



NCBF London Regional Festival

Sunday 16th November 2025

Trinity School

Shirley Park

Croydon

CR0 7LB

It's with excitement that we welcome you to the 2025 London Regional Festival of the National Concert Band Festival here at the Trinity School, Croydon.

Today's bands are performing their programmes for our two 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 RNCM, Manchester on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th April 2026.

Our thanks to Trinity School Music Dept. for hosting today's festival.

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



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Adjudicators: Paul Hornsby and Paul Speed

Compere: Duncan Stubbs

Today's Programme

1050 Kew Wind Orchestra (OWB)

Conductor: Tom Griffiths

Music of the Spheres

Philip Sparke

1120 Trinity School Symphonic Wind Orchestra (SWB)

Conductor: Liz Regan

Paris Sketches

Martin Ellerby

1150 XBY Concert Band (OWB)

Conductor: John Hargreaves

Prelude from *49th Parallel*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Lincolnshire Posy

Percy Grainger

1220 London Youth Concert Band (YWB)

Conductor: Fred Slide

Overture to *Candide*

Bernstein arr. Grundman

A Quiet Moment

Philip Sparke

High Voltage

Thierry Delenruyelle

1250 Trinity School Big Band (SBB)

Director: Joe Pettitt

Splanky

Neal Hefti

Bixty Bop

Chris Diamand

Besame Muchio

Consuelo Velasquez

Big Swing Face

Bill Potts arr. Burger

1325 Presentation of Awards



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1430 Trinity School Junior Symphonic Wind Orchestra (JWB)

Conductor: Cameron Todd

March Zingaro

Highland Fantasy

Superheroes R Us

Randall Standridge

Bruce Fraser

Mike Story

1500 Haberdashers' Elstree Symphonic Winds (SWB)

Conductor: Alan Duguid

Festivo

Amazing Grace

Japanese Tune

Edward Gregson

Frank Ticheli

Soichi Konagaya

1530 Barry Graham Big Band (SBB)

Director: Harry Brown

Blue Monk

Bunker's Hill

El Lobo

Thelonious Monk

Donovan Haffner

Carl Stromman

1605 Presentation of Awards





1620 Haberdashers' Elstree Big Band (SBB)

Director: Tom Taylor

Wyrgly

Maria Scheider

Sky Blue

Maria Scheider

1650 St Dunstan's College Big Band (SBB)

Director: Ian Bumstead

Jumping at the Woodside

arr. Nestico

Night Train

Buddy Morrow arr. Rhodes

I Remember Clifford

Benny Golson arr. Morales

Splanky

Neal Hefti arr. Nestico

1720 Woking Wind Orchestra (OWB)

Conductors: Jeremy Morrish & James Robinson

El Camino Real

Alfred Reed arr. Longfield

A Quiet Moment

Philip Sparke

New York from *East Coast Pictures*

Nigel Hess

1750 Croydon Symphonic Band (CWB)

Conductor: David Cox

Chansons de Normandie

Nigel Hess

Elegy from *A Downside Suite*

John Ireland arr. S Allen

Compostela – *The Way of St James*

Thierry Deleruyelle

1825 Presentation of Awards



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Todays Adjudicators:-



PAUL HORNSBY – Paul began his musical life studying flute with Stanley Gleave (BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra) in 1972 before gaining a place at Dartington Hall to study flute and composition. Whilst here he developed a keen interest in electronic and experimental music making. Returning to Wales in 1978 he took up a position as an instrumental woodwind tutor and freelance musician. Studying the

saxophone led to more diverse playing work. He joined the Welsh Jazz Orchestra during the mid 1980's performing with many international and UK based jazz musicians including Lew Tabakin (Flute/Saxophone), Bobby Shew (Trumpet/Flugel), Pete King (Alto Saxophone) and many others. Freelance work led to tours abroad (United Arab Emirates, Europe and the UK). Other work included television and recording contracts for the BBC, S4C and independent film producers. His own recording facility was created during the mid 1980's and led to composition commissions for BBC 2, S4C and Sky Networks.

