



## Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year from the Eynsford Concert Band

### Dates for your Diary

#### Christmas Social

The Chequers Pub, Farningham  
7.00pm Friday 14th December 2012

++++

#### Christmas Concert

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford  
7.30pm Sunday 16th December 2012

SOLD OUT

++++

#### Spring Concert

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford  
7.30pm Sunday 14th April 2013

++++

#### A Coronation Celebration

St. Mary's Church, West Malling  
Sunday 2nd June 2013

++++

#### 1812 Fireworks Concert

Swanley Park, Swanley  
7.30pm Friday 23rd August 2013

++++

#### Joint Concert with

#### The Band of the Grenadier Guards

Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks  
27th October 2013 (provisional)

Wow, what a year! Throughout 2012, Eynsford Concert Band has been celebrating its 40th Anniversary...and we think we did it in style.

Our birthday year kicked off in earnest in April with our 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert. This was an emotional evening charting a musical journey from our humble beginnings in 1972 to today. In August, the band appointed Mike Smith as our new Musical Director who then, almost immediately, found himself responsible for the band doing what they do best—partying and performing aboard a cruise ship!

In between our celebrations, the band has continued to be busy with our charity and community work. In June, the band raised over £1,200 during our Help for Heroes Charity Concert, while in September members of the band returned to The Malling School to run workshops with the new intake of Year 7 pupils with the aim of encouraging them to take up music.

As you will see from the list of dates for your diary, 2013 is set to be another busy and exciting year for us. We are particularly looking forward to working on some new projects with Mike and to our first joint concert with the Band of the Grenadier Guards.

### 40 Years of Making Music

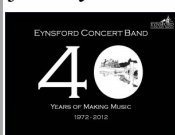
It is hard to believe that from a handful of school children who gathered in Eynsford forty years ago under the guidance of our founder and inspiration Robin O'Connell, we are now here all these years later still making music.

We still retain the original ethos that Robin instilled in us, to make music of the highest possible standard within an environment of fun and friendship.

### "40 Years of Making Music" Commemorative Booklet

Charting our forty year history from humble beginnings in 1972 to today, this nostalgic booklet provides a reminder of our tours, concerts, conductors and members over the years.

With many of our members having been in the band for twenty, thirty, or even more years, we have had fun looking through some of our old photos and reminding ourselves of the journey we have been on.



Copies are available for sale, so pick up yours and reminisce with us.



Our 40th Anniversary Celebration Concert in April included a musical journey that featured conductors from bygone years, each selecting music that brought back memories of their time with the band.

Hosted by Andy Barclay, we were joined by many former

members of the band on stage and in the audience alongside our regular supporters. The concert included old favourites such as "Thundercrest", Malcolm Arnold's "English Dances", "Thames Journey" and "Helter-Skelter".

The concert drew to a close with a rousing rendition of "Royal Air Force March Past", a favourite of Robin's.

The evening concluded with a celebration drinks reception where past and present mingled to share stories and celebrate achievements.



Every year, Eynsford Concert Band supports a local charity that has a connection to a member of the band. We are pleased to announce that our chosen charity for 2013 will be The Greenwich and Bexley Cottage Hospice, for whom we will be raising money in memory of our mothers, who both passed away this year, and who both spent time in the hospice.

The hospice provides specialist palliative care to the residents of the London Boroughs of Greenwich and Bexley, covering an area of 40 square miles and a population of over 500,000. Staff and volunteers care for adult patients with a wide variety of chronic and terminal conditions, both in their own homes, and also within the wards and rooms of the hospice itself.

The love and care that our mothers received during their stays in the hospice was overwhelming, and the staff and volunteers go above and beyond the call of duty as a matter of routine. This remarkable place does not charge for its services, and only about one third of its funding comes from the NHS. The balance, some £4 million per year, is made up from donations and other fundraising efforts. We know that all the money we raise next year will be gratefully received and put to very good use.

Sian Miller and Brian Evans

#### **For Your Event**

The excitement and beauty of our music can transform your event into a very memorable occasion. We are happy to play anything from Bach to Big Band, with music that will appeal to young and old alike.

If you would like further information, then please contact Brian Bennett on 07973 243485.

#### **Players needed**

We are very pleased that the Band is close to having a full complement of players. However, we continue to have vacancies in the Tuba, French Horn, Percussion and Flute sections.

If you know anyone who would like to join us, then please ask them to contact Brian Bennett on 07973 243485 or by email at [enquiry@eynsfordconcertband.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@eynsfordconcertband.co.uk)

#### **Promoting Music in Schools**

Over the past couple of years, Eynsford Concert Band has been supporting The Malling School in Kent with their programme to encourage year 7 pupils to take up music.

The Band has visited the school on a number of occasions to conduct musical workshops with pupils and afternoon concerts for pupils and their parents, all with the aim of introducing them to music. These events have been a great success with over 100 students participating and more than 40 taking up an instrument. Furthermore, the band has also been instrumental in raising over £3,000 to fund the appointment of a Brass Tutor for the school.

Elaine Cox, Head of Music, recently wrote to thank us, saying:

*"The uptake again this year has been fantastic – so much so that I have run out of some instruments!!*

*We currently have five new brass students who are learning trumpet/trombone, which is more than we had start last year.*

*In terms of woodwind it has gone crazy!.. I have 7 new flute players, and have had to get in some flutes from the old Kent Music stock as we now have 14 players. I also have four new sax players, taking the total to 12. I have a waiting list of 5 pupils as we have run out of saxophones and can't borrow any from anywhere! We also have three new clarinet players starting this week.*

*Rehearsals are underway for our Christmas concert and we have also been invited to play in Leybourne for their Christmas tree switch on, which will be fun.*

*I have spoken to all year 7's about the music day when you and the other band members came in, and they have all said how much they enjoyed it – and the staff did too!!"*

#### **Celebrating aboard the MV Balmoral**

On Saturday 25 August, Eynsford Concert Band boarded MV Balmoral at Southampton bound for Antwerp for a mini cruise as part of the band's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

Under the skilful direction of our newly appointed Musical Director, Mike Smith, over 50 players, involving members past and present and 4 founding members, performed in 2 sail away concerts. Our audience was entertained with a variety of music such as The Great Escape, Thriller, Festive Overture and, of course, Sailing.

With a large group of loyal and enthusiastic friends and family joining us on this special occasion, celebrations included a cocktail party, a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala dinner and afternoon tea with our very own 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake!



#### **Become a Friend**

Get regular updates via our new email newsletter service, including advance notice of performances, charity events and social occasions plus first choice of tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

If you would like to become a Friend, then please register at [www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk/newsletter](http://www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk/newsletter)