

PALATIANS



THE NEWSLETTER OF CRYSTAL PALACE BAND

Issue: 4 (Summer 2003)

Summer is here, and that means only one thing – band jobs! In this issue of Palatians you can find out how the engagements have been going, and where you can catch us in the next few months. Plus, you can find out a little bit about CPB conductors, including our current Musical Director, Michael Gray. And don't forget, your comments and suggestions on Palatians or band issues are always welcome – contact details are overleaf. See you soon!

Band news – the summer so far...

Crystal Palace Band has been busy since Easter, out and about all over the South East. For us, the summer began in April with a performance at Dane John Bandstand in Canterbury, which was well-received and a pleasant way to start the season. 'Harry Potter' and 'My Fair Lady' were just two of the selections played at May's excellent Spring Concert in St John's Church. Next stop, Golders Hill Park Bandstand on Hampstead Heath, where it was ice creams all round in the break (tiramisu and mocha – yum!). At the beginning of June the B Band played at Macauley Primary School Summer Fair in Clapham, and showed that they continue to improve. Jubilee Celebrations organised by Coulsdon Rotary Club at Warlingham School saw CPB wearing union jack hats, while an enthusiastic audience sang along. Glorious sunshine greeted us in Canbury Gardens in Kingston, a good crowd and lots of passing boats on the shimmering Thames. Historic Hever Castle was as picturesque as ever, with many CPB members enjoying a picnic beforehand. Highlights to come include Herne Bay and Broadstairs, but keep an eye on the website, as engagements change constantly.



The following piece was sent in by a band member, who shall remain anonymous. However, he would like to stress that it does not apply to the trombone section!

ART OF THE EFFICIENT

A Company chairman had been given tickets to the performance of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony. He couldn't go and passed them on to his work-study consultant. The next morning, the chairman asked him how he had enjoyed the performance, and was handed a memorandum which read:

"For considerable periods, the four oboe players had nothing to do. The number should be reduced, and their work spread over the whole orchestra, thus eliminating peaks of inactivity.

All of the 12 violins were playing identical notes. This seemed unnecessary duplication, and the staff of this section should be drastically cut.

Much of the effort was absorbed in playing demi semi-quavers. Now this seems an excessive refinement, and it is recommended that all notes should be rounded up to the nearest semi-quaver.

No useful purpose is served by repeating with horns the passage that has already been played by the strings. If all such redundant passages were eliminated, the concert could be reduced from two hours to 20 minutes.

If Schubert had attended to these matters, he would probably have been able to finish his symphony after all.”

Fixtures 2003

Sunday 29th June	Hever Castle, Edenbridge 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Saturday 12th July	Old Coulsdon Village Fair, Grange Park, 2.00 to 4.30 pm
Saturday 13th July	Flower Festival, St Mary's Church, Norton (near Teynham) Sittingbourne 3 .00 to 5.00 pm
Sunday 20th July	Central Bandstand, Herne Bay, 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Sunday 27th July	The Bandstand, Victoria Gardens, Broadstairs 2.30 -4.30 pm
21st to 25th August	Band Trip to Fort William, Scotland
Sunday 31st August	Bandstand, Greenwich Park, 2.00 to 3.30 & 4.00 to 5.30 pm
Sunday 7th Sept.	The Leas Bandstand, Leas Cliff, Folkstone 2.30 - 4.30 pm
Sunday 12th Oct.	SCABA Autumn Contest Folkstone
Sunday 9th November	Remembrance Parade, Belmont, 10.00 am
Saturday 6th December	Concert, St Bartholomew's Church, Sydenham
Sunday 14th Dec.	Horniman Garden Carols 4.30 pm

Baton-wielders of the band...

The Crystal Palace Band has had many conductors since its formation in 1901 as the 'Upper Norwood Temperance Band'. The first bandmaster was W. W. Grant, who entered the band for three contests in its first year - and they won them all! In the 1930s CPB (having changed its name in 1924) came to national prominence under the baton of Dr Denis Wright OBE. Dr Wright (1895 - 1967) is one of the most influential figures in brass band history, with over 800 scores published. Dr Wright's work with the BBC from 1936 - 1966 allowed CPB to premiere many arrangements, several of which have gone on to be mainstays of the brass band repertoire. In 1952 he formed The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. Nowadays, CPB is proud to have Michael Gray as its conductor, who helped out on a tour to Germany in 1987 - and has been stuck with us ever since! Mike is a highly-accomplished musician, having started learning the piano at age eight, before moving onto violin, cello and oboe. Although he lists his favourite Brass Band piece as Howard Snell's arrangement of Wagner's "Procession to the Minster", his favourite solo piece is Elgar's infamous Cello Concerto - although there are no known brass arrangements of this yet! Of fifteen years with CPB, Mike's greatest moment has to be winning the SCABA Autumn contest in October 1993, with Vaughan Williams' "Henry V". "The band had rehearsed so well, and we knew we'd given a great performance", says Mike. "When the result was announced we were ecstatic! It was fantastic. I think we drank Folkestone dry..." Today Crystal Palace Band continues to go from strength to strength, and as more players join we look

forward to more momentous occasions.

Calling all tuba players!

CPB is urgently seeking a tuba player to join its successful B Band. Formed in 1995, the band is open to players of all ages and ability. However, due to the nature of the instrument, any potential tuba player must either be an adult or a very strong child! Keen learners of any brass instrument are always welcome though. Interested? Then contact the conductor, Ian Whittaker, on 020 8850 5907, or Margaret Larkin on 020 8653 7537.

If you wish to contact the editors, please do so via the following ways:

clarelipscombe@hotmail.com or Clare Lipscombe, tel. 020 8655 2511

If you have a general band enquiry (e.g. you would like to join the band, or would like to book the band) please contact the Secretary, Rachel Bleach, on 020 8776 2520, or riz.bleach@btinternet.com - or visit the website, www.crystalpalaceband.fsnet.co.uk

The views expressed in this newsletter are the personal views of the Editor and are not necessarily that of Crystal Palace Band.

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