

24 – 26 Jan // 2025

RNCM **International** **Brass Band** **Festival**

Programme

24 – 26 Jan 2025

RNCM International Brass Band Festival

THE RNCM INTERNATIONAL BRASS BAND FESTIVAL IS KINDLY SUPPORTED
BY BESSON, YAMAHA, 4BARSREST, AND BRASS BANDS ENGLAND.



Introduction

My second year as Artistic Director of this magnificent festival has come round in a flash. It seems like only yesterday we were listening to the final triumphal moments of Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band's performance of Lloyd's *Diversions on a Bass Theme* (the final work of the 2024 Festival). This year's brief is very similar to last year – and for very good reason: a weekend of quality music, some old, some very new, performed and presented by wonderful artists...simple, really.

A highlight of this year's festival is the celebration of Professor Edward Gregson's 80th birthday. Many of (if not all) our audience will already be very familiar with his music and the profound impact he has had on the brass band repertoire during the last 60 years.

We are also especially excited to welcome Athena Brass Band from the US. America's first all-female brass band, Athena brings a festival programme that spotlights works by female composers from around the globe. We are also fortunate to welcome David Bremner from New Zealand, who will not only conduct Brighouse & Rastrick, but will also be the concerto soloist with the RNCM Brass Band and our guest for the 4barsrest interview on Saturday afternoon.



Of course, the RNCM is very proud of its own students, both past and present, and RNCM alumni feature throughout the weekend. Katrina Marzella-Wheeler, Michael Fowles, Tom Smith, David Childs, and Lucy Pankhurst are just a few of the former RNCM students who will join many of our current students during this year's festival.

I, just like our audience members, enjoy listening to brass band music. I enjoy listening to our legacy repertoire and have the fortunate position to be able to choose some of my favourite works by John McCabe, Elgar Howarth, Judith Bingham and, of course, Edward Gregson. But I am just as thrilled to hear new music, even more so by writers I've not experienced before – unfamiliar combinations of sounds made by this very familiar combination of instruments that we have all come to love.

Welcome all, and join me in recharging our musical souls, basking in the brass band brightness of a wonderful weekend!

David Thornton
Artistic Director

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Elgar Howarth, one of the most significant figures to be associated with the 20th century brass band movement. An alumnus of the Royal Manchester College of Music, where he studied composition and trumpet, Elgar was a founding member of New Music Manchester. We send our heartfelt condolences to Elgar's family and friends.

Programme

TRADE EXHIBITION

We're delighted to be joined by the following exhibitors at this year's festival:

Besson

Geneva Brasswind Ltd

Mercer and Barker Ltd

World of Brass

The British Army

FRI 24 JAN

6.15PM / Carole Nash Recital Room

FESTIVAL PRELUDE: A SAXHORN RENAISSANCE

Georg Philipp Telemann Overture
(Suite in C major) TWV 55: C6: IV *

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

String Quartet No 2 in D major *

- i. Allegro
- ii. Andante
- iii. Molto allegro

Johann Sebastian Bach Herz und Mund
und Tat und Leben *

Ludwig van Beethoven

Wind Quintet in E flat major, Hess19 *

- ii. Adagio maestoso
- iii. Minuetto

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina Missa Papae
Marcelli (Kyrie) *

Georg Philipp Telemann

Concerto in G major TWV 40 *

- i. Largo e staccato
- ii. Allegro
- iii. Adagio
- iv. Vivace

Andrea Hobson Dawn (world première)

Phoebe Mallinson *flugelhorn*

Emily Evans, Helen Varley, Anabel Voigt

tenor horn

Mike Cavanagh, Sarah Lenton *baritone*

Will Savage *chamber organ*

* Music arranged by Anabel Voigt

This recital has been devised by Anabel Voigt, who is studying for a Master's degree at the RNCM. Anabel is taught by Owen Farr, Roger Webster, and Mike Cavanagh.

The RNCM is grateful to Anabel and to the performers for their work on this project.

7.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

FODEN'S BAND

Paul Mealor Fantasia on a Theme of Purcell

Edward Gregson Tenor Horn Concerto: Three
Gods (world première) *

Elgar Howarth Fireworks

Interval

David Stanhope A Leadsman, a Lady and a Lord

Elisabeth Vannebo Elektrodesign (UK première)

John McCabe Cloudcatcher Fells

Michael Fowles *conductor*

Tim de Maeseneer *tenor horn* *

An exhilarating fantasia infused with dance themes marks the opening of this performance, setting the stage for tenor horn virtuoso Tim de Maeseneer to give the world première of Edward Gregson's *Tenor Horn Concerto: Three Gods* – a highlight of the festival's celebration of Gregson's 80th birthday.

Elgar Howarth's witty and inventive *Fireworks* follows and offers a Britten-like *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*, but for brass, to close the first half of the concert.

David Stanhope's three British folksong settings pave the way for the UK première of Elisabeth Vannebo's *Elektrodesign*. Concluding the evening, Foden's Band performs John

Programme

McCabe's *Cloudcatcher Fells*, the title of which comes from a poem by David Wright, and the music itself is inspired by mountainous places in the Lake District that hold deep and personal significance to the composer.

SAT 25 JAN

11AM / RNCM Concert Hall

ATHENA BRASS BAND

Naomi Styles Pandora's Box

Andrea Hobson Silver-Backed Fox *

Lucy Pankhurst Ghosts of Industry
(world première)

Lucy Pankhurst Abraço ^

Louis Prima arr **Gail Robertson**

Jump, Jive, and Wail

Ingebjørg Vilhelmsen The Cosmographic
Mystery

Elisabeth Vannebo Ned i vester soli glader +

Kelly Marie Murphy O Frabjous Day, Alice Slays!

Jessica Sneeringer, Mareika Gray+ *conductors*

Jennifer Oliverio *flugel* *

Ashley Hall-Tighe *cornet* ^

Bente Illevold, Gail Robertson *euphonium* +

Athena Brass Band is the US's first all-female brass band and named after Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. As an organisation, Athena Brass Band is committed to the advancement of woman musicians and composers. To mark Athena's festival début, the band presents a programme that spotlights works by female composers from around the globe, including pieces from the UK, South Africa, Norway, and Canada.

For full performer details, please scan the following QR code:



1.30PM / RNCM Theatre

THE 4BARSREST INTERVIEW: DAVID BREMNER

Iwan Fox of 4barsrest interviews trombonist and festival soloist David Bremner about his life and work.

David Bremner has been Principal Trombone of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra since 2002 and has enjoyed an illustrious career as a renowned performer, soloist, and conductor. He is a founding member of Bonanza Trombone Quartet, Music Director of the Champion Band of New Zealand Wellington Brass, and Music Director of the National Band of New Zealand, among his many accolades, and we're delighted to welcome him for this in-depth conversation.

3PM / RNCM Concert Hall

TREDEGAR TOWN BAND

Judith Bingham Prague

Edward Gregson French Horn Concerto *

Philip Sparke A Road Less Travelled By

Ed de Boer Homage to Julian Assange
(world première)

- i. Youth
- ii. A 'Family' Member
- iii. Hacktivism
- iv. Collateral Murder
- v. Wanted
- vi. Contained
- vii. A Tent in an Embassy
- viii. Solitude
- ix. Arrest
- x. Isolation
- xi. Finale: Breaking Free

Ian Porthouse *conductor*

Ben Goldscheider *French horn* *

Tredegar Town Band opens with Judith Bingham's *Prague*, a piece the composer herself describes as being deliberately disruptive and displaced, yet shaped within a classical structure, like a miniature symphony. Next is the first of two pieces in this programme by the festival's featured composer, Edward Gregson,

Programme

brought to life by French horn soloist Ben Goldscheider. Hailed as redefining the horn genre, Ben is quickly gaining a reputation as a transformative figure for his virtuosic playing and expansion of horn repertoire through commissions and premières.

Philip Sparke's *A Road Less Travelled By* offers a musical depiction of a composer's journey – emphasising the value of the path over the destination. The title is inspired by Robert Frost's 1916 poem, *The Road Not Taken*. Finally, in a thought-provoking close, Tredegar performs the world première of Ed de Boer's *Homage to Julian Assange*.

