



Celebrating the March King

Two years of fundraising concluded with the unveiling of a fine statue in Invercargill recently. The life-sized bronze statue of musician, conductor and composer Alex F Lithgow was created in recognition of his dedicating the march eventually called *Invercargill* to the citizens and city of Invercargill. It was his way of recalling the many pleasant years he spent there in his boyhood, before immigrating to Australia at the age of 24.

The Alex Lithgow Statue Trust was founded by local people including Phil Rhodes, Rodney Sutton, Greg Warden, Ken Lithgow (a descendent of Alex Lithgow) and local historian and City Councilor Lloyd Ester as the Trust's Chairman. The Trust was well pleased with the financial support the project received as well as the resultant statue. The Invercargill City Council assisted with locating the statue to the east side of the Civic Theatre, on Tay Street.

On 13 April a large crowd assembled to the sound of Alex Lithgow's march *The Southlanders*, performed by his old band, the Invercargill Garrison Band, now known as Ascot Park Hotel Brass. By special invitation, three generations of Lithgow's descendants from Australia attended the ceremony – granddaughter Mrs Pat Ward, from Perth, great-great-granddaughters Diana Fisher and Helen Ward and 11-year-old Miss Kaylee Chin, a great-great-great-granddaughter.

Lloyd Ester, on behalf of the Statue Trust, opened the ceremony by acknowledging that Alex Lithgow

had been chosen from a selection of well-known people who had brought a variety of distinctions to Southland and Invercargill in particular, and in doing so put Invercargill on the world map. The march *Invercargill* is still considered to be one of the foremost popular marches of all time. It's said that as a composer Lithgow is second only to the great John Philip Sousa, a great accolade indeed.

Mrs Pat Ward gave a resume of her grandfather's life as a musician, conductor and composer of over 150 known works for band, orchestra, soloists and piano. Lithgow's contribution to the world of music not only brought international recognition to himself, his family, Invercargill and its citizens but also to the Invercargill Garrison Band.

While the march *Invercargill* remains the spearhead of his fame, had it not been for Lithgow's brother Tom, the conductor of the Invercargill Garrison Band in 1909 requesting Alex provide a suitable march for the Dominion Contest that year, it may not have been discovered at all. The then unnamed march may have remained on the shelf with little or no significant link to Invercargill or the famous composer and cornetist.

Invercargill Mayor Sir Tim Shadbolt had the honour of unveiling the statue of Alex F Lithgow. The Ascot Park Hotel Brass then performed *Invercargill* to the acclaim of the crowd. A fitting tribute to a great man of great fame.

By Rodney Sutton



Alex F Lithgow



In this issue we:

- Have results from the OSBBA contest,
- Bring you news from Ashburton and Hamilton Auxiliary bands,
- Catch up with the new Director of Music for the RNZAF Band,
- And repeat information regarding applications for the 2019 NSSBB and 2020 NYBB.

Happy NZ Music Month!

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(NEO Cornet)
International Cornet Soloist
and Conductor



Steven Walsh
(Neo Euphonium)
Principal Euphonium,
Brighouse and Rastrick Band



Bill Millar
(NEO Euphonium)
Professor, University
of Salford



Simon Gresswell
(NEO BBb Bass)
Principal Tuba, Brighouse
and Rastrick Band



Katrina Margella
(NEO Baritone Horn)
International Soloist, Solo
Baritone, Black Dyke Band



Eirik Gjerdevik
(NEO Eb Bass)
Solo Tubist, Bergen
Navy Band



Contact for Band Pricing

scraw@musicworks.co.nz
slangdon@musicworks.co.nz
dsmith@musicworks.co.nz

www.musicworks.co.nz

A Note from our President



Clocks have gone back an hour, temperatures are dropping and our evenings are dark again as we head off to band practise – all signs that National Contest is approaching.

As bands finalise their contest entries and we start giving more of our time for rehearsals, it is perhaps a good time to review why we have this major event each year. A significant amount of time and money goes into making this happen so what does it deliver to our movement in return?

From the Brass Band Association perspective, this is our flagship event that demonstrates to the broader community just how good our best amateur musicians are. Also, BBANZ could not survive without the income that the National Contest delivers. It is a marketable event with worldwide appeal highlighted by the demand for live streaming. We also shouldn't underestimate the critical role the contests play in

developing and extending the brass band repertoire. Our movement would be much the poorer without pieces like *Aotearoa*, for example.

For District Associations and local bands, it is often the financial incentive that motivates most to want to host the contest. Their members benefit from this money directly as funds stay within our movement and are injected into key areas such as youth development. It's quite symbolic that the income generated from listening to our premier musicians perform is designed to flow down to help attract new players and grassroots banding.

