

Fri 26-Sun 28 Jan // 2024

RNCM

International

Brass Band

Festival

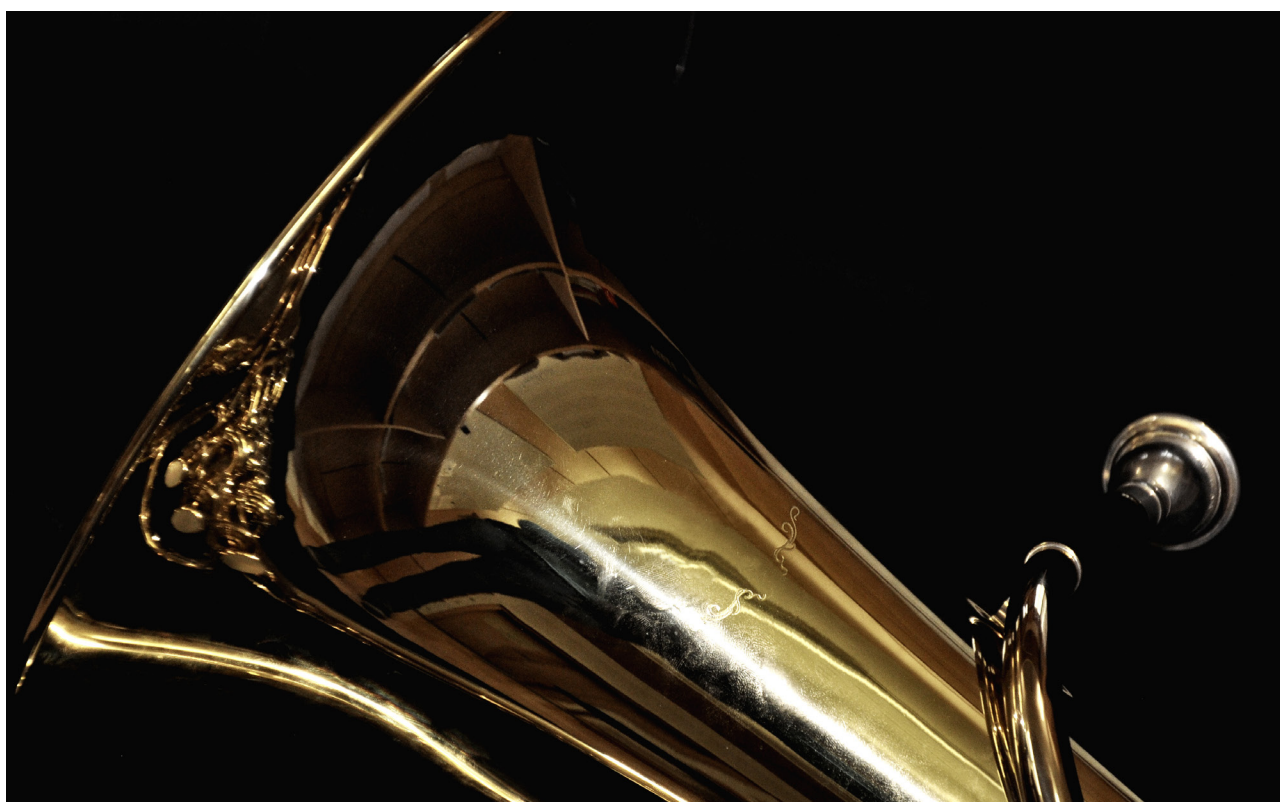
Programme

Fri 26 – Sun 28 Jan

RNCM International Brass Band Festival



THE JOHN GOLLAND
TRUST



Introduction



It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome you to my first festival as Artistic Director. My relationship with the RNCM started in the mid-90s whilst I was still a young euphonium student at Chetham's School of Music (some of my instrumental lessons taking place at the college) and today I find myself as Director of Brass Bands. I am proud of the way the RNCM has always held brass bands at the forefront of its activity and this festival has been a personal yearly highlight for as long as I can remember!

This year we have slightly re-branded as the RNCM International Brass Band Festival, and this is reflected in the programming. We are welcoming international guest artists, including the current champion band of Europe, Brass Band Treize Étoiles from Switzerland, star German trumpet soloist Matthias Höfs and our featured composers Dorothy Gates from the US and Oliver Waespi from Switzerland. We also have performances of music from Argentina, Hungary, Macedonia, Venezuela, Thailand – all originally conceived for brass band.

My vision for the 2024 festival is one of embracing the brass band world in the broadest possible way. Let's encourage imagination, let's encourage diversity, curiosity, and openness. The brass band is capable of much more than we sometimes allow it to be, let's drop the rules, shed the shackles of tradition, and see where this bird will fly, now and in years to come.

'Only with our eyes wide open do we truly see the vastness of our tiny world.'

Have a fantastic weekend!

David Thornton
Artistic Director

Programme

FRI 26 JAN

6.15pm // Carole Nash Recital Room
FESTIVAL PRELUDE

Lucy Pankhurst Neon Shadows (from IN FOCUS)
Jonathan Bates A War Sinfonietta

Salford Quays Brass Quartet
Alicia Davis, Lewis Barton *cornets*
Emma Conway *tenor horn*
Julian Bayley *euphonium*

A triumphant opening to this year's festival welcomes RNCM students performing world premières of works by RNCM alums Lucy Pankhurst and Jonathan Bates in the Festival Prelude.

7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall
FODEN'S BAND

Malcolm Arnold Fantasy for Brass Band
Kevin Houben Legend of a Giant
(world première of version for tenor horn)*
Dorothy Gates Hope

Interval

Ignacio Freijo Allpamenta (UK première)
Kámea Németh Pest Is Where the Noise Is At
(world première)
Hans Werner Henze Ragtimes & Habeneras
Percy Fletcher Epic Symphony

Michael Fowles *conductor*
Sheona White *tenor horn**
Foden's Band

A bold fanfare marks the beginning of Malcom Arnold's *Fantasy for Brass Band* in an innovative programme that is bookended with brass band classics. In between, Foden's Band add premières by Hungarian composer Kámea Németh and Argentinian composer Ignacio Freijo. They offer Eastern sonorities in Dorothy Gates' *Hope* and upbeat dancing rhythms in *Ragtimes & Habeneras*. The band also welcome 'The Voice of Tenor Horn' Sheona White to depict a spellbinding musical dream in Kevin Houben's *Legend of a Giant*.

SAT 27 JAN

11am // RNCM Concert Hall
BRASS BAND TREIZE ÉTOILES

Damien Lagger Euroflash
Gilles Rocha Fly or Die*
Thierry Deleruyelle Sand & Stars
Ludovic Neurohr Remointze
Oliver Waespi Hypercube

Frédéric Théodoloz *conductor*
Lionel Fumeaux *trombone**
Brass Band Treize Étoiles

Brass Band Treize Étoiles mark their festival début and 50th anniversary with an exhilarating programme of Swiss music. Known for his technical fireworks, they are joined by trombonist Lionel Fumeaux in Gilles Rocha's *Fly or Die* and have included a reprise of their European winning commission *Sand and Stars* by Thierry Deleruyelle.

1.30pm // RNCM Theatre
**THE 4BARSREST INTERVIEW:
JAMES GOURLAY**

Iwan Fox of 4barsrest interviews tuba virtuoso and conductor James Gourlay about his life and work.

Scottish born James Gourlay has enjoyed an illustrious career as a renowned performer, conductor and teacher. He is the RNCM's Besson International Chair in Brass and we're delighted to welcome him for this in-depth conversation.

With thanks to Besson for their support of this event.



Programme

3pm // RNCM Concert Hall
TREDEGAR TOWN BAND

Jude Radley Momentum (world première)
Wolf Kerschek Balkan Children's Dance*
Oliver Waespi As If A Voice Were In Them
Wolf Kerschek (arr H R Schmidt) Spanish Moods*
Ludovic Neurohr Are We Dark Inside?

Ian Porthouse *conductor*
Matthias Höfs *trumpet**
Tredegar Town Band

Opening their programme with a world première, Tredegar Town Band take to the stage with young composer Jude Radley's *Momentum* before introducing their soloist, German trumpeter Matthias Höfs. Hailed as a pioneering spirit, Höfs unmatched virtuosity coupled with his zest for experimentation make his performances a truly unforgettable experience. He is an influential figure in the brass world and has been lead trumpet with German Brass for close to four decades.

