

CONCERT BAND SYMPOSIUM



Maidstone
Wind Symphony



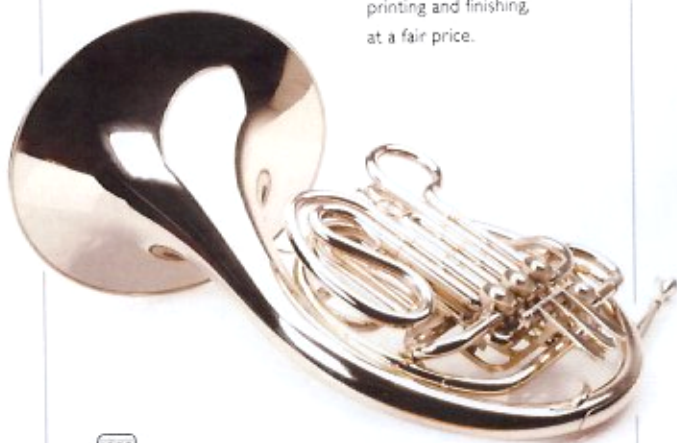
**Pamoja Hall
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Sunday 27 May 2012
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MAIDSTONE WIND SYMPHONY
JONATHAN CROWHURST *MUSIC DIRECTOR*
ALASTAIR PENMAN *SAXOPHONE*

FIRST HALF

IN LEAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN *PETER GRAHAM*

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH *PETER GRAHAM*

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND
MICHAEL SMITH *CONDUCTOR*

SECOND HALF

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FESTIVO *EDWARD GREGSON*

MASSED BANDS

MARCH TO THE SCAFFOLD *HECTOR BERLIOZ*

ELSA'S PROCESSION TO THE CATHEDRAL *RICHARD WAGNER*

IN LEAGUE WITH EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN PETER GRAHAM

In League with Extraordinary Gentlemen combines two of composer Peter Graham's life interests - composition and 19th century popular fiction. Each of the concerto's three movements takes its musical inspiration from extraordinary characters who have transcended the original genre and have subsequently found mass audiences through film, television and comic book adaptations.

The first movement follows a traditional sonata form outline with one slight modification. The order of themes in the recapitulation is reversed, mirroring a plot climax in the H.G. Wells novella *The Time Machine* (where the protagonist, known only as *The Time Traveller*, puts his machine into reverse bringing the story back full circle).

The Adventure of the Final Problem is the title of a short story published in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* by Arthur Conan Doyle. This is an account of the great detective's final struggle with his long-time adversary Professor Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland. The music takes the form of a slowed down ländler (a Swiss/Austrian folk dance) and various acoustic and electronic echo effects call to mind the alpine landscape. The final bars pose a question paralleling that of Conan Doyle in the story - have we really seen the last of Sherlock Holmes?

The final movement, *The Great Race*, follows Phileas Fogg on the last stage of his epic journey "Around the World in Eighty Days" (from the novel by Jules Verne). The moto perpetuo nature of the music gives full rein to the soloist's technical virtuosity. As the work draws to a conclusion, the frantic scramble by Fogg to meet his deadline at the Reform Club in Pall Mall, London, is echoed by the soloist's increasingly demanding ascending figuration, set against the background of Big Ben clock chimes.

The alto saxophone version of *In League with Extraordinary Gentlemen* was first performed by Tim Watson and The Band of the Royal Marines (Collingwood), conductor Lieut-Col Nick Grace, in St Mary's Church, Fratton, on February 25th 2010.

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH PETER GRAHAM

2005 marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Jules Verne, and the event inspired Peter Graham to write a musical tribute to the author described as the "father of science fiction."

Journey to the Centre of the Earth is one of Verne's best known works. The novel takes the form of a sequence of diary entries by Axel, nephew of Professor Otto Lidenbrock. The pair follow coded instructions in a old document guiding them to Iceland where, together with their guide Hans, they enter the open crater of an extinct volcano Snæfells and pursue a trail to the centre of the earth. There follows "hair-breadth scrapes and ventures perilous" as the intrepid explorers encounter a vast interior world.

