



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

### Dates for your Diary

#### A Christmas Festival

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford  
7.00pm Sunday 15th December 2013  
SOLD OUT

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#### Christmas Social

The Chequers Pub, Farningham  
7.30pm Friday 20th December 2013

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#### Music Americana!

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford  
7.00pm Sunday 11th May 2014

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#### Band Tour to Malta

24th to 30th May 2014

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#### National Concert Band Symposium Music Festival & Competition

Colyer-Fergusson Concert Hall,  
Canterbury

Saturday 5th July 2014

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#### 1812 Fireworks Concert

Swanley Park, Swanley  
7.30pm Friday 22nd August 2014

2013 has been another ground-breaking and exciting year for Eynsford Concert Band.

A Night At The Movies concert in April saw standing room only at the Mick Jagger Centre for a colourful night of music from The Wizard of Oz to Schindler's List to Pirates of the Caribbean.

In June, we were again 'packing them in', this time at St. Mary's Church in West Malling for a Coronation Celebration Concert. Being our first concert in West Malling, we were surprised and pleased with the response to our performance, especially when we were kindly asked to return and take part in The Malling Music Festival later in the year.

For most of us, however, the pinnacle of our year has been the opportunity to spend a day rehearsing and performing with The Band of the Grenadier Guards.

### Sharing a stage with The Band of The Grenadier Guards

On Sunday 27th October 2013, Eynsford Concert Band and The Band of the Grenadier Guards performed to a packed audience at the Pamoja Hall in Sevenoaks, Kent.



This 'Bond of Friendship' charity concert, kindly sponsored by BAE Systems, was a tribute to our armed forces and in support of SSAFA, the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.

Eynsford Concert Band opened the evening's programme, joined by a Fanfare of seven trumpets from The Grenadier Guards standing on the balcony behind us, resplendent in their full ceremonial dress and bearskins.

A first half performance from each band was followed by a second half massed band spectacular. Our two bands combined on stage to play a varied programme of music including William Walton's rousing 'Crown Imperial' that, with over 80 musicians on stage, was both very moving and extremely loud!

It was an amazing evening enjoyed by the audience and bands alike and a memory that we will treasure for many years to come.

### "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.



Every year, Eynsford Concert Band supports a local charity that has a connection to a member of the band. This year our chosen charity is The Greenwich and Bexley Cottage Hospice, for whom we have been 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 this year will be gratefully received and put to very good use.

Sian Miller and Brian Evans

### For Your Event

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.

For further information, contact Brian Bennett on 07973 243485.

### Players needed

We continue to have vacancies in the Tuba, French Horn and Percussion 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)

## Say Hello, Wave Goodbye

Eynsford Concert Band strives to attain the highest standards of musicianship while not forgetting the importance of providing a social and friendly environment that makes us want to keep turning up each week. Our members are from all over the South East of England and beyond, with a number being long-standing members of 30 or more years.

### Say hello to Alicia...

Alicia Newitt, is one of our newest and, at 17, one of our youngest members. Alicia recently joined the band on French horn (*did you know that the French horn has the smallest mouthpiece and is the only brass instrument played left handed?*).



At the age of 6, Alicia learnt the trumpet and progressed to French horn when she was 12. One of Alicia's earliest memories was going to the Guards Chapel and hearing Allegri's *Misère*. "I remember being very overwhelmed by the sound even at that young age".

Alicia's proudest moment was performing Strauss' 1st Horn Concerto backed by an orchestra and in front of an audience at Dulwich College - "possibly one of the most nerve-racking performances I have ever done".

When asked who inspires her the most, Alicia said, "Musically, Lionel Bart inspires me as he was able to compose fantastic works without the ability to read or write music".

Alicia has been in the band for just over a year now and enjoys the vast range of music that we play, and the fantastic people that make the band so fun to belong to. Her advice to any young musician starting out would be to "practice a lot! Practice makes perfect and to make the instrument fun by joining a band such as Eynsford Concert Band as well as learning and playing solo items that you enjoy".

### ...and a sad goodbye to our resident Hooligan

Joe Stafford, born in 1929, was 14 when he joined the army starting with The Queen's Royal West Surrey, where he served for 12 years. He was demobbed after coming off the troop ships from Malaya.

Six weeks later he re-joined the Welsh Guards Band and stayed there for another 28 years, becoming principal clarinet.

His nickname in the Welsh Guards band was 'Hooligan'! He left the Army as a Colour Sergeant in 1982 after 40 years of service.

Joe has been a loyal member of ECB for over 30 years and earlier this year, decided to retire from the band. Joe is open to all new and varied kinds of music and, when asked at the recent Grenadier Guards concert, he said he particularly enjoyed the music he had not heard before. He has played clarinet for 74 years!.. and long may he continue. We all miss him at rehearsals.



### Become a Friend

Get regular updates via our email newsletter service, including advance notice of performances, charity events and social occasions.

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