



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

### Dates for your Diary

**Sally Hergest Memorial Concert**  
Gads Hill School, Gravesend Road,  
Higham, Kent ME3 7PA  
7:30pm Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2015

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**Spring Concert**  
The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford  
7.00pm Sunday 10th May 2015

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**1812 Fireworks Concert**  
Swanley Park, Swanley  
7.30pm Friday 28th August 2014

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**Band tour to Doncaster**  
29<sup>th</sup> – 31st August 2015

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**Christmas Concert**  
St. Nicholas' Church, Sevenoaks  
7:00pm Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015

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**Christmas Concert**  
The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford  
7.00pm Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Welcome to our 2014 Christmas Newsletter, which comes to you at the end of what has been both a busy and rewarding year for Eynsford Concert Band. We hope that you enjoy this look back over the last twelve months.

### Malta Tour

In May we returned to the beautiful island of Malta for our first visit in over ten years, hosted once again by our friends at The Imperial Band Club in Mellieha. We gave four concerts during our trip, joining forces with three Maltese bands in the process. The highlight of the tour was undoubtedly our performance at the residence of His Excellency The High Commissioner to Malta in celebration of the Queen's birthday.

We also managed to fit in an open top bus tour of the island, boat rides to the Blue Lagoon on Comino and around the Grand Harbour in Valetta, and a celebration dinner at a local restaurant during our week.



### The Band of the Grenadier Guards

Following our concert with the Band of The Grenadier Guards last year, we have continued to develop our friendship with this band. In July we were lucky enough to be invited to Wellington Barracks to see them prepare for Changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace, and to then have a joint rehearsal in preparation for this year's joint concert. This was held in October at the Pamoja Hall in Sevenoaks, and was entitled "Heroes", in tribute to the heroes of the World Wars. The concert was a sell-out and raised in the region of £6,000 to support the work of SSAFA.



The evening was enhanced by Martin Westlake, a friend of Eynsford Concert Band, who gave a moving talk entitled "The Surrealism of War".



### Eynsford Concert Band is now online!

In addition to our successful website [www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk](http://www.eynsfordconcertband.co.uk) we have now added a YouTube channel and a Twitter feed!

Our YouTube channel already includes music from our recent concert with the Grenadier Guards as well as some recordings we did for a Maltese TV programme back in 2002!



You can also keep in touch with the band by following us on Twitter @EynsfordBand





Eynsford Concert Band has a long tradition of engaging in charitable work at a local level and in the last ten years we have raised over £45,000 for a range of worthwhile causes.

Each year, the band chooses a charity of special interest to a member of the band, to support and raise funds for. Our chosen charity for 2014 is King's College Hospital Critical Care Unit, in memory of Sally Hergest, a close friend of one of our band members, who sadly passed away there earlier this year, leaving behind a husband and two young children.

The support and kindness that her family received from the unit at the time, and since, has been hugely appreciated.

On March 21<sup>st</sup> next year, we will be performing at Gads Hill School in Higham, and all proceeds from this evening will be donated to this very worthy cause. Further details will appear on our website shortly.

### 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)

### A Star Spangled Dartford!

Our April concert was a musical tribute to our friends across 'the pond'. Alongside Mike Smith, we were pleased to welcome back our old friend and Conductor Laureate, John Hutchins, who lead us for a section of the evening. The concert was a huge success with a programme spanning a range of styles from marches and dance music (Sousa's Liberty Bell, American Patrol), through to the greats of screen and stage (The Big Country, Candide), all representing different corners and stories of America.



THE LIBERTY BELL

### Eynsford Concert Band win national title!

We are very pleased to announce that Eynsford Concert Band were the winners of the inaugural National Concert Band Symposium held in Canterbury in July.

Founded in 2013 the National Concert Band Symposium aims to bring the very best of concert band and wind orchestra music to the widest possible audience. The day included discussions, workshops and masterclasses given by some of the leading figures in the wind band world, and concluded with a Gala Concert performed by the Central Band of the RAF and Kew Wind Orchestra, featuring guest soloist Philip Cobb (principal trumpet of the London Symphony Orchestra).



At the heart of the day was a contest, bringing together some of the finest wind ensembles in the country. Each band presented a thirty minute programme, with performances being adjudicated by a panel of three world class musicians led by the renowned composer, Johan de Meij, who had flown in from America especially for the event.

The standard of the competition was very high, and we were delighted to hear ourselves announced as the overall winners at the evening Gala Concert, as well as the winners of the prize for the best percussion section.

As a result, we have been invited to perform in the evening Gala Concert at the 2015 event, and will publish details on our website when they become available.

### 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)