



THE TRUMPETER

www.totnesband.co.uk

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TOTNES BAND

Latest News

The band is pleased to confirm the appointment of Simon Manley as Musical Director of the band.

Simon is no stranger to the Brass Band Movement here in the South West. After a very successful spell as the musical director of the Bugle Band in Cornwall, he and his family moved up to Buckfastleigh and came over to Totnes. He started out playing soprano cornet for us, but now, he has moved from the cornet bench and has taken up the position of musical director.

Simon, who started playing the piano at the tender age of three, was brought up in a very musical family and was encouraged to take up the cornet at the age of seven. He was brought into the world of banding, as many good players are, in the Salvation Army based in Plymouth. On moving to grammar school in Plymouth at the age of 11 he took up another musical discipline – the drums! Fortunately for his family though the piano and brass were more predominant and less worrying on the ears!

Simon studied music through his time at grammar school studying theory, piano and brass up to grade 8+ standards.

Now, he has very little time to himself, committed not only to the band, junior band, his own computer business and his newly born daughter, 15 month old Sian, but also finds time to be involved in many other musical projects. Influenced by his partner Kerry, who herself is a keen musician and very experienced classically trained singer, Simon finds the time to help out and direct many other local music societies. You may have seen some of his 'other' work if you have visited local theatres. The Totnes Amateur Operatic Dramatic Society (TAODS) use his talents often and he has played in and directed several shows for them. He also has written 2 musicals and often arranges music for other groups of all shapes and sizes. Dartington College of Music have contact with him as he has recently taken on the role of brass lecturer at the college.

Totnes Band has also recently started a junior band, rehearsing on a Monday evening. Simon has taken over the role of mentor to them and enjoys encouraging these younger players with a view to integrating them into our senior band when they are ready.

Although the band itself has gone through many rough times in recent years, Simon has the foresight to turn the band around and pull us together and start making music fun and enjoyable – one of his main philosophies towards performing music.

New players of all levels are always welcome to the band, and as always, in return for a level of commitment to rehearsals and jobs, the reward of enjoyable music making is apparent.

Concerts

The band will be taking part in a charity concert on Sunday 16th November at 2.30pm, at the Rainbow Club, Belgrave Road Torquay, doors open at 2pm. This is in aid of the "Parkinsons Disease Society of the United Kingdom". Performing with the band will be the Imerys Male Voice Choir.

The choir was formed in 1947, in Bugle under the name of North Goonbarrow Choir, to compete in the 'Claywork Choir' Section of the St.Austell Music Festival. The Choir were placed second of the eight choirs that competed.

The Choir changed its name to ECCI Eastern Area Male Voice Choir in 1957 and now has 48 singing members under the Musical Director Alan Mugford. The Choir still competes annually in the St.Austell Music Festival as well as performing for a wide range of local charities. It has sung at Coventry Cathedral and in the Royal Albert Hall and has toured Holland and Ireland.

English China Clays has recently been taken over by Imerys Minerals, who are continuing to support the works' choir and in doing so are continuing to keep alive this special part of our Cornish musical heritage.

The Guest Accompanist at the Torquay Concert will be Ruth Johns and it is hoped to perform one of her arrangements.

The band and choir will perform two items together, this music has been arranged by a former Musical Director of the Totnes Band, Viv Willcock, who has recently retired to the St.Austell area.

Christmas Concerts

The band is holding it's own Christmas Concert on Friday 12th December in the Methodist Church, Totnes at 7.45pm with a mixture of traditional music and favourite carols.

The band is playing at the Great Hall, Dartington on Sunday 14th December at 4.30pm. This is the Dartington Hall Estate Christmas Concert that involves many groups who make up part of the estate, and is a very enjoyable occasion.

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