

The BRASS BAND Bridge



TOWER BRIDGE, LONDON

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

ISSUE 23
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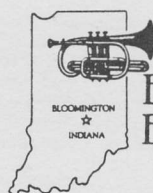
Courtesy of Musical Instrument Division, Yamaha International Corporation



Pam Potter and the Mississippi River Brass Band pictured in white.
David Pickett and the Bloomington Brass Band picture in black.



and



The
Bloomington
Brass Band

present

Brass Band Spectacular

The Mississippi River Brass Band has had a very busy and productive inaugural year. After several spring concerts in the Quincy, Illinois area, this newly formed British Brass Band saw an extremely busy summer of '85, marking three major performances during the Hannibal, Missouri Sesqui-centennial activities, another at Lake Fest in Monroe City, Mo. and they also appeared briefly under the direction of Illinois Governor James Thompson near the Quincy riverfront.

A full schedule of rehearsals throughout the fall culminated in a superb "Brass Band Spectacular" on November 9, featuring the Mississippi River

Brass Band and the Bloomington (Indiana) Brass Band. Each band presented one half of this formal concert and the two bands combined talents to perform four additional selections.

The Bloomington and Quincy musicians met for a brief rehearsal on Saturday afternoon. An enthusiastic "full house" enjoyed the concert in the Congregational Church, and the Quincy band members were hosts at a real brass band style party following the concert. After spending the night with MRBB personnel, the BBB returned to Indiana hoping to make this joint concert an annual event.

— Pam Potter

Of Blizzards and Brass

"Neither rain, nor snow, nor heat, nor gloom of night shall stay these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." The motto of the U.S. Postal Service also seems most appropriate for the hardy audience and bandsmen who braved a severe snowstorm to attend the Rocky Mountain Brassworks' Festive Season Concert on Sunday, December 8, 1985.

It didn't snow inside the hall, however, and the concert went well. The Brassworks performed various seasonal selections as well as *Elsa's Procession* (Wagner-Himes), *Variations on Laudate Dominum* (Gregson) and the premier performance of Brassworks' Director Paul Curnow's *Suite of American Sailing Songs*.

This concert, under the gracious sponsorship of the Tri-State Bank, was the first of two scheduled at the Arvada Center for the Performing Arts this concert season.

— Roy H. Hess

Welcome

To the following brass bands:

Central Florida
Deleware (Ohio) High School
Eden (New York) High School
Northwestern University
Ohio-Miami Valley
S.U.N.Y. - Fredonia



Official publication of the North American Brass Band Association.

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

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MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Individual	\$ 20.00
Associate	10.00
Member band	50.00
Corporate	100.00
Sustaining	250.00
Patron	500.00
Leadership	1000.00

Mail to:

Mike Swaffar, Treasurer N.A.B.B.A.
225 W. Maple Ave., Lancaster, KY 40444 USA

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

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Boosey & Hawkes Band Festivals

UPCOMING DEADLINES

April 30, 1986
July 31, 1986
October 31, 1986



WIND BANDS AND BRASS BANDS In School and Music Centre

By Kevin Thompson
Cambridge University Press

The inside of the book jacket tells us . . . "Kevin Thompson is a former professional orchestral trumpeter and musical director of a championship band. He has taught in a variety of schools both as an instrumental teacher and as a head of a department. He has contributed numerous articles to leading British and American music publications."

After reading this book, it is obvious Mr. Thompson knows a great deal about both wind bands and brass bands. Although written for primarily the British population, almost all of the material contained in this book is applicable to bands in this country. The Foreword by Gordon Jacob was written just before his death.

The book is divided into four main sections; Part I, Origins and Rational; Part II, Class Band; Part III, Wind Band; and Part IV, Brass Band.

Throughout the publication Mr. Thompson has provided musical illustrations to magnify his various comments. The book is beautifully printed and contains ample information for those interested in knowing more about wind bands, and for members of NABBA brass bands.

Fully half of the publication is dedicated to and involved with the brass band movement. It contains the following headings: An Introduction, The Embryonic Brass Band, Rehearsals, Writing for Brass Band, and Brass Band Repertoire: *Quo Vadis?*

This publication would make a valuable addition to a personal library as well as a library in a school or a university setting. — J. Perry Watson

IN CONCERT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BRITISH BRASS BAND James Curnow, Conductor

Record #111 - Side 1 / *Fanfare for NABBA Curnow*; *Russian Sailor's Dance* (Gliere-Boyd); *Harmonious Variation on a Theme by G. F. Handel* (Lanford). Side 2 / *Procession of the Nobles* (Rimsky-Korsakov-Curnow); *Vivat Regina* (Mathias); *The Ransomed Host - Euphonium Solo* (Steadman-Allen); *Nicaea* (Himes). Record #112 - Side 1 / *Allegro Deciso from Water Music* (Handel-Collins); *Celestial Morn - E♭ Tuba Solo* (Condon); *Kaleidoscope* (Rimsky-Korsakov-Bowen). Side 2 / *Centenary March* (Vinter); *Trumpet Concerto* (Haydn-Steadman-Allen); *Sinfonietta for Brass Band* (Langford).

