



NCBF North Regional Festival

Sunday 3rd December 2023

Warwick Hall

Warwick

It's with considerable excitement that we welcome you to the 2023 Mid-England Regional Festival of the National Concert Band Festival at the venue here at the Warwick Hall, Warwick.

Today we have seventeen 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.

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 Warwick School for hosting today's festival with special thanks to 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.

Please also remember that there is Food and Drinks available in the refreshments area.





Today's Programmes

0930 University of Warwick Big Band (OBB)

Director: Alex Hobbs

Love For Sale

Cole Porter arr. Myers

Every Summer Night

Pat Metheny arr. Curnow

The Jazz Police

Gordon Goodwin

1000 Warwick School Jazz Lab (SBB)

Director: David Storer

Woodchopper's Ball

Bishop/Herman arr. Sweeney

My Foolish Heart

Victor Young arr. Baylock

Li'l Darlin'

Neal Hefti

How High the Moon

Morgan Lewis arr. Wolpe

Hay Burner

Sammy Nestico

1030 Shrewsbury School Jazz Band (SBB)

Director: Katy Landon

Havana

Terry White

Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da

John Berry

Soul Bossa Nova

Rick Stitzel

Shallow

Paul Murtha

In the Midnight Hour

Paul Murtha

1100 Warwick Foundation Wind Orchestra (SWB)

Conductor: Anton Clarke-Butler

Esprit De Corps

Robert Jager

First Suite in E flat

Gustav Holst arr. Longfield



1130 Shrewsbury School Big Band (SBB)

Director: Maria McKenzie

Jumpin' East of Java

John Berry

Café Rio

Mike Tomaro

Cry Me A River

Cy Payne

Feelin' The Funk

Erik Morales

1200 Warwick School Little Big Band (JBB)

Director: David Storer

Killer Joe

Benny Golson arr. Sweeney

Ja-Da

Bob Carleson arr. Sweeney

Don't Get Around Much Anymore

Ellington/Russell arr. Sweeney

Minnie the Moocher

Calloway/Mills arr. Ford

1230 Presentation of Awards

1315 Warwick School Supertonic (JWB)

Conductor: Dan Robertson

Jurassic Park

John Williams arr. Sweeney

Wellerman

Trad. arr. Vinson

Smoke on the Water

Deep Purple arr. Murtha

1345 Newark & Sherwood Concert Band (CWB)

Conductor: Colum O'Shea

Land of the Long White Cloud

Philip Sparke





1415 Cardinal Vaughan Big Band (SBB)

Director: Scott Price

Cantaloupe Island

Herbie Hancock arr. Kamuf

How High the Moon

Hamiton/Lewis arr. Nestico

Over the Rainbow

Arburg/Arlen arr. Wolpe

Birdland

Zawinul arr. Higgins

1445 Staffordshire Community Wind Orchestra (CWB)

Conductor: Gavin Lamplough

Stardance

Michael Sweeney

Oblivion

Astor Piazzolla arr. Longfield

Eine Kleine Yiddische Ragmusik

Adam Gorb

1515 Warwick School Big Band (SBB)

Director: Tom Lindsay

Sack of Woe

Cannonball Adderley arr. Kamuf

In A Mellow Tone

Duke Ellington arr. Taylor

Heatwave

Nick Dewhurst

1545 Cardinal Vaughan Concert Band (SWB)

Conductor: Thomas Motley

Encanto

Robert W Smith

Pavanne

Rob Wiffin

Salute to Ol' Blue Eyes

arr. Moss

1615 Presentation of Awards



1630 Stafford Grammar School Big Band (SBB)

Director: Gavin Lamplough

Leap Frog	arr. Lavender
Gentle Rain	arr. Berg
Crunchy Frog	Gordon Goodwin
Put Your Arms Around Me	arr. Severson

1700 Altrincham Grammar School for Boys Concert Band (SWB)

Conductor: Michael Monument

Processional Overture	Philip Sparke
Ignition	T Stalter
As Tears Fall	Richard L Saucedo
Mambo	Bernstein arr. Sweeney

1730 Stafford Grammar School Concert Band (SWB)

Conductor: Gavin Lamplough

Beyond the Horizon	Ted Ricketts
The Sun Will Rise Again	Philip Sparke
To Soar with Eagles	Michael Sweeney

1800 Altrincham Grammar School for Boys Big Band (SBB)

Director: Michael Monument

Little Sunflower	Mike Kamuff
Cantaloupe Island	Herbie Hancock arr. Kamuff
In a Sentimental Mood	Duke Ellington
Pinball Number Count	W Kraemer





