



June 2022

Welcome to this, the first edition of *Upbeat!*, Southampton Concert Wind Band's occasional online newsletter!

What have we been doing?

Lockdown to restarting rehearsals

The past couple of years have brought challenges for everyone. SCWB's coping mechanism throughout the pandemic lockdown was to have a fortnightly quiz via Zoom, a name few would have known before COVID struck. In summer 2021, as soon as the relaxation of restrictions permitted, SCWB was back in the rehearsal room at Itchen College, albeit with limited numbers, wide spacing between the chairs and no toilet breaks! It was so joyful to meet up in person once again and to make music together.

Playing in public – and adding to our awards collection



Our first post-lockdown engagement was in August at Romsey Bandstand where we very nimbly dodged the showers. In October we staged a concert in the Main Hall at Itchen College, performing a programme of light, accessible and fun music. We were back in our musical stride and, in November, we achieved a Platinum Award from the National Concert Band

Festival, a fantastic achievement for SCWB. Our Christmas Concert in the Chapel at Royal Victoria Country Park was the most wonderful festive experience, supported on stage by the choir from Netley Abbey Junior School.

Banding Together Into 2022

At the end of January, we organised our fifth Banding Together event with wind, brass and percussion musicians from far and wide joining us for a day of music-making under the inspirational guidance of virtuoso tuba player (and former SCWB guest soloist) Les Neish.



Tremendous trombone - and a Celtic calamity



In late March SCWB performed a concert in Turner Sims with guest soloist Brett Baker, Principal Trombone of the world-famous Black Dyke Band. At the heart of the programme was the *Pandora Trombone Concerto*, a hugely challenging contemporary concerto by Benjamin Ellin. The remainder of the programme revolved around music that fell into the category 'Best of British'. The one downside to this marvellous concert was the inescapable

obligation (a stipulation attached to a generous donation in our fundraising to buy timpani) for me to conduct the encore while wearing a Celtic football jersey. Those who know me will understand quite how much of a trial that was!

Jubilation at The Chapel, Royal Victoria Country Park

Most recently, we performed a two-hour programme of music to a large and enthusiastic crowd at the Royal Victoria Country Park Jubilee Lunch. Again, we dodged the rain!

Events to look forward to

Saturday 25th June 7:30pm

SCWB will be on the concert stage in Chandler's Ford Methodist Church performing a summery and celebratory programme of music. We are extremely lucky to have as our guest soloist Chris Avison, until recently the Principal Trumpet of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He will be performing a classic of the repertoire, the *Denis Wright Cornet Concerto* as well as the more contemporary and hugely exciting *Excursions*, by Bruce Broughton. Aside from the solo items, Walton's *Crown Imperial* will be the finale, complemented by a splendidly inventive arrangement of the traditional folk song *Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron* and *Breezin' Down Broadway* (the name says it all!). You'll have to come along to find out everything else that we'll be playing!

Advanced tickets sales are from [this link](#) or sold on the door.

Sunday 7th August 2:30pm

We will be giving our yearly concert on Romsey Bandstand in the War Memorial Park. Bring a picnic, a rug, but hopefully not an umbrella.

Saturday 1st October 7:30pm

SCWB will be returning to Chandlers Ford Methodist Church to share the stage with the Band of the Hampshire Constabulary.

Sunday 11th December 3:00pm

Our Christmas Concert will be in the Chapel at Royal Victoria Country Park. This is an extremely popular concert and an early sell out last year, so keep a watch out nearer the time for when the tickets go on sale.

After a couple of years where long and happily established routines were disrupted, SCWB is once again firing on all cylinders, playing well and entertaining our audiences. Your support of the band has always been greatly appreciated and it would be fantastic if you could join us in Chandlers Ford on 25th June. An enjoyable evening is guaranteed!

If you know of other people who would like to hear our news, do please forward this to them. They can sign up to receive their own copy in the next distribution by dropping an email to us at

FriendsofSCWB@scwb.org.uk

Calum Gray
Music Director
www.scwb.org.uk