Dalmellington Band
Newsletter
Established 1864

Band secures 4th place at Scottish Championships

On Sunday 10th March, we competed in the 2019 Scottish Championships held in Perth Concert Hall, with the chance to become Scottish Champions and secure a place in the National finals held in the Royal Albert Hall, London. This year, for the first time in many years, we had a new professional conductor at the helm; the Dutch Conductor, Eric Janssen (*see page 4 for more on Erik*). The set test piece this year was 'Seascapes', written by The Salvation Army composer, Ray Steadman-Allen. Originally commissioned for the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain in 1988, it has three movements based on the famous John Mansfield nautical poem 'Cargoes'. Each movement depicts a different boat; the first, a five-oar rowboat, the second a Spanish Galleon, and the third an Iron Steamer. Erik's rehearsals were a real pleasure, where he used his musical creativity & artistry to paint a musical picture of these boats sailing on the sea. The adjudicators this year were Sheona White and Sarah Groarke-Booth. The band were drawn number 6 on the day, We had a good performance and were awarded fourth place, securing our place yet again as one of the top Brass Bands in Scotland, and Ayrshire's top Brass Band.

The full Championship Section results were:

1. The Cooperation Band
2. Whitburn
3. Newtongrange Silver
4. Dalmellington
5. Dunaskin Doon
6. Bo'ness & Carriden
7. Kirkintilloch Kelvin Brass
8. Bon Accord Silver
9. Bathgate
10. Johnstone.

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Time Flies!

We are well into 2019, which by the way, is the 155th year of the Dalmellington Band – Wow!! What a legacy, we are so proud to play a part in keeping that going, and grateful for the support of our patrons, friends, tutors, players, parents and guardians – and long-suffering partners and spouses. The Band are planning a commemorative event sometime late summer/early autumn, watch out for details.

The Band's AGM was held recently, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team – committee and others – who give their time willingly and keep the Band ticking over. Also, to welcome some new faces. At the end of the day it is a hobby, or interest, for us all. From time to time passions run high but in the end the legacy, camaraderie, making music together and an appreciative audience are what it is all about.

Special thanks go to Margaret Dunbar who is stepping down from committee duties this year. Margaret has been a great contributor to the running of the band. She is one of those folks that quietly (mostly!), just gets on with the job in the background. She will be missed at committee meetings, but she assures us she will still regularly be seen at concerts and events, selling her wares. Thanks Margaret.

THANK YOU

Archie Hutchison

facebook

If you are a Facebook user then please check out the band's Facebook page which has up to date information, chat and photographs about the band.

https://www.facebook.com/DalmellingtonBand/

Prizewinners: Back row – Lynsay Brown, Gordon Wilson, Derick Kirkwood, Rebecca Wilson, Shona Hutchison.
Front row – Toby Reed, Simone Clark, Aimee Wilson

Annual Slow Melody Contest Report

The band held its 74th Annual Cecil Oughton Memorial Slow Melody Competition on Saturday 28 January. A total of 26 participants took part across the Junior, Intermediate and Senior sections throughout the day.

Our Adjudicator for the day was Alexandra Kenyon. Alex hails from Cumbria and is an accomplished musician with several solo CD's to her name. The prizes were presented by Band stalwart supporters Peter and Audrey Brown.

RESULTS

Seniors
1st Place: *Rebecca Wilson* - Cornet
2nd Place: *Derick Kirkwood* - Trombone
3rd Place: *Lynsay Brown* - Flugelhorn
4th Place: *Shona Hutchison* – Tenor horn

Intermediates
1st Place: *Aimee Wilson*
2nd Place: *Simone Clark*

The Brass Academy
Tutors' player: *Sarah Mason*
Tutors' runner up: *Natasha Watson*

Other prizes
Best cornet: *Rebecca Wilson*
Best Horn: *Lynsay Brown*
Best Euphonium/Baritone: *David McKellar*
Best Trombone: *Derick Kirkwood*
Best Bass: *Les Henderson*
Best Percussion: *Toby Reed*

Mary Reid Quaich (voted by the committee to a non playing member of the band who has done a great deal behind the scenes): *Gordon Wilson*

Dale Salver (voted by the players to the person that has done the most over the past year for the band): *Cameron Paterson*

Dalmellington Brass Academy News

Back row – Stephanie, Sophie, Natasha, Lily, Luke
Front row – Jack, Sarah, Briadh, Danni

Brass Academy Annual Report

At the Band Annual General Meeting, Karin McKenzie, the Junior Band manager, gave an excellent report of the Brass Academy's Year. The Newsletter caught up with Karin to ask her about the report.

The Brass Academy seems to be going from strength to strength. How many students do you have now? Yes, strength to strength is right! We now have around 15 to 20 children regularly rehearsing every Sunday. It's a busy place!

How many tutors do you have teaching the students? Over 20 students are receiving lessons in the band hall from our dedicated team of tutors who are myself, Lynsay Brown, Rebecca Wilson, Cameron Paterson, Ralph Riddiough, Carol Mason and Ewan McNicoll. Duncan McCluskie has expressed an interest in joining the team too, which is fantastic.