These two recordings issued by the University of Illinois Department of Bands are collector's items. There are only 250 of each available. The records sell for \$8 each plus \$2 shipping and handling.

These two recordings are all from live performances. This speaks well for the University of Illinois British Brass Band and their conductor, James Curnow. The conductor points out that these selections are recorded from as far back as five years ago when the U of I British Brass Band was first founded and so . . . "you may notice some conceptual growth particularly in the cornet sound". When one listens to these recordings this change and maturation is quite obvious. It is delightful to see the cornet sound develop and mature as it does.

Those wanting to have some of the first recordings made in the United States by a non-Salvation Army brass band should write right away and order these two fine recordings. They may be purchased from:

The University of Illinois Bands, Harding Band Bldg., 1103 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820

— J. Perry Watson

1986 Summer Brass Band Workshops

The North American Brass Band Association, Inc., will sponsor the first in a series of brass band workshops across the country this July and August. Entitled 'An American Festival of Brass Band Workshops,' these two-day events are open to brass players and percussionists from high school juniors and seniors up through adults of any age. This festival is co-sponsored by the Musical Instrument Division of the Yamaha International Corporation. N.A.B.B.A.'s Chairman of the Board, J. Perry Watson, will be the instructor for all five workshops. Certification renewal credit from North Carolina State University will be offered for those who desire it. There will be a registration fee of \$25 for each participant for any one workshop. Send all checks made out to N.A.B.B.A. to:

Sam Rainey, Secretary
N.A.B.B.A.

443 South Ashland Avenue
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Deadline for registration for any workshop is June 23, 1986. Participants in these workshops will form a British brass band in order to play and study the music of this worldwide movement. The history and current operations of brass bands in this country and the British Isles will be discussed. Suggestions and recommendations on starting a community British brass band, possible sources of sponsorship for these type bands, and the general make up and working operations of these bands will be studied in depth. Yamaha will provide a matched set of instruments.

The dates, locations, housing contact persons and other such information is as follows:

DATE: July 11, 12 - North Carolina State University;
HOST: J. Perry Watson; HOUSING: Ms. Betty Knott,
Box 7311-N.C.S.U., Raleigh, N.C. 27695, (919) 737-2981

DATE: July 18, 19 - University of Texas; HOSTS: Ray
Lechtenwaller and John Carnahan; HOUSING: Shirley
or Lisa, (817) 860-2323

DATE: July 25, 26 - University of Wisconsin, Madison;
HOST: Richard Wolfe

DATE: August 1, 2 - West Chester University; HOST:
Dr. Kenneth Laudermilch; HOUSING: Alison,
(215) 692-1900

DATE: August 8, 9 - Skyline University; HOST -
Billy Robinson; HOUSING: Kathryn Beeson or
Marilyn Berman, (415) 589-7200

~~Wheaton~~ (oops!) Atlantic Brass Band Performs at Disney World

The Atlantic Brass Band from New Jersey, (formerly the Wheaton Brass Band) presented a concert at the Walt Disney World Village Dock Stage at Lake Buena Vista this past November. The concert was given as part of the International Showcase Series.

The band's conductor, Dr. Owen Metcalf, led the group through a varied program of music which delighted a large throng of people, many of whom stood during the program. Selections included *Simoraine*, Selections from *West Side Story*, *We've Only Just Begun*, *Simple Gifts*, and several others.

In addition to the concert, the band was joined by members of the Sunshine Brass Band for a social rehearsal at a nearby high school. Karen Kneeburg led the rehearsal, after which a boisterous party ensued. Having been with our British counterparts in pubs after their rehearsals, we can assure our readers that the Americans comprising the two bands uphold the post-rehearsal tippie tradition with an enthusiasm which rivals that of the very best British bands.

This year the Atlantic Brass is performing for the New Jersey Music Educators convention in February. By the time of this printing, they will have also performed for the University of Delaware Brass festival. The band continues to strive for excellence, with the hope that they will make an improved showing at the Championships in April.

— Herb Roselle

Bands from United Kingdom Planning USA Tour

The Young Ambassadors Brass Band and the City of Oxford Silver Band are planning tours of the United States during the summer of 1987. The Young Ambassadors was formed in 1978 and players are selected from leading Brass Bands of the United Kingdom. They will be coming to the states during the last two weeks of August, 1987. The City of Oxford Band is celebrating their centennial in 1987 and are asking for help with plans for their tour in the last two weeks of July and the first week in September, 1987. Anyone interested in staging a concert by either or both of the Bands should contact Frank Wolff at 8, Berry Close, Watlington Road, Cowley, Oxford. OX45NB. Tel: 0865 772224.