4.45PM / RNCM Theatre

JUNIOR RNCM BRASS BAND

Paul Drury Jubilee

Tamsin Crook Clash of the Titans
(world première)

Simon Dobson Little Hymn

Edward Gregson Variations on Laudate
Dominum

Elgar Howarth Berne Patrol

Elgar Howarth Hogarth's Hoe Down

Amber Hooton Sailor's Hymn: Blue Peter,
Flying in the Harbour (UK première)

Mark Bousie *conductor*

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

7.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

BLACK DYKE BAND

Jacob Larson *Ad Astra*

Philip Wilby *Astralis* (first performance of this version with accompanying film)

Peter Graham Force of Nature, Concerto for Euphonium *

Karl Jenkins Fragile Earth

Interval

Andrea Price And Earth Raised Up Her Head
(world première) +

Edward Gregson Concerto for Trombone ^

Edward Gregson Of Men and Mountains

Nicholas Childs *conductor*

Andrea Price *conductor* +

David Childs *euphonium* *

Ian Bousfield *trombone* ^

David Childs' appearance is kindly sponsored by Besson.



Black Dyke Band begins its programme with Jacob Larson's *Ad Astra* before a new rendition of Philip Wilby's *Astralis* is performed with an accompanying film. Peter Graham's *Force of Nature*, a musical retrospective of Ernest Hemingway's extraordinary life, is realised by the soloist who the concerto was written for, David Childs. The first half ends with Sir Karl Jenkins' *Fragile Earth* – his first major work for the brass band medium. Collaborating with young people from the National Youth Brass Band of Britain and The Wildlife Trusts, Sir Karl composed this three-movement piece to explore the impact of human interaction with the environment, emphasizing climate change and the restorative power of the natural world.

A brand-new work by Andrea Price makes way for another of the festival's soloists, trombonist Ian Bousfield, known as one of the most influential brass players of his generation.

Programme

Together, Black Dyke Band and Ian will perform Edward Gregson's virtuosic Concerto for Trombone before the programme concludes with another of Gregson's beloved pieces, inspired by a trip the composer took through the Rocky Mountains in Canada.

SUN 26 JAN

11AM / RNCM Concert Hall

RNCM BRASS BAND

Simon Dobson HorrorShow
Elgar Howarth Mosaic ^
Derek Bourgeois Concerto for Trombone *
Edward Gregson Four Études
Kelly Marie Murphy Drumming the Plain,
the Horseman is Coming

Katrina Marzella-Wheeler,
Harry Lai ^ *conductors*
David Bremner *trombone* *

Katrina Marzella-Wheeler's appearance is kindly supported by Yamaha.



RNCM Brass Band welcomes back RNCM alumna Katrina Marzella-Wheeler to conduct an eclectic programme. The journey begins with a haunting rendition of Simon Dobson's *HorrorShow*, written in memoriam of people who died in the Paris terror attacks of November 2015. This is followed by Elgar Howarth's lively *Mosaic*.

World-renowned trombonist David Bremner appears with the RNCM Brass Band to perform Derek Bourgeois' Concerto for Trombone, a piece most notable for its third movement, 'Presto'.

Up next, an intriguing and texturally rich work by Edward Gregson, the festival's featured composer, inspired by Stravinsky's *Quatre études* for orchestra. To finish, Kelly Marie

Murphy's *Drumming the Plain, the Horseman is Coming* invigorates with its charging and surging chromatic lines that propel the piece to a thrilling finale.

12.30PM / Upper Concourse

RNCM YOUNG TROMBONES AND YOUNG LOWER BRASS

Join our Young Trombones and Young Lower Brass on the Upper Concourse for a short performance of some fantastic brass repertoire. Our young people will have spent the morning warming up their instruments and bodies, perfecting their technique, and most importantly having fun!

RNCM Young Projects (ages 8 to eighteen) is an exciting opportunity for young players of school age to develop creative, musical, and technical skills.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact youngprojects@rncm.ac.uk, or visit rncm.ac.uk/engage/young-projects.

1.30PM / RNCM Theatre

MACCLESFIELD YOUTH BRASS BAND

Eric Ball Star Lake
Thomas Gansch arr **John Doyle** Blue
Trad arr **Philip Harper** The Water of Tyne
George Doughty Grandfather's Clock*
Philip Sparke Fanfares, Songs and Dances
Marc Shaiman arr **Christopher Bond**
You Can't Stop The Beat

Louise Renshaw *conductor*
Chris Robertson *euphonium**

Macclesfield Youth Brass Band has over 120 members, welcoming complete beginners and advanced musicians alike. This special showcase is in honour of the band's 20th anniversary.



RNCM

SUN 9 FEB | 2025

RNCM Day of Percussion



Scan to find out more

FEATURING

**Andrea Vogler | Mick Doran | Marta Klimasara
Tom Greenleaves | Joby Burgess | Gabor Dornyei
The Central Band of the Royal Air Force**

DAY TICKETS FROM £13

Programme

3PM / RNCM Concert Hall

CORY BAND

Thibaut Bruniaux Storm

Ricardo Molla arr Tommy Tynan

Concerto for Tuba 'Amaia'

(world première of the version with brass band)

*

i. Gaztelugatxe

ii. Amaia's Letter

iii. The Final Element

Hubert Bath Freedom

Viskamol Chaiwanichsiri ensemble mécanique

Edward Gregson Dances and Arias

Philip Harper conductor

Tommy Tynan tuba *

On the back of its 140th anniversary, Cory Band opens this performance with its 2024 composition prize winner, Thibault Bruniaux's *Storm*.

Tommy Tynan then joins Cory for Ricardo Molla's *Concerto for Tuba 'Amaia'* – a musical story of transformation and personal growth set on the Cantabrian coast of northern Spain. The young protagonist, Amaia, embarks on a dreamlike journey in which she encounters mythical beings who teach her valuable lessons about the elements and life.

Ensemble mécanique, a very rhythmic and jazz-inspired piece by Viskamol Chaiwanichsiri and written to emulate sounds in a factory, precedes Edward Gregson's *Dances and Arias* to close this performance. The title of Gregson's piece emulates the structure of the music that oscillates between energetic dance themes and melodious, lyrical lines like those found in an aria.

4.45PM / Carole Nash Recital Room

BRASS BANDS ENGLAND DISCUSSION - THE NEXT GENERATION OF BRASS BAND COMPOSERS

Kenny Crookston, Chief Executive Officer of Brass Bands England, and an expert panel examine one of the biggest challenges facing the brass band community: finding a generation

of composers to continue the legacy provided by Elgar, Holst, and Vaughan Williams through to modern giants including Edward Gregson, Philip Sparke, and Philip Wilby. Brass Bands England supports and promotes brass bands by fostering community engagement, sharing resources, and increasing public understanding of their value. The organisation provides access to funding, training, and resources in key areas such as marketing, digital technology, and legislative compliance while encouraging innovation, creative collaboration, and broader audience engagement.



6.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BRASS BAND

Dani Howard Warp and Weft

Denis Wright Cornet Concerto *

Liz Lane Silver Rose ^

Edward Gregson Rococo Variations

Interval

John Psathas Saxon

Estella Wallace trans David Bremner

Ka mate te reo i te reaka kotahi

(world première of this version)

Gareth Farr Waipiro

Paul Terracini Gegensätze

(world première of band version)

David Bremner conductor

Tom Smith cornet *

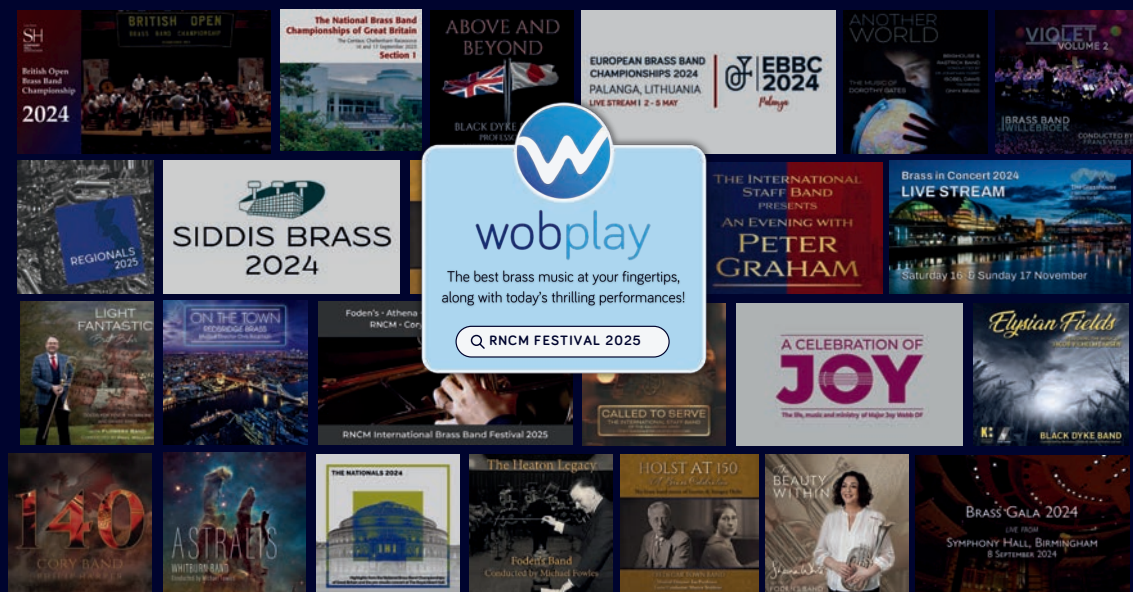
Dr Micha Lazarus narrator ^

Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band joins forces with David Bremner, Principal Trombone of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Champion Band of New Zealand Wellington Brass (among his many other accolades). Having already performed as soloist in this year's festival with RNCM Brass Band, he'll lead Brighouse & Rastrick for a spectacular final concert to close the 2025 RNCM International Brass Band Festival.