Together, he and Tredegar will bring to life two pieces by jazz musician and film composer Wolf Kerschek, *Balkan Children's Dance* and *Spanish Moods*. In between, they perform a piece by featured composer Oliver Waespi. Finally, in a thought-provoking close, Tredegar perform Ludovic Neurohr's musical treatise on the compass of moral decision making, *Are We Dark Inside?*, in the second work by the Swiss composer at this year's festival.

4.45pm // RNCM Theatre
JUNIOR RNCM BRASS BAND

Ernesto Lecuona arr Mark Freeh Malaguena
Dorothy Gates War Cry
Adam Spry The Obigominomicon
George Swift arr Alan Catherall Elfriede*
Oliver Waespi The Graces of Love
Morten Lauridsen arr Phillip Littlemore
O Magnum Mysterium
Michael Korb and Ulrich Roever arr Howard Lorriman
Highland Cathedral

Mark Bousie, Phil Goodwin *conductors*
Richard Bond *euphonium**
Junior RNCM Brass Band

Enjoy a performance by the Junior RNCM Brass Band. Junior RNCM is a vibrant community of gifted young musicians aged 8 to 18 who come together to develop their talent within the Royal Northern College of Music.

7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall
BLACK DYKE BAND

Arthur Bliss Kenilworth
Philip Wilby Concertante for Horn*
Stephen Roberts Shades of the Soul (world première)

Interval

Arthur Bliss (arr Robert Childs) Adam Zero Suite (world première)
Martin Ellerby Concerto for Baritone^
Oliver Waespi Antiphonies on Themes by William Byrd

Nicholas Childs *conductor*
Siobhan Bates *horn**
Michael Cavanagh *baritone^*
Black Dyke Band

Black Dyke Band begin their programme with Sir Arthur Bliss's *Kenilworth* – a cornerstone in brass band repertoire. Written in 1936, Bliss composed the work around ten years before he wrote arguably one of his finest scores, the ballet music to *Adam Zero*. Robert Childs has now transcribed a suite from *Adam Zero* for brass band which Black Dyke will première as a partner work to *Kenilworth*. They'll also première Stephen Roberts' *Shades of the Soul*. Roberts has based the work on the music of Frédéric Chopin and loosely expresses an outline of the Polish composer's life through a series of musical snapshots.

Highlighting their exceptional talent, Black Dyke welcome two of their own inspiring soloists. Award-winning horn player Siobhan Bates performs Philip Wilby's *Concertante* for Horn and Michael Cavanagh performs Martin Ellerby's *Concerto for Baritone*. The programme concludes with a piece by Oliver Waespi, one of the festival's featured composers.

Programme

SUN 28 JAN

11am // RNCM Concert Hall
RNCM BRASS BAND

Giancarlo Castro D'Addona Gran Fanfaria
Martin Ellerby Requiescant Aberfan
Tom Harrold Deep Surge *+ (world première)
Dorothy Gates Another World –
Concerto for Brass Quintet and Brass Band ^
Oliver Waespi Traversada +
Pimpanit Karoonyavanich A Journey to the
Bermuda Triangle

David Thornton, James Gourlay, Benjamin Voce +
conductors

Gary Curtin *euphonium* *

Rosamund Brass

with guest tuba player James Gourlay ^

Adam Hofland-Ward, Seb Williman *cornets*

Georgia Woodhead *tenor horn*

Alex Barron *euphonium*

RNCM Brass Band

RNCM Brass Band welcomes James Gourlay, former Head of Wind, Brass, and Percussion at the College and current Besson International Chair of Brass to conduct an eclectic programme that transcends borders. The journey begins with an energetic and virtuosic showpiece by Venezuelan composer Giancarlo Castro before moving into a deeply emotional and beautiful work by Martin Ellerby.

Gary Curtin appears with the RNCM Brass Band to give the world première of Tom Harrold's Deep Surge. Harrold is an RNCM alum whose music is now renowned globally. Up next, two works by the festival's featured composers make way for a piece by Thai composer Pimpanit Karoonyavanich. Rounding off this international programme, Karoonyavanich wrote her A Journey to the Bermuda Triangle in 2017 for the third division of the Dutch National Championships and was inspired by her favourite sea view painting by Romain Steppe (1859-1927).

With thanks to Adams Instruments for their support of this event.



1.30apm // RNCM Theatre
**'A GRIMETHORPE ADVENTURE' WITH
GRIMETHORPE YOUTH BAND**

Edward Gregson Prelude for an Occasion
John Golland Ballade No 2*
**Ben Palmer, Jack Stamp, Rebecca Lundberg,
Liz Lane** A Grimethorpe Adventure
John Golland In Celebration
Peter Graham Whirlwind^
Joel Collier And Straight on Till Morning
(world première)
Lennert van Leanen Airborne (world première)

Jamie Smith *cornet**

Robin Webb *euphonium*^

Grimethorpe Youth Band

Grimethorpe Education Initiative present and perform their exciting new project with Grimethorpe Youth Band, 'A Grimethorpe Adventure'. Funded by Arts Council England, this play-along scheme invites young beginner players to learn a brass instrument alongside experienced band members whilst going on a musical quest.

Each part builds gradually in range and complexity, with an emphasis on fun as Kim the Canary discovers the exciting underground world of the Grimethorpe mines, complete with noise, trains, explosions.

Golland's first Ballade for cornet (Op 72, No 1) was published in 1986 and has gone on to become a popular item in the traditional repertoire. Why Golland chose not to publish the second Ballade is not known. The festival is delighted that Grimethorpe's principal cornet, Jamie Smith and the Golland Trust have made it possible to finally bring this beautiful miniature to life.

This performance ends with world premières of two works submitted to the Grimethorpe Colliery Band composition competition held in July 2023. Joel Collier's *Straight On Till Morning* takes its title from the famous quote from J M Barrie's novel Peter Pan and evokes the adventures that feature within the novel. Lennert van Leanen's work *Airbourne* was composed as a concert opener and takes the form of an imaginary flight.

With thanks to The John Golland Trust for their support of this event.

Programme

3pm // RNCM Concert Hall

CORY BAND

Christopher Bond Soaring The Heights
(world première)

Philip Sparke The Year of the Dragon

Philip Harper Euphonium Concerto*

Mihailo Trandafilovski Dance No 1 (world première)

Dorothy Gates The Living God

Oliver Waespi Other Lives

Philip Harper *conductor*

Glyn Williams *euphonium**

Cory Band

The Cory Band are 140 years old in 2024, and they are celebrating their anniversary by reviving a centenary commission of theirs, Philip Sparke's *The Year of the Dragon*. Sparke is quoted, '*At the time I wrote The Year of the Dragon, Cory had won two successive National Finals and I set out to write a virtuoso piece to display the talents of this remarkable band to the full.*' It did just that in 1984 and will once again at the 2024 festival.

Glyn Williams then joins Cory for a music portrayal of a young soldier in World War I in Philip Harper's Euphonium Concerto before a world première by Macedonian-born Mihailo Trandafilovski. A very personal piece by Dorothy Gates written when her father died precedes Oliver Waespi's *Other Lives*, inspired by fragments of music by Franz Schubert. Waespi says, '*This piece is as much a tale of imaginary lives, or maybe certain stages of a single life in its timeline, as it is an exploration of how opposed emotional states can be expressed by morphing the same basic musical material into different shapes.*'

4.45pm // Carole Nash Recital Room

BRASS BANDS ENGLAND PRESENTATION

In this special presentation, Brass Bands England will discuss the future of brass band repertoire in an increasingly diverse society.

6.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND

Henry Geehl On the Cornish Coast

Bert Appermont Colors*

Dorothy Gates Invisible Fire

Interval

Jim Self Tour de Force

Thea Musgrave Variations

Philip Wilby Wonderous Cross

George Lloyd Diversions on a Bass Theme

James Gourlay *conductor*

Ellena Newton *trombone**

Brighouse and Rastrick Band

Brighouse and Rastrick Band will once again join forces with James Gourlay who conducted the band at major contests from 2004-2006. A strong connection with the RNCM, James Gourlay is the Besson International Chair of Brass alongside the current principal conductor of Brighouse, Professor David King, who is the College's International Chair of Brass Bands.

