



August 2024

Banding Together : Summer Focus

In January 2017 SCWB staged its first *Banding Together* event. The idea was to host a gathering of local wind, brass and percussion musicians for a day of music-making, all under the direction of a guest conductor. Initially we sought support from wind band composers who would then conduct their own compositions, bringing their own unique insights into their music. In recent times, however, we have been happy to invite prominent members of the wind band community (and not necessarily composers) to take the lead.

Banding Together has proved hugely successful, attracting participants from as far afield as Bristol, Woking and Worthing. Many return year after year. This year's seventh iteration of *Banding Together* saw 93 participants enjoying a splendidly fulfilling day under the direction of SCWB's Patron, Rob Wiffin.

This extraordinary level of success prompted the question of whether a similar summer event might be staged and we decided to give it a go – thus was *Banding Together : Summer Focus* born. To differentiate this younger sibling from its older brother, we decided to publicise three challenging works on which participants would focus and that SCWB's MD, Calum Gray, would take the lead.



On 30th June, over 60 musicians spent the day working hard on Philip Sparke's *Music for a Festival*, Steven Bryant's *Dusk* and Guy Woolfenden's *Gallimaufry*. It's fair to say that, after a final performance of the three pieces at 3.30pm, everyone was pretty well

exhausted! The completed evaluation forms made it clear that all the effort was worthwhile.

Here are some of the comments:

- *Fun and enjoyable*
- *Fantastic repertoire - really enjoyable to play with a good level of challenge*
- *Good balance of hard work and music-making, with time to socialise*
- *Excellent day. Great music and great fun*
- *An enjoyable challenge. Well organised fun day*

It is highly likely that *Banding Together : Summer Focus* will be repeated next year!

Music in the Air – Charity Fundraising Concert, July 13th



The last *Upbeat!* ended with the announcement of our fundraising concert in Winchester. It was a huge success. Sarah Cootes from the charity *Friends of the Family* writes:

I had the pleasure and privilege of attending the SCWB Summer Concert in Christchurch, Winchester. Along with my fellow Trustee Cat Perrin we had been invited to attend as representatives of our charity, Friends of the Family.

SCWB had kindly offered to support us with a donation to the charity from the proceeds of the Concert and raised an incredible £427.18.

This will help us to support more families in the area and we are very grateful. As if this weren't enough, we were treated to a joyous concert, in which a wide range of music had been set within a well-constructed programme. We smiled from start to finish and it was impossible to sit still through pieces like 'The Pink Panther.' There was a blend of familiar tunes as well as some surprising and dynamic pieces which were certainly new to us. The informative and humorous introductions to the music by the conductor Calum and the expert playing of the band made this a delightful experience from the first note to the last.



Music for a Festival – Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril, October 5th



SCWB is thrilled to offer you this wonderful programme of music, with special guest soloist **Alastair Penman**. Alastair will be performing *Dance of Uzume*, a concertino by Piet Swerts as well as the *Artie Shaw Clarinet Concerto*. Also in the programme will be Philip Sparke's *Music for a Festival*, *Songs of the West* by Holst and *Parade of the Slave Children* by John Williams, from *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*. And, of course, many more! Do come along with your friends and family.

Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/scwb or on the door

Join Southampton Concert Wind Band at our 2024 concerts

War Memorial Park Bandstand, Romsey	Aug 11 th 2.30 pm
Rose Theatre, Barton Peveril College	Oct 5 th 7.30 pm
With special guest soloist Alastair Penman, Clarinet and Saxophone	
Chandler's Ford Methodist Church	Dec 7 th 3.00 pm
Christmas Concert, with the choir of Hiltingbury Junior School	

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