



July 2026

Welcome to this, the latest edition of SCWB's occasional online newsletter *Upbeat!*



In June the band performed a concert in Chandler's Ford Methodist Church with the theme of 'Out of this World'. This allowed for an adventurous programme that included themes from *Thunderbirds*, *Star Trek*, *Doctor Who* and *E.T.* but also more classical items such as the overture from *Orpheus in the Underworld* as well as *Venus and Mars* from Holst's orchestral suite, *The Planets*.

Further to this otherworldly fun, we also had the pleasure of accompanying two young guest soloists from the Southampton area. Lizzie Rowland (trombone) performed Rob Wiffin's *Heroic Étude*. This is a technically challenging

work much of which is in the upper range for the instrument as well as requiring some deft, rapid articulation. Lizzie coped with these demands most competently and earned a well-deserved ovation. Alfie Perrott (alto saxophone) performed John Williams's music from the film *Catch Me if You Can*. This work is infused with jazz idioms, both at a faster tempo and in a slower, more reflective mood. Alfie captured the style of the music wonderfully well, engaging the audience with a highly spirited performance. It was a huge pleasure for SCWB to support these young musicians, both of whom were performing solos with band accompaniment for the first time.

All proceeds from this concert were donated to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance whose volunteers, Jan and Judi, gave a most informative talk to the audience after the interval. Judi thanked SCWB afterwards with the following comments:

"I recently had the pleasure of attending a concert by the SCWB – what an inspiring group of talented musicians! The band is led by the enthusiastic and charismatic Calum Gray, whose passion for the music is clearly demonstrated by the way the musicians interpret each piece. The choice of music was superb and my only complaint would be that there wasn't more! The concert had a piece of music for



every taste – from beautiful classical pieces to the themes from television and movies, all seamlessly woven together to take the audience on a journey out of this world. The two young soloists were outstanding and it is wonderful to see such young musicians being given a chance to show their considerable talents. They are both names to watch for in the future. Their performance with the band was simply stunning and again, I would have loved to have heard more. A huge thank you to SCWB for inviting us along and I look forward to attending some of their future performances.”

Next for the band was our Banding Together summer event on 19th July, where over 60 musicians (SCWB and guests) sat down for a day of music-making under Calum’s direction. Happily, we did not experience the highest temperatures and everyone enjoyed tackling a variety of music, ranging from classic wind band music by Percy Grainger and Gordon Jacob to a funeral march by Grieg and a light, contemporary work by SCWB’s Patron, Rob Wiffin. It was interesting to note that there were 6 first-time attendees of a Banding Together event alongside countless others who have attended numerous SCWB-hosted events over recent years.



At 2.30pm on Sunday 9th August we will make our annual appearance at Romsey Bandstand. Can the weather be as good this time as it has for our visits in the past couple of years?

Looking a little further ahead, SCWB will visit a performance venue that is new to us, **St Paul’s Church in Winchester, for our concert on Saturday 17th October**. On that occasion we will be joined by the band’s Associate Artist, Brett Baker, who will once again be demonstrating his virtuosity on the trombone. Tickets will be available via the band’s website.

As ever, we value your support at our performances. Please add the dates to your diaries and we look forward to seeing you!

Southampton Concert Wind Band dates for your diary

War Memorial Park Bandstand, Romsey Aug 9th 2.30pm

St Paul’s Church, Winchester Oct 17th 7.30pm
With guest soloist Brett Baker, trombone

Chandler’s Ford Methodist Church Dec 12th 3.00 pm
Christmas Concert, with the choir of Hiltingbury Junior School

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

www.scwb.org.uk

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