What have been the highlights for the Brass Academy in 2018/19? The Brass Academy held its annual summer school in July. This was attended by most of the children and worked very well as a training week for the Scottish Championships.
Six children took part in the West of Scotland Solo Contest. Everyone played well.
The Brass Academy performed at the Scottish Championships for the first time in a few years. It was a fantastic day and experience.
Slow Melody – A good number of our students took part, which was great. It was also great to see so many parents & families there supporting. (*See above photo of some of the participants)*.

With Child protection such an important priority for organisations today, what does the Band have in place to meet this priority? The Band has a Child Protection Officer in place, and I'm pleased to report that we had no issues this year. Also, all our tutors hold up-to-date PVG certificates (Protection of Vulnerable Groups - Police Checked). That gives parents & guardians that extra peace of mind for the safety of their child.

Erik Janssen

Erik Janssen to conduct at 2020 Scottish Championships

The Band are delighted to announce that Erik Janssen will be taking us to the 2020 Scottish Championships to be held in Perth Concert Hall on Sunday 9 March. Erik is a leading figure in the conducting world. He has also taught at several music schools and been invited to give conducting masterclasses at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and Groningen. Erik has conducted Carlton Main Frickley Colliery where he led them to victory in the Grand Shield Contest in Blackpool 2016 at the first attempt. He was the first European conductor to win both this trophy and the conductor award in the 96-year history of the contest.

Dalmellington Band to play concert in Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

On Thursday 16th May at 7.30pm in the RCS, Renfrew Street, Glasgow, the Band will join RCS Brass and the former Principal Trombone of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Ian Bousfield, to present a 'Brass Spectacular' concert. Ian will be performing Eric Richard's 'Three Scenes for American Trombone' and the famous Arthur Prior 'Blue Bells of Scotland' along with the RCS trombone ensemble. Music from Strauss, Holst, Shore, Hubert and Mussorgsky will make this concert truly 'Spectacular'. Tickets from RCS Box Office.

Margaret Dunbar steps down from committee

Archie Hutchison & Margaret Dunbar

At our AGM on Monday night Margaret Dunbar stepped down from her position in the committee. Margaret has been a member for many years and has supported the band at all our concerts across Ayrshire.
As well as taking the minutes at every meeting, Margaret also raises a huge amount of money for the band each year and for that we are very thankful. The Band presented Margaret with a small leaving gift of a rose

2019 Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting took place on April 15, with an excellent turnout from both band members and members of the public. Our committee members for the next 12 months are:

President – Archie Hutchison
Vice President – Les Henderson
Secretary – Jan Murray
Treasurer – Shona Hutchison
Band Manager – Cameron Patterson
Junior Band Manager – Karin McKenzie
Minute Secretary – Lynn Young
Committee members – Ian Taylor, Leah Murdoch, Lynsay Brown, David Young, Wullie Young, Gordon Wilson, Rebecca Wilson, Jennifer Sturgeon, Murray Jamieson

Movers & Shakers

Joining – Duncan McCluskie, Isla McCann, Percussion

Leaving –Andy McIndoe – Solo Cornet, Ray Collins – Bass Trombone

Moving – Brian Mackie – BB flat Bass to Bass Trombone, Duncan McCluskie - Percussion to BB Flat Bass

Duncan McCluskie returns to Dalmellington Band

We are please to welcome back to the Band Duncan McCluskie. Duncan has been away for the "Central Belt" musical experience, playing with the Co-op Funeral Care Band. He's now putting that experience to good use back with his own Band. Duncan is yet another product of the late, great Hugh Johnstone MBE, rising from our junior Band to take his place in the senior band. Although Duncan is an accomplished B flat Bass player, the largest brass instrument in the band, he agreed to help the Band at the Scottish Championships on percussion. As you can see from the photo, his favorite piece of percussion was the Cow Bell! After the Scottish Championships, Brian Mackie kindly volunteered to move to

Bass Trombone, leaving a vacancy in the Bass section for Duncan to return to. Welcome back Duncan.

Blackpool, here we come!

The Band is practising hard for our next Contest; the British Open Spring Festival held in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool on Saturday 18th May. The test piece for this contest is Symphonic Music written for the 1979 European Championships by Paul Huber. We are delighted to have Nigel Boddice MBE as our guest professional conductor. Nigel was principal trumpet of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for 20 years, and now teaches trumpet at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Look out for a full report in the next issue of Newsletter.

Nigel Boddice MBE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 16 – Glasgow Concert at Royal Conservatoire of Scotland 7.30pm

May 18 – Blackpool Spring festival Contest, Winter Gardens

May 25 – Culzean Castle Concert; Brass Academy & Lancashire Youth Band

May 26 – Knockengorrach World Ceilidh – concert

June 9 – Dalmellington Summer Concert, 6.30pm Community Centre

Aug 6-8 – Brass Academy Summer School, Band Hall

Contact Us

Contact details:
Jan Murray, Secretary, 24 Ballantine Drive, Ayr KA7 2RG
Mobile: 07751480152
Email:
dalmellington_band_secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Archie Hutchison, President
Tel: 01655 760612
Mobile: 07803015524
Email: archie.hutchison@btinternet.com

DONATIONS

Dalmellington Band is a registered charity (Reg. No. SC045466) which relies on donations to continue to exist and to provide free music tuition. All donations are gratefully accepted. Please send any donations to the Band Secretary, making any cheques payable to Dalmellington Band.