In return, bands themselves are often faced with considerable financial pressures to attend a national contest. Hours and hours also go into planning and preparation so it wouldn't surprise me if there are discussions after rehearsals in band rooms throughout the country around whether all this effort is worth it. What is the return on the investment of time and money for our players and bands? It is up to every band and player to evaluate this for yourselves, but I find the challenge of having to perform demanding music in front of a discerning

audience a very strong motivation to practise. Without contests, I am sure my playing standard would suffer and more importantly I would miss the satisfaction and reward from the on-stage performance. Then there is the social environment of being able to catch up with friends and colleagues every year. Kind of like a school reunion every year without the uncomfortable aspect of not recognising anyone because they have changed so much!

There is always much debate around how to improve the structure and processes that support our National Contest and I have no doubt changes will continue to happen to acknowledge the evolving world we live in. However, it is clear that the event itself is a vital component in what makes brass banding unique and special.

I look forward to seeing you all in Hamilton in July.

Yours in banding.

John Sullivan,
President Brass Band Association
of New Zealand

What's On?

Friday 3 to Sunday 5 May
Wellington District Band Association
camp, YMCA Kaitoke Outdoor Education Centre, 184 Marchant Rd, Kaitoke, Upper Hutt. For details contact Dennis Dawson, secretary, Wellington District Brass Band Association wdbba.secretary@gmail.com or visit wdbba.org.nz

Sunday 5 May
Bras and Brass in concert with Piping Pink, the all-women's pipe band and guest star Suzanne Prentice, 2.00pm Charles Luney Auditorium, St Margaret's College in Merivale. Tickets available from www.iticket.co.nz

Friday 10 to Sunday 12 May
Canterbury Association youth band camp at Living Springs Camp, Governors Bay, Banks Peninsula. Contact cpbassociation@gmail.com

Sunday 12 May
Songs For Your Mother. North Shore Brass and featured artist, 2.30pm at Spencer on Byron Hotel Ballroom, Takapuna Beach. For bookings: Owen Melhuish 021 281 0405 or owen@mortgagesupply.co.nz. See www.eventfinder.co.nz for more details.

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 May
Otago Southland band camp at Pounaweia Convention Centre, The Catlins.

Sunday 19 May
The Afternoon of the Kumeu Proms featuring

Kumeu Brass and Kumeu Vintage Brass, 2.30pm at Kumeu Community Hall, Access Road, Kumeu. Gold coin donation.

Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May
Nelson Marlborough West Coast Band Association solo and band contest, at the Theatre Royal, Nelson.

Sunday 26 May Auckland Bands Association solo contest at Onehunga High School, Auckland.

Sunday 9 June
25th Feilding Festival of Bands, from 10.00am at the Feilding Civic Centre, 84 Aorangi Street, Feilding. Tickets \$2-\$10 at the door.

Sunday 16 June
Wellington District Bands Association solo contest.

Sunday 30 June
Seriously Brass featuring Woolston Brass' National Championship Contest Repertoire and Woolston Concert Brass, 2.00pm, James Hay Theatre, Christchurch Town Hall.

Saturday 31 August and Sunday 1 September
Central Districts Bands Association solo and band contest in Palmerston North.

Sunday 8 September
Wellington District Bands Association band

contest.

Saturday 21 September
Auckland Bands Association band contest at Hawkins Theatre, Papakura. Adjudicators are David Gallaher and Denis Spurdle.

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September
Waikato Bay of Plenty Bands Association band and solo contest in Matamata.

Saturday 28 September
Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association solo contest at The Piano, Armagh Street, Christchurch.

Sunday 29 September
Canterbury Provincial Brass Band Association band contest, James Hay Theatre, Christchurch.

Monday 30 September to Sunday 6 October
2019 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band training course in New Plymouth.

Friday 25 to Sunday 27 October
Westport Municipal Band – celebrating 150 years. Register your interest at email: 2019wmb150@gmail.com or Facebook: [WMB150](https://www.facebook.com/WMB150)

** Any activities happening in your community this year? Let people know by sending details to the editor at bbanzco@gmail.com or send a co-host invite to our Facebook page.

OSBBA Contest

Another provincial contest has come and gone for the Otago and Southland Brass Band Association. Many thanks to the Central Otago band Roxburgh Pioneer Energy Brass for hosting the event. It is always a pleasure to visit Roxburgh for our contest. There is so much community spirit and support that without this, and help from the Roxburgh Pioneer Energy Brass Band, we would not be able to run a successful and enjoyable contest.

