



Notations

The Ashby Concert Band Newsletter

Adrian Ashton, Director of Music



Notes from the Director of Music

Once again 2009 has been a great year for Ashby Concert Band. It seems only a short while ago I was telling you we had secured Lottery Funding to buy new instruments for the Band. Well, that money has been well spent on a beautiful new E \flat tuba and three wonderful timpani. Hot on the heels of the Lottery Funding we also secured additional funding from East Midlands Airport that allowed us to replace our aging keyboard system. You will not be surprised to know we are already starting to think about more new instruments for the Band and sources of possible funding.

Concert wise we can look back on three great concerts. The Mayor's Charity Concert in March was amazingly successful in securing much needed funding for the East Midlands based 'Wishes 4 Kids' charity. Not only did we play to a near full-house audience, but we were also joined by the Seaforth Highlanders and Dancers, who provided a spectacular display of pipe music and highland dancing. As has become customary we performed Highland Cathedral with the Highlanders, prompting an immediate encore! The evening was brought to an even more successful conclusion through the sales of a CD of Highland Cathedral recorded by the Band and Highlanders, sales of which raised over £850 for the charity.

In April we played a concert of English music at the annual St George's Day concert organised by Ashby Rotary Club. With music ranging from Thunderbirds to Pomp & Circumstance, it was an evening of flag waving and nostalgia.

In June we were delighted to be asked to give a concert of classical music at The Palace Theatre in Ibstock. An evening of popular classics ranging from March of the Nobles by Rimsky-Korsakov, through Danse Bacchanale by Saint-Saëns, to Palladio by Karl Jenkins and Blue Tango by Leroy Anderson left the audience shouting for more, and the Band with an invitation to give another concert in 2010.

And now, ten months into the year we are about to perform a Concert of Remembrance, again with the Seaforth Highlanders, to raise money for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. And then it will be Christmas once again and the challenges of a New Year to look forward to.

As for 2010, well plans are still being formulated, but we already know of a confirmed concert in March for the Ashby Mayor's Charity. In June we will be giving a concert for the Ashby Twinning Association, who will be celebrating fifty years of the town's twinning with Pithiviers, and we may be going on the road again, so another busy year ahead.

And as ever there will be many pieces of new music to be learnt and performed to add to our ever-growing repertoire. I look forward to seeing you at our future concerts and thank you for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary

6th November	Concert of Remembrance	20th March 2010	Ashby Mayor's Charity Concert
19th December	Annual Christmas Concert	19th June 2010	Pithiviers Twinning Anniversary Concert

All concerts are at Holy Trinity Church, Ashby and start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Tickets for our concerts are available from Ashby Tourist Information Centre, the Hub café or by calling Jackie Ashton (01332 864007) or Pat Maltby (01530 222934.)

Supporters Acknowledgements

Ashby Concert Band is especially grateful for the continued and extended support of our patrons,

Mrs. J. Hardwick	Mrs. M. Moulton	Mrs. M. Ross
Mr. and Mrs. K. Spencer	Mrs. K. Stephens	Dr. A. Tricker

and for the assistance given to the Band by Johnson, Murkett & Hurst, Accountants of Ashby de la Zouch.

www.ashbyconcertband.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1112173

“Making music at the heart of the East Midlands”

Portrait of a Player: Helen Andrews



Sitting on the front row of the clarinets is the band's membership secretary, Helen Andrews.

The first musical instrument Helen played was her brother's harmonica which he subsequently lost to his little sister. She then started saving her pocket money to buy a glockenspiel! After playing the recorder she progressed to the clarinet at the age of 10.

Helen was a member of The Bedfordshire County Youth Band in which she played solo clarinet. A highlight of her teenage years was the opportunity to play at the Festival Hall, London. The Youth Band also took part in an international contest in Vienna, which they managed to win.

After attending university Helen spent several years in retail management before marrying and starting a family. She has since been teaching clarinet and saxophone for 17 years and is an accredited teacher with the Derbyshire Music Partnership. She is also involved in the government funded Wider Opportunities Programme, which gives primary school children the opportunity to learn about musicianship and playing an instrument in a class situation.

Helen has been a member of Ashby Concert Band for many years and is a versatile player, currently playing with the first clarinets, but having played oboe in the past. Helen also plays alto saxophone with the quartet 'Quintessential Sax' with Adrian, Jackie and Ben Ashton, giving concerts and playing at a variety of functions during the year including weddings, parties and formal dinners.

Helen's other interests include walking, swimming and horse-riding. She is also kept busy with her growing extended family and two dogs.



Instruments of the Band

The clarinet has its roots in the early single-reed instruments played since the Middle Ages. The modern clarinet developed from a Baroque instrument called the chalumeau. This instrument was similar to a recorder, but with a single-reed mouthpiece and cylindrical bore. Around the turn of the 18th century, the chalumeau was modified by converting one of its keys into a register key to produce the first clarinet, a development attributed to German instrument maker Johann Denner. This instrument played with a loud, strident tone, so it was given the name clarinetto meaning "little trumpet". The original Denner clarinets had two keys and could play a chromatic scale, but various makers added more keys to get improved tuning, easier fingerings, and a slightly larger range.

Clarinets were soon accepted into orchestras, later models having a mellower tone than the originals. Mozart liked the sound of the clarinet (he considered its tone the closest in quality to the human voice) and wrote much music for it. By the time of Beethoven, the clarinet was a standard fixture in the orchestra.

Today, the clarinet is played in jazz and classical ensembles, as well as in chamber groups and as a solo instrument.

In wind bands, clarinets are a particularly central part of the instrumentation, occupying the same space (and often playing the same notes) in bands that the strings do in orchestras. Bands usually include several B \flat clarinets, divided into sections, each consisting of two or three clarinetists playing the same part. There is almost always an E \flat clarinet part and a bass clarinet part, usually doubled. Alto, contra-alto and contrabass clarinets are sometimes used as well, and very rarely a piccolo A \flat clarinet. Ashby Concert Band is fortunate enough to have a comprehensive collection of clarinets, including first, second and third B \flat clarinets, an alto clarinet and a bass clarinet.

