



**NCBF London & Home Counties Regional
Festival**

Sunday 5 November 2023

**Wellington College
Crowthorne**

It's with considerable excitement that we welcome you to the 2023 London & Home Counties Regional Festival of the National Concert Band Festival at a new venue here at the Wellington College.

Today we have six bands performing their programmes for our adjudicators who will measure what is seen and heard with a particular level of musical achievement as per the NCBF Criteria. For four of these bands it is their first time at NCBF and we hope they enjoy themselves.

Those bands receiving a Platinum award (and maybe some Golds) will be invited to perform at the NCBF National Festival to be held at the Warwick Hall, Warwick on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th March 2023.

Our thanks to Wellington College for hosting today's festival with special thanks to Jonathan Heeley and the staff involved for the support we have received.

We hope you enjoy the day – you have a vital role to play in creating the atmosphere.

Have a go yourself at seeing how the bands performance meets the criteria at the end of this programme.





Today's Programme

Adjudicators: Ian Johnson Simon Hogg

Compere: Duncan Stubbs

1100 Kew Wind Orchestra (OWB)

Conductor: Tom Griffiths

The Ringing Isle

Jonahan Dove

Time Travels

Robert Thurston

1135 Wellington College Big Band (SBB)

Director: Jonathan Heeley

Honk

Jeff Jarvis

Cute

Neal Hefti

Backatown

Troy Andrews arr. Wasson

1210 South Berks Concert Band (CWB)

Conductor: Paul Speed

March (from *Moorside Suite*)

Gustav Holst arr. Brand

The Wishing Well

Rossano Galante

Hanover Festival

Philip Sparke

1240 Presentation of Awards

Feel free to remain to see the afternoon session.



1315 London Youth Concert Band (YWB)

Conductor: Fred Slide

Crown Imperial

William Walton arr. Duthoit

This Cruel Moon

John Mackey

Stevie Wonder in Concert

Stevie Wonder arr. Murtha

1350 Trinity School Symphonic Wind Orchestra (SWB)

Conductor: Liz Regan

Millennium Bridge & London Eye (from *New London Pictures*)

Nigel Hess

A Little Salsa Music

Adam Gorb

1425 Merchant Taylor's School Concert Band (SWB)

Conductor: Daniel Tonks

A Klezmer Karnival

Philip Sparke

Psalm 42

Samuel R Hazo

The Great Locomotive Chase

Robert W Smith

1500 Presentation of Awards



Todays Adjudicators:-

Ian Johnson



Ian Johnson was born in Bushbury, Wolverhampton. His musical journey began as a chorister in his local parish church choir and learning the piano. He attended St. Peters Collegiate School where he took up the Baritone before progressing onto the Euphonium. He performed in both the schools and towns Wind Band and also with Wolverhampton Brass Band. The highlight of his fledgling career culminated in a joint venture, organising, arranging and conducting in the school's annual concert. It was during this experience that Ian caught the conducting bug, which served as the perfect grounding for his future career as a military musician.

Ian joined the Army in 1986 and enlisted into The Band of The Royal Hampshire Regiment. He was able to develop his musical skills further, performing in the wind band on Euphonium, piano in the Jazz Quartet and vocals in the 'Dance Band'. Service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and The Royal Logistic Corps bands followed as did a 'graduation' from brass to woodwind as he took up the Bassoon vacancy on upon joining the RAOC in 1990.

In 1998 Ian volunteered to attend selection for the coveted Student Bandmaster Course at Kneller Hall, The Royal Military School of Music. His successful application resulted in his attendance on the 3yr Bandmaster Course, culminating in the attainment of his honours degree and accelerated promotion. His first Bandmaster appointment followed with an assignment to The Waterloo Band of the Kings Division and, shortly thereafter a commission and promotion to Captain followed. He was duly appointed Director of Music (DoM) to The Clive Band of the Prince of Wales's Division, in Shropshire. Subsequent assignments, as DoM with various bands ensued, culminating with promotion to Major in 2013, and appointment as Director of Music to the iconic Band of The Scots Guards in 2017, thirty years after his initial enlistment.

Ian's musical military career has taken him all over the world and afforded him the opportunity to perform in some of the most iconic venues, from Buckingham Palace to Spruce Meadows in Canada, Westminster Abbey and Winchester and Salisbury Cathedrals. It has also afforded him the opportunity to perform at prestigious sporting events including the League Cup Final at the Millennium Stadium in 2003, England vs Wales during the 2018 6 Nations internationals at Twickenham and the 2018 Virgin London Marathon.

Having recently retired from regular service, Ian is now serving as DoM of the Band of the Mercian Regiment, in the Army Reserve. He is also MD for Wellington (Telford) Brass Band and regularly performs in the Shropshire area with his variety small Jazz ensembles.