On September 28, 1985, the St. Johns River City Band, under the direction of Willis Page, performed in the Florida Theater Performing Arts Center in downtown Jacksonville for its first annual Benefit Concert. Guest soloist for the evening was well-known jazz trumpeter Al Hirt. The concert was a sell-out with a net profit of \$45,000. These proceeds will be used to match a \$150,000 grant from the City of Jacksonville for 1986 funding of the Band's free concerts in downtown Jacksonville.

The sixth annual Jacksonville Jazz Festival, the world's largest free jazz festival, again drew thousands of people to Jacksonville in October of 1985 for four days of great jazz. The SJRCB's versatility was demonstrated in its appearance there with Rich Matteson, the world's greatest (and only!) jazz

euphonium player. The program was divided between the Band's performing as a separate entity and with Rich as featured soloist. Featured band member was Ricky Kirkland on jazz drums. Ricky, an accomplished symphonic percussionist as well as jazz drummer, comes to the SJRCB after a three-year engagement as a drummer for Ray Charles and his orchestra.

The SJRCB has had an exciting and successful first year. The Band has played forty-two concerts since its spring season began last March. Response, both corporate and private, has been tremendous; the Mayor and city government feel that these free concerts are so valuable to the citizens of Jacksonville that they have appropriated \$150,000 for 1986, to be matched by corporate sponsorships, to insure their continuation.

The Band is now planning an even more exciting year in 1986 with concerts planned in Metropolitan Park as well as numerous engagements throughout the Florida First Coast area.

— Pamela Bassett



The Hannaford Street Silver Band opened its 1985-86 concert series with the world renowned French horn virtuoso Ifor James. He performed the Gregson *Horn Concerto* as well as Monti's *Czardas*. Leaving the horn momentarily, he assumed the role of guest conductor for Holst's *First Suite in E^b*. He then wrapped up the concert with an encore he had composed, *Merry Go Round*.

The HSSB recently combined forces with the Hart House Chorus for a Christmas concert which included works by Gabrieli, Pinkham, Strauss and Langford. The *Meditation* from *Thais* by Massenet was performed beautifully by euphonium soloist Curtis

Metcalf. Concluding the concert was a sing-along of carols using David Wilcox's brass arrangements and fanfares.

The New Year opened with a nationwide broadcast of our Festival of the Sound Concert over the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. network's Arts National Friday Night program on January 3, 1986.

Other activities in the New Year will include a Proms-style concert featuring composers of the United Kingdom which will be taped by the CBC for future broadcast and a "Showcase" concert featuring many of the Band's soloists and new arrangements for brass band. The HSSB is eagerly awaiting the release of *The Boy in Blue* in which they took part, and which has been nominated for a *Genie* award by the Canadian Film Society. The Band was performing the role of an early brass band in Toronto in the late 1800's as well as an English ensemble some years later.

— Robert Sutherland

NABBA

NORTH AMERICAN BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION, INC.

PROFILES



Editor's Note: This is the first of an ongoing column about N.A.B.B.A.'s governing body.

A founding member and first Chairman of the North American Brass Band Association, J. Perry Watson has had a vital interest in the British brass band movement for many years. In 1980 he founded, and then edited for five years, *THE BRASS BAND BRIDGE*. He was instrumental in establishing the first North American Brass Band Contests.

Perry founded the North Carolina State University British Brass Band in 1965 and has been the conductor of this organization ever since. In 1978 he was privileged to spend five weeks in England at which time he conducted his primary research into the phenomenon known as the brass band movement of the British Isles.

After returning to this country from his first visit, he immediately began to make contact with others having the same enthusiastic desires to see brass bands developed in the United States. In March of 1981, Perry received a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation to hold the first "Brass Band Showcase" on the campus of N.C. State University. A brass band was formed from brass players throughout the state of North Carolina and Denzil Stephens (then conductor of the famous Cory Band) and Mr. Peter Wilson (Editor,

THE BRITISH BANDSMAN) were brought over as special guests. Denzil conducted the brass band for a large gathering of industrial and cultural leaders throughout the state of North Carolina. The showcase is a benchmark for the beginning of the brass band movement in this country. From this very successful occasion, several bands were formed and many ideas were discussed for the implementation of starting a brass band movement in this country.

The summer of 1981 found Perry taking a contingency of American and Canadian brass players to study for two weeks at Marlborough College. Roy Newsome and Edward Gregson were the instructors for this course. This activity was also responsible for establishing several brass bands.

