

Recruitment

As always we are keen to attract new players, and although we always welcome woodwind players to the Band, we are really keen to attract new brass instrument players. So if you play, or know anyone who plays, Trumpet/Cornet, French Horn, Euphonium, or Tuba then you will be most welcome to join SCB.

Future Concert Dates for your diary:

- February 14th 2004 – ‘Barn Dance’ with The Windmill Folk, at Breedon Community Centre
- March 25th – joint concert with Ashby Grammar School : Ashby Grammar School
- June 12th – Music of the West End Stage: Ibstock St Denys Church
- December 11th – Christmas Concert: Hugglescote Church, Coalville
- December 18th - SCB Annual Christmas Concert : Holy Trinity Church, Ashby

The SCB Christmas CD Sales

The SCB Christmas CD proved to be a great success in the run up to Christmas. Appearances by the Band at Chatsworth, Hugglescote, the Tesco store in Ashby, The Ferrers Centre at Staunton Harold, and Ashby Trinity Church, all helped to secure a grand total of 194 sales – just 6 short of the target of 200 we set ourselves.

The SCB Patrons' Scheme

SCB's Patrons' Scheme continues to attract new supporters who are keen to provide the Band with direct financial support whilst obtaining a number of exclusive benefits. Becoming a Patron costs just £20 per year. For more information contact our Chairman, Dave Curtis, on 01332 810116, or any member of SCB Committee.

Christmas Celebration – A Review of the SCB CD

“Staunton Concert Band is an excellent example of an amateur wind band, with high standards of musicianship.”

“From Leroy Anderson's opening track "Sleigh Ride" to the eighth number (a Chip Davis arrangement of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen") this CD is a delight! An enjoyable mix of material and an excellent example of what an amateur wind band can achieve in the splendid ambience of Holy Trinity Church in Ashby de la Zouch.”

“No Christmas CD would be complete without Leroy Anderson's "Christmas Festival" medley which demonstrates competence in all departments of the band.”

Many will enjoy both the music and the manner of performance on this CD. It should sell well and be an excellent fund-raiser for SCB and its future development.”

“...an ideal Christmas present for last year and for future years.”

We hope you agree!!



STAUNTON CONCERT BAND

‘Notations’

January 2004

Welcome to another copy of Staunton Concert Band Newsletter
So what's new and of note?

Well, it's the start of a new year for SCB, and we are all hoping it will prove to be an equally successful year for all concerned.

We are again looking to play our usual four or five concerts during the coming 12 months. So far we have three confirmed dates. We are delighted to be going back to Ibstock St Denys in June to give a concert of West End stage music. Andrew Lloyd Webber will feature strong – no West End concert would be complete without the music of Phantom of the Opera, Cats, and Evita, to name but three. We will also be playing music from Les Miserables and Miss Saigon. If you want to know what else – well you will just have to come along and hear for yourself.

But beware, ticket sales are expected to be brisk, so get in early!

Christmas Concerts – yes Christmas! – have already been confirmed at Hugglescote, and Ashby. Hopefully we will also be playing to the shoppers at Tesco in Ashby in the run up to Christmas.

Discussions are also underway with Ashby Grammar school regarding a combined concert in March – this has still to be confirmed. Finally we are hoping to stage a major concert in the coming 12 months with Chris Jeans. Chris is an internationally recognised trombone player who lives in Leicester. The concert will comprise mainly light classical works, and will include ‘Mars’ from the Planets Suite by Gustav Holst, and Verdi's brilliant ‘Force of Destiny’, as used in the beautiful French film *Jean de Florette*.

So, a challenging year ahead – we look forward to your continued support.

Portrait of a player – Pat Maltby

Pat sits right in the middle of the band playing alto saxophone. She only started to play this instrument after having some music lessons to prepare her for early retirement. The final choice of saxophone was made on the basis of which instrument she could get a note out of first!