The weekend started on a crisp Saturday

morning with Solo and Party events followed by the traditional band events on Saturday evening at the Roxburgh Entertainment Centre. On Sunday afternoon bands had the opportunity to showcase their abilities in an Entertainment Programme contest. There were many successes throughout the weekend for place-getters and for those who participated for the joy of competing.

Our thanks to Chief Adjudicator, Dwayne Bloomfield, and solo judges Matthew Toomata,

Sam Pinder, John McAdam, Alistair Monteath, Shane Foster and John Buchanan for their efforts in determining the results. Even if they weren't what we expected we are all winners as we are here to enjoy ourselves and our comradery with fellow musicians.

Until we meet again in Hamilton, stay safe and practise hard.

Chris Herman, OSBBA committee member

OSBBA Contest results

Under 13 Slow Melody

1	John Chesney	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	Lauren Bailey	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
3	Kyrell Gerrard	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary

Under 13 Air Varie

1	Lauren Bailey	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	John Chesney	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
3	Sam McGregor	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary

Under 16 Slow Melody

1	Florence McKenzie	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	Gabriel Quack	Ascot Park Hotel Brass
3=	Aiden Dudfield	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
3=	Meadow Bodkin-Allen	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary

Under 16 Air Varie

1	Meadow Bodkin-Allen	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	Brianna Loan	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
3	Florence McKenzie	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary

Under 19 Slow Melody

1	Casey Thwaites	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	Connor Rabbidge	Alpine Energy Timaru Brass
3	Greer Orchard	Roxburgh Pioneer Energy Brass

Under 19 Air Varie

1	Jack McKenzie	Ascot Park Hotel Brass
2	Sebastian Hook	Kaikorai Metropolitan Brass
3	Connor Rabbidge	Alpine Energy Timaru Brass

Premier Slow Melody

1	Mike Ford	Nelson City Brass
2	Megan Gooding	Ascot Park Hotel Brass
3	James Ung	Mosgiel Brass

Championship Air Varie

1	John Lewis	St Kilda Brass
2	Anthony Smith	Woolston Brass
3	Mike Ford	Nelson City Brass

Open Slow Melody

1	Peter McHenry	St Kilda Brass
2	Sarah Arnell	St Kilda Brass
3	Joanna Hughes	Mosgiel Brass

1	Anna Redmond	Kaikorai Metropolitan Brass
2	Mikel Clark	Alpine Energy Timaru Brass
3	Sarah Arnell	St Kilda Brass

Senior Event

1	Lee Newcombe	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	Margaret McFadgen	Mosgiel Brass
3	Annette Daikin	Mosgiel Brass

Novice

1	Susie Griggs	St Kilda Brass
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Percussion

1	Darcy Herrick	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	Meadow Bodkin-Allen	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary

Junior Duet

1	J O'Connell/A Dudfield	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
2	L Bailey/K McGregor	Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary
3	E Wilder/L Eyeles	Mosgiel Brass

Open Duet

1	N & M Gooding	Ascot Park Hotel Brass
2	S Foster/J Cunningham	St Kilda Brass
3	J Hughes/S Wedlock	Mosgiel Brass

Open Ensemble

1	St Kilda Brass No 3
2	St Kilda Brass No 2
3	Mosgiel Brass No 3

Family and Friends

1	Jack & Florence McKenzie
2	Wellington/Bath/Newcombe

Band Results

Band	Grade	Sacred	O/C	Ent
Ascot Park Hotel Brass	A	1st	1st	2nd
St Kilda Brass	A	2nd	2nd	1st
Alpine Energy Timaru Brass	B	1st	1st	2nd
Kaikorai Metropolitan Brass	B	2nd	2nd	1st
Ascot Park Hotel Auxiliary Brass	C	2nd	2nd	2nd
Mosgiel Brass	C	1st	1st	1st
Roxburgh Pioneer Energy Brass	D	1st	1st	1st

Good Showing by Hamilton Auxiliary

The Hamilton Auxiliary Brass Band were invited to play front and centre at The Waikato Show on Saturday 6 April. This is a popular annual event that celebrates our community, at which businesses, organisations and clubs from all over the Waikato get to 'show off what they've got'. The Waikato Show has in its various forms been an annual event since 1908 and last year attracted a gate attendance of around 14,000 people over the three days.

It was held at the Claudelands Event Centre in Hamilton, which is to be the location of the A and B grade sections at this year's New Zealand Brass Band Championships.

The Waikato Show was a different format to what Hamilton Auxiliary Brass is used to. Here there is virtually no advertising of who or what would perform in the allocated performance areas. Hamilton Auxiliary Brass made the most of having no separation between the band and

the public, using it as an opportunity for people to get up close and personal with a live brass band. The band seized this opportunity to try and reach an audience who on the most part would not usually seek out or listen to a brass band.

