



*The Spirit of
Christmas*

**EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND
AND
KENT YOUTH
WIND ORCHESTRA**

SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2023



A FESTIVE WELCOME

Season's greetings and a very warm welcome to Eynsford Concert Band's (ECB) Christmas Concert for 2023.

This evening we are delighted to welcome on to the stage the talented musicians from the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra to help get us all fully into 'The Spirit of Christmas'. We will also be collecting for ECB's chosen charity this season, Barnardo's, so please do dig deep and purchase some raffle tickets for your chance to win some early festive cheer and/or buy a drink from the bar area to help this fantastic charity.

After a tremendously busy and fulfilling 2022, during which ECB celebrated its 50th Anniversary, our focus for 2023 switched immediately to preparing for our first performance, a joint concert with our fellow musicians and friends from the Band of the Grenadier Guards. A sold-out auditorium here at The SPACE witnessed a truly memorable occasion, experiencing a real blitz on sight and sound emotions from the colour of the Grenadier's scarlet tunics to the sheer volume of sound produced by over 100 musicians performing together. We were also extremely grateful for the considerable donations the evening helped raise in support of the ABF - The Soldiers' Charity, the main sponsors of the event.

A quieter summer season gave me an opportunity to develop some new repertoire with the band and prepare for the annual Swanley Fireworks concert in August. Some fabulous late Bank-Holiday weather ensured a bumper crowd to enjoy a potpourri of our lighter music along with the spectacular fireworks finale to Sir William Walton's *Crown Imperial*.

In November, the band continued its provision of musical support to the annual Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Sevenoaks and returned to Sevenoaks, this time St. Nicholas Church, for their Christmas Celebration just last weekend.



The Band's YouTube channel (@EynsfordConcertBand) continues to attract viewers from around the world eager to watch our latest offerings such as *Dragon Fight* by Otto Schwartz from our St George's Day concert in April. We are particularly pleased that our Queen Elizabeth II tribute recording of *I Vow To Thee My Country*, uploaded some 15 months ago, has had well in-excess of 90,000 views, a fantastic achievement. Please also follow us on our website (www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk) and on Facebook.

The band's committee and members continue to deliver on all fronts, both musically and organisationally, and I remain hugely privileged to be the band's principal conductor and associated with this fine band and musicians.

On behalf of all members of Eynsford Concert Band, I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas, a healthy and peaceful New Year and hope you enjoy this evening's festive musical offering.

Mike Smith
ECB Music Director




KENT YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA

Kent Youth Wind Orchestra (KYWO), formed in 1976 and run by Kent Music, gives talented young musicians the chance to improve their skills at county level.

KYWO has hosted many concerts in the UK and abroad and has been a stepping stone for musicians who continue their studies in music at universities and colleges. Many former members have gone on to work in professional orchestras, broadcasting, teaching and other music related professions.



KYWO selects players aged 13 to 19 through auditions. They receive guidance from professionals and hold three courses each academic year. The orchestra has had its concerts broadcast on national radio and TV and has performed at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the National Festival of Music for Youth.



At Kent Music we have been lucky to receive financial support from various sources, including Network South-East, Whitbread plc, the National Association of Youth Orchestras, Arts Council England and Kent County Council. This has enabled KYWO to commission works from renowned composers Martin Ellerby, Nigel Osborne, Malcolm Binney and Mervyn Cooke and to work with international soloists including Evelyn Glennie, Thea King, John Fletcher, John Wilbraham, Don Lusher and Patrick Harrild.

It has been a good year for Kent Music, the pandemic is well and truly behind us, and we are celebrating our 75th anniversary year.

Since we were founded, we have delivered an annual summer school at Benenden School, run an instrumental teaching service throughout the county, provided ensembles and choirs at local music centres and run a suite of county ensembles and choirs and it is heartening to know that these activities are thriving today. These days we have a wider role which includes providing bespoke support to schools, training opportunities for music teachers and working with partners to broaden the music that is on offer around the county, which all helps to support music-making for children & young people across Kent and Medway.

Kent Music is dedicated to providing a comprehensive musical journey for all musical individuals. For more information – or to join in - please visit our website at www.kent-music.com.

“Kent Music would like to thank everyone at Eynsford Concert Band for the invitation to be part of this wonderful Christmas concert. We are excited that KYWO is performing in The SPACE, the first time that the orchestra has appeared here.” - Peter Bolton, Chief Executive Kent Music.





PROGRAMME

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

JOY TO THE WORLD

ARR. A PREVIN

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

A SILVESTRI
ARR. R LONGFIELD

WINTER DANCES

B BALMAGES

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
NARRATED BY VIVIENNE ASTALL

ARR. R A BASS

I WILL LIGHT CANDLES THIS CHRISTMAS

K ARNESEN

THE HOLLY & THE IVY

D COURT

CALL ME CLAUS
SOLOIST: SUE RIVERS

G BROOKS

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

P GRAHAM

INTERVAL





KENT YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA

A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

ARR. J CHATTAWAY

FIRST NOEL

ARR. J SIMMONS

THE DAMBUSTERS MARCH

E COATES

TOP GUN MEDLEY

H ZIMMER
ARR. A LIGHTFOOT

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

L SCHIFRIN
ARR. E MCLIN

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

ARR. C DAVIS
ADPT. R LONGFIELD

FANTASIA FOR CHRISTMAS

E DEL BORGIO

MASSED BANDS

HALLELUJAH (IT'S ALMOST CHRISTMAS!)

