

The BRASS BAND

TOWER BRIDGE, LONDON

BRIDGE
a connection

ISSUE 24
MAY 1986

Courtesy of Musical Instrument Division, Yamaha International Corporation

**BRASS BAND OF COLUMBUS IS
NORTH AMERICA'S CHAMPION
SUNSHINE BRASS WINS FIRST HAT TRICK
NCSU TAKES CHALLENGE**

(See Special Championship Insert)

Brass Bands Flourish in North America

It's the mid 1980's and brass bands are steadily growing; in interest, in commitment, in quality. More and more bands are being formed and the established bands are becoming stronger; making roots in their community, beginning new traditions.

The response to brass banding is overwhelming. The musicians themselves are enriched with a re-birth of experiences they once had. They are able to examine and learn from Great Britain's tradition . . . and what a tradition it is!! Look at the role model . . . the Dyke . . . we could do worse.

We've lived through four Championships of our own with each year bringing a higher, more mature quality of musicianship. The camaraderie between bands is excellent. We not only hear of bands combining for concerts but at the NABBC's there is a genuine feeling of shared excitement; excitement for ourselves, excitement for each other and excitement for the movement.

Unlike our counterparts in the UK, we possess a positive relationship with the Salvation Army. Their composers, conductors and bandsmen have and continue to take an active part in the North American Brass Band movement. How lucky we are!!

The audiences too are enjoying and benefitting from this great phenomenon. Bringing back community brass bands to our nation's towns and cities is indeed happening. Brass bands are performing not only in the local park bandshell but in professional performance halls, allowing them to be an important part of the cultural environment.

Brass bands are truly flourishing in North America! The movement is alive and growing stronger. As musician, audience member and brass band fan... you are all a vital part of it. With the awareness spreading, the quality rises. Feed it, experience it, enjoy it and make music!

Summer Workshops A Plenty!

With brass bands booming, the summer schedule of activities is enticing. There seems to be a time and location for everyone! So scope out a date, grab a fellow brass band member and a prospective brass band fan and head out for a **BRASS BAND SUMMER WORKSHOP**. Here's what's up:

NABBA/YAMAHA invites you to attend any of five weekend workshops. Participants in these workshops will form a British brass band in order to play and study the music of this world-wide movement. Yamaha will provide a full set of instruments for this part of the workshop. 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.

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

DATE: July 18, 19 - University of Texas; **HOSTS:** Ray Lechtenwaller and John Callahan; **HOUSING:** Shirley or Lisa, (813) 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.

(Continued on Page 7)

THE BRASS BAND **Bridge**

Official publication of the North American Brass Band Association.

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

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Assistant

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MEMBERSHIP DUES:

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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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UPCOMING DEADLINES

July 31, 1986
October 31, 1986
January 30, 1987

CRITIC'S REVIEWS

BLITZ, Black Dyke Mills Band, Major Peter Parkes, Conductor

Chandos Compact Disc CHAN 8370 (A re-issue of a recording first released in 1982 on an analogue disc and cassette, but recorded digitally.)

Contains: *Blitz* (Derek Bourgeois), *Journey Into Freedom* (Eric Ball), *Tam O'Shanter's Ride* (Denis Wright), *Pageantry* (Herbert Howells).

To our knowledge this is the first brass band CD and, as a conductor, it is wonderful to hear in my home what I usually hear only on the podium or in that rarity, an acoustically satisfactory concert hall.

Everything on this recording benefits from the dynamic and frequency range afforded by Compact Disc. *Blitz* in particular is a revelation; the timpani glissandi, the inner parts and that wonderful glissando for the entire band at the end - followed by the death (?) blow - give one an extra appreciation for the composer's achievement. Similarly, the alternate ferocity and tenderness of Eric Ball's music takes on greater character in this format, and one doubts that Herbert Howells ever heard as fine sounding performance of his suite as is contained here.

Again, one is puzzled by the unevenness of the repertoire in an important brass band recording. With all respect to Dr. Denis Wright, to whom we owe so much, his essay on Robert Burns' poem just doesn't compare well with the other music on the disc. Anyone who has heard Malcolm Arnold's orchestral overture on the same theme will find this piece very unsatisfying.