Programme

Brighthouse & Rastrick presents a varied programme that opens with a work it commissioned and premièred in 2023 by Dani Howard, before a performance from Principal Cornet and RNCM alumnus Tom Smith playing Denis Wright's Cornet Concerto – considered a cornerstone of solo cornet repertoire. An innovative work by Liz Lane for narrator and brass band paves the way for another piece by featured composer, Edward Gregson.

John Psathas' first work for brass band then sets the tone for music by Estella Wallace, arranged by David Bremner. Brighthouse & Rastrick and David Bremner will then bring to life Gareth Farr's *Waipiro* – a title that refers to Waipiro Bay, a picturesque place north of Gisborne on New Zealand's East Cape. The concert concludes with a world première of a new arrangement of Paul Terracini's *Gegensätze*.



Our World Premières

ANDREA HOBSON Dawn

24 Jan / 6:15PM / Carole Nash
Recital Room

Composed as a short concert opener or closer, *Dawn* evokes the delicate and dynamic moment of an early morning in Johannesburg. The work is crafted in a fanfare style, drawing on the bright, bold nature of the saxhorn ensemble. It is structured in a symmetrical A-B-A form, with contrasting sections that mirror the progression of a morning, from the hesitant stirrings of dawn to the full bustle of the day.

The piece opens with the use of pentatonic scales, creating an atmosphere of unresolved tension - mirroring the not-quite-awake feeling that often accompanies the early hours. The morning light, however, gradually breaks through as the music begins to shift, exploring irregular time signatures to mirror the playful, elusive quality of sunlight as it moves across the city of Johannesburg. Through its interplay of melody, rhythm, and texture, the piece paints a musical portrait of Johannesburg's unique morning light, where the sky, earth, and citizens come alive with colour and energy.

Andrea Hobson (b. 1986) is a South African composer now based in Germany. *Dawn* was commissioned by Anabel Voigt for the RNCM International Brass Band Festival 2025.

EDWARD GREGSON

Tenor Horn Concerto: Three Gods

TIM DE MAESENEER AND FODEN'S BAND

24 Jan / 7:30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

Edward Gregson's *Tenor Horn Concerto: Three Gods* was commissioned by the Belgian tenor horn soloist Tim de Maeseneer for a recording of commissioned works he made in 2024 with his 'own' band, Brass Band Willebroek.

The subtitle of 'Three Gods' refers to three mythological Greek gods: Zeus, Hermes, and Apollo. The idea for this came from a 'sister' work, a Viola Concerto, which Gregson

composed in 2023 and which was similarly subtitled 'Three Goddesses'. Indeed, the first movement of the horn concerto shares some common material with the viola concerto, although the other movements are newly composed.

The concerto exploits the noble character of the horn, but the writing is also virtuosic in character as well as lyrical and melodic, demanding an extended playing range of nearly four octaves with a variety of colouration in its sonorities. The unifying motif of the whole concerto is the interval of a rising fifth, heard at the outset. The opening also has some other surprises (both seen and heard).

The musical ideas, cast in three separate movements, take their starting point from the characters of the 'Three Gods' in the title:

Zeus ruled as King of the Gods on Mount Olympus, and was the God of Thunder and Lightning and of War. His music is often threatening and violent, but also has a more tender side as portrayed in the lyrical second subject. However, the dominant mood is one of foreboding.

Hermes was the great messenger to the Gods who could travel between realms on his winged sandals. Thus, his music is fast, fleet of foot, and mercurial – a dashing scherzo, but with lyrical and expressive moments.

Apollo, the God of Music and Dance (and the Sun), symbolises virtue and beauty. This final movement, 'Hymn to Apollo', is mainly slow and hymn-like and cast in a continuous stream of melody passed between soloist and band. Brief fanfares herald a triumphant march, before the music returns to its quiet opening, gradually rising to a triumphant climax with glittering melodic percussion leading the way. The music ends in a blaze of glory!

Our World Premières

ELISABETH VANNEBO

Elektrodesign (UK première)

FODEN'S BAND

24 Jan / 7.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

Elektrodesign is a musical biography of Elisabeth's father, Johan Vannebo, who was an inventor. The composition describes his childhood, electronics, and his love for his wife and children. He died suddenly and dramatically, and the end describes Elisabeth's longing for her father. While studying at the Norwegian Technical University in the 1970s, Johan created the Stentofon – an intercom system that became very successful and widely used.

Elektrodesign was first performed by Eikanger Bjørsvik Musikklag.

ANDREA HOBSON Silver-Backed Fox

JENNIFER OLIVERIO AND ATHENA BRASS BAND

25 Jan / 11AM / RNCM Concert Hall

Andrea Hobson studied composition at Rhodes University under Pieter Louis van Dijk (classical composition) and John Edwards (jazz orchestration). She has composed music for solo euphonium, brass band, brass ensemble, and orchestra. These works have been performed in the US, UK, Singapore, Germany, Norway and South Africa.

She is one of the founding members of The Phax Trio which was dedicated to presenting new contemporary styles of music in South Africa. She has also been involved in projects including Proboscis, the Baobab Trio, and O9 (a collaboration with Shhart ensemble), where she composed and arranged music for the various performances.

The silver-backed fox, better known as the Cape Fox, is the only known fox species that exists in the southern part of Africa. They can be found along the coast in the extended Cape region and are mostly nocturnal. With large ears and a petite pointed nose, the

foxes are quizzical creatures that use various forms of chirps, barks, whines, and howls to communicate. They are also known for lifting their tails in excitement and prancing around the nests of potential prey.

The introduction begins at dusk - the waking time of Africa's nocturnal creatures - with the muted flugelhorn suggesting that something is stirring. One can imagine the bright red and orange sun setting into a deep murky blue as the fox bounds out of her den with the main theme being played on the unmuted flugelhorn. The story develops as the fox begins to hunt in search of food.

As she catches her prey, tranquillity sets over the veld (an open, uncultivated grassland in southern Africa) and becomes the calm B section of the piece, and nature is once again played with a muted flugelhorn and transparent, open chords in the band. However, this doesn't last long. With the fox's hunger satiated, the main theme returns and moves into a playful C section to emanate the animal's various chirps and playful nature.

This is the first performance of the work in this version with brass band accompaniment.

LUCY PANKHURST Ghosts of Industry

ATHENA BRASS BAND

25 Jan / 11AM / RNCM Concert Hall

'Growing up in an industrial town, there was so much working history hidden in plain sight that it became part of the landscape. Buildings and structures that we pass every day become almost invisible. That is, until they actually do disappear - THEN, their absence becomes deafening.'

Ghosts of Industry explores local landmarks of the composer's hometown of Widnes. Some of these have been preserved, whereas others are now long-gone or in the process of demolition. The many changes in the landscape over the years have impacted the town in different ways, but always leaving a scar, or 'ghost', of the industrial heritage.

Our World Premières

The work begins with the infamously smoke-choked skyline of Spike Island with towering chimneys and factories (years later, in 1990, it became famous for hosting an open-air Stone Roses concert). We then look across the Mersey River over the years to the now-demolished Widnes Transporter Bridge, and the three remaining river crossings: the Silver Jubilee Bridge, Ethelfleda Railway Bridge, and the new Mersey Gateway. The murmur of flocking starlings and cries from seagulls can also be heard. With an extended slow section, the music then pays respect to the chemical workers during the Industrial Revolution – many of whom had tragically short life expectancies due to the hazardous nature of their jobs.

Before being demolished in 2012, the Queen's Hall began its existence as a Wesleyan Chapel and was converted into a popular music and dance venue in the 1950s. The Beatles famously performed there, and for a short while a brass band contest was hosted at the hall. During this section of the piece, we hear overlapping lines of ghostly music to mark the different eras and uses of the building that was once the beating heart of a community.