Peter Graham has taken some of the key scenes from the book and set them as a sequence of symphonic extracts. The subtitles are; (I) *Snæfells*, (II) *Descent*, (III) *The Wonders of the Terrestrial Depths*, (IV) *The Day of Rest*, (V) *Lost in the Labyrinth*, (VI) *The Whispering Gallery*, (VII) *Rescue from the Abyss*, (VIII) *Battle of the Antediluvian Creatures and Ascent*, (IX) *Homecoming*.

The wind band transcription of *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* was commissioned by Yukihiro Higuchi and the premiere recording given by Osaka Municipal Symphonic Wind Band (Japan), conductor Kazuyoshi Akiyama in February 2006.

BENEFACTION FROM SKY AND MOTHER EARTH

SATOSHI YAGISAWA

The Japanese composer Satoshi Yagisawa wrote his festive fanfare *Benefaction from Sky and Mother Earth* for the Oyama City Symphonic Wind Orchestra to commemorate their 30th anniversary in 2010. Following a gentle opening a fanfare leads into an magnificent chorale. This turns into a quickly moving energetic section with irregular rhythm and concludes in a blaze of sound.

ALBION HERITAGE

PHILIP SPARKE

Three well known British folk tunes provide the inspiration for Philip Sparke's *Albion Heritage*. It begins with *Brighton Camp*, (or *The Girl I Left Behind Me*), a tale of a soldier leaving his loved one as he marches to war. A soldiers' song also concludes the piece; *Men of Harlech*, remembers their bravery as they defended the castle against The House of York during the War of the Roses. *O Waly, Waly* (also known as *The River Wide*) provides the filling. This song descends from 17th Century Scottish folklore and portrays the loving relationship as it turns sour.

EL CAMINO REAL (a Latin Fantasy)

ALFRED REED

El Camino Real (The Royal Road) was written by the American composer Alfred Reed for the American 581st Air Force Band in 1985. This fantasy is based on a series of Spanish folk melodies and chord progressions commonly used by flamenco guitarists. The music follows a traditional fast-slow-fast pattern with the first section based on the dance form known as the *jota*. The second contrasting section is derived from the *fandango* which leads to an exhilarating finale.

FESTIVO

EDWARD GREGSON

Festivo was written by the English composer Edward Gregson in 1985 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Bolton Youth Concert Band. This exciting piece is cast in one continuous movement but based on two main musical themes. The first theme is announced by the horns at the very outset, this is followed after the short opening by a faster tempo section which contains the second theme introduced on the clarinets. The piece builds throughout before both themes combine to end the work in a blaze of colour.

MAIDSTONE WIND SYMPHONY BIOGRAPHY

Maidstone Wind Symphony (formerly Maidstone Winds) was founded by Brendon Le Page in 1998. The band originally and primarily consisted of former members of Maidstone Youth Music Society and Kent Youth Wind Orchestra. Membership of the band now includes professionals, teachers, students and gifted amateurs.

Jonathan Crowhurst was appointed as the band's third Musical Director in 2010 following Brendon Le Page and Jeremy Cooper. Richard Hubbert was made Composer in Association - the first to be appointed to that position in Maidstone Winds' history. The band changed its name to Maidstone Wind Symphony and made its first appearance at the Exchange Studio in June 2010.

In September 2010 a unique partnership was formed between Maidstone Wind Symphony and Maidstone Youth Music Society to build upon the success of the organisations' musical traditions and cultural links. The two organisations performed together for the first time in March 2011. This partnership forms a strategy for long-term support.