The Dyke doesn't need the approbation of this critic, but the rapid vibrato employed by principal cornetist Philip McCann is annoying to these North American ears, as is the slow undulation utilized by then-principal trombone, who gave the impression that he would rather be playing alto horn.

Yes, this is nit-picking, because it is good to have a brass band CD, and our thanks go to the Brothers Couzins for making an already outstanding recording available on CD.

— Doug Field

Band Briefs . . .



WENATCHEE BRITISH BRASS BAND

Located in Wenatchee, Washington, the Wenatchee British Brass Band recently completed its third and most successful season since its formation in 1982. The band is becoming more popular throughout the state and draws a larger audience with each passing concert season, largely due to the talents of the band's conductor, Dr. Duane Mikow.

Gordon Higginbottom, one of England's top tenor horn players, was the featured guest soloist of the band's April concert entitled "The Eagle and the Lion." The audience enjoyed Higginbottom's humorous put-on dissident exchanges with the band, but thoroughly appreciated his obvious talent in more serious musical moments.

"Port's of Call" was the band's October concert theme which featured two special visitors who performed with the band: George Hobbs (percussionist) from Dundee, Scotland, a former member of Britain's Royal Marine Band; Pekka Varenen (cornetist), an international exchange student attending the high school of East Wenatchee.

Throughout the year, the band has performed before such diverse groups as: local civic organizations, the opening of a local park, an airport managers western regional conference, a National Music Educator's Conference, a harvest festival, a rodeo, an outdoor wedding, a group of condominium residents and at the annual Presbyterian Christmas Eve candlelight service.

During the 1985 season, the band received several substantial donations and grants from local businesses. A sizable monetary grant was made by General Telephone of the Northwest. Asamera Minerals, Inc. is buying a BB^b tuba for the band under the "Adopt-A-Tuba" program. For this program, a company or group of individuals go together to raise funds for the purchase of an instrument.

— Sharon J. Kozar

☆☆☆☆ Scenes from ☆☆☆☆



The 1986 North American Brass Band CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST IV

It was raining lightly as Championship IV morning began. The bands gathered early at the Circle Theatre to get a "feel" for the hall and to locate warm-up and instrument storage rooms.

NCSU British Brass Band won the Challenge Division with their well prepared program including an E^b cornet solo. Iowa Brass followed closely with a very musical performance being awarded second place. These two bands certainly set the day off to a cracking pace! The test piece for this division was Malcolm Arnold's *Little Suite for Brass Opus 80*.

Sunshine Brass won the first place Honors Division trophy for the third consecutive year giving NABBA their first "hat trick." The North Hills Brass Band was awarded second place for their skillfully played program. A *Barchester Suite* by Derek Bourgeois was the test piece.

In the Championship Division, the Brass Band of Columbus dazzled the assembly by opening with *Russlan and Ludmilla* and gave an excellent rendition of the test piece, *Ballet for Band* by Joseph Horovitz, to win the coveted Championship award. The Mississippi River Brass Band won second place for their enthusiastic playing.

Many fine soloists performed during the day and this year marked the beginning of an award in each division

for the outstanding soloist. E^b cornetist Kenneth Hersey from NCSU won in the Challenge Division; Euphoniumist Ron Williams from the Weston Silver Band in the Honors Division; and Euphoniumist Fred Cherny from the Mississippi River Brass Band in the Championship Division. The winner for the Outstanding Soloist of the Day went to Euphoniumist Marc Gordon of Sunshine Brass for his electric performance of *Euphony* by Robert Redhead.

Prior to the awards ceremony, the bands gathered in the hall to eagerly await the judges' decision. At this time the NABBA instrument raffle offered a slight diversion to what seemed to be an endless wait. Many happy bandmen and bandswomen went home with new instruments and records. A very lucky fellow from the Atlantic Brass Band will never need to unfreeze his valves (the winning ticket was for 50 bottles of valve oil). Hope he wasn't a percussionist!

The evening concert featured three 'firsts' for our Championships: a professional brass band, an internationally known tenor horn soloist and a massed band concert. The River City Brass Band performed beautifully, displayed a wide variety of musical fare and served as the nucleus for the massed band concert. Soloist Gordon Higginbottom exhibited his amazing virtuosity in *Higgijig*, the

Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto* and closed the program with the infamous *Blight of the Fumblebee* which ends with Higginbottom dressed in a bumblebee suit. With his many attempts to continue playing, he was driven to the side of the stage to curl up and die after being sprayed with insecticide from an irate bandmember.