Brighouse and Rastrick Band begin their programme with the 1924 Nationals test-piece, *On The Cornish Coast* by English pianist and film composer Henry Geehl before RNCM alum Ellena Newton performs Bert Appermont's *Colors* for trombone and brass band. Written in 1998, Appermont states '*I wanted to create a piece based upon the colors [sic] yellow, blue, red and green, to express the characteristics, associations and emotions related to [them] in a subtle manner.*'

Bringing another transatlantic touch, James leads the band in Jim Self's *Tour De Force* – a piece that is just that. This virtuosic concerto for brass band is filled with exuberance and energy, unveiling a thrilling midway point that leads into works by Thea Musgrave and Philip Wilby. Closing their performance and indeed the festival, Brighouse finish with George Lloyd's *Diversions on a Bass Theme* commissioned for the Mine Workers' National Brass Band Championship in 1986.

With thanks to Besson for their support of this event.



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Our World Premières

LUCY PANKHURST Neon Shadows (from IN FOCUS)
Salford Quays Brass Quartet
26 Jan // 6.15pm // Carole Nash Recital Room

IN FOCUS is a suite for brass band quartet and pre-recorded audio tracks, based on the photography of Chris Reedy. Each of the images depicts locations around the north-west of England.

The first completed movement from *IN FOCUS*, Neon Shadows, is a musical representation of Millennium Bridge at Salford Quays. Bright, muted lines follow the shapes and reflections against a dark backdrop. The audio track provides an atmospheric contrast, with synthetic sounds and static, pulsating chords.

Programme note by Lucy Pankhurst

JONATHAN BATES A War Sinfonietta
Salford Quays Brass Quartet
26 Jan // 6.15pm // Carole Nash Recital Room

A War Sinfonietta was composed for the Salford Keys Brass Quartet whose name takes inspiration from the docklands of western Manchester, which played a pivotal role in both the industrial revolution, and in both world wars.

The work is in four short movements, each of which marks a landmark element or time period of the Quays. The two opening movements are inspired by different works of art currently housed in the Imperial War Museum North, situated within the Quays. The latter two movements are inspired by Manchester's famous Ship Canal, and the period of the Blitz during World War II, when much of western Manchester was targeted as the industrial hub of the city.

Programme note by Jonathan Bates

KEVIN HOUBEN Legend of a Giant
(world première of version for tenor horn)
Sheona White and Fodens Band
26 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

At night the 'Giant' catches dreams and nightmares in jars. Playing on his 'big trumpet', he gives the beautiful dreams back to the sleeping children and he keeps the nightmares with him.

The composition *Legend of a Giant* is all about this 'big trumpet', in this case the tenor horn. In the hands of such a soloist, no special effects (musical or otherwise) are needed. All the lyrical and technical possibilities of the solo instrument are used in creating beautiful musical dreams. As in a classical concerto, the soloist combats with the ensemble. At first, they are playing alternately in dialogue, and finally come together as one. The work was originally conceived for alto saxophone and wind orchestra, this version for tenor horn and brass band has been made especially for Sheona White and Foden's Band.

Houben's music is popular amongst orchestras and bands in Europe, America, Australia and Japan. He has won various awards for his compositions (Arcana - Comines-Warneton 2003, Arcana - EBBA 2006, Thyelonne - EBBA 2009, Lux Futura - WASBE 2019). His compositions are frequently chosen as test piece in band competitions (Lake of the Moon - WMC Kerkrade 2013; Where Angels Fly - EBBA Oostende 2017). In March 2017, his first Symphony was premiered by the National Orchestra of Belgium.

KÁMEA NÉMETH Pest Is Where the Noise Is At
Foden's Band
26 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Budapest is split into two distinct halves, Buda and Pest. This work is inspired by the Pest side of Budapest, which is known for being lively, modern, and very busy. This piece is meant to act as an embodiment of this noisy environment.

Kámea Németh was born in Budapest and moved to the UK at a young age. They are now studying composition at the RNCM. They aim to break the social constructs of 'traditional' music while still maintaining connections to certain 'conventions'. This includes experimenting with their use of musical notation, by including aleatoricism and graphic notation in several of their works.

Programme note by Kámea Németh

Our World Premières

JUDE RADLEY Momentum
Tredegar Town Band
27 Jan // 3pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Momentum follows on from the composer's first work for band, *Impetus*; a dynamic, rhythmic piece that explores regular pulse and shifting metre. Momentum takes this further, with powerful driving rhythms and frenetic top lines weaving together to create a striking opening. The piece is written with a strong theme of resilience in mind, in particular thinking about brass banding, and the wider arts sector's resilience in the face of a changing world.

Jude Radley has recently graduated from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he obtained a first class degree in composition. Over the last ten years, he has developed a sound that draws on his influences in rock, classical, electronic, jazz, soul, and film music. He enjoys working with large ensembles and has received two awards for his pieces for the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Brass Band.

STEPHEN ROBERTS Shades of the Soul
Black Dyke Band
27 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Shades of the Soul was commissioned by Philip Pearson for Nicholas Childs and the Black Dyke Band. It is based on the music of Frédéric Chopin (1810-1849) and loosely expresses an outline of the Polish composer's life through a series of musical snapshots.

The opening depicts a dreamlike vision of Chopin's untimely death using motifs from his Nocturne Opus 27 No 1 written at the age of twenty-one after being diagnosed with consumption. His childhood is recalled as a realization of the Étude in E major Op 10 No 3, otherwise known as "Tristesse". Chopin's romantic attachment to the novelist Aurore Dudevant, better known as George Sand, is captured in a series of duets based on his Nocturne in Db Op 27 No 2 and Andante Spianato. Their subsequent split, Chopin's declining ill-health and his depression caused by the incarceration of his Polish resistance friends are expressed in the turbulent Étude in B minor Op 25 No 10, known as "octaves".

Chopin's love of his native Poland and virtuosic performing ability are captured in a free adaptation of his Grand Polonaise that allows the soloists of the brass band to show off their own virtuosic capabilities. The work ends with a blaze of glory in celebration of a unique musical genius whom Liszt described as a, "character composed of a thousand

shades which in crossing one another become so disguised as to be indistinguishable". Chopin himself said that, "my universe will be the soul and heart of man".

Programme note by Stephen Roberts.

Stephen Roberts' compositional output is unusually wide-ranging and reflects the eclecticism of his long-established musical career; a restless one that has always embraced playing, conducting, pedagogy and composing in equal measure.

He was a founder member of the Fine Arts Brass Ensemble and this fruitful association resulted in a lot of globetrotting, as well as a prolific output of works for brass ensembles and bands. Many of these have since become part of the standard repertoire of brass ensembles across the world.

Since 2002 he has been Professor of Orchestration at the Royal Military School of Music, London and is director of the Symphonic Brass Ensemble at the University of Birmingham. He has also held posts as Professor of Horn at the Birmingham Conservatoire and lecturer in composition and conducting at the University of Birmingham.

Our World Premières

ARTHUR BLISS (arr Robert Childs) Adam Zero Suite Black Dyke Band

27 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

- i. Fanfare Overture
- ii. Dance of Spring
- iii. Dance of Summer
- iv. Approach to Autumn
- v. Fanfare Coda

This music dates from the winter of 1945-46 and the height of Bliss's powers: it is arguably his greatest work, and certainly numbers among his half dozen finest scores. Its total neglect both on the stage and in the concert hall is amazing and incomprehensible. The ballet is an allegory of the cycle of man's life - his birth, his passage through the spring, summer, autumn and winter of his existence, and his death.

The world in which he lives is represented by a stage on which a ballet is being created. The stage is empty and dark at his birth but is gradually lit and filled with scenery as he develops. Ultimately Adam dies on an empty stage, as the cycle of creation begins again with the birth of a new ballet.

This new arrangement for brass band by Dr Robert Childs features three of the seasons, Spring, Summer, and Autumn. These movements are framed by an opening and closing Fanfare.

TOM HARROLD Deep Surge (for euphonium and brass band) Gary Curtin and RNCM Brass Band 28 Jan // 11am // RNCM Concert Hall

Deep Surge, written in 2019 is the first euphonium concerto by Tom Harrold, commissioned by Gary for his debut solo album, *Eire Time*. The work essentially deals with one idea: that the soloist is pitted against an aggressive, single-minded, tumultuous accompaniment that barely allows the solo's virtuosic lines any space or time to grow, or even be heard. The overall effect is one of a strained relationship between soloist and band, one which never really seems to be overcome.

Scottish composer Tom Harrold is a recent graduate of the RNCM, where he was a Radcliffe Trust Scholar under the tutelage of Professors Gary Carpenter, Adam Gorb and Dr David Horne.

