



Notations

The Ashby Concert Band Newsletter

Adrian Ashton, Director of Music



Notes from the Director of Music

The New Year is now upon us and ACB is busy preparing for the 2010 Concert Programme and looking ahead to planned events for 2011.

Our music year is getting off to a great start with the Annual Charity Concert organised by the Mayor of Ashby. The Mayor's chosen charity this year is Rainbows Children's Hospice, and we will be performing a concert of film music with a distinct classical twist. Over the years, the film world has frequently resorted to using music composed by the great classical composers to add impact to their films. The concert band will, for the first time, perform Wagner's well known *The Ride of the Valkyries* - famously used in the film *Apocalypse Now*. Featuring the Band's first Cor Anglais solo will be another stunning piece of music - Mahler's *Adagietto from the 5th Symphony*, so memorably used in the film *Death in Venice*. Other classical greats include Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance No.1*, Shostakovich's *Waltz No. 2 from the 2nd Jazz Suite*, and the famous Barber *Adagio for Strings* used in the film *Platoon* and expertly arranged for concert band, where there is not a string to be seen! It will be like a 'cinematic Prom concert' - there will even be the chance to sing *Jerusalem* as used in *Calendar Girls*!

In June we will be joined by The Seaforth Highlanders to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Ashby - Pithiviers Twinning. The music will represent some of the best of British and French music. Amongst the pieces being played by the concert band will be the well known *Bolero* by Ravel, *Farandole from L'Arlésienne* by Bizet and *Danse Bacchanale* by Saint-Saëns. The English and Welsh components will be played by ACB, with The Highlanders playing the best of Scottish themes, and Quintessential Sax performing a delightful *Celtic Suite* to provide an Irish dimension to the concert.

After the summer break we will start our preparations for the annual Concert of Remembrance, and then Christmas will be knocking on the door for some traditional favourites and some new 'first time performances' for ACB - more of those later in the year.

As I indicated at the beginning of this introduction to Notations, we are already planning ahead to 2011. In particular, we are hoping to perform a joint concert with The Seaforth Highlanders at De Montfort Hall in Leicester at the end of October 2011. The concert is primarily to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Highlanders and I am delighted that they have seen fit to invite ACB to perform with them in such a wonderful concert setting.

For those who might be wondering, for the first time in 10 years, ACB will not be giving a concert at Ibstock this year, however, a date has already been pencilled in for June 2011, and we are hopeful the theme for the evening will be the best of Sci-fi - so sharpen up your light sabres and prepare to warp where no concert band has gone before!

Dates for your Diary

20th March	Ashby Mayor's Charity Concert	19th June	Pithiviers Twinning Anniversary Concert
12th November	Concert of Remembrance	18th December	Christmas Concert

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

Mr. and Mrs. J. Tuckey, MBE	Mrs. J. Hardwick	Mrs. M. Moulton
Mr. and Mrs. K. Spencer	Mrs. K. Stephens	Mr. and Mrs. J. Backhouse
Mrs. M. Ross	Dr. A. Tricker	Mr. and Mrs. N. Price
	Mr. W. Pratt	

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

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"Making music at the heart of the East Midlands"

Portrait of a Player: Ron Hewitt



Ron was encouraged to join the local junior band at the tender age of 8½, first learning the baritone before moving on to tenor trombone with the seniors.

Inevitably, National Service beckoned and, in addition to mainstream electronics duties, Ron continued to play with RAF Wilmslow and Wildemrath (Germany) bands on ceremonial duties. Returning to Civvie Street, family, work and travel commitments meant leaving a musical career behind (the invitation to join RAF Germany Central Band being one of life's defining moments.)

After taking a technology degree with the Open University and postgraduate certificate in industrial relations, Ron taught 'Industrial Electronics' on government retraining programmes for many years.

With retirement approaching, investment in a new trombone restarted a career involving 2nd and 1st section contest bands and the then Staunton Wind Orchestra.

During the past ten most enjoyable years, in which Ron claims to have introduced the memorable *Highland Cathedral* to Ashby Concert Band, his greatest achievement is to have participated in the Guinness World Record 'Largest Trombone Choir' (circa 900 players) at Birmingham Symphony Hall in 2006!

Instruments of the Band: Trombone

The word *trombone* derives from Italian *tromba* (trumpet) and *-one* (a suffix meaning "large"), so the name literally means "large trumpet". Trombones and trumpets share the important characteristic of having predominantly cylindrical bores. Therefore, the most frequently encountered trombones – the tenor and bass trombone – are the tenor and bass counterparts of the trumpet. They are both pitched in B \flat – with the slide all the way in, the notes of the harmonic series based on B \flat can be played – but trombones generally read music in concert pitch.

Until the early 18th century, the trombone was called the sackbut in England, although other countries used the same name throughout the instrument's history. The sackbut was built in slightly smaller dimensions than modern trombones, and had a bell that was more conical and less flared. The instrument was used extensively across Europe from its appearance in the 15th century to a fading out in most places across the mid-late 17th century. During the later Baroque period, Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frideric Handel used the trombone on occasions, but the repertoire for trombone solo really has its beginnings in Austria during the later Classical era.

Today, the trombone can usually be found in wind ensembles/concert bands, symphony orchestras, marching bands, military bands, brass bands, brass choirs and big bands. It can be part of smaller groups as well, such as brass quintets, quartets, or trios, or trombone trios, quartets, or choirs (though the size of a trombone choir can vary from five to twenty or more members.)



A disassembled trombone. From left to right: mouthpiece, outer slide, bell section, inner slide.

Brass and Percussion Players Wanted

Ashby Concert Band is actively seeking and recruiting players into its brass and percussion sections, including the trombone section. To join the Band, players should be of grade 5 standard and pass an audition, but rusty players are given time to practice and come back up to standard! Help is also available with arranging tuition and provision of some instruments. So, if you play or once played a brass or percussion instrument and would like to join the band then please get in touch with our Membership Secretary, Helen Andrews, on 01283 701088.