The Massed Band (members from The Brass Band of Columbus, Bloomington Brass Band and Sunshine Brass) performed under three guest conductors. Robert Bernat led the group in an arrangement of 76 Trombones, Norman Goffin from New Zealand led the forces in *The Lost Chord* (Sullivan-Langford) followed by Paul Bierley (Sousa Biographer) conducting three Sousa Marches as a sing-along: *The Thunderer*, *Washington Post*, and *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

Following the concert the Governor of the State of Indiana sponsored a reception in the lobby of the Circle Theatre, providing an opportunity for members from all the bands to chat and get to know one another.

After the reception, many of the bands gathered at a local motel to hoist a few beers, congratulate each other and discuss the happenings of the day. Much fun and fellowship was had by all, ending the day (night) on a high (!) note.

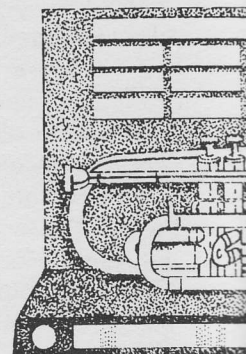


Brass Band of Columbus, Paul Droste, Conductor
First Place — Championship Division



Sunshine Brass, Karen Kneeburg, Conductor
First Place — Honors Division

River City Brass Band, Rob
The Massed Band; Gordon Hig
Norman Goffin and Paul I



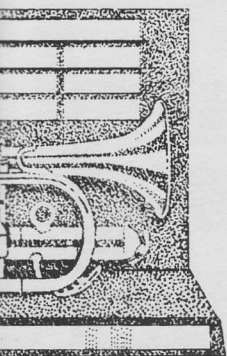


Mississippi River Brass Band, Pam Potter, Conductor
Second Place — Championship Division



Art Bernat, Conductor; with
Ginbottom, tenor horn soloist;
Merley, Guest Conductors

NCSU British Brass Band, J. Perry Watson, Conductor
First Place — Challenge Division





European Brass Band Championship

May 3rd and 4th marked the annual European Brass Band Championship, held this year in Cardiff, Wales. The results are as follows:

Desford Colliery Band - 196
Black Dyke Mills - 193
Cory Band - 184

The Desford Colliery Band is conducted by Howard Snell, Black Dyke Mills by Major Peter Parkes and Cory Band by Major H.A. Kenney. The test piece was *The Year of the Dragon* by Philip Sparke.

Higginbottom A Huge Success!!

Advance publicity often does the trick, as could be observed in the large numbers of brass band enthusiasts who attended the fine clinic for tenor horn players presented by Gordon Higginbottom.

Held in the North Meridian Inn, there was a standing room only crowd in a room that undoubtedly held upwards of 250 people. Gordon was friendly, humorous and obviously knowledgeable about the horn, its problems, its capabilities and the "right" way to play it.

One of the most significant statements by Higginbottom was made early in his address when he presented the concept of using the natural capabilities of the beginning student,

1986 North American Brass Band Championship Results

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Brass Band of Columbus | 273 |
| Mississippi River Brass Band | 261 |
| Bloomington Brass Band | 260 |
| Evanston Brass Band | 251 |
| Atlantic Brass Band | 237 |

HONORS DIVISION

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Sunshine Brass | 268 |
| North Hills Brass Band | 246 |
| Weston Silver Band | 236 |
| Whitby Brass Band | 226 |

CHALLENGE DIVISION

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| NCSU British Brass Band | 238 |
| Eastern Iowa Brass Band | 236 |

including such concerns as hand shape and position, embouchure, breathing, etc. Higginbottom made a number of eloquent musical observations through very apt commentary and musical examples.

Mr. Higginbottom used a goodly amount of humor, of which he seems to have an endless supply, making the large number of listeners eager to hear more and also to hear him in performance during the gala concert Saturday evening.

All in all, this clinic session was a huge success.

— Bert Wiley

Editor's Note: Gordon Higginbottom, tenor horn virtuoso, served as one of three judges at Championship IV. He is currently a member of the James Sheppard Versatile Brass.