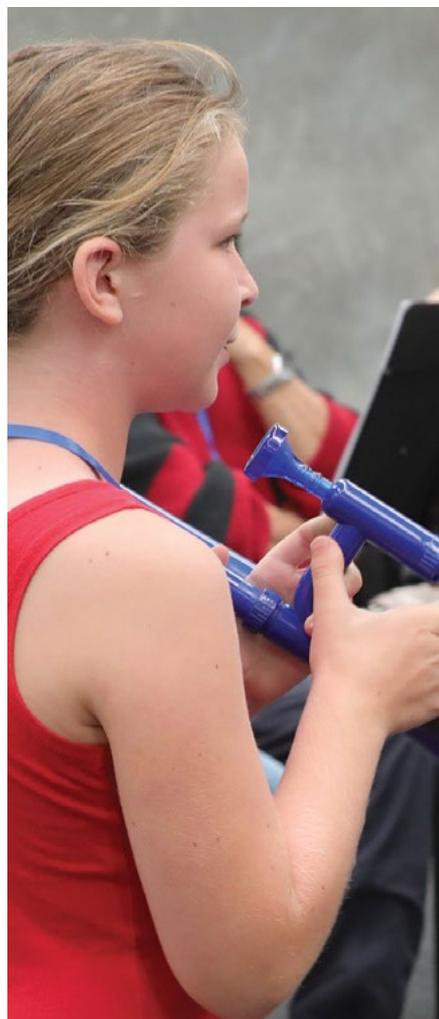
Hamilton Auxiliary Brass knew their audience would not be band aficionados, so adjusted its programme to try and pique the interest of parents who could envisage their child picking

up a brass instrument and joining the Hamilton band family. While the Hamilton Citizens Band Inc boasts three thriving groups, (Hamilton City Brass, Hamilton Auxiliary Brass and Hamilton Brass Factory), there is always room for anyone of any age and any playing ability to join.

The band made a very loud impression in the hall performing *James Bond Theme* and *Conquest of Paradise*, whilst also capturing the hearts of many when featuring a brave solo performance of *A Million Dreams* by 9-year-old Lizzie Barr from the Hamilton Brass Factory (development band) as well as introducing and demonstrating various instruments to the public. This included a bright blue P-Bone and an Alpine Horn.

Musical Director Te Reo Hughes has been training the band well over the last twelve months, resulting in winning the D Grade section at the 2018 Waikato Bay of Plenty regional contest. She likes to keep the band busy, so in the coming months it will compete at the Festival of Music hosted by Matamata Brass on 12 May and attend its first national contest in six years this July. It had been some time since Hamilton Auxiliary Brass had a playout that wasn't a contest or competition, so The Waikato Show was a refreshing opportunity to get amongst the people and show what grassroots banding looks like.

Text and photographs provided by Richard Lummus



Anessa Ginever with her P-Bone



Under the baton of its new Director of Air Force Music, FLTLT David Gallaher, the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band will undertake a week-long tour of the upper South Island, West Coast and Christchurch in May. We asked David about his return to New Zealand and his new job with the RNZAF Band.

“After seven-and-a-half years based in Geelong, where I was fortunate to lead the Music Department at St Joseph’s College, a big school of over 1800 boys, it is a delight to be back in New Zealand. My wife Robyn was our department administrator, so the Kiwi influence in the department was strong. The College was fortunate in having excellent leadership which resulted in a well-balanced emphasis on sport and the arts. My time there was both challenging and rewarding. My involvement in community banding in Victoria was limited to working with a couple of the State’s A Grade Bands on occasions and the odd spot of adjudicating.

“With our girls heading back to New Zealand it was time for us to head home too. A leadership opportunity with the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band arose, and here I am in Wellington having survived the rigours of six months of Officer Training. I am delighted to be working with a band that is the only professional full symphonic band in New Zealand. As well as the main symphonic band, contained within the unit is an excellent jazz orchestra led by Alistair Isdale, the band’s Operations Manager. We also have an array of various ensembles, from brass ensembles and wind ensembles to a covers band.

“The high level of musicianship in the band was one of the initial attractions of the position. Members have played for or are currently assisting the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra Wellington. Eleven of our members are also members of New Zealand’s current champion brass band, Wellington Brass. Some of our musicians are very prominent in the contemporary and jazz world in New Zealand and can be found in many groups such as Shapeshifter, The Black Seeds, Richter City Rebels and The Roger Fox Band, to name just a few.