All of this activity led to Perry calling together a group of people, including Peter Wilson from England, to form the initial stages of what has now become the North American Brass Band Association. The gathering of Bill Bennett, Harvey Bosell, Richard Trevarthen, Perry Watson, Bert Wiley, and Peter Wilson, led to the first competition for British-type brass bands. This occurred in Raleigh, N.C., on April 23, 1983. In September of 1983, Perry contacted an additional twelve interested people to organize a tax exempt, non-profit corporation known as the North American Brass Band Association.

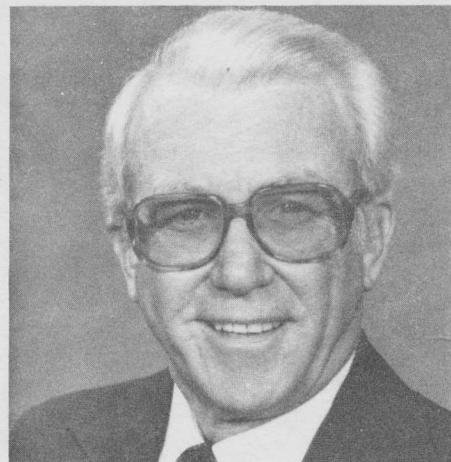
Perry informs us that "his work is his hobby" although he does confess that he has a deep and continuing interest in model railroading. He has spent many hours developing an N-Scale model railroad layout.

Perry and his lovely wife, Frances

Purdy Watson, after noting the void of music and recordings available for brass bands in this country, have collectively established Purdy's Brass Connections to assist those needing the literature and recordings of the British brass band medium. Fran runs the business and is quite active in helping brass bands to build and develop a music library in addition to a record library.

Also an author, Perry has written two booklets, *Starting a British Brass Band* and *The Care and Feeding of A Community Brass Band*. He has produced a tape/slide show entitled *Strike Up The British Brass Band* for promotion of the movement.

Perry has been the Director of Music at North Carolina State University since 1960. Since N. C. State is a scientific and technological university offering no music major programs, Perry finds the focus and thrust of the brass band movement most compatible with his philosophy of music education. He probably could be considered this country's number one "brass band fan."



J. Perry Watson, Chairman

University of South Florida

Department of Music
Tampa, Florida 33620

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1986 CONTEST INSERT

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS IV Saturday, April 19

CHALLENGE SECTION — 9:00 - 10:05 a.m.

Band 1..Plays..... 9:00 - 9:30 Band 2..Plays 9:35 - 10:05

HONORS SECTION — 10:10 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.

Band 1..Plays 10:10 - 10:40 Band 3..Plays 11:20 - 11:50
Band 2..Plays 10:45 - 11:15 Band 4..Plays 11:55 - 12:25

** LUNCH **

CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION — 1:00 - 4:25 p.m.

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

AWARDS CEREMONY — 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

** DINNER **

GALA CONCERT — 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

The River City Brass Band — Robert Bernat, Conductor
Gordon Higginbottom — Tenor Horn Soloist

GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION — 10:15 - 12:00 midnight

VENUE: CIRCLE THEATRE, MONUMENT CIRCLE, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

GALA CONCERT INFORMATION

The Gala Concert will feature the first professional brass band in the United States, the River City Brass Band conducted by Robert Bernat. This fine group of instrumentalists, founded by its conductor in 1981, is a recognized musical ensemble which performs regularly scheduled concerts to a rapidly growing host of fans. The guest soloist for the evening will be the renowned tenor horn virtuoso Gordon Higginbottom who is presently with the James Shepherd Versatile Brass in England. To close the concert, three brass bands (Bloomington Brass, The Brass Band of Columbus and Sunshine Brass) will combine to perform special selections. This will be the first time that massed bands have performed at the championships and it should be an exciting event.

TWELVE BANDS TO COMPETE

Ten bands from the United States and two bands from Canada will compete in the Championships IV to be held on Saturday, April 19, at the Circle Theatre in Indianapolis. There are two bands in the Challenge section, four bands in the Honors section, and six bands in the Championship section. The test piece for the Championship Section is "Ballet for Band" by Joseph Horovitz, "The Barchester Suite" by Derek Bourgeois for the Honors Section, and Malcolm Arnold's "Little Suite for Brass Op. 80" for the Challenge Section. 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 a band exceeds its time allotment.

CHAMPIONSHIP IV HEADQUARTERS

The Sheraton Meridian Hotel is to be the headquarters for the weekend of the North American Brass Band Association competition. N.A.B.B.A. will have an InforCenter at the hotel. The address is as follows:

Sheraton Meridian Hotel, 2820 N. Meridian, Indianapolis, IN 46208