Until ten years ago Pat's musical experience was limited to playing piano for her primary school pupils, and teaching them descant recorder. However, Pat was determined to play in a group and so persevered with her saxophone lessons. Practice at home was often thwarted by members of her family stuffing one of her much loved collection of teddy bears down the bell of the instrument. She knew that she was making progress when this protest stopped.

Pat could be considered to be a founder member of SCB, but with characteristic honesty she admits that she missed the first few rehearsals. Since then Pat's playing has developed with the band to the point that she sometimes plays solo. She has served on the Committee since 1997, specialising in finding venues and publicising the band. She is also responsible for recruiting several members of the band and encouraging those musicians who learnt to play in later life. Her own wide ranging musical taste includes traditional jazz, big band and popular classics.

Are there any pieces you would like us to play?

If you've got a real favourite you think SCB could play then drop us a line or e-Mail and tell us your suggestion - you never know - it could be on a future concert programme! e-Mail: requests@stauntonconcertband.co.uk

SCB Fund Raising Programmes – a Progress Report for 2003

SCB requires a regular income to sustain its normal activities – to pay for rehearsals, insurance and other expenses, and to buy music, which can typically cost £80 to £100 per piece. This income is generated through members' subscriptions, concerts and fund-raising activities, such as the Christmas Carol playing at Tesco and sales of our Christmas CD, but for SCB to progress we need to purchase further specialised instruments such as Timpani, costing over £1000 each, and gain funding for the major concert which is currently being planned. A Fund Raising Committee has been established and is now following up a range of alternative sources of funding, including sponsorship from local companies, lottery and other grants, and additional fund-raising events such as the forthcoming Barn Dance. If you have any more ideas or contacts, or would like to support our fund-raising activities directly, we would be pleased to hear from you!

A fond look back at SCB activities in 2003

The year started with a repeat Christmas in January – the Band spent a whole day at Trinity Church in Ashby recording our Christmas CD. And what a worthwhile day that proved to be, with almost 200 CD's sold at Christmas 2003.

2003 was another successful year for Staunton Concert Band. Our first concert of the year was held at Trinity Church Ashby, where we played to a packed church a variety of pieces by English composers. These included 'Tall Ships' by Ron Goodwin, Suites by Vaughan-Williams and Holst, music by the Beatles and John Barry.

In May we were pleased to play at a Dedication Service for a new St Johns Ambulance in Melbourne, in the grounds of Melbourne Hall. As it turned out the weather was excellent, following a morning of torrential showers and strong winds.

In June we held our traditional annual Barbecue. Once again we were blessed with good weather, and once again we enjoyed a great game of Rounders. Our thanks to 'the Visitors' for playing so valiantly, and losing with such good grace.

In July we said a fond farewell to a great friend of the Band. Michael Arkle retired from Breedon School and Community Centre, and our concert of music inspired by various modes of transport, was dedicated to Michael, including the main theme from the film 'Superman'. We wish Michael good health and happiness in his retirement.

In October we played our usual annual concert at Ibstock St Denys. Once again the church was full to capacity. The concert programme comprised entirely traditional and folk music from the British Isles. Once again we were delighted to invite Alexandra Gamble to sing with the Band.

In November the Band was privileged to open the season of Christmas music at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. The weather was kind to us (it began to rain just as we were clearing away) and we received numerous comments of thanks and appreciation for our playing.

December saw us busy with concerts at Hugglescote and Ashby, appearances at the Tesco store in Ashby, and the Ferrers Centre at Staunton Harold.

We have been lucky to welcome a number of new members to the Band, and we have had to wish a fond farewell to others. We have also seen players taking on new instruments – like Jackie Ashton moving from alto saxophone to bassoon.

If 2004 can be as successful for SCB then the Band will continue to go from strength to strength. Our MD is already preparing challenging pieces for the Band which we hope you will enjoy listening to as much as we enjoy playing them.

We would like to say thanks to our supporters for their encouragement over the last year, and we look forward to your continued support in 2004.