Ian is passionate about the power of music and how we, as musicians engage with each other and our audiences. He believes that music is about connectivity, and that the conductors' engagement with their musicians is key to the effectiveness of each performance, which in turn, transmits to the audience.

Previously a guest performer with the Royal Armoured Corps and Scots Guards bands, Ian is now very excited to have the opportunity to support other musicians and build on his relationship with the NCBF as an Adjudicator.

Simon Hogg



A graduate of the National Youth Orchestra, the Royal Academy of Music, London and Birmingham University, Simon Hogg became a founder member of The Fine Arts Brass Ensemble in 1980. During this time the ensemble performed two thousand concerts, visited over sixty countries throughout the world, recorded 150 BBC radio/TV broadcasts and made 25 commercial recordings. Fine Arts Brass Ensemble commissioned seventy original works by leading British composers and performed at most major British and European music festivals.

In 1994 Simon founded Warwick Music, a specialist music publisher, commencing with an unknown work for Trombone & Organ (1894) by Gustav Holst which he discovered in the British Museum. It was Simon's original concept that led to the Warwick Music's manufacture of the world's first plastic trombone the pBone.

In 1996 Simon was made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (ARAM), only awarded to alumni who have distinguished themselves in the music profession.

Simon has performed, lectured and examined at conservatoires around the world. He taught at the Royal College of Music, Junior Department for ten years and adjudicated the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition. He has been a Senior External Examiner at: the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Chetham's School of Music. In 2014 he was honoured with an award from the British Trombone Association and nominated for the Classic FM Music Teacher of the Year Award.

Simon has performed with orchestras throughout the world including: The City of Birmingham Orchestra (with Simon Rattle), The English Symphony Orchestra and The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

He was Director of Music at Warwick School, leading a staff of sixty music teachers and organising 750 music lessons every week. He is currently visiting professor at the Benedetto Marcello Conservatoire in Venice. When time permits he enjoys: reading, golf and all things Italian.





Today's Compere

Duncan Stubbs – Chairman of NCBF



Duncan Stubbs is one of the UK's most experienced wind band directors. He was awarded his music degree at York University, specializing in performance, followed by a year's postgraduate study in Birmingham specializing in music education. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1983 as a member of the Central Band of the RAF and was commissioned as a Director of Music in 1990, being one of the youngest ever commissioned Directors of Music in all three Services. He went on to serve with all the RAF Bands and completed 2 tours in the Headquarters with responsibilities for all aspects of training and administration. He was appointed Principal Director of Music for the Royal Air Force in November 2009

During his nine years as PDM, Duncan worked tirelessly to maintain the RAF's reputation for musical excellence on a global scale. He worked collaboratively with some of the UK's leading musicians including; Nigel Hess, George Fenton, Phillip Spark, Martin Ellerby, Phil Cobb, Linda Merrick, Simone Robello, Steven Mead. Responsible for instigating a successful commissioning programme to generate new music for Wind Bands he has both broadened the repertoire and supported new, talented composers. His musical experience ranges from working with musicians in school, University, Conservatoire, and Community Bands to televised performances, producing and recording commercial CDs, arranging for film and composing for Wind Band and smaller ensembles as well as having led major ceremonial events with the RAF, a highlight being writing and conducting the wedding fanfare for the marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton. Duncan continued his musical studies throughout his career, being the first musician to be awarded the Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music (Directing –Wind Band) and completing a master's degree in composition where he was awarded both the Albert Thomas Composition prize and the Primrose Ensemble Composition Prize for composition. In 2017 he was awarded the OBE for services to Military Music.

Since leaving the RAF he has been appointed resident conductor with 2 wind bands, he frequently leads wind band workshops throughout the UK and is the regular conductor for the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra summer course. He teaches conducting for the RAF and the University of West London and has been asked to lead a conducting course for a residential summer school in the South East of England. He frequently adjudicates at both brass and wind band Festivals and continues to write and arrange music.





Duncan is delighted to be appointed the chairman of the NCBF and looks forward to using his skills and experience to further broaden the musical opportunities and aspirations of Wind Band musicians throughout the UK.

"... In Duncan Stubbs they have one of the finest conductors in the UK wind band world, full of dynamism but with a sensitive ear for balance and colour" **Tim Reynish**

'Duncan brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to every rehearsal and continually motivates students of all ages to work to their full potential. An engaging technique allows for any group under his direction to flourish and develop in a very enjoyable atmosphere. A consummate professional.' **Phill Hyde - Manager: Kent Youth Wind Orchestra, Kent County Youth Orchestra, Kent Music Summer School.**

".. the conducting of Duncan Stubbs was an object lesson: clear, decisive but unobtrusive and always at the service of the music" **Peter Wilson, 'British Bandsman' magazine**

"The consensus of the LCM Wind Ensemble was that it was their best concert performance to date and the best conducted" **Nigel Clarke, on the occasion of Philip Wilby's birthday concert 1999**