Tom's music has been performed across five continents and has been recorded by Linn Records, Polyphonic and Bayerischer Rundfunk, and broadcast internationally across many networks.

Tom's recent engagements include *Nightfires*, a BBC SSO commission that was described as "among the most exciting pieces by a Scottish composer in the last 25 years" [the Herald], and *Raze*, which opened the last night of the BBC Proms.

JOHN GOLLAND Ballade No 2 Jamie Smith and the Grimethorpe Youth Band 28 Jan // 1.30pm // RNCM Theatre

Golland's first Ballade for cornet (Op 72, No 1) was written in 1984 and published in 1986 and has gone on to become a popular item in the traditional repertoire. Why Golland chose not to publish the second Ballade is not known. Originally titled Adagio for Cornet (Op 72, No 2), he inscribed the manuscript, 'For Phil and Jane'. He seemed to think of the two items as a pair, although the manuscript is undated. The festival is delighted that Grimethorpe's principal cornet, Jamie Smith and the Golland Trust have made it possible to finally bring this beautiful miniature to life.

CHRISTOPHER BOND Soaring The Heights Cory Band 28 Jan // 3pm // RNCM Concert Hall

2024 marks the one hundred and fortieth anniversary of Cory Band which was formed in 1884. In addition to this special anniversary, the band also celebrates fifty years since its first National Championship win (1974) at London's Royal Albert Hall. *Soaring The Heights* was commissioned by and written for the band by the band's Associate Composer, Christopher Bond, as a celebration of these special anniversaries. With its dramatic opening and virtuosic style, the work aims to showcase the full brilliance of the band whilst dazzling audiences along the way.

Our World Premières

MIHAILO TRANDAFILOVSKI Dance No 1
Cory Band
28 Jan // 3pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Macedonian-born composer, violinist and educator, Mihailo Trandafilovski's latest album for the Métier label (2018) follows portrait CDs on Innova Recordings (2015) and LORELT (2011), featuring close collaborators Peter Sheppard Skærved, Neil Heyde, Roger Heaton, Roderick Chadwick, Odaline de la Martinez, Lontano, Kreutzer Quartet and the New London Chamber Choir. These enduring creative relationships have been at the centre of his work as a composer and have allowed him to explore and stretch instrumental techniques in idiomatic and often uncompromising ways.

His Dance No 1 does just that for the brass band. His use of extended techniques and unrelenting harmonic texture challenge the idiom and make for a work of intense colours. The idea of writing for brass band came after British composer Nigel Clarke invited Mihailo to the National Brass Band Championships in 2018 and he became a fan of The Cory Band.

Mihailo studied at Michigan State University (BMus) and the Royal College of Music in London (MMus, DMus). Awards include the United Music Publishers Prize for composition at the RCM and the Panče Pešev Award for best new work at the contemporary music festival Days of Macedonian Music.

He is a violinist in the Kreutzer Quartet, with whom he has performed and recorded extensively and held residencies at Tate St Ives, University of York and Goldsmiths College, among others; he has an avid interest in the application of new music to pedagogy, for which he was awarded his doctorate; and has led a number of shared projects among the arts promoting contemporary artistic creativity to a wider audience.



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Our Featured Composers

DOROTHY GATES

Dorothy Gates was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Like her fellow countryman, George Bernard Shaw, she believes in the power of art to see your soul and transform the world. Dorothy received her Bachelor of Music degree in Composition and Trombone Performance from Queens University Belfast, Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance from the University of Michigan and her PhD in Composition from the University of Salford. Her principal composition teachers were Kevin Volans, George Wilson, Joseph Turrin and Peter Graham.

Dorothy has produced works in many genres. Brandywine Brass commissioned and premiered the brass quintet *A Sea Suite* in Delaware in February 2020; the New York Philharmonic Brass & Percussion premiered the Brass Ensemble version of *The Holly & the Ivy* with trombone soloist Wycliffe Gordon in December 2019; the US Army Band "Pershings Own," recently premiered the Concert Band version of *Servant of Peace – Concerto for Trombone*, with Soloist Dr. Natalie Mannix (Professor University North Texas) at the American Trombone Workshop in Arlington, Virginia in March 2018.

OLIVER WAESPI

Oliver Waespi, born in Zurich in 1971, studied composition as well as conducting and film music at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Zurich and completed his studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London. His tutors include Simon Bainbridge, André Belmont, Gerald Bennett, Sylvia Caduff, Peter Maxwell Davies, Brian Elias, Klaus Huber, Mark Kissoczy, Andreas Nick and Alfred Reed. Oliver Waespi's music is performed by symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, soloists, choirs and numerous symphonic wind orchestras and brass bands all around the world. Works have been performed at the George Enescu Festival, the Gstaad Menuhin Festival, the BBC's Hear and Now concert series, Swiss National Band Conventions, WASBE World Conferences, WMCs, CBDNA Conferences, European Brass Band Festivals and numerous other festivals and concerts. In addition, he regularly conducts workshops, works as an adjudicator and teaches at the Bern University of the Arts.

Oliver Waespi pursues a wide range of musical interests, which leads him to composition projects in various areas. This also creates references to other art forms. Works such as "Volatile Gravity" for Jojo Mayer and the Basel Sinfonietta, "Viaduct" for the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra or "Hypercube" for the Paris Brass Band can be heard as musical interpretations of urban landscapes and architectures. A project for the Ensemble TaG led to the combination of music with contemporary dance. Various pieces have references to poetry, such as "Flut" for the BBC Singers, "Nachtferne" for the Berne Chamber Orchestra, "Azur" for l'art pour l'Aar, "Weisser Atem" for the Brodsky string quartet, or "Ad Astra" for the Nouvel Ensemble Contemporain.

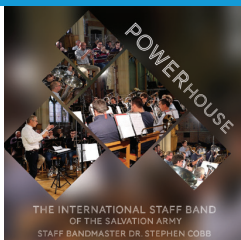
Some of Oliver Waespi's works are reflections on folk music and early music. These include "As If A Voice Were in Them", "Traversada" or "Audi Media Nocte". The latter piece brought him worldwide recognition among leading ensembles and reflects Waespi's approach of combining individual, groove-related rhythms with the spatiality of orchestral structures. Several concertos complete Oliver's body of work, including for guitar and flute, harp and piano, french horn, trombone, euphonium and tuba.

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Our Soloists

SHEONA WHITE *tenor horn*
appearing with Foden's Band
26 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

During her early years Sheona's prodigious talent was recognised when she won the prestigious title of BBC Radio 2 Young Musician of the Year performing at The Queen Elizabeth Hall, London accompanied by the BBC Concert Orchestra. Winning this event allowed her to help bring the tenor horn to the forefront of mainstream music, appearing as guest soloist with the BBC Concert Orchestra including her very own 'Soloist Showcase' featured on BBC Radio 2 and Friday Night is Music Night. A special moment in her career was when she was chosen to perform in Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Day Observance Concert live in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

Sheona has performed with many of the world's premier brass bands including Brighouse & Rastrick, Black Dyke and the Yorkshire Building Society Brass Band with whom she was Principal Horn for many years. During the 'YBS era', Sheona shared in the band's huge success worldwide. This included winning the All England Masters 3 times, the British Open 4 times and representing England in the European 'EBBA' festival on 10 occasions, winning the European Championships an unprecedented 8 times in these 10 appearances. She also performed in the Sydney Opera House as part of the YBS 'Kings of Europe' Tour.

Sheona is proud to be at the forefront of developing new repertoire for the Tenor Horn, including music by Philip Sparke, Kenneth Downie, Peter Graham and Derek Bourgeois.

Sheona previously held the position of tutor of Tenor Horn at The University of Salford and the RNCM until recently where she made the choice to concentrate on her passion of classroom teaching at Bolton School Girls' Division. She currently holds the post of Head of Academic Music. As well as performing and teaching Sheona is currently Chair of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators (AoBBA) and has adjudicated at some of the most prestigious competitions around the world.

Sheona is a Besson Artist, playing the Besson Sovereign Tenor Horn, a Denis Wick Artist, playing a Denis Wick 3 mouthpiece and an endorsee for the Shhhmute practice mute range.