1830 Chiltern Music Academy Concert Band (YWB)

Conductor: Andy Rogers

Trailblaze

Goff Richards

The Sun Will Rise Again

Philip Sparke

Marvin Hamlisch Showcase

Hamlisch arr. Barker

1900 Presentation of Awards





Today's Adjudicators:-



GERARD BOOTH is Head of the Oldham Music Service and Director of Music for Oldham. He studied at the RNCM with Stuart Roebuck, Andy Duncan and Brian Kingsley. Gerard's performing experience includes performing with the Halle, BBC Philharmonic and East of England Orchestras. He still regularly plays with the Mowbray, St Cecilia and Stockport Symphony Orchestras as well as the City of Leeds Sinfonia and freelancers with other various ensembles.

Gerard has appeared with and been a member of many of the country's top brass bands, including Grimethorpe, Brighouse and Rastrick, Leyland and Foden's bands amongst others. He was a member of the world famous 'James Shepherd Versatile Brass' group for over ten years and still enjoys performing occasionally with various chamber ensembles. He has acquired a breadth of experience both as an educator and performing musician and continues to work on a daily basis with young people.

As the Head of the Oldham Music Service for over a decade, he is responsible for overseeing around 40 different ensembles which rehearse on a weekly basis at the Music Centre and in community locations serving almost 1,000 people. In addition to this Music Service staff deliver high quality musical opportunities to over 10,000 young people in Oldham schools every week during term time. As the musical director of various young people's ensembles, Gerard has conducted at all of the country's major venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Symphony Hall, Bridgewater Hall, Royal Festival Hall and many others. His work as one of the directors of the Greater Manchester Music Hub also sees him working regularly with the North West's principle music educators including the RNCM, Chetham's School, Salford University and many others.

Gerard has also been the NW advisor to the foremost, national music education body, Music Mark, a position that he held from 2020 until 2023.



ROB WIFFIN : After studying at the Royal College of Music Rob joined Royal Air Force Music Services and became the principal trombone of the Central Band of the RAF. He served in the RAF for 28 years, 21 of which were as a Director of Music. This culminated in his appointment as Principal Director of Music, Royal Air Force. He was awarded the OBE for services to Royal Air Force Music. He then became Professor of Conducting at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall and remained in that post until the closure of Kneller Hall in 2021.

He has directed orchestras, wind bands, big bands, brass bands and string orchestras and now spends most of his time composing and arranging music for these ensembles as well as instrumental music.

Today's Comperes





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**



Barrie Johnson – Vice Chairman NCBF



Barrie Johnson was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, gaining early musical experiences through Salvation Army brass bands and choirs, his playing career included being principal euphonium with bands in Newcastle & Kettering. He has also featured on tenor horn, tuba and trombone with bands in London, Kettering and Birmingham, including City of London Brass. During this time he also took part in performance tours to Norway and Canada, featured on radio and LP recordings and performed in many major concert venues throughout the UK.

Barrie has been conducting school, youth and community groups in all musical genres for many years. As a school music teacher, he has taught in primary, middle and secondary schools, heading up very successful music and expressive arts departments for over 35 years, retiring as Director of Music at Northampton School for Boys in 2015 after 14 years in post. Directing groups, including Wind Bands and Big Bands, from 3 different schools to regular top award-winning performances at the National Concert Band Festival and the National Festival of Music for Youth, programming challenging music, was key to raising standards and student aspiration. It also allowed him to direct performances in some of the country's top performance venues including Symphony Hall, Birmingham, Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall, London, and The Sage, Gateshead. At NSB, he formed two community bands - Cripps Hall Jazz Orchestra and East Midlands Wind Orchestra - as exemplars to further raise aspirations in the school's top groups. Regular successful performance jazz tours for his Big Band and Jazz Vocal Group, to New York, Los Angeles and Florida were also organised to further raise standards by partnering with high performance American school groups and receiving coaching from such international stars as Gordon Goodwin, Eric Marienthal, Wayne Bergeron, Jeff Jarvis, Chuck Owen and Tom Brantley.

As well as school groups he has also conducted many area and county youth bands (both brass and wind), community bands and choirs, and has conducted groups, and acted as Musical Director, on a variety of residential holiday music courses.

He has also been involved with IAJE (International Association for Jazz Education), adjudicated regularly at various music festivals and, together with Keith Allen, is responsible for keeping NCBF Repertoire lists and the Criteria Sheet up-to-date and relevant.

Since retiring from full-time teaching he has continued to teach A-level, act as a freelance Music Education consultant, adjudicate, guest conduct, lead workshops/holiday courses and compose and arrange for Wind Band and Big Band.



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