The Fiddler's Ferry Power Station is a prominent landmark that can be seen for many miles and looms over the town of Widnes. At the time of composition, four of the original eight towers had been demolished – this can be heard at the end of this section, with four distant 'explosions' and subsequent echoes from the percussion. As the dust settles, the piece ends with a light suddenly igniting in the darkness. This is intended to be life returning to a broken, disused gas lantern that still stands in the town, neglected and forgotten – the final vestige of a time long past and a reminder that, despite so much change and destruction, there is still much that can be saved and preserved.

'This work is my way of processing the changes and documenting it - paying respect to the industrial heritage of the area and accepting the permanency of the changes.'

Programme note by Lucy Pankhurst.

ED DE BOER Homage to Julian Assange

TREDEGAR TOWN BAND

25 Jan / 3PM / RNCM Concert Hall

'The turbulent events surrounding Australian journalist, former hacker, and online activist Julian Assange, best known for founding the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks, have been on my mind a lot. At the time the composition that is now before you began to take shape in my mind, Assange had been in solitary confinement in His Majesty's Prison Belmarsh, near London, for five years, 23 hours a day all alone, even though he had not been formally convicted of anything.'

'I know a little bit about life in a His Majesty's Prison: in HMP Bronzefield, another prison near London, a dear friend of mine, Sabine McNeill, was detained during four and a half years, also as punishment for whistleblowing. I corresponded with her a lot, and I also composed music for her, in the form of a setting of her favourite poem, Das Leben das ich selbst gewählt (The Life I Chose Myself). Unlike Sabine, however, Assange was put in a locked ward at HMP Belmarsh, a ward reserved for the toughest criminals and not surprisingly called Hell Wing. The way Assange was punished can thus be called disproportionate, to say the least.'

For inspiration, the composer read the book *Guilty of Journalism, The Political Case Against Julian Assange* by young American investigative journalist Kevin Gosztoła, as well as the *2011 Unauthorized Biography on Assange*. This material, supplemented by various videos and articles that can be found on the Internet, gave him the idea of writing a composition consisting of a theme, followed by several short movements that, with some imagination, could be seen as 'variations', concluding with a fugue. This is a recipe Ed has used before, first for his 2012 *Vita Aeterna Variations for Brass Band*. For this reason, and because Assange was imprisoned in England, where there are many brass bands, he decided to write the work for brass band.

Our World Premières

The result has become a composition consisting of 11 short interlocking movements, each highlighting a facet of Assange's life and work, and centred on an idée-fixe motif derived from the letters of the word ASSANGE. The various movements finally culminate in a grand apotheosis in the form of a fugue, in which motifs from preceding movements return.

As the composer delved into the life of Julian Assange, he also learned about the views of people such as Daniel Estulin, who in his book *Deconstructing Wikileaks* seeks to expose Assange as an intelligence asset tasked with sustaining the global status quo. Be that as it may, Ed personally believes that, even if people like Estulin are right (in whole or in part), Assange still has earned a musical homage.

'If dark things are to be stopped, they must first come to light. And one way or another, Assange has made an important contribution to the world in that regard.'

Programme note by Ed de Boer, 2024.

AMBER HOOTON *Sailor's Hymn*:
Blue Peter, Flying in the Harbour
(UK première)

JUNIOR RNCM BRASS BAND

25 Jan / 4.45PM / RNCM Theatre

Sailor's Hymn was written for a cultural exchange between brass and wind bands from St Helens (Valley Brass Band) and Normandy (Harmonie Courselles Sur Mer), culminating in a massed bands concert in Normandy during April 2024. The piece was one of several arrangements and original compositions written especially for the exchange, supported by grants from the Victoria Wood Foundation and Johnson Foundation. The concert celebrated the local cultures of Merseyside and Normandy, as well as the wider national cultures of the United Kingdom and France.

This composition depicts a scene of sailors preparing to depart from the port of Liverpool, looking out over the docks as the Blue Peter

flag flies, beckoning the sailors aboard to begin their long journey. It is a piece about saying goodbye to what was once familiar, moving on and pushing towards new horizons.

Programme note by Amber Hooton.

ANDREA PRICE

And Earth Raised Up Her Head

BLACK DYKE BAND

25 Jan / 7.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

And Earth Raised Up Her Head is a dramatic and evocative brass band composition in which the personified Earth awakens, rising in anger to condemn humanity's reckless exploitation of nature's habitats and resources. The music conveys the planet's intense anguish and frustration, offering a stirring critique of mankind's disregard for the environment.

This work is a tribute to Edward Gregson, celebrating his 80th birthday this year. His immense influence on the development of brass band music is undeniable, and this piece pays homage to his impact on the genre. Subtle, and not-so-subtle, references to Gregson's music appear, inviting attentive listeners to discover them as the work progresses. Additionally, the piece draws inspiration from Bach's musical language, through the chorale *Mitten wir im Leben sind* ('In the midst of life, we are in death'). The chorale is woven through the composition, gradually becoming more prominent as the music unfolds.

The work begins with a slow, quiet introduction that slowly builds into a dissonant, furious roar. The central section is urgent and unrelenting, filled with frantic chaos as mankind and the Earth's creatures make futile attempts to escape the inevitable final reckoning. The music reaches a violent and tumultuous climax, as the Earth trembles and cracks, culminating in a cataclysmic explosion. The pandemonium then subsides into a final, reflective slow section depicting a quiet, desolate space, in which nothing remains but motes of light and dust.

Our World Premières

And Earth Raised Up Her Head was commissioned by the Black Dyke Band for the 2025 RNCM International Brass Band Festival and is dedicated to Edward Gregson.

Programme note by Andrea Price, 2024.

RICARDO MOLLA ARR TOMMY TYNAN

Concerto for Tuba 'Amaia'

TOMMY TYNAN AND CORY BAND

26 Jan / 3PM / RNCM Concert Hall

'Amaia' is a story of transformation and personal growth set on the Cantabrian coast of northern Spain. The young protagonist, Amaia, embarks on a dreamlike journey through emblematic places such as Gaztelugatxe and San Sebastián, with the aim of learning to control the four natural elements: water, earth, fire, and air. Throughout her adventure, she encounters mythical beings from Basque mythology, such as the Lamiak, Olentzero, and Basajaun, who teach her valuable lessons about the elements and about life.

The plot reaches its climax in a battle against a devastating storm at the 'Peine del Viento', where Amaia fights not only against the forces of nature but also against the emotional pain caused by the loss of her father, who died at sea. This battle symbolises her internal struggle and her process of overcoming. The story of Amaia is an allegory of the maturation process and facing pain, showing how, through the overcoming of external and internal challenges, a girl can find the strength to move forward and renew herself.

The work was originally written with wind band accompaniment and premièred on 3 February 2024, by Carol Jantsch and the United States Army Band 'Pershing's Own'.

Programme note by Ricardo Molla, 2024.

VISKAMOL CHAIWANICHSIRI

ensemble mécanique (UK première)

CORY BAND

26 Jan / 3PM / RNCM Concert Hall

'In 2019, I was commissioned by Pawit Jindakitprasert to compose a piece for a mixed ensemble of percussion, piano, clarinet and cello to be used in the Princess Galyani Vadhana International Ensemble Competition 2019. During that time, I was heavily influenced by Stravinsky and Bernstein.

'I am fascinated by Stravinsky's use of 'stratification', alternating musical ideas juxtaposed in time, featuring in many of his works (Petrushka, The Rite of Spring, etc.). I was inspired by how Bernstein used jazz influences, and I tried to incorporate various stylistic ideas in this work, including jazz, polyharmony, and techno, alternating them using stratification.'

In 2022, ensemble mécanique was commissioned by Mahidol Brass Band led by Dr Boonyarit Kittaweeptak to be transcribed fully into British brass band instrumentation.

Programme note by

Viskamol Chaiwanichsiri, 2022.

PAUL TERRACINI Gegensätze

(world première of band version)

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BRASS BAND

26 Jan / 6.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

Paul Terracini is an Australian conductor, composer and arranger who now lives in the Blue Mountains after spending almost 20 years living and working in Europe.

Gegensätze was written in 2011, originally for symphonic brass ensemble. The title translates as 'opposites', with the composer pitting rapid high register figures in the upper band against low rhythmic figures from trombones and tubas, against melodic lines from the middle band. Simone Young, chief conductor of the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, describes the music as '*an exciting brass attack*'.