His work at Gwent Music Support Service gave him many opportunities to develop his directing skills. In recent years this has produced more than 35 National Awards (National Concert Band Festival and National Festival of Music for Youth) for a diverse range of ensembles as well as significant successes in the field of Orchestral Wind Orchestras and Contemporary Jazz Ensembles. In both of these areas he's been responsible for commissioning and premiering major works by leading composers (including Tim Garland, Stan Sulzmann, Nikki Illes) as well as working alongside leading exponents in their fields (Gerard McChrystal, Hugh McDowell (ELO), Dave O'Higgins, Alan Barnes, Jim Mullen, Percy Pursglove and others).

International tours have included New Zealand, Australia, California, Germany, France and Italy.

During the early 2000's he was invited to become an A Level examiner for EdExcel (Music Technology) prior to this his work at Gwent Music Support Service led him to become Head of Woodwind and later to become Senior Assistant Head of Service and eventually Deputy Head of Service. Recently his work here allowed him to establish an elite team of Senior Instrumental Tutors to form the S.O.T.A.L team (Standards of Teaching and Learning). This team was responsible for quality assurance across all disciplines as well as providing support and mentoring to all instrumental and vocal tutors. Additional work has given him the opportunity to provide Workshops and INSET training both locally (Wales) and further afield. He chaired the steering panel for National Youth Jazz Wales at Ty Cerdd in Cardiff.

During COVID he wrote and co-produced a Prog Rock album with producer Danny Chang for the prog rock band 'The Kentish Spires'. More recently he has been engaged by U.W.E (University of West England) based in Bristol. Here he directs weekly rehearsals with their U.W.E student Big Band, he also runs regular music technology courses based around 'Ableton 12' music software (D.A.W) and also delivers woodwind tuition. During 2025 he very much enjoyed working and mentoring community Orchestral Wind Bands and Jazz Orchestra/Big bands as part of an exciting initiative organised by N.C.B.F.

In autumn 2025 he created his own nine-piece band (The Nono Clan) with some of his favourite musicians from Wales and the South West. They play a mixture of Jazz, Funk, Latin and contemporary popular music.



PAUL SPEED – Paul began playing the trumpet at the age of 10, starting his musical journey at the High Wycombe Music Centre. He later went on to study music at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he earned his degree.

As a trumpet player, Paul has performed with a range of prestigious ensembles, including the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, London Concert Orchestra, Britten Sinfonia, and the Philharmonie der Nationen in Germany.

In addition to performing, Paul is an accomplished conductor. He is the Musical Director of both South Berks Concert Band and Trinity Concert Band, based near Reading. Under his leadership, both ensembles have performed successfully at the National Concert Band Festival (NCBF) regional and national finals.

Paul is also a passionate music educator, teaching trumpet at several leading schools, including Wellington College, Royal Grammar School High Wycombe, and St Swithun's School in Winchester.

Beyond the UK, Paul is a dedicated supporter of the music charity *Brass for Africa*. He has spent time in Kampala, Uganda, witnessing firsthand the transformative impact of the charity's work. Paul also co-authored a teaching syllabus designed to support young adults in the BfA program as they begin their own journeys as music educators.

Today's Compere

Duncan Stubbs – Chair NCBF



Duncan Stubbs is one of the UK's most experienced wind band directors. After graduating from York University he served in the Royal Air Force for 34 years, retiring as Principal Director of Music (PDM) in 2017. Duncan was one of the youngest ever commissioned Directors of Music in all 3 Services. During his career he directed all the RAF bands including the prestigious Central Band and, on promotion to PDM in 2009, he became responsible

for all aspects of professional music throughout the RAF.

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 finest musicians including; Nigel Hess, George Fenton, Phillip Spark, Martin Ellerby, Phil Cobb, Linda Merrick, Simone Rebello and Steven Mead. He has conducted and co-produced over 20 CDs of wind band repertoire, worked regularly with the BBC and directed county and conservatoire wind ensembles. Concurrent with his RAF career, Duncan maintained close links with the civilian band community, directing several established community bands who achieved National success at NCBF Festivals.

In 2017 Duncan was awarded the OBE for services to Military Music.