MWS have since invited John Holland, winner of the Making Music Award at the British Composer Awards 2008, to become a Composer in Association partnering Richard Hubbert demonstrating the bands commitment to new works for concert band. Since 2010 MWS has performed premieres of music by Johan de Meij, Peter Graham, Rodney Newton, Philip Sparke, Ray Farr, Andrew Baker, Eric Geldard, and Paul Lovatt Cooper as well as commissioning works by local composers including Simon Proctor and Elizabeth Freeborn.

MWS has also had the privilege of working with some of the country's leading musicians, including Brett Baker the principal trombonist of the world famous Black Dyke Band and Gavin Pritchard, principal percussionist of Cory Band.

It is first and foremost the music that draws these young enthusiasts together. One of the aims of the band is to further the recognition of the symphonic band movement in the United Kingdom. Through the presentation of original music and the best available arrangements of symphonic works, the band looks to raise public awareness of the medium.

www.MaidstoneWindSymphony.org

JONATHAN CROWHURST MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jonathan Crowhurst has a growing reputation as a performer, teacher, conductor and advocate of new music.

Having completed the first part of his musical education at MYMS where he held the position of principal oboe in Maidstone Youth Orchestra and Maidstone Youth Wind Orchestra, Jonathan joined the Kent Centre for Young Instrumentalists, now Kent Academy of Music, in 2003. He studied oboe under Sue Purton and piano with Karen Wildy. He was also a member of the Kent Youth Choirs for four years touring Austria and Holland and played in the Kent Youth Chamber Orchestra.

Jonathan continued his studies and graduated with a BMus (hons) degree from Goldsmiths College, University of London in 2008. He conducted the chamber choir, was principal oboe of the college Sinfonia performing in the UK Premiere of Sergei Prokofiev's *Songs of Our Days* as well as contemporary works by Schnittke, Saariaho and Ives.

Jonathan was also a member of the college opera company, OperaGold, performing the roles of Hobson (*Peter Grimes*), Antonio (*Marriage of Figaro*), Morales (*Carmen*) and Second Armed Man (*Magic Flute*).

He has gone on to play the Shepherd and Huntsman (*Venus and Adonis*), the Sailor (*Dido and Aeneas*), Spoletta (*Tosca*) as well as chorus in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer*. Jonathan was also a member of the highly regarded Holst Singers under Stephen Layton and a professional Singer with the Philharmonia Chorus.

Taking up the baton as a conductor, Jonathan has had success with the Puregold Ensemble, whom he founded in 2009, the Kent Youth Chamber Orchestra and Maidstone Wind Symphony.

His current tenure as Music Director of Maidstone Wind Symphony has been marked with a series of innovative concerts and premieres of new works for concert band with a variety of soloists and musical combinations.

Jonathan is a music teacher at Invicta Grammar School after serving a year as a teacher trainee at Maidstone Grammar School for Boys and teaching vocal studies with Kent Music and Medway Schools Music Association.

www.jonathancrowhurst.com

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND BIOGRAPHY

Eynsford Concert Band is a symphonic wind ensemble that has been based in the small Kentish village of Eynsford since 1972.

Attracting players from all over the South East of England, the band enjoys a healthy mix of new and long-standing members. The band tours overseas regularly, and aspires to attain the highest standards of musicianship within a social and friendly environment. The band is firmly rooted in its community and every year raises substantial amounts for local charities.

The band has 50 playing members and is a Registered Charity (No. 277086). Investing any revenue from performances back into the band, to fund the purchase of music, hire of the rehearsal or performance venues and obtaining instruments for those members who cannot afford to buy them, it is only through the voluntary efforts of its members that the band survives.

This year, the band celebrates its 40th birthday and recently performed an Anniversary Celebration Concert that included an emotional musical journey, charting its forty year history from humble beginnings in 1972 to today, sharing these memories with many former members of the band who joined us in the audience alongside our regular supporters.