Our World Premières

ESTELLA WALLACE

Ka mate te reo i te reaka kotahi

(transcription by David Bremner, world première of this version)

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK BRASS BAND

26 Jan / 6.30PM / RNCM Concert Hall

Estella Wallace is in her second year studying composition at the New Zealand School of Music Te Kōkī. Originally from Christchurch with Kāi Tahu descent, her passion for composition started at 14, thanks to her high school music teachers. One of Estella's biggest achievements was winning the 2022 NZCF-SOUNZ Te Reo Māori Choral Composition Competition with her piece *Ka mate te reo i te reaka kotahi*. This has since been recorded by Tudor Consort and sung by the Christchurch Youth Choir. Estelle enjoys using music to explore her whakapapa, Māori culture, Aotearoa's landscapes, and relevant issues such as climate change.

Ka mate te reo i te reaka kotahi sets words by Hana O'Regan, lamenting the loss of reo:

Me ururia kā marea ka tika
Koi mau i te kaurere o Awhiti
Ko te ora o te reo kai ō rika
Koi karo rawa atu i ō uri.

There is no choice but to persist
Or in regret you will exist
The language rests within your hands
Or to its death it will be damned

This version of the music has been transcribed for brass band by David Bremner, with permission from the composer.

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Our Featured Composer

EDWARD GREGSON

Edward Gregson was born in Sunderland, Co Durham, England, in 1945. He graduated from London's Royal Academy of Music in 1967, having studied piano and composition (with Alan Bush), and then completed a BMus (Hons) degree at London University. He is a composer of international standing whose music has been performed, broadcast, and recorded worldwide. He has written orchestral, chamber, instrumental, and choral music, as well as making major contributions to the wind and brass repertoire. He has also written music for the theatre, film, and television.

His orchestral music has been performed by many orchestras and conductors worldwide, including all the BBC orchestras, the London Symphony, Royal Scottish National, The Hallé, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, and Bournemouth Symphony orchestras; with conductors such as Martyn Brabbins, Edward Downes, Rumon Gamba, Alexander Gibson, Gunther Herbig, Kent Nagano, Gianandrea Noseda, Bramwell Tovey; and soloists including Ole Edvard Antonsen, Wissam Boustany, Olivier Charlier, Michael Collins, Nelson Goerner, Guy Johnston, Nobuya Sugawa, and Richard Watkins. His chamber music has been performed and recorded by groups including the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble, London Brass, the Navarra and Nightingale string quartets, and the Nash Ensemble, while his music for brass bands has been performed by all the major ensembles in the world.

His music has been extensively broadcast and recorded, and perhaps of special note is the ongoing series of his symphonic music and concertos on the Chandos label performed by the BBC Philharmonic and BBC Concert orchestras, and by London Brass – the latest volume being released in 2020. Included in this series are all his major concertos: horn (1971), tuba (1976), trumpet (1983), trombone (1979), clarinet (1994), piano (1997), violin (2000), saxophone (2006), cello (2007), and flute (2013). He has also recently embarked on a three-volume series of his instrumental and chamber music for the Naxos label, the third of which is due for release in May 2022. In addition,

and of similar importance, is the six-volume survey of his complete music for brass band on the Doyen label.

His most recent compositions include Three Études for piano, recorded on the Naxos label by Murray McLachlan, an Oboe Concerto (*A Vision in a Dream*) for Jennifer Galloway and the BBC Philharmonic, a Euphonium Concerto for David Childs, *The World Rejoicing* (Symphonic Variations on a Lutheran Chorale) which was commissioned from five European countries, and *The Salamander and the Moonraker* – a work for children's choir, narrators, and orchestra commissioned by the Hallé Concerts Society in 2018, with story and libretto by his wife, Susan Gregson. In 2016, as Composer in Association with Black Dyke Band, he composed a Cornet Concerto and *Four Études*, and in 2017, as Composer in Residence at the Presteigne Festival, his String Quartet No 2 was premiered by the Nightingale Quartet from Denmark.

Edward Gregson has had an impressive career as an academic, from his time as Head of Composition and resident conductor in the music department of Goldsmiths College, University of London (1976-96), and where he was appointed a Professor of Music, to his tenure as Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) in Manchester (1996-2008). He retired from academe in 2008 in order to concentrate on his composition.

He holds honorary degrees and fellowships from a dozen English universities and conservatoires, including the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal College of Music, Manchester University, and Lancaster University, and is also a Companion and Emeritus Professor of the RNCM. He has won many awards and prizes, including an Ivors Academy Composer Award in 2019, having been nominated on two previous occasions. He was a Writer Director of the Performing Right Society (1995-2021), and has also served on many international music juries, worked as jury member and expert commentator for the BBC's Young Musician of the Year programmes, and as a conductor has premiered many works by UK composers. He has also written a number of scholarly articles for various publications.



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Discover Neo

Wilfred Heaton

HIS LIFE – HIS MUSIC

by
Paul Hindmarsh



WILFRED HEATON (1918-2000) is a revered yet enigmatic composer, much of whose music for brass band composed has achieved 'classic' status. Paul Hindmarsh's much-anticipated biography uncovers a private but complex man behind the music, in particular what led him in his mid-30s to call time on his ambition of full-time composition, only to comment in right at the end of his life, "I suppose the creative impulse never leaves you." The dilemma Heaton faced proved intractable. Much of the band music from his productive teens and twenties was considered too "advanced" for The Salvation Army, of which he was a dedicated member. However, in the mid-1950s he discovered that the orchestral and chamber music he was beginning to write for what he termed "the wider worlds" was too conservative in the face of the "atonalists' confederation."

Following the premiere of his brass band work *Contest Music* in 1982, requests for new pieces poured in. Most were politely rebuffed unless Heaton felt able to repurpose or revive something composed, as he said, by an "alter-ego" left behind in the 1940s – music that had either been rejected by The Salvation Army or that languished at home in what he called his "un-regarded corner". In this final decade Heaton began to compose from scratch again, but he did not live to complete any of these late works. That task was undertaken, at the invitation of the Heaton family, by Howard Snell and Paul Hindmarsh.

Wilfred Heaton: His Life – His Music has been extensively researched from the recollections of family, friends and colleagues and from surviving correspondence and archive documents. The second part of the book comprises detailed musical analysis and commentary.

Composer Edward Gregson writes: "A book such as this, on one of the most important composers in the 20th century to have written for brass bands, is long overdue. Paul Hindmarsh does not pull his punches in his microscopic assessment of his subject; but in the end what shines through is the author's real affection for Heaton, as well as an immense respect for his music – something many of us share."

Wilfred Heaton: His Life – His Music is officially launched this weekend at the RNCM International Brass Band Festival and is available for purchase at the World of Brass trade stand in the concourse.

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www.paulhindmarsh.com

UK Price £30.00

ISBN 978-1-0369-0132-5



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Our Soloists

TIM DE MAESENEER

tenor horn

appearing with Foden's Band
24 Jan / 7.30PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Born in Vilvoorde (Belgium) from a family of music enthusiasts, Tim started to learn the tenor horn at the age of six. The decision to study music in secondary school didn't come as a surprise; he first began to study at the Secondary School of Music in Leuven and afterwards fulfilled this course in the Kunsthumaniora Brussel. Having studied under the expert guidance of Frans Violet in Brussels, Tim moved to the Gent Conservatoire where he studied for two years under trumpet virtuoso Benny Wiame. Subsequently, Tim returned to Leuven to study at the LUCA (Leuven University and College of Arts) under saxhorn specialist Nick Ost. At this time, Tim was also mentored and tutored by Johan De Win, who Tim recalls '*always supported and taught with the upmost care*'.

As guest soloist, Tim has performed with a number of different orchestras in Belgium and beyond, such as the Symfonie Orkest Vlaanderen (Belgium), the WDR Big Band (Cologne), European Youth Brass Band, Atlantic Brass Band (USA), Brass Band Buizingen (Belgium), Noord-Limburgse Brass Band (Belgium), the Wind Band of the Lithuanian Armed Forces, the Brass Band of the British Army Catterick Garrison, and the Green Brass Band (Thailand).

Having participated in a number of competitions, Tim has been awarded tenor horn prizes on multiple occasions. As a tenor horn specialist, he is appointed by the VLAMO organisation to give guidance to different bands to help improve horn sections.

Tim is a Besson Performing Artist and performs on a 2050 Besson Prestige tenor horn.

JENNIFER OLIVERIO *flugel*

appearing with Athena
Brass Band
25 Jan / 11AM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Dr Jennifer Oliverio is a celebrated cornet and flugelhorn player holding the positions of principal cornet with the Fountain City Brass Band and flugelhorn with the Athena Brass Band. She works as Assistant Professor of Music in trumpet at Missouri Western State University and is one of the directors for the Fountain City Youth Brass Academy.

