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Chairman's Notes

Greetings to St Kilda Brass supporters. As you will read in this first newsletter for 2015, the band is well into quite a different performance year. We were pleased to be invited to be part of the Early Music Festival coordinated by Christopher Clifford during the last week of February. For the opening concert, Errol Moore conducted and players met the challenges of a different style of playing typically associated with music from the Renaissance Period. During March, Steve Miles has conducted rehearsals with an emphasis on building player skill set and exposing players to a diverse range of music. Peter Adams will soon begin rehearsals for St Kilda's premiere 2015 concert with renowned tenor Simon O'Neil (May 23rd). David Burchell will work with the band from early July in preparation with the concert with the Dunedin City Choir (August 8th).

We let you know last year that we would not be part of the contesting environment in 2015. However, some players entered the provincial festival as soloists and our congratulations go to Erin Lee (Eb Bass) Sariah Ratford (Cornet) and Harry Smith (euphonium) on their success. Other players have opted to join a second band for National Contest in Rotorua during July. Given current personnel resources and anticipated North Island travel costs our 2015 performance decisions are already proving to be the most rewarding option for players.

We were very sad to lose the services of Kimberley Johnston from the committee. We offer good wishes to Kimberley as she is soon to become a mother. I am grateful to other members of the committee who have stepped up to fulfil various significant roles. Fenella Deans has been co-opted and has picked up the minutes role. Congratulations to her too for this being her first compilation of the St Kilda Brass newsletter.

Please stay in touch with the band website and communicate with us if you have further interest. We welcome your suggestions.

We look forward to seeing you 7.30, 23rd May, Kavanagh College.

Errol Moore



Early Music concert

The SAINTS year kicked off in renaissance style with a concert in Knox Church on 27th February under the baton of Errol Moore. An incredibly short rehearsal period was available, but a medium-sized (numerically speaking), and well-balanced (musically that is) group put the job together.

The performance was the opening event of the 2nd NZ International Early Music Festival, and a collaborative affair with the Da Capo Consort – a very talented vocal quintet indeed. The concert started with Gabrieli's *Cantate Domino* for voice and brass quartet. Further works by Gabrieli and Susato followed, interspersed with items by Da Capo. David Burchell on organ accompanied the band in Palestrina's *Laudate Dominum* for three brass choirs. The concert concluded in fine style with antiphonally placed voice and brass trio in Gabrieli's challenging *Hodie completi sunt*.

The SAINTS were joined for the evening by new student in town Ioan Fuller on cornet, and again showed their versatility in a quite demanding and non-trad brass programme.

John McAdam

National Youth Brass Band

In late January, the National Youth Brass Band of 2015 (including myself, Sariah Ratford, Kimberley Dainty and Jess Schweizer from the Saints), under the direction of Peter Adams, travelled up to Woodbourne Air Force Base in Blenheim to rehearse for a concert series called 'Summon the Heroes'. Needless to say, the concert series was based around heroes new and old, fictional and factual, with a significant bracket of commemoration for our soldiers who fought in the world wars. The youthful and sometimes boisterous band was managed with aplomb by Mr. Gary Brown. As in past years, the climate at



The 2015 National Youth Brass Band of New Zealand

our practice venue was absolutely brilliant, most days in the mid-20s, although this blaring and beautiful heat needed to be countered with an air-conditioning unit in the practise room and a pool open during daylight hours! Put bluntly, the practise was a slog, albeit an enjoyable one, as the prime pedigree of the NYBB made for absolutely stunning sounds for all ears! All three concerts were greeted with unanimous awe during the major work: *Resurgam* by Eric Ball; tears were shed (not because of our poor playing!) during the commemoration bracket and all three concerts received standing ovations (surprisingly rare in the world of brass bands). With possibly the best NYBB that New Zealand has had for a multitude of years, we hope that our wonderful (and weird!) musical director has enjoyed his final year with the NYBB: we have all certainly enjoyed working with him. Cheers P.A!

Harry Smith

Simon O'Neill Performs with St Kilda Brass

“He is the best heroic tenor to emerge over the last decade”

- The Telegraph, London, December 2009

We are delighted to be teaming up with International super star tenor Simon O'Neill for our concert at Kavagnah College Auditorium on May 23rd. Simon hails originally from Ashburton, and received his formative musical training at the University of Otago and in St Kilda Brass (Ted takes plenty of credit). Simon studied singing in his music degree and joined the band as a baritone player in 1991 before switching to Eb bass. He was a member of the Saints A grade championship-winning band of 1992 and had the makings of a pretty good tuba player before devoting himself full-time to singing. The rest, as they say, is history: he undertook further study at the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard Opera Centre and went on to an immense career in singing all around the globe.