“The repertoire on this tour is an eclectic mix of genres, and much of the repertoire is familiar territory. Dvorak’s *Carnival* and Von Suppé’s *Poet and Peasant* overtures are always

audience-friendly openers. One of our soloists is soprano LAC Barbara Graham who will sing works by Mozart and Cole Porter. Barbara will also feature in *Angels in The Architecture*, an evocative recent composition by American composer Frank Ticheli, based on the design of the Sydney Opera House. Other works in the concert are by Tchaikovsky, Harry James, Louis Armstrong, Leroy Anderson and Kenneth Alford. Flight Sergeant Murray Mansfield, our piper, will perform several traditional bagpipe items. The band has within its ranks a versatile and much-in-demand Drumline which will also be featured on this tour.

“Our bandmaster Sgt Ben Robertson and Air Staff W/O Denis Spurdle complete the band leadership team. They will be well known to many in the south. Ben began his musical journey at Ashburton College and was a member of the Ashburton Silver Band before studying in Wellington and London. Denis, as well as being a member and former Bandmaster of the New Zealand Army Band, was a member of Woolston Brass. Denis was instrumental in developing an active youth band programme for Woolston and took the Woolston Junior Band to several D and C Grade Championship successes.

“We look forward to seeing many familiar faces from the south on our travels as well as making some new friends.”

Tour dates

Theatre Royal, Nelson
20 May, 7.00pm.

Tickets from ticketdirect.co.nz

NBS Theatre, Westport
21 May, 7.00pm.

Tickets from ticketdirect.co.nz

Regent Theatre, Greymouth
22 May, 7.00pm.

Tickets from regentgreymouth.co.nz

Mount Hutt Memorial Hall, Methven
24 May, 7.00pm. Tickets from Methven iSite:
03-302 8955 160 Main St, Methven

Air Force Museum of New Zealand
Christchurch. 25 May, 7.00pm

Tickets from airforcemuseum.co.nz

Southward Car Museum
Otaihanga, Paraparauamu

16 June, 1.30pm. Ticketing TBC



Hamilton Auxiliary Band wooing the crowd at the Waikato Show.



Musical Director

With our current Musical Director having retired, Motueka District Brass is keen to secure the services of a Musical Director who is enthusiastic and encouraging of a developing D Grade Band.

Motueka District Brass is a family-oriented band based in the top of the south and has a 101-year history of performance for and within the community. Motueka District Brass attends civic functions, has competed regularly in regional competitions and, when we can, the national competitions and attends community functions as requested.

Voted best town in New Zealand, Motueka is a welcoming town with many wonderful features such as the climate, the mountains, the rivers and the sea but also its own brass band.

If you have the skills to lead a D Grade Brass Band and have a passion for encouraging younger players, Motueka is the place for you!

Please direct expressions of interest to the president Trindi Walker – PO Box 32, Motueka 7143 or Email: motueka.brass@gmail.com

Calling all Young Musicians

Applications close for the 2019 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band on Friday 20 May. Don't miss out on being part of the 20th anniversary of this great band. The training camp will be based in New Plymouth from 30 September to 6 October and concluded with concerts in Hawera and New Plymouth. Leigh Martin is back this year as Musical Director and the guest soloist in Mike Ford. For further information about the 2019 NSSBB or an application form, please contact band manager Jo Doyle on nzssbb2019@gmail.com



NYBB 2020 – Apply now!

Applications will open on 15 May and are to be submitted by 27 July. The audition for brass players will consist of a slow melody and technical piece of the applicant's choice, as well as a technical exercise which will be provided by musical director Alan Spence and will be available with the application forms. Percussionists will need to present one work on their preferred instrument and one work on a different instrument, as well as a technical exercise on their preferred instrument which will be provided by Alan.

Those of you applying for the 2019 National Secondary Schools' can submit your NSSBB audition slow melody and/or technical piece recordings for your NYBB audition if you wish; however, you will need to submit the NYBB technical exercise set by Alan separately.

The course will be held from 18 to 26 January 2020 and will be based in Christchurch with the generous support of the New Zealand Army Band. The itinerary is still being finalised, but there will be concerts in Christchurch and the lower South Island. Alan is already preparing for the course, and we look forward to bringing you more details about the guest soloist, concerts and tutoring team over the coming months as they are confirmed.

If there are any questions about the band or application process, please contact Emily Richards, Band Manager, on nybb2020@gmail.com





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The Youth Today

In this issue, we interview 18-year-old Connor Rabbidge from Timaru.

What was your first musical experience?

In terms of my first brass band experience, that was when I travelled with the Timaru band to support them at the Invercargill Nationals of 2014. My brother and grandad were both playing in the band at the time, so my mother and I decided to head down for the long weekend and support the band. I remember the band playing *Fire in the Blood* on stage, and me sitting in the audience absolutely loving it and thinking "I want to be up there". Ever since then I've been hooked!

Dies musical ability run in your family?