L COHEN

SYMPHONIC HIGHLIGHTS FROM FROZEN

ARR. S BULLA

ANNO DOMINI: A CHRISTMAS OVERTURE

I MITCHELL



ECB MUSIC DIRECTOR

MIKE SMITH

Mike took up the appointment of Music Director, Eynsford Concert Band in 2012 bringing with him a wealth of musical knowledge garnered from an extensive career in Army Music as a Director of Music.

Under his baton he has led the band on concert tours to Antwerp, Malta, Utrecht, Norway and Austria; helped raise considerable funds for a number of charitable organisations including ABF - The Soldiers' Charity; Motor Neurone Disease Association and in 2023, Barnardo's; in 2014 he led the band to be crowned National Concert Band Champions and in 2016 ECB was the first band to represent the UK at the European Championships for Wind Orchestras.



Keen to expand the musical opportunities for the band Mike has helped build close, long-term affiliations with a number of other musical ensembles including the Band of the Grenadier Guards and tonight's special guests, Kent Youth Wind Orchestra.

Away from the band Mike recently retired from the Army after 39 years of service in Army Music. During that time, he led a number of high-profile Army bands as Director of Music including the Band of the Grenadier Guards and The Band of The Royal Corps of Engineers; was the Chief Instructor at The Royal Military School of Music and attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel from April 2020 in the appointment of Commanding Officer, Regional Bands of the British Army. His last engagement in uniform was the Coronation Parade for King Charles III in May 2023.

Since retirement Mike has been busy arranging music for ECB; readily accepting of grandparent duties for his growing 'commotion' of grandchildren and trying not to lose as many golf balls on the golf course!

KYWO MUSIC DIRECTOR

LIEUTENANT COLONEL CRAIG HALLATT

Lieutenant Colonel Hallatt joined the Army in 1985. After qualifying to be a Bandmaster in 2000 he saw subsequent tours in Scotland and London. Operationally he was deployed in the second Gulf War working with the Chemical Weapons Early Warning Cell and Prisoner of War Tactical Questioning Team.

Lieutenant Colonel Hallatt took over recruiting for the Corps of Army Music in 2007 following which he became Director of Music of the Band of The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

In September 2011, he was appointed as the last Director of Music of The Royal Artillery Woolwich Band. He was deployed on operations in Afghanistan and after a short tour in Training and Development, was appointed Director of Music the Band of the Household Cavalry.



A keen composer, Colonel Hallatt's crowning moment was to have his music performed at the Classic FM Live concert 2018 by the London Philharmonic Orchestra - resulting in a standing ovation! He has had several CDs released; the most successful, *Elegy*, reached No.12 in the Classic Charts and more recently, *Balmoral Farewell* peak at No.9 in the German Classical Charts.

Colonel Hallatt's efforts as Chief Instructor, Kneller Hall, resulted in him being awarded a Chief of the General Staff Commendation in the 2021 Birthday Honours. After a short appointment as Director of Music of the Band of the Welsh Guards he promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to become the Principal Director of Music, British Army and Commanding Officer of the Royal Military School of Music in May 2022.

I am delighted that ECB has chosen to support Barnardo's this year.

In January 2021, our son came to live with us as a fostering placement at the age of 10 months. We were his fifth home in that very short time.

We finally became his legal parents in July 2022, and he is now an energetic, very funny and loving three-and-a-half-year-old - very different to the child that was handed over on our doorstep in the midst of a lockdown.

If it wasn't for Barnardo's help, he would probably still be rattling around in the care system.

As of 31st March 2023, there were 82,170 children in care in England alone. This figure is higher than in any year since current reporting began in 1994, with numbers steadily increasing year-on-year since 2008.

There were only 2,950 children adopted during 2022, falling from a peak of 5,360 in 2015.

What about the other 79,220 children like our son!?

Thank you for supporting Barnardo's today.

Please donate, buy a raffle ticket and/or a drink at the bar if you can.

Zöe Marksford

ECB Saxophone Section



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

BEHIND THE MASK

THE MUSIC OF HEROES AND VILLAINS...AND SOME JUST IN DISGUISE
THE SPACE – SEVENOAKS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

7:00PM, SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024

TICKETS £14

FROM: TICKETS@EYNSFORDCONCERTBAND.CO.UK

ROYALS & REBELS

THE STORY OF CHISLEHURST
CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF THE CHISLEHURST SOCIETY

CAMDEN PLACE, CHISLEHURST

6:00PM, SATURDAY 6TH JULY 2024

TICKETS £15 (£5 UNDER 16S)

FROM: WWW.CHISLEHURST-SOCIETY.ORG.UK/EVENTS

1812 FIREWORKS CONCERT

SWANLEY PARK

FROM 6:00PM, FRIDAY 23RD AUGUST 2024

FREE ENTRY



Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival 2024

8, 9, 15 and 16 June
Festival Concert Saturday 22 June

To be held at
Walthamstow Hall Senior School, Sevenoaks

Includes classes for all ages and abilities in
Piano, Woodwind, Strings, Orchestras & Ensembles,
Classical & acoustic Guitar, Accordions & Concertinas,
Speech & Drama (group & solo), Choral & solo singing

Syllabus and on-line entries available from January
www.sevenoaksthreeartsfestival.co.uk
ENTRIES CLOSE 20 April 2024



OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS' ACADEMY
CURRENTLY HAS VACANCIES FOR:

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