LIONEL FUMEAUX *trombone*
appearing with Brass Band
Treize Étoiles
27 Jan // 11am // RNCM Concert Hall

Lionel Fumeaux started his musical career as a 7-year-old boy at the "Cécilia d'Ardon" in Valais, Switzerland. In 2008 he changed to Bass Trombone and joined the B-Band of Brass Band Treize Etoiles. Today, he plays solo trombone in the A-Band of Brass Band Treize Etoiles and with them has won many contests, including the European Championships in 2023.

As a soloist he has won several regional, national, and international competitions. In 2016 he won the European competition for young soloists in Luxembourg, in 2018 he was crowned the European Trombone Champion. Lionel is now one of the most sought-after trombone soloists throughout Europe.

MATTHIAS HÖFS *trumpet*
appearing with Tredegar Town Band
27 Jan // 3pm // RNCM Concert Hall

By the age of six, Matthias Höfs declared the trumpet his instrument, "because it shines so nicely". He received his musical education from Professor Peter Kallensee at Hamburg University of Music and Theatre, as well as from Professor Konradin Groth at the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. Just being eighteen years old, Höfs was already engaged as solo-trumpeter at the Philharmonic State Orchestra in Hamburg, where he enjoyed the fascinating world of opera for sixteen years. At the same time, Höfs became a member of the GERMAN BRASS Ensemble, with whom he continues to achieve worldwide successes.

Matthias Höfs always proved to be a pioneering spirit by consistently widening the horizon of his instrument. These continuous developments are encouraged by a close cooperation with other composers, who feel themselves inspired by his incomparable virtuosity and joy of experimentation. Additionally inspired by his position as "trumpet ambassador" in his home state Schleswig-Holstein in Northern Germany as well as the cooperation with the instrument makers Max and Heinrich Thein.

Since 2000 Matthias Höfs has been teaching as a Professor at Hamburg University of Music and Theatre, where he continues to inspire his students with enthusiasm, passion for his instrument, and great knowledge. In addition to his extensive concert performances as solo-trumpeter and chamber musician, Höfs recorded numerous solo-albums,

Our Soloists

as well as over twenty recordings with GERMAN BRASS.

SIOBHAN BATES *horn*

appearing with Black Dyke Band
27 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Originally from Swadlincote, Derbyshire, Siobhan began playing the horn at an early age in local Music Centre groups. At age 10, she was granted a scholarship at the Birmingham Junior Conservatoire to study French Horn and Voice. During her studies there, she soon became the Principal Horn in the Symphony, and Wind Orchestras as well as their Brass Ensemble.

Alongside her French Horn playing, Siobhan began playing Tenor Horn with the Gresley Colliery Band and at age 13 she became the LBBA Junior Solo Champion. She gained the Solo Horn position with Gresley at the age of 15, and also joined Youth Brass 2000 under the direction of Chris Jeans.

Siobhan's musical development continued with her joining Foresters Brass on Solo Horn, before becoming the Solo Horn with the Fairey Band. In 2016, Siobhan joined Black Dyke at the request of Nicholas Childs. Some of Siobhan's accolades include Best Soloist prize at the European Brass Band Championships in Lille and Best Soloist Award at the Yorkshire Area contest, during her first year with Black Dyke. While in March 2019, Siobhan entered the BrassPass.TV Young Brass Award (previously Radio 2 Young Brass Award) and at 20 years old, was the inaugural award winner under its new ownership.

In March 2019, Siobhan entered the BrassPass.TV Young Brass Award (previously Radio 2 Young Brass Award) and at 20 years old,

was the inaugural winner of this award under its new ownership. Siobhan graduated from the University of Huddersfield with a first class Honours Degree in Solo Performance in 2020, has completed her PGCE in Primary Education and is currently a Supply Teacher, working in Reception and Nursery.

MICHAEL CAVANAGH *baritone*

appearing with Black Dyke Band
27 Jan // 7.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Mike Cavanagh is from Stockport and began playing the Baritone at the age of 8. He is currently Principal Baritone of the world-famous Black Dyke Band, following a five-and-a-half-year spell with the Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Growing up he was Principal Baritone of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain for five years under the direction of Bramwell Tovey and a highlight of this period was performing as part of the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall live on BBC Radio 3.

In June 2016 Mike graduated with First Class Honours from the RNCM under the tutorship of Professor Steven Mead and Dr. David Thornton. Whilst at the RNCM he was a co-founder of the multi award-winning A4 Brass Quartet and developed into a distinguished chamber musician. In 2018 A4 Brass were named Honorary Associate Artists of the RNCM in recognition of their success in the music profession. In 2020, they were further honoured with Associate Membership (ARNCM) – making them the first ensemble ever to be awarded the prestigious title.

Mike was recently appointed as a dedicated baritone horn tutor at the RNCM, the first position

of its kind in a UK conservatoire, and will take up the appointment from September 2024, adding to his current role as School of Wind Brass Band Percussion tutor in Chamber Music which he has held since 2021. Mike regularly works with Live Music Now! and Music in Hospitals & Care, helping to transform lives through the power of live music.

Mike prides himself on taking the Baritone to new audiences and venues for the instrument and performance highlights with A4 Brass include appearances at Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Purcell Room in addition to concerts in Lithuania, Finland, Switzerland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. In June 2018 A4 Brass completed the prestigious RNCM International Artist Diploma in Chamber Music as John Fewkes Scholars and were subsequently invited to become Honorary Associate Artists of the RNCM in recognition of the quartet's success in the music profession.

In March 2020 Mike was delighted to accept the invitation from Besson/ Buffet Crampon to become a Besson Artist and Consultant.

GARY CURTIN *euphonium*

appearing with RNCM Brass Band
28 Jan // 11am // RNCM Concert Hall

Gary Curtin was born in Cork City, Ireland. He began playing the Baritone at the age of 12 and moved onto the euphonium in 1996. Following his move to euphonium, he fell in love with the sound of the instrument and became more and more convinced that he wanted to dedicate his time to developing as a player and musician.

Our Soloists

Gary was the first euphonium player to study at degree level at the Cork School of Music, and he went on to study at Masters level. During his time at the Cork School of Music he was also awarded the Yamaha Solo Prize.

While studying for a year at the RNCM under the tutelage of Steven Mead, Gary began to immerse himself in the brass band scene and has played solo euphonium with Wingates Band and the Fairey Band before moving to the Principal Euphonium seat at Black Dyke Band in 2010. Whilst at Black Dyke, Gary was awarded the Geoff Whitham Memorial Award for 'Best Euphonium' at the 2010 and 2014 British Open Championships at Birmingham Symphony Hall as well as a much coveted 'Best Soloist' at the 2015 European Championships.

Having spent 6 years with Black Dyke winning all the major contests with the band on a number of occasions, Gary decided it was time to reduce the amount of travel he was undertaking for each rehearsal and concert. This change came in the form of a request from Foden's Band, who are situated in his local neighbourhood. Gary was delighted to accept the position of Solo Euphonium in January 2017.

Gary has made numerous appearances across Europe and the wider world as a soloist. His recent travels saw him perform in Japan, Singapore, Norway and across the United Kingdom.

Gary is an Adams Euphonium endorsee.

ROSAMUND BRASS

appearing with RNCM Brass Band 28 Jan // 11am/ RNCM Concert Hall

Rosamund Brass are an ensemble dedicated to celebrating existing repertoire, as well as commissioning work by new and established composers. They are exploring the repertoire available to brass quartets and sharing their passion for brass chamber music as far and wide as possible. In May 2022, the quartet competed in the RNCM's 2022 Phillip Jones' Brass Prize and despite being one of the youngest groups in the competition, they went on to win. The ensemble went on to compete at The Chris Rowland Ensemble of the Year Prize, where they won the audience vote award. The quartet then uniquely repeated both accomplishments in 2023. The group have also performed on the ITV Christmas Carol Service with Jane McDonald and on BBC Radio 4.

JAMIE SMITH *cornet*

appearing with Grimethorpe Youth Band 28 Jan // 1.30pm // RNCM Theatre

Jamie Smith is a performer, educator and conductor held in high regard. After starting to play the cornet at the age of 8, Jamie has worked his way broadly through the music world with a specialism in chamber music, education, brass performance and conducting. Jamie is the current Principal Cornet of the world famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band as well as being a founding member of the award winning A4 Brass Quartet.

GLYN WILLIAMS *euphonium*

appearing with Cory Band 28 Jan // 3pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Glyn Williams was born in Aberystwyth, Wales where he was introduced to music by his Uncle and enjoyed playing euphonium with Towyn Silver Royal Oakley and Menai Bridge, all local bands.