Jen is an avid supporter of new music for cornet and flugelhorn, having commissioned and premiered solo works by Lucy Pankhurst, Dorothy Gates, Kevin Day, Andrea Hobson, Jen Mitchell, and Joel Collier for her première solo album Enigma. Her work on Enigma received overwhelmingly positive reviews and was nominated for the 4barsrest Album of the Year, received a silver medal in the Global Music Awards, and won Jen the 2023 American Prize in Brass Performance. Jen is on the board of directors

for the Fountain City Brass Band, the Athena Brass Band, and the visionary panel for the National Youth Brass Band of America, and she serves as the column editor for the International Trumpet Guild's cornet column.

As a clinician, Jen regularly performs and presents at national and international festivals such as the International Trumpet Guild Conference, Brass Institutes of America, International Women's Brass Conference, and the Eastman Summer Trumpet Institute. In her freelance work, Jen has performed as an extra with the Kansas City Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Alabama Symphony, and a founding member of the Trilogy Brass Trio. She is a proud '*mom*' to son Benjamin and wife to husband Patrick.

ASHLEY HALL-TIGHE *cornet*

appearing with Athena
Brass Band
25 Jan / 11AM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Ashley Hall-Tighe is an internationally renowned trumpet soloist, educator, and certified life coach. From the Sydney Opera House to the Berlin Philharmonic Chamber Music Hall, she radiates an '*energetic joy*' (Rochester Post Bulletin) through her '*warm tone, stunning technique and expressive artistry*' (Cincinnati Enquirer). Since 2008, Ashley has been the Principal Trumpet of the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, and from August

Our Soloists

2023-May 2024, she was a touring member of Canadian Brass.

In Autumn 2024, Ashley released her début solo album, *Upcycle*, on Rezurrection Recordz with pianist Ana Maria Otamendi. She is on the trumpet faculty at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and is a sought-after clinician at music schools around the world. Ashley is an Associate Certified Coach through the International Coaching Federation and, through her coaching practice, she empowers individuals to unlock their potential and align their lives with their values.

BENTE ILLEVOLD *euphonium*
appearing with
Athena Brass Band
25 Jan / 11AM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Bente Illevold is from Rendalen in Østerdalen and plays the euphonium. Over the past 10 years, she has distinguished herself as an innovative performer and garnered recognition for her performances of new music for the instrument, both nationally and internationally. Bente is an international S.E. Shires Company Euphonium artist and was the company's first choice as their first female and European euphonium artist. Her debut album *Klangen fra de dype skoger* was released in 2020, earning her a nomination for Instrumentalist des Jahres (Instrumentalist of the Year) in OPUS KLASSIK, Germany's

largest classical music magazine. Her second album, *Alone*, was released in autumn 2021 and was nominated for Album of the Year by 4barsrest.

In 2021, Bente was awarded the prestigious Forsberg and Aulies grant. In 2023, she was awarded Drammen municipality's artist grant and the title Municipal Artist of the Year.

GAIL ROBERTSON *euphonium*
appearing with Athena
Brass Band
25 Jan / 11AM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Dr Gail Robertson is Associate Professor of Tuba/Euphonium at the University of Central Arkansas and Visiting Professor of Music (euphonium) at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. She also teaches euphonium at Boston University and the American Band College. She is also: Past President of the International Tuba Euphonium Association and International Women's Brass Conference; Vice President of the Athena Brass Band; a Willson and Warburton International Euphonium Artist; a member of the Brass Band of Battle Creek and Keith Brion's New Sousa Band; and is on the Board of Directors for the Falcone Festival.

Robertson serves on the faculty of the Rafael Méndez Brass Institute and is a member of the Summit Brass. She was honoured with ITEA's Clifford Bevan Award for Excellence in Research for

her manuscript *Restoring the Euphonium's Legacy as Cello of the Wind Band*. Dr Robertson's compositions and arrangements are available at Cimarron Music Press.

BEN GOLDSCHIEDER
French horn
appearing with
Tredegar Town Band
25 Jan / 3PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Ben Goldscheider has premièred over 50 new works for the horn to date including concerti, solo, chamber and cross-genre projects with elements of live electronics and lighting. Further to the world première performances of two new concerti by composers Gavin Higgins and Huw Watkins in the 2023/24 season, upcoming highlights for Ben include débuts with the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra (Rebecca Miler) for the Swedish première of Watkins' Horn Concerto, the London Philharmonic (Valentina Peleggi) with Strauss, Horn Concerto No 2 and Norwegian Radio Orchestra (Jamie Phillips) with the Higgins Horn Concerto. Ben will return to Ulster Orchestra (Paweł Kapuła) for the Irish première of Higgins' concerto, as well as to the Aldeburgh Festival for the world première of the Brian Elias Horn Concerto with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sakari Oramo.

Further recent highlights include recitals at major concert halls across Europe – including at the Concertgebouw, Musikverein,

Our Soloists

and Wigmore Hall – and as soloist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, and City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (BBC Proms), among others. A committed chamber musician, Ben has collaborated with Daniel Barenboim, Martha Argerich, and Sergei Babayan. In recital, Ben has collaborated with Michael Barenboim, Stephen Hough, and Tom Poster, and is a member of the Kaleidoscope Chamber Collective.

Ben is a member of the Boulez Ensemble and Principal Horn of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. He holds a professorship at the Royal Conservatory in Antwerp and is the Artist in Association at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

DAVID CHILDS *euphonium*
appearing with
Black Dyke Band
25 Jan / 7.30PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

The grandson and son of well-respected euphonium players from the Welsh Valleys, and himself described by The Observer as ‘*a great ambassador for the euphonium, possessing an astonishing technique and an engaging stage presence*’, David Childs is regarded as one of the finest brass musicians of his generation, touring extensively throughout Asia, Europe, and North America, and recording actively for radio, television, and CD. He has appeared as soloist

with the BBC, Manchester Concert Orchestra, RTÉ Concert Orchestra, and many of the finest brass bands and military bands in both the UK and US. He has made solo appearances at the Singapore International Festival, Harrogate International Festival, and Cheltenham Festival, given solo recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room, and Bridgewater Hall, and performed concertos at the Concertgebouw, Royal Albert Hall, and Carnegie Hall.

A keen advocate of new music, David has premiered 15 concertos for euphonium, including a Royal Albert Hall BBC Proms broadcast of Alun Hoddinott’s *Sunne Rising – The King Will Ride*, a Carnegie Hall US première of Sir Karl Jenkins’ Concerto for Euphonium and Orchestra, a UK première of Christian Lindberg’s Concerto for Euphonium and Orchestra directed by the composer, and a Welsh Proms Cymru world première of Paul Mealor’s Concerto for Euphonium and Orchestra.

A proud product of the British brass band tradition, David is a former member of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, National Youth Brass Band of Wales, Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band, and Cory Band – the latter ranked number one in the world and with which David was Principal Euphonium for 10 years, winning countless titles under the baton of his father, Robert Childs.

In 2018, David was appointed Professor of Euphonium at the University of North Texas and continues to enjoy an association with the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama as an Honorary Associate and International Visiting Tutor. He is a founding member of Eminence Brass, Artistic Director of Cardiff Symphonic Winds, Principal Conductor of Dallas Brass Band and Editor of the Brass Band World Magazine. As a Buffet Crampon Besson Artist he continues to showcase the euphonium as a serious solo vehicle within the world of classical music, leading the way for euphonium players worldwide. In 2021, he earned his DMA from the University of Salford, England.

IAN BOUSFIELD *trombone*
appearing with
Black Dyke Band
25 Jan / 7.30PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

One of the most influential brass players of our time, now a soloist, conductor, and pedagogue, Ian Bousfield has been at the top of his profession for over 35 years, having formerly been Principal Trombone of the Vienna Philharmonic and London Symphony in an orchestral career that spanned 30 years. As a soloist he has appeared with, amongst others, Riccardo Muti, Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir Neville Marriner, Kent Nagano, the Vienna Philharmonic, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, and the BBC

Our Soloists

Philharmonic. He has recorded for EMI, Chandos, and Camerata. Future plans include appearing with Kent Nagano and the Montreal Symphony, recording with the Airies Quartet, conducting the season opening brass concert of the New World Symphony in Miami for the third time, and directing the Aalborg Symphony in a series of concerts for brass and voice.

In recent times his conducting career has taken off, seeing Ian regarded as one of the world's foremost brass conductors. He has conducted the Oslo Philharmonic, Liceu Opera, Danish Radio Symphony, Copenhagen Opera, Sonderborg Symphony, Bern Symphony, Norlands Opera and the New World Symphony.