Special Thanks

Organizing an event such as Championship IV is a very timely, intricate task. Special thanks go to Douglas Field, *compere* of the day. We all appreciated his professional yet clever job as master of ceremonies.

Hats off to Herb Roselle for his fine work in organizing a very successful raffle.

Another individual must be recognized. Without the tireless efforts of David Witt, Coordinator of the event, Championship IV would not have been a reality. David is a student of Indiana University and Manager of the Bloomington Brass Band.

To you all — BRAVO ON A JOB WELL DONE!

Recordings of Championship IV

Bloomington Audio Services are offering high quality recordings of the Championship IV performances given by the competing bands. Cost is \$8 for one band on one cassette and \$12 for two bands on one cassette. Checks should be made payable to Bloomington Audio Services, 4418 Blackstone Court, Bloomington, IN 47401. The pricing has been established on the basis of a guess as to how many copies will be sold and profits will be donated to NABBA.

Music Industry Supports NABBC

We greatly appreciate the support of organizations, instrument companies and suppliers who provided trophies, instruments and items for the functions held at Championship IV: D.E.G., Selmer Co., NABBA, Boosey & Hawkes-Buffet Crampton of New York, Yamaha International Corporation of Grand Rapids, Renold O. Shilke Music Company, C.G. Conn Corp., Regional Music Services and Purdy's Brass Connection.

Scenes from Championships Past . . . What some bands will do to get there.

The Atlantic Brass Band en route to Toronto 1985





Western State College, British Brass Band Workshop, March 1986



News from

Western State College of Colorado

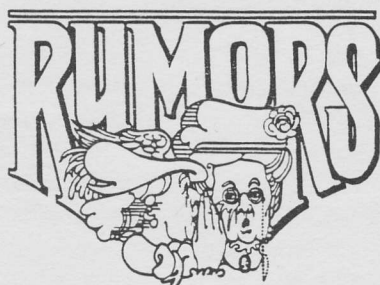
On the weekend of March 14 and 15, forty-one brass players assembled at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado to participate in a two-day workshop conducted by John W. Kincaid. This assembly was in conjunction with the annual Western State Honor Band for high school players, and so a number of the participants were high school band directors who had students in the regular symphonic band. However, quite a number of non-teachers were in the group as well, including, in addition to the Coloradoans, guests from Wyoming, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. This mid-year workshop was tentatively planned during the regular summer brass band workshop at Western. The idea was to assemble and rehearse for possible performance a major championship test from the brass band repertoire. The work chosen was *The*

Land of the Long White Cloud, "Aotearoa" by Philip Sparke. Mr. Kincaid was in New Zealand when this was the commissioned test for their 100th anniversary of band contesting, and he has wanted to do this magnificent work ever since. This was accomplished by sending out assigned parts several weeks before gathering in Gunnison. The band also performed the *Leidzen Fanfare* and the setting of *The Star Spangled Banner*, *Cornet Carillon* by Binge, and Langford's *The Girl I Left Behind Me*. Many of the participants have been members of Kincaid's workshops which he has offered since 1974, and some were from the Rocky Mountain Brassworks of Denver. While some of the people in this workshop had their first experience with the brass band at this time, one has spent his life in brass bands - Nick Medley, a seasonal ski instructor whose home is Bedford, England. Thomas Duffy, guest conductor of the Symphonic Band from Yale, was very complimentary of the band, and especially *The Land of the Long White Cloud*. — John Kincaid

☆ Special Note ☆

The Board of Directors of the North American Brass Band Association will meet on Saturday, September 13, 1986. Members of NABBA having any business to be brought before the Board should send this information as soon as possible to:

Sam Rainey, Secretary
North American Brass Band Assn.
443 South Ashland Avenue
Lexington, KY 40502



Is there any truth to the rumor that the Gramercy British Brass Band of New York has been invited to the 38th Annual Edinburgh (Scotland) Invitational Brass Band Contest?



IDEAS

Do your audience and supporters know why a brass band is what it is?

How many times have you explained it? Or have you?

Why not design a brochure, easel or portfolio with some nuts and bolts about the make-up of brass bands. (Or is it valves and pistons?)