Glyn was appointed as solo euphonium with the Foden's Band in 1995 contributing to many contest victories including the Swiss Open, All England Masters, French Open, Brass in Concert, North West Area Finals more than ten times, the titles of National & British Open Brass Band Champions of Great Britain, English National Champions and All England International Masters Champions. 2012 was the pinnacle of this contesting success when Foden's won both the Open and National Championships.

After twenty consecutive years of service to Foden's, Glyn took the heart wrenching decision to move to South Wales and to join the Cory Band in the Summer of 2015, beginning a whole new chapter in his brass banding career. Since then, Glyn has been pivotal in helping Cory to make history in an unprecedented Grand Slam year of 2016, when the Band won the European, British Open, National and Brass in Concert titles. Glyn has been awarded many best instrumentalist awards along the way, the most recent having been at the 2017 European Brass Band Championships in Ostend, Belgium. In 2019 Glyn was a part of the Cory Band as they again achieved the Grand Slam and added the BrassPass UK Band of the Year title to their accolades.

Our Soloists

Glyn is keen to pass on his knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for brass playing, and is proud to be a regular tutor at the National Youth Band of Wales (of which he is an alum) and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He has also enjoyed working with the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland and the National Youth Brass Band of Switzerland in recent years.

Glyn is an Adams Euphonium endorsee.

ELLENA NEWTON *trombone*

appearing with
Brighouse and Rastrick Band
28 Jan // 6.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Ellena Newton has been principal trombone with the Brighouse & Rastrick Band since January 2020, having previously joined the band on 2nd trombone four years earlier. As a member of B&R Ellena has won the National Brass Band Championships, the British Open Championships, and Brass in Concert contest and been a large part of a very successful and proud period in the band's history. She studied at Chetham's School of Music and the RNCM.

JAMES GOURLAY

Appearing with RNCM Brass Band
28 Jan // 11am // RNCM Concert Hall
and Brighouse and Rastrick Band
28 Jan // 6.30pm // RNCM Concert Hall

Born in Scotland, former junior and solo Scottish National champion Gourlay studied tuba performance at the Royal College of Music, London, but left after a short time to take up a full-time position in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Three years later, he became principal tuba of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in London. Whilst playing with

the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Gourlay became involved with the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. At that time, he was also active in the film industry, performing on, amongst others, the soundtracks of Superman II and III, Batman and Yentl.

After 10 great years at the BBC, working with some of the world's greatest conductors, Gourlay was invited to become the solo tubist of the Zurich Opera House Orchestra in Switzerland. It was there that he developed his skills as a conductor, attending masterclasses with Ralph Weikert, and working with the Brass Band Berner Oberland, with which he won the Swiss National Championship 5 times and the Swiss Open Contest 4 times, a record that still stands.

After nine years at the Zurich Opera, Gourlay was invited by the RNCM to become the Head of its Wind, Brass and Percussion department, following in the footsteps of Timothy Reynish. Gourlay then moved back to his native Scotland to become Deputy Principal (Music) of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Gourlay's repertoire is extensive, ranging from the avant-garde to rock and pop music. He has commissioned more than 50 solo works for tuba and piano, tape, band and orchestra. As a conductor, he works with some of the world's leading brass groups, but also with orchestras such as the Sinfonica in Campinas, Brazil, the Orquestra Casa da Musica in Porto, Portugal. He is a regular guest conductor of the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain.

In addition to his world-wide playing as a tuba virtuoso, James is the General Director of Pittsburgh's

River City Brass, the world's only full-time professional brass band, and Director of Instrumental Music and University Bands at Wheeling Jesuit University, West Virginia.

SALFORD QUAYS BRASS QUARTET

26 Jan // 6.15pm
Carole Nash Recital Room

Salford Quays Brass Quartet, established in 2021, are a Manchester based brass quartet consisting of students from the RNCM. Their members are principal players for some of the UK's leading brass bands, including Brighouse & Rastrick, WFEL Fairey Band and Rothwell Temperance Band.

Recently, the quartet have been involved within various tutoring sessions as part of the RNCM Brass Engage Programme. They have enjoyed delivering sessions to young musicians within and outside the local area to promote brass playing to future generations.

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Band and Conductor Biographies

FODEN'S BAND

Foden's Band were formed in 1902 by Edwin Foden, originally being named The Foden's Motorworks Band. From these humble beginnings few would have thought they would go on to win 12 British Open titles, 15 National Championships of Great Britain and an unparalleled double hat-trick in 1932, 33, 34 and in 1936, 37 and 38. The band currently holds the record for the number of Area Contest wins with an unprecedented 24 North West Area titles. Since the bands formation they have maintained their positions as one of the World's leading bands on and off the contest stage. In 2012 Foden's won the 'Double' being crowned the 2012 British Open and National Champions and in 2018, 2021 and 2022 were crowned the National Champions at the Royal Albert Hall once again. As well as being very successful on the contest front the band have won numerous awards for CD releases, regularly appear on BBC television and radio and perform at all the country's leading concert halls. Around the world Foden's Band is a trademark that musicians associate with inestimable class and musicianship. This fact is reflected in the wide variety of countries that the band has toured, including Italy, America and Israel.

MICHAEL FOWLES *conductor*

Widely regarded as one of the leading conductors of his generation Michael is an honours and post-graduate of the RNCM and has been Musical Director of Foden's Band since 2009. Michael is also a member of the Association of Brass Band Adjudicators and has officiated at numerous Regional Qualifying contests, The National Finals, Butlins Mineworkers Festival and

the Swiss Nationals amongst others.

Educational work also forms an important part of Michael's musical life. He is Course Director of both the Wessex Band Summer School and Foden's Armagh Summer School. As a guest conductor he undertakes much training work throughout the UK with bands of all levels from championship to youth including being Musical Director of Foden's Youth Band, The NEMBBA Youth Band and Associate Conductor and Musical Adviser of Lions Youth Band. He is also a regular guest conductor for school and youth workshops in Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Northern Ireland with both Brass and Wind Bands.

Michael has written articles and reviews for both Brass Band World and British Bandsman, given many premiere performances, conducted concerto appearances of eminent soloists and directed many commercial CDs and broadcasts for both BBC Radio 2 and 3.

BRASS BAND TREIZE ÉTOILES

Founded in 1973, Brass Band Treize Étoiles is comprised of musicians chosen from the best village bands in Valais (Southern Switzerland) and is divided into two different bands: the A and the B-Band. Both take their name from the 13 stars on the flag of Valais.

The A-Band of Brass Band Treize Étoiles, conducted by Michel Barras from 1973 to 1977, Géo-Pierre Moren from 1977 to 2018 and since August 2018 by Frédéric Théodoloz, is one of the most decorated bands in Switzerland, as they have won the Swiss National Championship fourteen times, the Swiss Open Contest fourteen times, the European Open Contest three times, the

Dutch Open Contest in 2011, the Swiss Entertainment Contest three times, the "Grand Prix" of Birmenstorf three times, as well as the first broadcasted contest "Swiss Brass". Moreover, Brass Band Treize Étoiles have been awarded "Swiss Band of the Year" numerous times.

Brass Band Treize Étoiles, in addition to their different competition activities, has given numerous concerts in Valais, of course, but also in nearly all Swiss Cantons, as well as abroad. They have had the opportunity to work with famous conductors such as M. Richard Evans, Major Peter Parkes, M. Howard Snell, Dr. James Gourlay, M. Garry Cutt and M. Reid Gilje.

FRÉDÉRIC THÉODOLOZ *conductor*

Frédéric Théodoloz began his musical career at a very early age on the trombone and played in his village band "La Marcelline" de Grône. He very quickly gained recognition within national contests. He studied trombone at the Conservatory of music in Geneva and was subsequently awarded the first prize for virtuosity in June 2000.

Throughout his early career, he regularly played with the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra and the Orchestra de la Suisse Romande, and was trombonist for the National Orchestra of Porto, the philharmonic Orchestra of Durban, the symphonic Orchestra of the Vallée d'Aoste and the Music Orchestra des Lumières.

In 2010, he studied wind ensemble conducting with Jean-Claude Kolly and gained his Master of Arts HES-SO in Music from the School of Music in Lausanne. He further studied with well-known names from within the brass band

Band and Conductor Biographies

movement such as Prof David King, Allan Withington, Robert Childs, and Nicholas Childs.