Ian is Professor of Trombone at the Hochschule der Künste in Bern and the Royal Academy of Music in London. His former students sit in some of the world's leading orchestras and have won the most prestigious competitions, including the ARD and Royal Overseas League. His book and videos, *Unlocking the Trombone Code*, have met with great critical acclaim. He is a brass coach for the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra and a regular coach of the New World Symphony: two orchestras that lie very close to his heart. In 2012, he was awarded a lifetime honour from the International Trombone Association (ITA).

DAVID BREMNER

trombone / conductor

appearing with Iwan Fox for
The 4barsrest Interview
25 Jan / 1.30PM / RNCM
Theatre

and RNCM Brass Band
26 Jan / 11am / RNCM
Concert Hall

and Brighouse &
Raistrick Brass Band
26 Jan / 6.30PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

David Bremner has been Principal Trombone of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra since 2002 and has enjoyed an illustrious career as a renowned performer, soloist, and conductor. A versatile musician, David has recorded with Crowded House, the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, as well as numerous brass bands across Australasia and the UK. He is a founding member of Bonanza Trombone Quartet, Music Director of the Champion Band of New Zealand Wellington Brass, and Music Director of the National Band of New Zealand.

Born in New Plymouth, he began his early musical studies on cornet and euphonium under the guidance of his father, Trevor Bremner. After switching to trombone, he graduated with honours from Victoria University of Wellington, studying with Marc Taddei. David was awarded the prestigious Patricia Pratt Scholarship to study at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and graduated with

a Master of Music degree, studying with Mark Lawrence. He was a finalist in the Gisborne Music Competition, placed third in the New Zealand Young Musicians Competition, and won California's Shenson Young Musicians competition.

David is the Director of Education for Brass Bands New Zealand and a trustee of the Kia Ora Foundation. He is also a founder and trustee of the New Zealand Brass Foundation and presents Brilliant Brass on Radio Concert.

TOMMY TYNAN *tuba*

appearing with Cory Band
26 Jan / 3PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Born in the banding heartland of Saddleworth, Tommy was exposed to brass bands at a very early age. Having started out on cornet but shown a keen interest in the drums, he made his first steps into top-section banding as a percussionist, joining Marsden Silver Prize Band under Glyn Williams at the age of 14.

While at Marsden Band, Tommy became a member of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain (NYBBGB) under Bramwell Tovey, and later the Principal BBb Bass. In 2019, he took up studies at the University of Huddersfield, studying with Les Neish. He graduated with a First Class (Hons) degree in Music Performance and was awarded the music department brass award.

Our Soloists

In December 2021, Tommy was offered the solo Eb tuba position with the Cory Band. Tommy won both the Welsh Championships and the European Championships in 2022 and shortly after his European triumph, Tommy made his move to South Wales a permanent one. Since moving, Tommy's musical endeavours have been action-packed, with notable highlights being a tour in August 2022 to Jeju Island and Seoul, South Korea, plus further trips abroad to France, Switzerland, Austria, and Sweden. Tommy now performs as a regular featured soloist with the band, and his contributions on the contest platform have been held to critical acclaim.

TOM SMITH *cornet*
appearing with Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band
26 Jan / 6.30PM / RNCM
Concert Hall

Brought up in Cornwall, Tom first picked up the cornet at the age of nine as part of Camborne Youth Band under MD Alan Pope (BEM). From the age of 14, Tom also became a member of various county youth ensembles, such as the Cornwall Youth Orchestra, Brass Ensemble, and Jazz Orchestra. Two years later, Tom took part in his first course with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, working his way up the ranks and working with some of the biggest names in brass over the next few years.

In 2018, Tom moved up to Manchester to begin his studies under the tuition of Richard Marshall and Roger Webster at the RNCM, where he graduated with First Class Honours. During his degree, he worked his way up the Yorkshire banding scene playing with bands such as Poynton, Pemberton and Grimethorpe, before landing the position of Principal Cornet at the Brighouse & Rastrick Brass Band in 2020, where he currently sits today.

Since 2020, Tom has been a performing artist with Besson Brass, playing on a 2028 Prestige. Tom also plays on a Denis Wick 4 mouthpiece and is proud to be a Denis Wick Artist. Since graduating in July 2022, Tom has started to discover his passion for teaching; he is now an online brass tutor with Your Space Music Lessons and has recently been appointed as a brass tutor with Barnsley Music Service.

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Band and Conductor Biographies

FODEN'S BAND

Foden's Band was formed in 1902 by Edwin Foden and originally named The Foden's Motorworks Band. Few would have thought they would go on from these humble beginnings to win 12 British Open titles, 15 National Championships of Great Britain, and an unparalleled double hat-trick in 1932, 1933, 1934 and again in 1936, 1937, and 1938. The band currently holds the record for Area Contest wins, with an unprecedented 24 North West Area titles. Since its formation, Foden's Band has maintained its position 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 the band was named National Champions at London's Royal Albert Hall in 2018, 2021, and 2022. As well as being very successful on the contest front, the band has won numerous awards for its recorded releases, makes regular appearances on BBC television and radio, and has performed 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, Israel, and the US.

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 numerous regional qualifying contests and national finals, plus 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 in his roles as 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 Brass Band World and British Bandsman, given many première performances, conducted concerto appearances of eminent

soloists, and directed many commercial recordings and broadcasts for both BBC Radio 2 and Radio 3.

ATHENA BRASS BAND

The Athena Brass Band is the first all-female brass band in the US and named after Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. The band was formed in 2003 by Laura Lineberger to perform at the International Women's Brass Conference, with Anita Cocker Hunt as conductor. This successful début resulted in many more invited performances and several commissioned compositions.

Jessica Sneeringer has been the music director of Athena Brass Band since 2012. Athena is never the same band twice (a personnel committee invites a combination of past and present performers to each new ensemble) and its musicians include current or former members of the US Army Band, the US Coast Guard Band, Brass Band of Battle Creek, and the New Sousa Band. Over the years, the band's roster has included several college professors and public school music educators, plus conductors, music therapists, a sound engineer, a music publisher, a composer, a nuclear physicist, a biologist, a sociologist, an MBA, and an author.

'This group is unique in that it draws a selection of

Band and Conductor Biographies

musicians from many parts of the US (and beyond) for each performance. After finding a suitable venue, Athena gets to work! Rosters and the programmes are made, music and rehearsal notes are sent out well in advance, and musicians begin their preparation – but no rehearsal takes place until we are all together at the concert site, usually two to three days before the performance. Whenever and wherever Athena Brass Band gets together to rehearse and perform, audiences are delighted with Athena's zest and love for music.'

The Athena Brass Band is committed to championing the advancement of women musicians and composers by commissioning and promoting compositions and arrangements, to offering performance opportunities that promote the growth of women musicians in the world of brass banding, and to providing opportunities for those newer to the field to gain experience.

JESSICA SNEERINGER *conductor*

Jessica Sneeringer has gained a reputation for being an engaging, energetic, and artistic conductor. Over the 16 years that she conducted the Central Ohio Brass Band the group enjoyed much success including being First Section Champions

a record five times at the North American Brass Band Association Championships. The band has been invited to the Great American Brass Band Festival, the Butlins Contest in the UK, the Ohio Music Education Association Conference, and the 2019 International Trombone Festival, among others. Having left COBB's podium in 2020, Jessica moved into the adjudication realm. She has been a regular adjudicator at the US Open, NABBA, and the Dublin Festival of Brass, and she is excited to be a clinician for the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Brass Band Festival. Since 2012, Jessica has been conductor of the Athena Brass Band and has enjoyed the great honour of conducting the band at the 2021 Midwest Clinic, the IWBC 2024 Conference in Japan, and now RNCM Brass Band Festival in Manchester.

Jessica holds two Bachelor's degrees as well as a Master's degree from Ohio State University, and she is currently in her 25th year of teaching (grades six to 12). She is currently on staff at Jazz Arts Group (Columbus) as the director of the Columbus Youth Jazz Ensemble as well as the director of the Columbus Community Jazz Band. A freelance trombonist, Jessica plays lead with the Springfield Symphony Jazz Orchestra and has performed with many other celebrated musical groups. Jessica makes her home in

Columbus, Ohio with her kids Joshua and Jordan.

MAREIKA GRAY *conductor*

Mareika is the Musical Director of the Eccles Borough Band, in Greater Manchester, and until recently was Artistic Director of The Ratby Band.