Music is a huge part of my family's history, but it's also very lopsided on my mother's side, as my dad says he "doesn't have a musical bone in my body". Starting with my great-grandad, Frank Smith, who was a conductor in the UK and New Zealand, most notably being a key member in the formation of the Fairey Aviation Band, now known as The Fairey Band. When Frank came out to New Zealand, he took up the conductor role with Timaru Municipal Band. One of the members of that band was Jim Doyle, and that is how my nana and grandad met. Jim has been playing in bands for over 40 years, including in the Air Force Band with my mother, Jo Doyle, when she was my age. My uncle, Neil Doyle, was also in banding, and he was in the Army Band for four years in the 1980s, and still plays brass with different bands over in Spain, as a backing band for prominent Spanish singers, and also with some jazz bands, which is super awesome! My younger brother Lucas picked up the cornet before I did, at the convincing of Grandad, and the same trick seemed to work on me to join, then my mother to come out of "retirement" and to play again after 20 years.

To date, what have been some of your musical highlights?

Some of my highlights would definitely be my two years in the NSSBB in 2017 and 2018, and also the first Nationals I've attended as a player when Timaru went to Blenheim in 2018. Doing a combined concert with Moreton Bay Symphony Orchestra in 2017 was also a really cool and different experience, along with Timaru band's 150th Jubilee Concert in 2017, having a massive combined band with players from all over the country was fantastic to be a part of. Being picked as Timaru band's Male Player of the Year for 2018 is also something I greatly appreciate.

You have been in New Zealand Secondary Schools' Brass Bands what have you gained from that?

From my two years, I gained so much in terms of different playing techniques, what to play, and different ways to look at and break down the music to then work on it. I learnt so much in 2017 from Mark Davey,

our conductor and tutor for the trombones, and there was a really big step up in my playing ability after that week away. In 2018, under Leigh Martin as conductor and Nick Johnson as the trombone tutor, I expanded on what I had learnt and stepped up again in my playing and knowledge. The main things I gained from my NSSBB years was how to further develop my sound, my tonguing, and improving my overall technique.

Is it a goal of yours to be in the National Youth Band?

Absolutely, I would love to reach the Youth Band! It's another step up again, and I plan on auditioning for this year's band, so hopefully, I can reach it one day!

What sort of things would you like to happen to support young brass players?

The big thing for me is exposure. Whether you're trying to entice them to play in the first place or keep them going after they start, I think it's about getting the kids to events, getting them to playouts, and always having gigs coming up, something to work towards. For example, the Canterbury Youth Camp, which is ages 8-18, is really fantastic and a great way to get the kids started on the banding life of going away to contest, band camps, doing playouts, and for them to realise that it's really cool!

Who or what has been your greatest inspiration?

Definitely my grandad, he's the one who got me to play in the first place, he was my first tutor, and when I made it into the Senior Band at Timaru after a few months of playing I was sitting next to him, and thinking I could never make it to the level he played at. It was a weird experience when he told me to sit in the seat above him, and he retired from banding not too long after, but is still involved and loves to hear the band, and me, play which is really awesome.

Music making should be fun, describe any amusing moments that you can recount.

Plenty of awesome moments, especially away at contest and provincials... a really good recent one was being locked in our hotel room in Alexandra at the 2019 Otago Provincials, that was quite funny, also staying up all night at Blenheim in 2016 with some of the other younger band members was really funny,

Is there anyone you would like to thank for helping you with your achievements thus far?

There's a lot of people who have given me help at some stage along the way, and all of their advice has helped me into what I do now. Some I mentioned before like Mark, Leigh and Nick, but also Tyme Masters, as my tutor for the past couple of years, and when Tyme couldn't come down (to Timaru), some stand-ins included Phil Johnston, Nigel Seaton, and Karl Margevka, who were all awesome and I thank them so much for helping me out. Also, our current conductor for Timaru, Shane Foster, has



really helped drive me since he joined in 2016. And from Timaru, pretty much all of the trombones who have played in the band have been awesome, and I've learnt something from each of them, including Kent Smith, Phil Bettany, Mel Morris, and Vaughn Nicolson, to name a few. Zachery Nicolson and Jacob Stonehouse, both from Timaru, inspired me a lot when they were my age, and I thank them for just being awesome.

What do you hope to achieve in the future?

I would love to play in the Army Band, and even the National Band would be amazing. My work plans at the moment are thinking of going to Canterbury University next year, not exactly sure what I'd study but I'd like to be doing a manager role, in Logistics or Economics or something like that. I would've gone this year but decided to take a working gap year instead and to work on my trombone playing so I can have a good go at the Youth Band and the Army Band.