Since leaving the RAF, Duncan has continued a close association with the wind band and brass ensemble world. As well as directing two Community Bands he is also the musical director for the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra summer residency. He regularly leads band workshops and enjoys taking his expertise into schools. He relishes the challenge of working with musicians of all standards aiming to inspire and to get the best out of the musicians through strong musical leadership and by sharing his deep commitment and enjoyment of music performance.

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.



	PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
TOPE	☐ Excellent tone quality ☐ Sound always focussed ☐ Excellent range of tone colours	☐ Good tone quality ☐ Sound generally focussed ☐ Good range of tone colours	☐ Competent tone quality ☐ Sound not always focussed ☐ Reasonable range of tone colours	☐ Tone quality is limited ☐ Sound occasionally focussed ☐ Tone colours need further exploration
TUNING	☐ A well tuned performance ☐ Intonation is generally excellent	☐ Majority of instruments well tuned ☐ Intonation is generally good	☐ Some lack of control with tuning is evident ☐ Intonation is generally competent	☐ Tuning needs attention ☐ Intonation is generally variable
BALANCE & BLEND	☐ An excellent sense of balance is demonstrated ☐ Soloists are accompanied most sympathetically ☐ Sections blend well together throughout	☐ A good sense of balance is achieved ☐ Soloists are accompanied well ☐ Sections blend well together for the majority of the performance	☐ A competent sense of balance is achieved ☐ Soloists are accompanied well in parts ☐ Sections blend well for a portion of the performance	☐ Balance is adequate some of the time ☐ Accompaniment requires a greater degree of sensitivity ☐ Sections and individuals tend to dominate
DYNAMICS	☐ Wide range of dynamic variation is evident ☐ Dynamic contrast handled most effectively	☐ Good range of dynamic variation is evident ☐ Good control of dynamic contrast	☐ Competent range of dynamic variation is shown ☐ Competent control of dynamic contrast	☐ Dynamic range tends to be limited ☐ Some control of dynamic contrast is evident
RHYTHMIC ACCURACY & ENSEMBLE	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is excellent ☐ Pulse and tempo changes very well managed ☐ Performance shows a high degree of cohesion	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is generally very good ☐ Most pulse and tempo changes are managed effectively ☐ Band and sections mostly well co-ordinated	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is mostly good ☐ Some pulse and tempo changes are managed well ☐ Band shows reasonable co-ordination	☐ Rhythmic accuracy is inconsistent ☐ Tempo and pulse changes disturb the musical flow ☐ Co-ordination is shown only in the more straightforward passages
ARTICULATION & PHRASING	☐ Articulation is excellent throughout ☐ Excellent attention to detail ☐ Phrasing shows a high degree of understanding and presentation	☐ Articulation is generally good ☐ A wide range of detail is portrayed ☐ Phrasing is good and generally precise	☐ Articulation is competent ☐ A reasonable range of detail is portrayed ☐ Phrasing is competent	☐ A reasonable level of articulation is shown ☐ Some detail is portrayed ☐ Phrasing is in need of development
STYLE & INTERPRETATION	☐ The band responds vigilantly to the conductor's directions ☐ A mastery of style is evident throughout ☐ Your interpretation produced a highly musical performance	☐ The band responds well to the conductor's directions ☐ A good range of styles is displayed ☐ Your musical interpretation enhanced a good performance	☐ The band respond to the conductor's directions most of the time ☐ Some awareness of the style of music is shown ☐ The musicality displayed some of the time lifts the performance	☐ The band only responds to the conductor's directions for some of the time ☐ The style of the music is limited in its characterisation ☐ A basic understanding of musical interpretation is shown
CHOICE / SUITABILITY OF PROGRAMME	☐ A challenging programme that really displayed the musicianship and technical skills of the performers	☐ A balanced programme that provided a good level of challenge, developing the musicianship and technical skills of the performers most of the time	☐ The programme provided a good level of challenge in parts. It could be better balanced, with the band appearing capable of tackling music of a higher technical level and/or musical challenge overall	☐ A programme that, perhaps, needs a little more thought in balance and/or technical and musical challenge for the perceived current ability of the performers
IMPROVISATION	☐ Excellent skills shown by the soloists	☐ Soloists display a good range of skills	☐ Soloists mainly use printed solos, but there is some attempt to free themselves from the copy; or display a basic range of skills	☐ Soloists only use printed solos