Frédéric conducted the Brass Band Fribourg from 2012 until 2016, and since 2016, he has been conducting the Young Musical Swiss Orchestra, working with renowned soloists such as Jeroen Berwaerts and Lionel Cottet. He has further been conducting the Lyre de Conthey (Championship section brass band) since 2015 and teaching brass in the Valais region.

TREDEGAR TOWN BAND

Renowned for their commitment to artistic innovation, Tredegar Band is one of the brass banding world's elite performers. Formed in 1876, the multiple major contest winner provided the music to the 2015 BAFTA winning film *Pride* as well as giving the world premiere of Gavin Higgins' acclaimed *Dark Arteries* production with the Rambert Ballet at Sadler's Wells.

Their award-winning CD releases have been complemented by the world premiere of a brass band realisation of the renaissance masterpiece *Spem in Alium*, concerts with musician Tim Minchin as part of the Old Vic Theatre's 200th Anniversary, as well as at London's Southbank, the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Austria and the Brucknerhaus as part of the prestigious Linz Brass Festival. Tredegar was the first brass band to perform in The Speakers House in The Palace of Westminster as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations of the NHS, and in 2022 was commissioned to release a CD of the brass music of Ralph Vaughan Williams as part of the RVW 150th celebrations. In August 2023, they performed at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in a major collaboration with the National Orchestra of Wales

and with their own Late Night Promenade appearance.

IAN PORTHOUSE *conductor*

Ian Porthouse is regarded as one of the brass band movement's leading conductors, educators, performers, and teachers. The Head of Brass Band Studies at Royal Birmingham Conservatoire hails from a musical family in the heart of Cumbria. A former leader of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain he later became principal cornet with Desford Colliery and Black Dyke Bands. He also played with a number of the world's finest instrumentalists at Carnegie Hall in New York, and was a featured soloist with Phillip Smith, Principal Trumpet with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. His first connection with Tredegar Band came in 1995 before moving north two years later to become principal cornet of Yorkshire Building Society Band. In 2008 he made his long awaited return when he accepted the position as Musical Director of Tredegar Band - a move that has since seen them become one of the world's leading contest and concert ensembles.

He is in great demand throughout the banding world - being the professional conductor of the Oberosterreich Brass Band in Austria as well as the Director of the National Youth Brass Bands of Scotland. He is also a leading elite level adjudicator.

JUNIOR RNCM BRASS BAND

Every Saturday students travel from as far afield as North Wales, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, and the Midlands to be part of a vibrant community, to study in a welcoming and stimulating environment, and to soak up the creative atmosphere of one of the world's best conservatoires. To complement an established

Symphony Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble, the Junior RNCM Brass Band was formed in September 2009 by Les Neish and Maria Molund. Les and Maria embraced the challenge of traditional brass band players and sounds, combined with orchestally trained musicians (including French horns and trumpets) with gusto, creating a band with a vibrant sound and an eclectic taste. Jon Malaxtebarria joined the band as a conductor in September 2011 and has continued to introduce the band to a variety of styles and composers.

In September 2023 the band was taken on by Mark Bousie (Euphonium, Foden's Band) and Phil Goodwin (Ex Sub-Principal Trombone, BBC National Orchestra of Wales), who continue to challenge the band with a range of new and traditional repertoire, encouraging young composers from within the band and sourcing music from a diverse selection of composers.

To find out more about the Junior RNCM and to book a place at the next Open Day (Saturday 10 February 2024) please contact Ellis Fryer, JRNCM Administrator, on **0161 907 5264** or juniors@rncm.ac.uk.

MARK BOUSIE *conductor*

Mark was born in Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire and studied euphonium with Steven Mead at the RNCM. Amongst his successes as a soloist are winning the Wind Section of the Tunbridge Wells International Young Concert Artists Competition and reaching the semi-final in both the BBC TV and Radio 2 Young Musician Competitions.

Mark has made solo appearances at venues such as the Purcell Room, London; Bridgewater Hall,

Manchester; and in Budapest. He has also worked in Ohio, USA on several occasions delivering recitals and masterclasses at Ohio State and Capital Universities and appearing as a soloist and clinician at the Ohio Brass Arts Festival.

Mark is currently Head of Music at Glossopdale School in North Derbyshire, euphonium tutor for the RNCM Junior School and has been the euphonium/baritone tutor for the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain.

Mark has held Principal Euphonium seats with several leading brass bands, including Sellers International and Fairey. He has been a member of the euphonium section of the Foden's Brass Band since 2009.

Mark is also well known as a successful conductor, particularly of youth and lower section brass bands. He won the 2009 National Youth Brass Championship with the Sellers International Youth Band. Mark is currently the co-Musical Director of the Foden's Youth Band.

PHIL GOODWIN *conductor*

Born in Stoke-on-Trent, Philip began playing tuba in his school's brass band. He soon progressed and became a member of the City of Stoke-on-Trent Youth Orchestra and the North Staffordshire Symphony Orchestra. He followed this up with studies in tuba and piano, firstly at The Royal Manchester College of Music and then at the Royal Northern College of Music.

His playing has taken him around the world, and he has performed in many iconic concert halls including Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and even at Glastonbury Festival. Philip has performed with

many leading orchestras such as the Halle, BBC Philharmonic, and Liverpool Philharmonic, and has recorded over 200 CDs.

Despite this wide-ranging musical journey, brass bands have always been a major part of his music-making, in 1985 he moved from the CWS (Manchester) Band to Black Dyke, for whom he is currently the longest serving player.

He has conducted several bands and ensembles both in England and Europe and is in much demand as a guest conductor. As well as Black Dyke, he has also had a long association as Musical Director of the Delph Band – 2020 saw his 40th Anniversary with them – winning many titles including the National Championships of Great Britain on two occasions.

BLACK DYKE BAND

Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world with over 350 recordings and growing every year, in October 2020 the band's recording of music by John Rutter become the first by a brass band to reach No 1 in the classical music chart.

It is also the most successful contesting band in the world having won the European Championships thirteen times, most recently in 2015, the British Open no fewer than 30 times (most recently 2014) and the National Championships of Great Britain 23 times (most recently 2014). In 2009, and again in 2011, 2012 and 2013, the band became Champion Band at the English National Championships and were named English National Champions in 2014 by virtue of having won the National Brass Band Championships in October 2014. In recent years, the band secured an unprecedented hat

trick of wins at the Yorkshire regional championships in 2016, 17 and 18, which they followed up with further wins in 2020 and 2022 (there was no contest in 2021 due to Covid-19).

The band logo of the stags head and Latin quotation are taken from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster, founder of the band. The quotation translates to 'Act Justly and Fear Nothing'.

NICHOLAS CHILDS *conductor*

Professor Nicholas Childs has achieved the highest international reputation as a performer, teacher, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music, and producer of pacesetting recordings. Nicholas has had phenomenal success with many bands, including highly acclaimed national titles and European championships. His current tenure as Principal Conductor and Director of Music of the Black Dyke Band has been marked with continued contest success, claiming both British Open and National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, awarded the Harry Mortimer Maestro award for his outstanding ability as a conductor, and being named the 2014 Conductor of the Year by 4br.com and Brass Band World. His recordings with Black Dyke Band have been heralded as the very best in the brass band world including multiple CD of the Year awards.

Nicholas gives important emphasis to the development of the brass band movement. This comes via his commitment to the training of outstanding young musicians both at the collegiate level as well as within the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band, and the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain (Founder

Band and Conductor Biographies

and Music Director). He currently serves as Professor of Music at the RNCM, where he has taught for many years.

RNCM BRASS BAND

Established during the 1990s by brass innovator Howard Snell, the RNCM Brass Band has always been a flagship ensemble of the institution. Geographically the RNCM is ideally placed for brass band students and under the direction of Dr David Thornton, boasts a teaching staff that includes Roger Webster, Richard Marshall, Owen Farr, Carol Jarvis, Steven Mead, Michael Cavanagh and Les Neish. In 2014 the college appointed Prof. James Gourlay and Prof. David King as International Chairs in Brass Band Studies and they both work with the band students on a bi-annual basis. Other recent guest conductors include Nicholas Childs, Russell Gray, Garry Cutt and Elgar Howarth.