Quick fire questions

What type of music do you listen to most? I'll listen to anything really, nothing too specific but I do like 1980's to '00s, most music is good music!

Other interests? Love playing football, and catching up with mates.

Favourite food? Lots of different types of food, but has to be Indian food.

Favourite place? I really loved Singapore when I went there in 2016.

Favourite film? Couldn't pick just one film, but anything Marvel is great.

Favourite instrument? Well... has to be the trombone surely! If I picked one I don't play, it would be the Euphonium.

Favourite piece of music? 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth'

What do you dislike most? Capsicums. They are awful.

For the more technical amongst us; what make of instrument do you play? I play a Rath R3F, and my mouthpiece is a Bach 5G. I only bought my Rath a few months ago, but absolutely love it!

Congratulations Harry

Harry Bremner's dedication and service to Ashburton Silver Band were recognised when he was awarded the Brass Band Association of New Zealand's long service award. His 50-year medal and certificate were presented by the band's honorary president, Mayor Donna Favel, at the Ashburton Silver Band's annual general meeting on 25 March. His daughter Karen, of Christchurch, was present.

Harry, 82, has been with the Ashburton Silver Band for 53 years but he has had a long association with brass bands. "Where has the time gone? I've enjoyed every moment of it," he says. He is the band's conductor and continues to play the cornet when required. He can also play flugel horn and violin and is trumpet player for the Mutual Society of Arts (MSA) Dance Band at the Ashburton Club.

The Ashburton Silver Band has around 16 members of varying ages, from a teenager through to more mature bandmen.

Harry's musical abilities date back to his youth in the Kingdom of Fife, Scotland, where he started learning music at the age of seven; his grandfather taught him violin. He entered the Kings Royal Hussars cavalry regiment as part of his national service at the age of 20 as a professional musician and learned to play the cornet. He completed two years before joining the Tullis Russell Mills Band playing the cornet and flugel where he played with the band for six years.

It was an advertisement in the British Bandsmen magazine seeking bandmen for New Zealand bands, specifically the Ashburton



Ashburton Mayor Donna Favel congratulates Harry on his award.

Silver Band, which saw him and his late wife, Agnes, (along with four-year-old Karen) take a leap and immigrate down-under. Son Colin, now in Australia, was born later in Ashburton. The young family were not alone emigrating from the United Kingdom; four other

bandmen also applied to the advertisement and moved to Ashburton, three Englishmen, and one Welshman.

Harry and his family arrived in New Zealand on January 12, 1966, at the age of 29. A carpenter/joiner/cabinet maker until he retired, Harry had no trouble being placed into work.

He went on to be one of the instigators, and carpenters, behind the building of the Silver Band's band room on Cameron Street. The building was started in June 1976 and officially opened in 1980. Harry spent many hours working on it and kept a record of all the hours each individual put into the new building. One of the many highlights of Harry's band career in New Zealand included being principal cornet player when the Ashburton Silver Band won the National Championship title in Dunedin, in 1978. He was made a life member in 1980.

Other career highlights include playing in the Military Tattoo in London (1958), playing trumpet in the Messiah with the Londonderry String Orchestra in Northern Ireland (1958), playing with the French National Orchestra at the opening concert of the Edinburgh Festival (1962), playing at the Royal Albert Hall, London (1962) and being a member of Canterbury All-Star Band to play at the opening of Christchurch Town Hall (Oct 20, 1972).

By Toni Williams, courtesy of *The Ashburton Courier*



Vacancy – Musical Director Ascot Park Hotel Brass

Following the retirement of Matthew Dick, the Invercargill Garrison Band Society is seeking expressions of interest for Musical Director of its senior band, Ascot Park Hotel Brass.

Formed in 1867 the world's southernmost A Grade Brass Band has a proud and rich history. With practises twice a week we compete regularly at both provincial and national level as well as regular community events including Anzac Day, Carols in the Park, and more.

The Senior Band (A Grade) currently has about 22 regular players. The Auxiliary Band (C Grade) has about 30 regular players with a large percentage of those being Junior players.

The successful applicant will have a strong musical background as well as the drive, focus and commitment to build on the band's history and lead it into the future. Please send your application detailing your experience, along with a cover page detailing your vision for the band, to

secretary@ascotbrass.org.nz

Words of Advice

Hi all, by the time you read this we will have finished the Septura Residency in Nelson. Septura is one of the finest brass ensembles in the world today, and we are so lucky to have had them in New Zealand. I hope that everyone got out and supported the concerts throughout the country. I have been pushing Chamber Music NZ for years to get an overseas brass group out. It's important that we make the most of these opportunities, as I am not sure when the next visit will be.