Simon is that rarest of voice – a Heldentenor – a term given to the few voices that can sing persuasively the great heroic tenor roles in German opera, especially Wagner. Wagner's music dramas are huge works of typically five hours duration and the heroic tenor voice must thrill in climatic moments above an orchestra of over one hundred musicians – though a brass band may be a decent test! The list of roles he has sung, the opera houses he has appeared in, the orchestras and conductors he has worked with are a catalogue of the best of the best – the greatest roles, opera companies, orchestras and conductors. If you are interested take a look at:

<http://www.simononeill.com/grace/Biography.html>



The names Muti, Barenboim, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Simon Rattle, the places – the New York 'Met', Covent Garden, La Scala and Bayreuth say it all. Simon has 'been there and done that' at the highest international levels. He joins us flying in from Korea fresh from performing Wagner's *Die Walküre* with Myung Wyun Chung before going on afterwards to the role of Erik in Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer* at the Ravinia Festival with James Conlon conducting. He is still a great friend and supporter of St Kilda Brass and has wanted to make a concert like this happen for many years. We are delighted that we have been able to make it happen and we hope that friends and supporters of the band will turn out in force to hear this great performer and good friend of the Saints. He will sing arias from Romantic Italian opera and two Wagner extracts as well as lighter, well-known songs. And yes, he will sing *Nessum Dorma!*



Here is the bass team of the 1992 A grade-winning Saints (apologies for the poor quality): Gordon Barney, Trevor Kempton and Simon. Simon must have had quite an influence as Gordon won the BBb bass championship and Trevor the Eb bass championship at the National Contest that year!

Peter Adams





O'Neill possesses one of the most exciting tenor voices of his generation — Salzburg

Simon O'Neill is supremely confident and thrilling — New York

COVENT GARDEN – THE MET – LA SCALA
AND NOW HERE IN DUNEDIN

SIMON O'NEILL

IN CONCERT WITH ST KILDA BRASS
CONDUCTOR PETER ADAMS

GRAND OPERA, SHOW FAVOURITES
AND TENOR CLASSICS
NOT TO BE MISSED

ONE SHOW ONLY
7.30PM SATURDAY 23 MAY
KAVANAGH COLLEGE AUDITORIUM

BOOK NOW AT REGENT TICKETDIRECT



What is Brass Class?

Brass Class is a learning initiative conceived and delivered by St Kilda Brass and Chairman Errol Moore in order to swell the ranks of up and coming brass and percussion musicians. St Kilda has recently purchased a number of Tromba Pbone and Ptrumpet instruments which are lightweight, less expensive and most importantly FUN for the children to play. During the first three months of 2015, Brass Class has focused on setting up small group classes (up to three students per class) in receptive primary schools (currently Andy Bay and St Clair). Errol has been providing tuition at these venues and is delighted with the progress of his students.



Promoting Brass Class at St Clair Primary School 4/2/15

A group of percussion students taught by Georgie Watts and Maddy Parkins-Craig is running every Monday afternoon at the St Kilda band rehearsal rooms in Ravelston Street. Contact I have had with parents indicate that the children are really enjoying their percussion lessons. Medium-term developments for 2015 will be to introduce Brass Class students to the wider world of music-making through the opportunity to attend community musical rehearsals such as the Dunedin Youth Orchestra and St Kilda Brass. We also hope to begin large group/ensemble sessions as the current students musical prowess develops.



Sariah Ratford and Max Wilkinson perform on plastic instruments at George Street Normal School 13/3/15

Following the Easter break we will continue to foster support for Brass Class in other Dunedin primary schools and have two very promising leads to follow up on. In order to promote brass and percussion as widely as possible in our community, we also hope to have our first adult group class up and running. This will be held on a Tuesday night at Ravelston St Rehearsal space and taught by Trevor Kempton. If you know anyone who is 'just pottering' with a brass instrument or 'used to play at school' or, like myself would love to have a go but doesn't 'have the guts' please encourage them to think about Brass Class. Group lessons for children cost \$8 per child, group lessons for adults will be \$12 per adult.

Often known as 'Mrs Harry' my name is Cath Smith and I am supporting Brass Class in an administrative capacity. I am Mum to Harry Smith (Euphonium) also an adult learner (cornet), playing for Mosgiel Brass Band. I am really pleased to be able to make a small contribution to strengthening future brass and percussion playing in Dunedin. Feel free to ask Trevor, Errol, Georgie and Maddy more about Brass Class at rehearsals.

Cath Smith

Honours Board Updates

We are taking the opportunity to update our honours board of people who have made a contribution both to St Kilda and the band movement in general. We offer thanks and congratulations to the following;

President: John McAdam 2012-2013
 Graham Crombie 2014
National Band: Errol Moore 1989, 2005
 Steve Miles 2014
Life Members: Trevor Kempton

Admins of the Year

Congratulations to our two New Zealand Brass Band Association Administrators of The Year! Dot Brieseman was the first person to receive the award in 1995 has been joined by Kimberley Johnston who won it in 2014. Administrators such as these are indispensable for community organisations such as St Kilda Brass.



Thanks and see you on May the 23rd,