The teaching staff encourages students to become members of bands outside of the college and the RNCM benefits greatly from partnerships with some of the UK's leading brass bands. The current RNCM Brass Band has members of Black Dyke, Grimethorpe, Brighouse & Rastrick, Hammonds, Leyland and Fairey Bands in its ranks, as well as an international representation from countries including Norway, United States of America, New Zealand, Japan, China and Hong Kong.

DAVID THORNTON *conductor*

Dr. David Thornton is regarded as one of the foremost brass band conductors, euphonium players and teachers of his generation and has a global reputation. His work as a soloist, conductor and educator is renowned throughout the brass playing world to have

a distinct hallmark of extreme virtuosity, professionalism and an ability to connect with audiences like few others in his field.

His work within the brass band world has seen him at the top-flight for over two decades. He has held solo euphonium positions with the Black Dyke, Brighouse & Rastrick and Foden's, winning five National titles, three British Opens and one European Championship. David spent three years (2017-2019) as musical director of Brighouse & Rastrick Band, a further three years as principal conductor with the Grimethorpe Colliery Band (2019-2022) and is currently principal conductor with the GUS Band.

As a recording artist David has released four solo albums and also conducted on numerous high profile projects, including Shine (a Les Neish solo album), The Music of Howells & Bliss (B&R) and an album of music by Nigel Clarke released in 2020 (Grimethorpe).

David Thornton is a Performance & Mentor Artist for Geneva Instruments, and exclusively uses Denis Wick mouthpieces and mutes. He is Director of Brass Bands at the RNCM and artistic director of the RNCM International Brass Band Festival.

BENJAMIN VOCE *conductor*

Benjamin Voce is a British conductor based in Berlin and London. He was recently appointed Music Director of the Devon Philharmonic Orchestra, starting in summer 2023. Having first completed a degree in Mathematics in the UK before studying music at the Barenboim-Said Academy in Berlin, Benjamin embodies the long history that these two interconnected subjects have shared together.

In the 2022/23 season he was the assistant conductor to Thomas Adès, including with orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw and London Philharmonic. In June 2023 he performed at Berlin's Wuhlheide Arena in two sold out concerts, conducting the orchestra accompanying singer "Danger Dan" and pianist Igor Levit to a combined audience of over 30,000 people and broadcast live on national radio.

GRIMETHORPE YOUTH BAND

The Grimethorpe North of England Youth Band was formed in 2023. It came about from conversations held at our termly open days with older teenagers who wanted to be involved in a local band that was just for young people who had achieved a higher examination grade in music and were contemplating studying music in the future. It was decided that it would be the normal brass band size of around 30 players and that grade 6 was a minimum requirement to joining. Players would be seated based on their ability with a view that it would complement the work already being done by their local brass bands. The young people have also been offered the opportunity to sit in Grimethorpe Colliery Band rehearsals and take part in full concerts with the band as guest players. The band rehearses monthly at Grimethorpe Colliery Band HQ and this is their second public performance following a very successful Christmas concert at St Luke's Church in Grimethorpe alongside the Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

The band is free for all members which is in line with the commitment Grimethorpe Colliery Band have made to provide opportunities for all young people

to learn a brass instrument. To find out more about the youth band and our other education initiatives please visit: grimethorpeband.co.uk/youth/

CORY BAND

Cory Band hail from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. They are the current European and Welsh Champions.

The World's number one ranked band for 16 consecutive years, Cory made history in 2016 by winning an elusive Grand Slam and becoming the first band in history to be Quadruple Champions – simultaneously holding the National, Open, European and Brass in Concert titles, they repeated this feat again in 2019.

The band has a long and illustrious history. Formed in 1884, it originally bore the name 'Ton Temperance'. In 1895 Sir Clifford Cory, the local colliery owner, heard the band and offered to provide financial assistance, resulting in the band's change of name to Cory.

Since 2012 the band has been conducted by Philip Harper, winning another four European titles (2013, 2016, 2019, 2022), four Nationals (2013, 2015, 2016 and 2019) seven Brass in Concert titles (2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2021) and three British Open titles (2016, 2018, 2019). In 2014 it became the inaugural winner of TV Channel S4C's Band Cymru programme and repeated this achievement in 2018. It toured Australia in 2013, the USA in 2016 and 2019

PHILIP HARPER *conductor*

Philip Harper became Musical Director of the Cory Band in 2012. Since then, he has won all the major trophies many times, including an unprecedented Grand

Slam of major titles in 2016: the European, the British Open, the Nationals and Brass in Concert, all won in a single calendar year, and then repeated in 2019. Philip won the coveted 4barsrest.com Conductor of the Year Award in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2020. In recent years he was a guest conductor of the Manger Musikklag Band in Norway, the National Youth Brass Bands of Great Britain, Switzerland and Wales and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Symphonic Brass, amongst many others. In 2021 Philip was awarded the Iles Medal by the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his services to brass bands.

Philip graduated from the University of Bristol in 1994 before going on to take a Master's Degree in Composition and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education. He had a successful performing career and was the principal tenor horn of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and the Sun Life Band in Bristol, as well as winning through to the Brass Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 1991.

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND

The Brighouse & Rastrick Band is regarded by many as the best and most consistent public subscription band in the world. The band was formed in 1881, through public donations given by the townsfolk of the adjacent villages of Brighouse and Rastrick that face each other across the River Calder in West Yorkshire. Today, it continues to be supported through public subscriptions and its own fundraising efforts.

B&R caught the ears and imagination of the British public with their recording of The Floral

Dance, holding the No.2 position in the British singles chart for 9 weeks. Even though they were held off the top spot by Paul McCartney, they still achieved sales of over a million, earning both Gold and Silver discs. The Floral Dance has now become a permanent feature of the band's programmes as their encore. Over recent years, the band has been engaged in a number of very successful music collaborations outside the brass band tradition, including Rick Astley, BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winners The Unthanks and classical actor Simon Callow.

Brighouse & Rastrick have been crowned National Champions of Great Britain ten times and are the current British Open and Brass in Concert Champions. The band will represent England at the European Championships in Lithuania in 2024.

Presenters

SIMONE REBELLO

Simone Rebello graduated with Distinction from the RNCM to embark on a solo career that has seen her record several solo CDs, tour extensively nationally and internationally, appear on UK and international television and radio, and win a collection of awards and prizes, including the Cosmopolitan Woman of the Year in Performing Arts.

Alongside performing, Simone is an experienced adjudicator of percussion events, brass and wind band contests and general music competitions. She has been invited to judge at the highest level including for the Royal Academy of Music, BBC Young Musician of the Year, National Concert Band Finals and National Brass Championships for New Zealand, Australia, USA and Switzerland.

Simone is frequently asked to present concerts and talks/lectures featuring all aspects of playing percussion and she works as a presenter at numerous events including the 2010 European Brass Band Championships which she hosted for a live international webcast. Simone is currently Acting Head of School of Wind, Brass and Percussion and Director of Percussion at the RNCM.

Simone's appearance at the RNCM International Brass Band Festival is sponsored by Yamaha.

EMILY NICOLAS

Emily has a passion for all things musical and is currently in her second year at RNCM and The University of Manchester, studying on the GRNCM 'joint course'. Coming from a predominantly musical family, she began learning the piano at age four, but first picked up the trombone aged ten and instantly fell in love! Over the ensuing years her growth as a player and musician has been shaped by her teachers and a multitude of playing opportunities, which span a wide range of ensembles and genres, from large symphony orchestras to smaller jazz outfits, big bands and pit orchestras and most significantly the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, Amersham Brass Band under the directorship of Paul Fisher, and the National Youth Jazz Collective.

She has played with Cory and Foden's Band, alongside trumpet extraordinaire Louis Dowdeswell and his Big Band, jazz trombonist Gordon Campbell and trumpeter Mike Lovatt and has also been fortunate to play under the baton of world-renowned conductors, such as Sir Antonio Pappano, Gustavo Dudamel and Jaime Martin.

Prior to commencing her studies at RNCM, Emily was taught by David Whitson, ex-principal trombone of English National Opera and is now studying with Katy Jones, Principal Trombone of The Hallé Orchestra. Recently, she was awarded the British Trombone Society's 'Student of the Year' award. She divides her time between her academic studies at the University of Manchester and her busy practice and performance schedule and alongside this has developed a love for presenting and has taken part in numerous interviews for BBC Radio 3 and BBC Radio 4. Emily was also the recipient of a personal invitation from the multi-talented presenter and musician Anna Lapwood, to come and shadow her on the set of BBC Young Musician, one of her favourite experiences to date.



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