Listening is an essential aspect of learning, and we are so lucky in New Zealand to have so much high-level live music. Find something in your community that you usually would not attend, and get a ticket – a choir, orchestra, jazz band, even the rival band in your city! If we all attend events outside of our own, then our concerts will also be full!

I have a few Director of Education weekends booked over the coming months. These weekends usually involve tuition, band training, talks, demonstrations etc. Please contact the Band Office if you would like me to visit your band, and we can find some dates later in the year.

Regards, Dave.





BBANZ – Directory

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Website: www.brassbanz.org

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BBANZ is a Registered Charity cc 37839.
All donations are tax deductible

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National Youth Brass Band

Musical Director: Alan Spence, Whakatane
Manager: Emily Richards
emily@brassbanz.org.nz
M: 027 723 3740

National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Musical Director: Leigh Martin, New Plymouth
Manager: Jo Doyle
nzssbb2019@gmail.com
027 454 9632

2019 National Contest in Hamilton 10 to 14 July

Contact person: Malcolm Barr
mbarr@stjohns-hamilton.school.nz

2020 National Contest in Christchurch 8 to 12 July

Contact person: Stephen Leader
leader14@slingshot.co.nz

2021 National Contest in Wellington 7 to 11 July

Contact person: Mike Sander
mtsander007@gmail.com



Administrator of the Year Accompanist of the Year

The National Management Committee is seeking nominations for these awards from bands and District Associations. The nominated Administrator or Accompanist should be highly skilled, totally dedicated and do an outstanding job for your organisation.

The Administrator of the Year and the Accompanist of the Year awards will be announced and the trophies presented at the National Contest.

Please send your nomination to Brass Band Association of New Zealand
PO Box 35 288, Shirley, Christchurch 8640 or to bbanzeo@gmail.com
Nominations close: 31 May 2019



2022 National Championships

Applications are called for from organisations wishing to host the 2022 National Championships in the lower half of the South Island. Please contact Helen at the BBANZ office to discuss your application and a request for an application form.

Applications close on Saturday 31 August 2019
and will be voted on at the AGM in November.



Calling Composers

The management committee is seeking test pieces for all band grades for the 2020 National Contest. Composers are invited to submit recent works for consideration with a preference given to works by NZ composers. Works should be written for usual brass band instrumentation. Please forward completed works to bbanzeo@gmail.com by 1 November 2019.



Vacancy Musical Director Palmerston North Brass

We are seeking a new Musical Director to continue the development of brass banding in Palmerston North. Candidates will ideally have performed at a national level, have some professional leadership experience, and some brass teaching experience.

We are a B Grade band focused on ongoing musical development and community engagement, rehearsing on Monday and Thursday evenings. We've recently started an Academy Band and would like the new Director to help grow this. For more information, please contact us via email a palmybrass@gmail.com or call Madz on 021 668 536.

To see what we're about visit www.facebook.com/palmerstonnorthbrass

Friends of the National Youth Brass Band:

P Adams, BJ Aldridge (in perpetuity) E Aldridge (in perpetuity), J Aldridge, G Coomer, T and B Cudby, D and M Dawson, JW Edmondston, RA Hancock, JB and NC Hollick, DA Johnson, I Levien, AG Lewis, JR McGough, O Melhuish, D Miller, G and C Moseley, NZ Army Band, B and M Platt, E Sayer, M Smith, J and R Sullivan, The Estate of Joan Norma Morris, TrumpetGuy.co.nz.

If you would like to support the activities of the National Youth Brass Band please contact the Executive Officer or make a donation at www.brassbanz.org/friends-of-national-youth-band

Life Members of the BBANZ

Graeme Aldridge MNZM, Trevor Bremner MNZM, Tony Cowan BEM, JP, Trevor Cudby, Kevin Dell ONZM, Beverley Kench, Ian Levien QSM, Stephen Leader, Tony Lewis MNZM, Bill Platt, Evan Sayer, Dianne Smeehuyzen, Rodney Sutton MBE JP, Murray Warrington

Life Members who have served BBANZ

JF Allen, GH Bailey, RE Belgrave, A Brieseman OBE JP, RM Brooker, W Currie, Graham Dick, J Drew, RJ Estall, HCA Fox, WL Francis, NG Goffin, EJ Gohns, T Goodall, Drummer Hall, ER Holden, RB Hean, A Homer, KL Jarrett MBE, Mrs C Kendall, JC King, WS King, GB Knowles, WP MacLauchlin, Riki McDonnell QSM, H Nielson, E Ormrod (sen), JG Osborne, E Palliser, J Rafferty, WV Siddall, R Simpson, P Skoglund, KGL Smith MBE, T Taylor OSM, L Thorne, FJ Turner, RS Waterston.



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