida is responding to our request by giving \$500 to the band which is our first major corporate contribution.

Although times can get rough and we all may wonder why we are involved, it all becomes worthwhile to see and hear community musicians continue their love for making music in such a unique way.

—Karen Kneeburg

Wenatchee—(continued from page 1)

Band Played On" will be performed to close the 1985 season.

The February concert will mark the return of Glenn Kelly to the band's staff. Kelly was one of the founders of the WBBB and was its Music Director for a year and a half. He will emcee the upcoming concerts.

Taking over for Kelly is Dr. Duane Mikow of Wenatchee, who was accepted by the board of directors as Music Director.

The WBBB and all of its supporters are delighted to have Dr. Mikow as a part of the organization. They are equally delighted at the election of Mr. Harry J. Askew to Chairman of the Board of Directors. Askew, who is a native of England, will serve a one-year term. C. Joe Williams was again elected Brass Band Business Manager, and will continue with his excellent work.

—Ken Frederick

Oklahoma's Newest Brass Band

The Brass Band at Oklahoma State University is in its second year, under the direction of Professors Paul Montemurro and Tom Walker.

The Fall season for the OSU Brass Band was kicked off by a concert tour of Arkansas high schools and churches. The highlight of the tour was a performance in Little Rock where they performed for The Salvation Army Appreciation Banquet. Concert items included numbers by Salvationist composers Himes, Curnow, Ball and Kippax and transcriptions of several pieces from the classical repertoire.

—Tom Walker

North Carolina State University

Music Dept.

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1985 CONTEST INSERT

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS III

ALL BANDS DRAW	8:15 A.M.
JUDGES "ENCLOSED"	9:05 A.M.

HONORS SECTION

Band 1 .. Plays	9:15 - 9:45 A.M.	Band 4 .. Plays	11:00 - 11:30 A.M.
Band 2 .. Plays	9:50 - 10:20 A.M.	Band 5 .. Plays	11:35 - 12:05 P.M.
Band 3 .. Plays	10:25 - 10:55 A.M.	Band 6 .. Plays	12:10 - 12:40 P.M.

*** LUNCH ***

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION

Band 1 .. Plays	1:15 - 1:45 P.M.	Band 4 .. Plays	3:00 - 3:30 P.M.
Band 2 .. Plays	1:50 - 2:20 P.M.	Band 5 .. Plays	3:35 - 4:05 P.M.
Band 3 .. Plays	2:25 - 2:55 P.M.	Band 6 .. Plays	4:10 - 4:40 P.M.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS	5:00 - 5:15 P.M.
NABBA MEETING (For Members Only)	5:20 - 6:20 P.M.
RAFFLE	6:30 - 6:45 P.M.
GALA CONCERT	8:15 - 10:15 P.M.

VENUE: WESTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, 100 PINE STREET, WESTON, ONTARIO, CANADA

GALA CONCERT INFORMATION

The renowned Earls Court Citadel Band of the Salvation Army will present the Gala Concert for the 1985 North American Brass Band Association competition. Featured soloist for the evening will be Phillip Smith, cornet soloist, the first chair trumpet with the New York Philharmonic. Phil is the son of Bandmaster Derek Smith of the New York Salvation Army

Staff Band.

The Earls Court Citadel Band promises to present a very stimulating and musically demanding concert. Their reputation for musical excellence is widespread and highly regarded by one and all. This promises to be a very fine presentation and a concert no one should miss.

TWELVE BANDS TO COMPETE

Eight bands from the United States and four bands from Canada will compete in the Championships III to be held on Saturday, April 13 at the Weston Collegiate Institute. There are six bands entering in the Championship Section and six bands entering in the Honors Section. The test piece for the Championship Section is "Vizcaya" by Gilbert Vinter and the test piece for the Honors Section is "The Shipbuilders" by Peter Yorke.

Each band will bring to the competition a thirty minute concert built around the test piece. Judges will award points for their overall concert construction, musical abilities, interpretation, and other such factors. Each band must conclude its concert within the thirty minute time allotment. One point is deducted for each minute (or each fraction thereof) a band exceeds its time allotment.

CHAMPIONSHIPS III HEADQUARTERS

The Constellation Hotel is to be the headquarters for the weekend of the North American Brass Band Association competition. NABBA will have an InfoCenter at the Constellation Hotel. The address is as follows:

Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 1J7, Canada, Phone (416) 675-1500