Originally from Australia, Mareika started her musical life with the violin before picking up the baritone and joining her father in the Brisbane Excelsior Band. She moved to the UK in the late 1990s, where she played euphonium with The Ransome Band, Bodmin Town Band, Leyland Band, the Fairey Band, and more.

Throughout her career, Mareika has featured in the prizes at many competitions. As conductor, she has made several appearances at the Australia, Danish, Norwegian, and British Nationals Championships, gaining podium finishes at each contest. She continues to appear at major contests, including Symphony Hall Birmingham, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Grieg Hall in Bergen. She is internationally in demand as an adjudicator, too, having judged at national contests in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, and New Zealand, as well as the Youth Championships of Great Britain.

Mareika has established herself among the

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world's leading brass band conductors with her inspiring concert programmes and her unique interpretations of major brass band works. Looking forward, she has a busy schedule with new bands in the UK and beyond.

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 première of Gavin Higgins' acclaimed *Dark Arteries* production with the Rambert Ballet at Sadler's Wells.

The band's award-winning recorded releases have been complemented by a stellar series of performances, which include the world première of a brass band realisation of the renaissance masterpiece *Spem in alium* and concerts with musician Tim Minchin as part of the Old Vic Theatre's 200th Anniversary, plus appearances 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 record and release the brass music of Ralph Vaughan Williams as part of the RVW 150th celebrations. In August 2023, Tredegar performed at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in a major collaboration with the National Orchestra of Wales and in its 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 at 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 and created a band with a vibrant sound and an eclectic taste.



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In September 2023, the band was taken on by Mark Bousie (euphonium, Foden's Band) who continues to challenge its musicians 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 Junior RNCM and to book a place at the next Open Day (Saturday 8 February 2025) please contact Millie Whittle, 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 London's Purcell Room and Manchester's Bridgewater Hall, as well as in Budapest. He has also worked in Ohio, US, 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.

BLACK DYKE BAND

Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world, with over 350 recordings and growing every year, and in October 2020 its recording of music by John Rutter became the first by a brass band to top the classical music chart.

It is also the most successful contesting band in the world having won the European Championships 13 times (most recently in 2015), the British Open no fewer than 30 times (most recently in 2014), and the

National Championships of Great Britain 23 times (most recently in 2014). In 2009, the band became Champion Band at the English National Championships, repeating that success in 2011, 2012, and 2013, and was named English National Champions in 2014 by virtue of having won the National Brass Band Championships that same year. More recently, the band secured an unprecedented hat trick of wins at the Yorkshire regional championships in 2016, 2017, and 2018, which it followed up with further wins in 2020 and 2022 (there was no contest in 2021 due to Covid-19).

The band's logo of the stag's 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

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continued contest success, claiming titles at both British Open and National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain. He has personally been presented with the Harry Mortimer Maestro Award for his outstanding ability as a conductor, and being named the 2014 Conductor of the Year by 4barsrest and Brass Band World. His recordings with Black Dyke Band have been heralded as the very best in the brass band world, securing 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 (of which he is Founder 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 band is delighted to be working with Katrina Marzella-Wheeler for the first time for this concert.

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, Brighouse & Rastrick, Carlton Main Frickley Colliery, Hammonds, Leyland, and Fairey bands in its ranks, as well as international representation from countries including Germany, New Zealand, Japan, China, Hong Kong and the US.

KATRINA MARZELLA-WHEELER *conductor*

Katrina Marzella-Wheeler is breaking down barriers in her beloved brass band movement, creating opportunities for

women, non-binary and underrepresented people to thrive in leadership and conducting roles. She is devoted to ensuring that brass banding is inclusive and forward-looking, through the music she conducts and programmes, the environment and culture she creates in her own bands, and the wide range of people with whom she works.

Katrina conducts several community bands in the UK throughout 2024, including Kingdom Brass in Fife, Glasgow's Cooperation Band, and Aldbourne Band in Wiltshire. She's an advocate for commissioning and programming new works by women and underrepresented composers. She has recently given Scottish premières by Liz Lane, Lucy Pankhurst, and Kelly-Marie Murphy, as well as an innovative brass music theatre work with actor Elizabeth McNally.

Katrina Marzella-Wheeler is one of four nominees shortlisted for the 2025 RPS Inspiration Award.

As well as her work as a conductor, Katrina Marzella-Wheeler has been hailed as the leading baritone horn player of her generation. Her musical development owes much to the rich brass band heritage she encountered growing up in West Lothian, Scotland. Katrina has played with many of the UK's most

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accomplished bands, including Black Dyke Band.

Katrina is a Yamaha Artist and was delighted to be involved in the development of the Neo series baritone horn. The resulting instrument – launched in 2014 after five years of extensive testing and research – has been welcomed by players the world over as the baritone of choice for quality of manufacture, majesty of sound, and unrivalled projection.

The RNCM is grateful to Yamaha for supporting Katrina's appearance at the RNCM International Brass Band Festival.

HARRY LAI *conductor*

Harry Lai, from Hong Kong, is currently pursuing his Master of Music in Conducting under the tutelage of Professor Mark Heron and Professor Clark Rundell at the RNCM. He has recently worked as the Assistant Conductor of Birmingham Opera Company with Alpesh Chauhan and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO). He has also collaborated with orchestras such as The Hallé, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra, Südwestdeutsches Kammerorchester Pforzheim (SWDKO), English Symphony Orchestra, Manchester Camerata, and Opera Plovdiv Orchestra amongst others. In his conducting studies, he has received lessons and mentoring from by Sir Mark Elder, Nicolás Pasquet, Martyn Brabbins, Baldur Brönnimann, Anthony

Hermus, John Storgårds, Chloe van Soeterstede, and David Hill. Harry frequently assists BBC Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

MACCLESFIELD YOUTH BRASS BAND

Macclesfield Youth Brass Band (MYBB) is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2025 and is delighted to launch its milestone year with a performance at the RNCM International Brass Band Festival.

Based in a small Cheshire town at the foot of the Pennines, MYBB is a registered charity run entirely by enthusiastic volunteers with the objective of providing low-cost access to music tuition for all young people.

Monthly membership remains at just £5 which includes the loan of an instrument, tuition, music, and uniform. As well as providing the tools of the trade, MYBB is all about fun, inclusivity, and providing experiences for young people to build confidence and lifelong friendships. The organisation has three bands catering for absolute beginners and young musicians up to the age of 18 years old. Many members have progressed to study music and play with both local and top-ranking brass bands.

In addition to many contest appearances, MYBB undertakes a bi-annual tour abroad and performs at local events and concerts. The band

will also be back in the RNCM Concert Hall for its spectacular 20th Anniversary Concert, on Saturday 3 May 2025.

LOUISE RENSHAW *conductor*

Louise Renshaw has been the Musical Director and Chair of Macclesfield Youth Brass Band since its inception. She began playing piano at the age of eight and then took up free brass lessons at school with the then Principal Cornet player of Fairey Band, Norman Ashcroft. As a founder member of Stockport Schools Brass Band, Louise developed an interest in conducting and saw the opportunity to give something back when her band, Poynton Band, started its own youth band. The rest is history and she has been conducting youth bands as a volunteer for over 40 years.

She is a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship as well as numerous awards for her contribution to brass banding and the local community, including Brass Bands England Conductor of the Year 2023. Louise is also the owner of a uniform and workwear business based in Macclesfield.

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

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in history to be Quadruple Champions – simultaneously holding the National, Open, European, and Brass in Concert titles. They repeated this feat in 2019.

The band has a long and illustrious history. Formed in 1884, it originally bore the name Ton Temperance until 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 and won another four European titles (2013, 2016, 2019, 2022), four Nationals (2013, 2015, 2016, 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 and the US 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 the bands unprecedented Grand Slam of major titles in 2016 and 2019. Philip won the coveted 4barsrest 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, of the National Youth Brass Bands of Great Britain, Switzerland, and Wales, and of 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 the Brass Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 1991.

BRIGHOUSE & RASTRICK **BRASS BAND**

The Brighouse & Rastrick Brass 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 faced each other across the River Calder, in West Yorkshire. Today, it continues to be supported through public subscriptions and its own fundraising efforts. Brighouse & Rastrick caught the ears and imagination of the British public with its recording of *The Floral Dance*, which held the number two position in the British singles chart for nine weeks. Even though it was held off the top spot by *Wings*, the song 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 an encore.

Over recent years, the band has been engaged in a number of very successful music collaborations outside the brass band tradition, including with Rick Astley, BBC Radio 2 Folk Award winners The Unthanks, and classical actor Simon Callow. Brighouse & Rastrick has been crowned National Champions of Great Britain 10 times and is the current British Open and Brass in Concert Champions.



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