We are excited to be invited to join Maidstone Wind Symphony in this Wind Band Symposium and hope that this is only the first of many future projects together.

www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk

MICHAEL SMITH CONDUCTOR

Michael Smith is a Director of Music in the Army. Born in Warwickshire he joined the Army as a clarinettist and served in England, Northern Ireland and Cyprus before being selected to attend the three year Bandmaster Course at The Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. He graduated in 1996 winning the Commandant's Prize and the coveted Worshipful Company of Musicians Medal for best all-round Student Bandmaster of the year and was also one of the first students to gain his Bachelor of Arts Degree through his studies at Kneller Hall.

As a Bandmaster he served with the Band of The Prince of Wales's Division (Clive) based in Ternhill, Shropshire, which included overseas tours to Hawaii and South Africa, and the Band of the Grenadier Guards where in addition to taking part in all major State and Ceremonial Events he performed with the band on tours to America, Canada, Sweden and Australia. He then returned to the Royal Military School of Music in the appointment of Training Design Warrant Officer where his role included the design and maintenance of the Bandmaster Course and the selection of Student Bandmasters to commence training.

In April 2008 he was selected for a commission into the Corps of Army Music and was appointed Director of Music the Band of The Royal Irish Regiment (TA) based in Holywood, Northern Ireland. This was followed by a 6 month assignment as Project Officer, Headquarters Corps of Army Music.

In October 2010 he was appointed Director of Music The Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers in Chatham, Kent. After just 8 months with the Engineers Band he was asked to take up the much coveted appointment of Director of Music the Band of the Grenadier Guards in June 2011.

Outside the Army Michael continues to enjoy conducting a number of civilian music ensembles including brass band, symphonic flute ensemble and most recently Eynsford Concert Band.

ALASTAIR PENMAN SAXOPHONE

Alastair Penman is a recent graduate of St Catharine's College, Cambridge University, where he received a music tuition award and the inaugural Dudley Robinson Award to help him further his musical career. During his time in Cambridge, Alastair held the role of principal saxophonist with the Cambridge University Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, CUMS 1 and the Cambridge University Jazz Orchestra, Big Band and Swing Band, also performing on clarinet with many of these groups. In these roles he had the pleasure of working alongside conductors including Sir Roger Norrington, Baldur Bronnimann, Dmitry Sitkovetsky, Stephen Cleobury, David Hill and many others, as well as collaborating with Jazz greats such as Mike Gibbs, Mark Nightingale, Steve Waterman, Gareth Lockrane and Issie Barratt. These events have seen Alastair perform at many of the UK's top venues including the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Symphony Hall and King's College Chapel (Cambridge).

Alastair's first major solo performance was of the soprano saxophone concerto *Under the Veil* by Nigel Wood, in an arrangement accompanied by the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain saxophone ensemble, directed by Gerard McChrystal. This was followed by performances as a soloist with the Buckinghamshire Youth Wind Orchestra and more recent performances include the premiere of Ashok Gupta's *Jazz Mass* with the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, under the direction of Tim Brown. Future engagements include a performance of Eric Coates saxophone concerto "Saxo-Rhapsody" with the West Wycombe Sinfonia in 2012, celebrating the composer's 125th anniversary.

Alastair also has a strong interest in jazz music and has been featured as a soloist with various groups at such prestigious events as Montreux and London Jazz Festivals, the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and jazz clubs abroad including Casa del Jazz (Rome) and Budapest Jazz Club.

In a more intimate setting Alastair has given many solo recitals exploring the contemporary saxophone repertoire. Recent recitals have included venues such as Trinity College Chapel (Cambridge), Selwyn College Hall (Cambridge), The Bateman Auditorium and as part of the prestigious Kellaway Recital Series at St Catharine's College (Cambridge).

Alastair has recently been awarded a postgraduate scholarship to the Royal Northern College of Music where he will continue his studies with Rob Buckland and Andy Scott.

www.alastairpenman.co.uk

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- Sat 8th December '12
- Sat 23rd February '13
- Sat 27th April '13
- Sat 25th May '13

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