'Duncan Stubbs is a leading light in the musical world. He has established world class standards of performance with RAF Central Band and has consistently maintained a dedication to share his knowledge and leadership with aspiring young musicians. Duncan's enviable reputation as a director, composer and educator place him amongst the world's finest exponents of Concert Band Music, with his charismatic mentorship and skillful presentation always producing remarkable results.' **Kevin Price. Interim Director of Music (2018) and Head of Brass and Percussion - Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**





NCBF Criteria

PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
TONE <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent tone quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sound always focussed <input type="checkbox"/> Wide range of tone colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Good tone quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sound generally focussed <input type="checkbox"/> Good range of tone colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Competent tone quality <input type="checkbox"/> Sound not always focussed <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonable range of tone colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Tone quality is limited <input type="checkbox"/> Sound occasionally focussed <input type="checkbox"/> Tone colours need further exploration
TUNING <input type="checkbox"/> A well tuned performance <input type="checkbox"/> Intonation is generally excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Majority of instruments well tuned <input type="checkbox"/> Intonation is generally good	<input type="checkbox"/> Some lack of control with tuning is evident <input type="checkbox"/> Intonation is generally competent	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuning is good in parts <input type="checkbox"/> Intonation is generally variable
BALANCE & BLEND <input type="checkbox"/> An excellent sense of balance is demonstrated <input type="checkbox"/> Soloists are accompanied sympathetically <input type="checkbox"/> Sections blend well together	<input type="checkbox"/> A good sense of balance is achieved <input type="checkbox"/> Soloist are accompanied well <input type="checkbox"/> Sections blend well together for the majority of the performance	<input type="checkbox"/> A competent sense of balance is achieved <input type="checkbox"/> Soloists are generally accompanied well <input type="checkbox"/> Sections blend well for a good portion of the performance	<input type="checkbox"/> Balance is adequate some of the time <input type="checkbox"/> Accompaniment requires a greater degree of sensitivity <input type="checkbox"/> Sections and individuals tend to dominate
DYNAMICS <input type="checkbox"/> Wide range of dynamic variation is evident <input type="checkbox"/> Dynamic contrast handled effectively	<input type="checkbox"/> Good range of dynamic variation is evident <input type="checkbox"/> Good control of dynamic contrast	<input type="checkbox"/> Competent range of dynamic variation is shown <input type="checkbox"/> Competent control of dynamic contrast	<input type="checkbox"/> Dynamic range tends to be limited <input type="checkbox"/> Some control of dynamic contrast is evident
RHYTHMIC ACCURACY & ENSEMBLE <input type="checkbox"/> Rhythmic accuracy is excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Pulse and tempo changes very well managed <input type="checkbox"/> Performance shows a high degree of cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythmic accuracy is generally very good <input type="checkbox"/> Most pulse and tempo changes are managed effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Band and sections mostly well co-ordinated	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythmic accuracy is generally good <input type="checkbox"/> Some pulse and tempo changes are managed well <input type="checkbox"/> Band shows reasonable co-ordination	<input type="checkbox"/> Rhythmic accuracy is inconsistent <input type="checkbox"/> Tempo and pulse changes disturb the musical flow <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ordination is shown only in the more straightforward passages
ARTICULATION / PHRASING <input type="checkbox"/> Articulation is excellent throughout <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent attention to detail <input type="checkbox"/> Phrasing shows a high degree of understanding and presentation	<input type="checkbox"/> Articulation is generally good <input type="checkbox"/> A wide range of detail is portrayed <input type="checkbox"/> Phrasing is good and generally precise	<input type="checkbox"/> Articulation is competent <input type="checkbox"/> A reasonable range of detail is portrayed <input type="checkbox"/> Phrasing is competent	<input type="checkbox"/> A reasonable level of articulation is shown <input type="checkbox"/> Some detail is portrayed <input type="checkbox"/> Phrasing is in need of development
STYLE & INTERPRETATION <input type="checkbox"/> The band responds vigilantly to the conductor's directions <input type="checkbox"/> A mastery of style is evident throughout <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation produces a highly musical performance	<input type="checkbox"/> The band responds well to the conductor's directions <input type="checkbox"/> A good range of styles is displayed <input type="checkbox"/> A musical interpretation enhanced a good performance	<input type="checkbox"/> The band respond well to the conductor's directions most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> Some awareness of the style of music is shown <input type="checkbox"/> The musicality displayed some of the time lifts the performance	<input type="checkbox"/> The band only responds to the conductor's directions for some of the time <input type="checkbox"/> The style of the music is not always well characterised <input type="checkbox"/> A basic understanding of musical interpretation is shown
IMPROVISATION <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent skills shown by the soloists	<input type="checkbox"/> Soloists display a good range of skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Soloists mainly use printed solos, but there is some attempt to free themselves from the copy; or display a basic range of skills	<input type="checkbox"/> Soloists only use printed copies; or no soloists used