



July 2025

What an amazing evening's entertainment we all had on Friday 27th June, when SCWB joined Thornden Community Wind Band (TCWB) on stage for an exhilarating concert.

Gabrielle Horne is one of the SCWB trumpeters, but also is Deputy DoM of TCWB. Here are her recollections of the leadup to the concert, and the concert itself.

Gabrielle Horne



As a member of SCWB trumpet section and Deputy Director of Music at TCWB I have enjoyed observing the preparations and build up towards this concert in both band rooms. Each conductor carefully planning their own band's programme and then pondering what would work with the combined forces of two musical powerhouses.

There was a crescendo of activity as the concert date drew near. Rehearsals became more intense with conductors appearing at rehearsals with the other band, discussions on logistics of fitting over 100 musicians on stage with a battery of percussion lined up behind and how to all change over without any mishaps.

On the night all went magnificently! Both bands chose a varied programme, each stretching their own players. Thornden opened with James Barnes's *Symphonic Overture*, an extended piece, which challenged the breadth and stamina of the band. They also offered two soloists with enchanting performances of *Gabriel's Oboe* and *What a Wonderful World*, featuring oboe and alto saxophone respectively. Likewise, Southampton challenged the band and the audience with a seductive and fiery interpretation of Marquez's *Danzon No.2*. As a fabulous contrast, the band showed a delicate side performing the very simple and charming *Melody* by Myroslav Skoryk.

The final part of the concert was a musical feast with the two bands combining to offer a quite diverse massed bands programme. The audience waited with eager anticipation and were not disappointed. I was delighted to bring the



baton down on the *Liberty Bell* march and was so impressed with the control and discipline of every musician. As a contrast, Philip Sparke's *Merry Go Round* was an absolute riot of fun and fast fingers. Gary (DoM TCWB) took us into the heart of Brazilian samba with *Mas Que Nada*, but demonstrated the opposite end of the dynamic spectrum with a beautiful rendition of Eric Whitacre's *Seal Lullaby*; a quite unexpected choice for such a large force, but very pleasing on the ear. It was left to Calum (DoM SCWB) to steer this impressive musical machine to its exciting finale. He chose *Viva Musica!* by Alfred Reed and it was a glorious conclusion to a night of exhilarating and sparkling performances. There was a warmth in the hall, coming not from a lack of air conditioning, but from a receptive audience and also the camaraderie between the two bands.

Viva Musica indeed!

Gabrielle Horne
SCWB, Trumpet
TCWB, Deputy Director of Music

Coming Soon!

The next opportunity to enjoy a performance by SCWB will be entirely for free, as the band entertain you at the bandstand of Romsey's War Memorial Park on the afternoon of August 10th. Sunny weather has been booked, so bring your picnic, and sun block.

The next formal concert is also not to be missed, as SCWB welcomes back the virtuosic trumpet player, Chris Avison, as guest soloist. An exciting programme has been devised, but currently under wraps – so keep an eye on our social media for details as they are released. The date and place for your diary for this concert is Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril College, October 11th at 7.30pm.

Southampton Concert Wind Band dates for your diary

2025

War Memorial Park Bandstand, Romsey **Sunday** **Aug 10th** **2.30pm**

Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril College **Saturday** **Oct 11th** **7.30pm**

With guest soloist Chris Avison, Trumpet

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church **Saturday** **Dec 6th** **3.00pm**

Christmas Concert, with the choir of Hiltingbury Junior School

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