

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND
AND
KENT YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA

The Magic
of
Christmas

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024



A FESTIVE WELCOME

...and before we know it, Christmas is upon us once again!

Season's greetings and a very warm welcome to 'The Magic of Christmas' - Eynsford Concert Band's (ECB) Christmas Concert for 2024. Following the success of the 2023 Christmas concert we are delighted to once again be sharing the stage with the fabulous musicians from the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra as we continue our commitment to support and nurture future generations of instrumentalists and hopefully ECB members.

2024 has been an extremely busy and fulfilling year for ECB. In April we embarked on our sixth tour to the wonderful island of Malta. The tour was an all-round great success for the band, not just musically (they of course performed very well) but having the opportunity to spend some quality time with each other, promoting invaluable team spirit and further strengthening our close relations with the Imperial Band, Mellieha.

Our Spring concert, 'Behind the Mask', was devised to be both entertaining for the audience whilst providing a musical challenge for band members to perform. I think we hit both targets perfectly. An abundance of new repertoire was performed: Mask of Zorro; Batman the Movie; Masque; Music from Gladiator; Cry Me A River and the main theme from Star Wars all featured with most being combined with highly effective use of the wide-screen for still shots and videos to enhance the overall effect of our performance. The result was a fabulous concert which we were all proud of.

In July we joined The Chislehurst Society for their 90th Anniversary celebration assisting them in telling 'The Story of Chislehurst' through our music. Held in the grounds of the magnificent Grade II* Camden Place, it was a concert with narrative themed around key moments in Chislehurst's colourful history - from Elizabethan times; through to the times when Napoleon III was in residence; the World Wars; Malcolm Campbell to the Rolling Stones performing in Chislehurst Caves.

A great evening was had by all in attendance, even delaying the second half performance so band and audience alike could gather to watch England beat Switzerland 5-3 on penalties at the European Football Finals.

On August Bank Holiday Friday, we returned to Swanley Park for their annual fireworks concert. A balmy summer's evening saw a bumper crowd in their thousands enjoy music from all eras ending with the traditional firework finale set to Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture.

Saturday 2nd November saw the band performing for the first time in Rochester Cathedral for a very special 'Festival of Remembrance'. In association with the Royal British Legion, Royal British Legion Industries and the Army Benevolent Fund, the concert included items commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings as we joined forces alongside the West Malling Community Choir, the Brompton & Invicta Military Wives Choir and the Canterbury for Ukraine Ladies' Choir. The following Sunday, the band continued its provision of musical support to the annual Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in Sevenoaks.

A return to Sevenoaks, this time St Nicholas Church for their Christmas Celebration, was made just last weekend performing alongside the choir of Lady Boswell's Primary School for an evening of carols and festive music.

Looking ahead to 2025, our spring concert, 'Feel the Heat', is taking place on Sunday 27th April where a fabulous programme of music is planned including the world premiere of The Alchemist's Lair by award winning composer David Hackbridge Johnson. This will be followed by our main event of the year - a cruise aboard Fred.Olsen's Borealis to the Norwegian Fjords in late July. It should be a cracker of a year!

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 Music would like to thank everyone at Eynsford Concert Band for the invitation to be part of this magical concert. We are delighted to be back after such a successful concert last year.

Kent Youth Wind Orchestra (KYWO), run by Kent Music and formed in 1976, 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.

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 another good year for Kent Music. In May we secured funding from the Department for Education to lead a new Music Hub for Kent & Medway until 2030. This means that we will be continuing to run groups like Kent Youth Wind Orchestra alongside all the other activities that we have been providing for many years locally and at county level. We will continue to fund schools to provide ensembles and choirs and will support the professional development of teachers through training and networking opportunities. A big focus of our work in the coming years will be to support children and young people who do not have access to music by helping to remove some of the financial and social barriers that they face.

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



PROGRAMME

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS

ARR. M SMITH

A FESTIVE CHRISTMAS

K BIERSCHENK

OVERTURE TO MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

B BROUGHTON

ARR. J VINSON

STAR CAROL

J RUTTER

AWAY IN A MANGER

ARR. T WALLACE

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

ARR. T WALLACE

HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

ARR. M SMITH

SOLOIST: SUE RIVERS

IT'S A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

MW SMITH

ARR. H UMNELS

INTERVAL

KENT YOUTH WIND ORCHESTRA

OLYMPIC SPIRIT

J WILLIAMS

COVENTRY CAROL

ARR. R SAUCEDO

NEVERLAND

C BOND
ARR. N BROWNLESS

MUSIC FROM GLADIATOR

H ZIMMER
ARR. J WASSON

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU

M CAREY
ARR. A LIGHTFOOT

MASSED BANDS

TROIKA

S PROKOFIEV
ARR. H WALTERS

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

J MOSS

SANTA'S JOURNEY

R KAIGHIN

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, the Kent Youth Wind Orchestra.

Away from the band Mike retired from the Army in 2023 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 5 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 was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel to become the Principal Director of Music for the British Army.

Craig retired from the army in October 2024 and, although he is still heavily engaged with music both in the UK and overseas, in a change of profession he is now the Chief Operations Officer for the Worshipful Company of Coachmakers in the City of London.





As you may recall from our Behind the Mask concert in April, We Are Beams (Beams) is Eynsford Concert Band's charity for 2024, a charity that is dear to my heart.

To date the band has raised over £1,600 through the generosity of our audience in April and by members, family and friends during our fun quiz night in September. Thank you.

Beams supports disabled children, young people and their families across Kent and Medway. Access to services is for children and young people aged between 4-19 years and a holiday club for those aged 18-25, many of whom don't have many services they can access. The children and young people usually have multiple learning difficulties and complex health needs such as Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Autism, severe ADHD and physical and sensory impairment and challenging behaviour because of their disability.

Following in the footsteps of my daughters, I enjoy working with children on a one-to-one basis during their school holidays. I always have to be alert and ready to alter my approach as behaviour and needs change rapidly. Often, they are actively learning new skills but need help to do so in a safe way.

Here I am with one of my young persons on a recent trip to the Bluewater Nature Trail. We all had a wonderful day exploring nature; the colours of trees, songs of birds, and the diving of ducks and swans in the lakes.

I needed to show by example the use of the stepping and balance logs, chatting with others and encouraging additional skills in a positive and fun way.



Through this year's ECB fund raising, we have already provided extras for the children such as new toys and crafting items for the communal

play areas, Christmas presents for the children and helping to subsidise our day trips.

Beams need to raise £2.5 million to deliver care services to some of the most vulnerable in society. They currently have over 450 families accessing their support and they rely heavily on fund raising and donations.

We Are Beams is very grateful to Eynsford Concert Band for supporting us this year. I am hopeful that, with our Christmas concert today, we will achieve our target of £2,200 for the year.

Thank you for your kind generosity.

Carole Eastwood
ECB Piccolo and Flute



WWW.WEAREBEAMS.ORG.UK

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEEL THE HEAT

MUSIC OF INTENSITY, FIRE AND PASSION
THE SPACE – SEVENOAKS PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE
7:00PM, SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2025
TICKETS £14 (UNDER 16S FREE)
FROM: TICKETS@EYNSFORDCONCERTBAND.CO.UK

CRUISE TO THE FJORDS OF NORWAY

PERFORMING ABOARD FRED.OLSEN'S BOREALIS
DEPARTING FROM DOVER ON
TUESDAY 29TH JULY 2025 FOR FIVE NIGHTS
FRED.OLSEN CRUISE S2520
MORE INFO: WWW.EYNSFORDCONCERTBAND.CO.UK

1812 FIREWORKS CONCERT

SWANLEY PARK
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