



Upbeat!

NEWS AND REVIEWS

October 2022

In this edition, we have a review of our latest concert written by Simon Morgan – lead alto saxophone for SCWB but also bass clarinetist for the Band of The Hampshire Constabulary, who shared the stage with SCWB in concert. Following this there is an article by Phil Gerrard, reflecting on recently joining SCWB.

The Force Was With Us!



I was delighted to be asked to put together an account of our latest concert which was, by any standards, an extravaganza! All of us will have our own recollections of the build up to, and then rehearsal and delivery of, the event but rather than me launch straight into my own thoughts, I will first share with you a post which appeared on social media, namely the Facebook Page of the Hampshire Police Band (seen here www.facebook.com/BandOfTheHampshireConstabulary), shortly after our joint concert at Chandler's Ford on Saturday 1st October.

Wow! Wow! Wow! What an amazing concert. First half by our friends [Southampton Concert Wind Band](#), second half by The Band of the Hampshire Constabulary, massed bands finale - what a sound. Both bands played brilliantly and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the programme. Thank you to SCWB for sharing the stage with us. Same again next year?

Comments after this post include:

Fantastic concert – what a sound! Brass Machine was spectacular!

Brilliant concert again, well done! 🍌🍌 Will be back to see you soon, Keep up the amazing music.

It was a wonderful concert. Well done to both bands and their conductors!

A thoroughly enjoyable rehearsal and concert with SCWB working alongside Hampshire Constabulary Band. Bravo to Gregg and Calum for super band musical direction. I do hope that this joint concert will become an annual event at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church in future autumn months?



From my own viewpoint, I believe that the two bands worked really well together and the choice of programme gave the audience the chance to compare contrasting repertoire and genres from each ensemble when playing separately and together. Many of us had the chance to chat to our opposite numbers in the other band, and in the photos I took it is interesting to see this going on. Of course for Dawn (wife, and bassoonist) and me, we had our feet in both camps, and on the night found that there was no rest – for the wicked? We also had to include a costume change!

All in all, a very worthwhile event, and of course we pay tribute to all those who made it happen, and who assisted in any capacity. A future joint event is something, I believe, that might well become a regular occurrence.

Simon

A New Recruit – Phil Gerrard, Euphonium

I saw an advert on Facebook for principal euphonium with SCWB. I had heard great things about the band, so I immediately enquired.

I had played in many brass bands during my school years, but it has been around 16 years since I last played in a wind band, that being Southampton Youth Wind Band while I was at school. Soon after I left school, I joined the Royal Navy and was playing with HMS Collingwood volunteer band. After I left the Royal Navy in 2010, I ended up putting my euphonium down for 12 years!

I had an offer to join a brass band as 2nd euphonium which I decided to take, and after 9 successful months there I decided brass banding wasn't so much for me. It was wind bands that I enjoyed playing in more! After a couple of emails back and forth, I suddenly found myself sat with SCWB at my first rehearsal. I wasn't quite sure what to expect after not playing in a wind band for over 12 years, but I was not disappointed!

SCWB has a very relaxed atmosphere with great encouragement and leadership. Being predominantly a brass band player, I have never learnt bass clef, but the Music Director, Calum, has been fantastic in transcribing bass clef parts to treble clef parts for me so I can play to my best ability, something not many band masters would do. Fast forward 3 rehearsals, I was already playing in my first concert with SCWB, and what an amazing night it was.

From what I have seen in the pad so far, SCWB has a very wide variety of repertoire, and I cannot wait to see what else is handed out in the near future. SCWB are very welcoming and willing to help you in any which way they can! My advice to anyone looking for a change or a challenge, make an enquiry with SCWB to see if a seat is available for you, you will not be disappointed! I'm so glad I made that enquiry and I look forward to a long successful time with the band! Thanks, SCWB!

Phil

SCWB events to look forward to

The Chapel, Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley December 11th 3:00pm

2023

Chandler's Ford Methodist Church March 25th 7:30pm

With guest soloist Peter Cigleris, clarinet

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