A clever way to introduce the Brass Band Family is exemplified in the 1986 North American Brass Band Championships Souvenir Program. The art is well defined and the text is skillfully written. (For those of you who do not have a program and are interested, write the Editor.)

This display could be stationed at the entrance to your performances and could help educate the concertgoers while they wait to enter the hall. Perhaps a *compere* at your show could verbally express the idea of the Brass Band Family at the same time, giving the band a chance to rest.

Remember, people like what they understand.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

(Continued from Page 1)

CMU/RCBB invites you to attend a week-long seminar designed to meet the needs of student, amateur and professional brass player. Those who wish to improve their performance skills; brass band conductors and managers interested in improving their band's performance and management; and music educators at all levels who are interested in learning how brass bands can enrich their students' musical experience will enjoy this seminar.

DATE: July 28 - August 1. Carnegie-Mellon University. For further information write Denis Colwell, Carnegie-Mellon University, College of Fine Arts, Room 159, Schenley Park, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

Western State College offers a five-day workshop for those of you who are out west. Directed by John Kincaid (1986 NABBC judge), this workshop has been an annual activity since 1974. Colorado's top British Brass Band, the Rocky Mountain Brass Works of Denver, is a direct offshoot of Mr. Kincaid's workshops.

DATE: July 14 - 18. Western State College. For further information write John Kincaid, Department of Music, Western State College, Gunnison, CO 81230.

P.S. - Percussionists are welcome at all workshops.

An Association . . .

What does it mean to be a member?

By joining an Association, we combine our energies to support the growth of the brass band movement. We are able to share ideas and activities through the newsletter which also serves as advertisement of our progress. The Association sponsors and governs the championships, assists in creating workshops to promote and educate new bands and serves as liaison with other brass and community organizations. Since the very beginning of NABBA, many overseas brass band associations have been in close touch, sending their journals and newspapers to keep us abreast of their activities while also printing our news to their readers. By joining NABBA you are 'investing' in the future of North America's brass bands. Won't you ask a friend to join?

LOOKING FOR THE SOUSA SOUND FROM BRASS BANDS? Find it in the new 204 page 8½x11 portfolio of approximately 6,000 recordings of the compositions of John Philip Sousa now in preparation, ready December 31, 1986. Contains historical and worldwide recordings 1893-1986. Usual and unusual Sousa music in all categories. Coincides with Sousa Tribute and unveiling of restored Statue of Liberty 1986-87. A good guide for searching for hard-to-find and cut-out brass band Sousa recordings. Brochure available from Walter Mitziga, 2214 East 75th St., P.O. Box 49412, Chicago, IL 60649.

University of South Florida

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NABBA NORTH AMERICAN BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION, INC. PROFILES



Editor's Note: This is part of an ongoing column about NABBA's governing body.

PAUL DROSTE

Paul Droste was born in Lakewood, Ohio and spent all of his public school years in Fairview Park, Ohio, graduating in 1954. His college degrees are: Bachelor of Science in Education from The Ohio State University in 1958, Master of Music from The Eastman School of Music in 1961, and Doctor of Musical Arts from The University of Arizona in 1971.

Before joining the faculty of the Ohio State University School of Music in 1966, Dr. Droste taught vocal and instrumental music in the public schools of Pickerington, Ohio and Lakewood, Ohio. In 1970 he was named Director of the famed Ohio State University Marching Band and served in that capacity through the 1983 season. He was the first former member of the band to be selected as its director.

At Ohio State he is currently a Professor of Music, teaching courses in applied brass, brass literature and pedagogy, and marching band techniques. He has performed as euphonium soloist and clinician in the Midwest, California and Hawaii under the sponsorship of Yamaha International and

has recorded two solo albums. He has served as an adjudicator of brass instruments and bands throughout the United States and in 1984 he was invited to be the first American adjudicator at the annual contest of the New Zealand Brass Band Association.

Dr. Droste is the founder and conductor of the Brass Band of Columbus which was formed in August of 1984. Many of the band members trace their roots to the Ohio State University Marching Band, a 225-piece brass and percussion group with traditional British brass band instrumentation, considered by many to be the world's largest brass band.

As a member of the Tubaist Universal Brotherhood Association, Dr. Droste currently serves as Associate Editor of *Euphonium Pedagogy*.



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