

Staunton Concert Band •

notations



Edition 4. September 2005

Welcome to the September edition of 'Notations' the newsletter of Staunton Concert Band.

Our playing year started in March. We had been invited by the National Trust to play at the spring re-opening of Kedleston Hall. The band gathered under threatening skies overlooking the fabulous Derbyshire country-side. Hikers and visitors to the hall stopped to listen to our selection of tunes from shows and light music. The band was heard by several hundred people during the day and the organisers for the National Trust were very pleased with our performance, and may even ask us back when the sun is shining!!

The pews were packed for our May time "Concert of Pomp & Celebration" at St. Denys church, Ibstock. We were commemorating 60 years since VE Day so the first half was full of Wartime nostalgia with tunes to reflect the era. Alex Gamble provided the vocal solos and as a treat I was able to leave my musical director responsibilities for a short time and pick up the alto saxophone to perform a solo of Stardust. Wine in the interval helped the atmosphere for the second half - favourites from the Last Night of the Proms. Alex led the singing of Jerusalem and Rule Britannia. There was much flag waving and the audience went home with a real feel-good glow and we enjoyed being part of this popular concert season in Ibstock.

June saw us back in the open air, this time with the sun shining. We were playing at the Leonard Cheshire Home, Netherseal, for their fundraising afternoon. We played a selection of tunes from the musicals and some of our 1940's nostalgia numbers, the highlight being a fly-past by a world war two bomber as we played the Dam Busters March.

We are getting excited about our proposed trip next June to Ashby's twin town - Pithiviers in France. Pat and David Maltby have already paid a visit on our behalf. They met with local officials who were most welcoming and helpful. There is still a lot of work to be done, but we are really looking forward to this our first international venture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adrian'.

Adrian Ashton Musical Director

Big Band, Swing, Classical, Jazz, Blues, Folk, Broadway Stage, Film, Popular

October 2005

Our next engagement is to present a “Trafalgar Celebration Concert” at Breedon Community Centre on Saturday, 22nd October. Breedon has been selected as one of the sites to host one of the national chain of beacons being used to celebrate the anniversary – just as they were used 200 years ago to spread news of the victory by Nelson over Napoleon at Trafalgar. The programme of music will include many of the pieces we have come to associate with the Last Night of the Proms – so bring your flags and be prepared to sing for England!

22nd October 7.30pm Breedon Community Centre, Trafalgar Celebration Concert

November 2005

The Band are pleased to have been asked to play again at Ashby’s Royal British Legion’s Festival of Remembrance on 11th November. The format for the concert is exactly as per last year, with one or two additional features to add interest and poignancy to the evening. The Concert organisers have invited SCB to play a ‘show piece’ of our choice, so will be playing the Gordon Jacob Fantasia on an English Folk Tune. We’re not saying which folk tune it is mind – that’s for you to guess when you hear it!

11th November 7.30pm Holy Trinity Ashby, Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance Concert

December 2005

After that back into celebration mood with our Christmas schedule. The festive season starts at Hugglescote on Saturday 3rd December. The next day we’re playing at Staunton Harold Lights of Love service. Our big Christmas celebration is in Holy Trinity Church, Ashby on Saturday 17th December. We will be playing a number of new pieces this year, as well as some of the old favourites, so make sure you have the date in your diary to avoid disappointment.

3rd December 7.30pm Hugglescote Pre-Christmas Concert

4th December 4.30pm Staunton Harold, Lights of Love Service

11th December 10.00am Ashby, Carols at Tesco

17th December 7.30pm Holy Trinity Ashby, SCB Annual Christmas Concert

18th December 10.00am Ashby, Carols at Tesco

Staunton Concert Band

portrait



Julie McLean, Alto Clarinet

Right in the middle of our band there sits the players of the larger woodwind instruments. Here on alto clarinet is long-time member of SCB, Julie McLean.

Julie's first musical love was as a member of her primary school choir. There was just one problem – an ear infection left her incapable of putting two notes together. Her Dad bought her first clarinet to help her get over her disappointment at being left out of the choir. Fortunately for Julie, her hearing got better and by the age of eight was back singing in her local church choir. Her love of choral music led to being selected for the Irish Youth Choir and the Gryphon Consort. Luckily for us she also kept on playing the clarinet.

Julie arrived in the East Midlands from her native Ireland brought here by her work - sometimes several times a day - as a flight attendant for BMI. When they offered her a ground job she found herself living in Castle Donington and looking for an outlet for her musical talent. Thus she joined Staunton Concert Band in March 1999. It wasn't long before her personality and musical skill led her to joining the Band's Management Committee. She has also served for a time as secretary.

Julie's early love of choral music has never abandoned her. She now sings in Melbourne Church Choir, which has also meant that she has sung in Worcester Cathedral, St George's Chapel, Windsor and St Paul's in London. Her preferred choice of music is Classical and Choral with works by Handel and Purcell being among her favourites.



And one extra piece of news is that Julie gave birth to a boy Alexander William on 23rd August. Our congratulations to Julie and husband Greg.

We hope young Alexander William doesn't disrupt Julie's musical activities too much!!

Big Band, Swing, Classical, Jazz, Blues, Folk, Broadway Stage, Film, Popular

Staunton Concert Band

new venue



Holy Trinity Church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire

Until recently Staunton Concert Band had a unique association with Breedon on the Hill Community Centre. Over the years this has given us rehearsal facilities, a concert venue and home for social events.

However it has become evident that, as our numbers have increased to over 50 players, we have outgrown the accommodation at Breedon Community Centre. When other organisations hold meetings on the same night as our rehearsals, there is considerable strain on the Centre's facilities. We have therefore been considering a move to a more spacious rehearsal venue for some time.

County Council funding for Community Centres, including Breedon, has been radically cut in the last two years, and this has led to much uncertainty about the future use of Community Centres by local clubs and by organisations such as SCB. Even assuming it remains possible to use the Centre, costs seem set to rise considerably. We have supported the Community Association in making representations to the County Council and to our local MP about this unhappy situation.



So when we were recently offered the opportunity to move our rehearsals to Holy Trinity Church, Ashby, we gladly accepted the invitation. We gain a more suitable rehearsal and concert venue, and the Church will benefit from our financial support. The Church has made us very welcome and we hope for a long and happy relationship. In the meantime we thank Breedon for the happy years we spent there, and look forward to returning there for the village's Trafalgar Day celebration in October.

Hot off the press

Great news for Mark Pacey our French Horn player, he has become a Dad for the second time, to a son David William – a big congratulations to Mark and his wife.

For ticket reservations, concert bookings and further information:

Please contact: **Jackie Ashton**
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Pat Maltby
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We will soon be launching our updated website, so be sure to take a look in the very near future:
www.stauntonconcertband.co.uk

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