

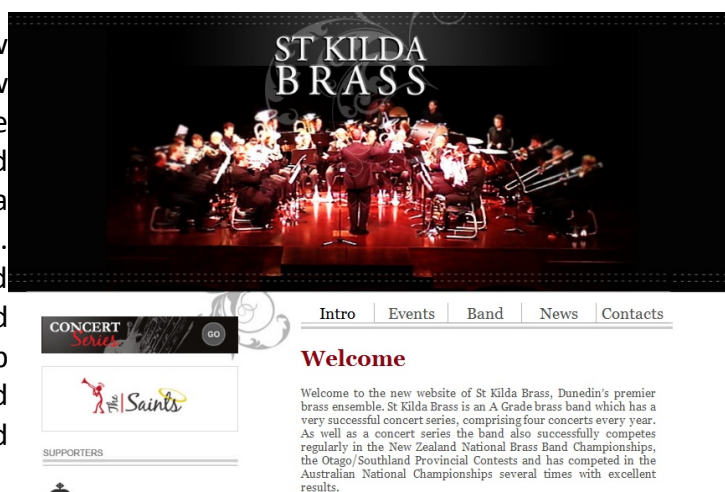


The Newsletter of St Kilda Brass

September 2009

St Kilda steps into the future

You may have noticed that St Kilda Brass has a new logo, but did you know the band also has a brand new website? On it you'll find information about future events, reviews of past concerts, a photo gallery and an overview of the band's 108-year history, plus a virtual honours board and list of contest results. There's even a section for band members to log in and view the library catalogue. The website was designed by Elliot O'Sullivan from the University of Otago Web Office, who also designed the new logo. Our second baritone, Kimberley Johnston, built the website, and keeps it up-to-date with all sorts of information.



The website has already had hundreds of visitors from a dozen countries - go to www.stkildabrass.org.nz to be the next visitor. To complement the website, you can also search for St Kilda Brass and become a "fan" of us on the popular social networking website Facebook (www.facebook.com) – as well as a friend of half of our members. You can even follow the band on Twitter, another popular social networking website (www.twitter.com/StKildaBrass). Both of these websites provide news, reviews and details of upcoming concerts.

Provincial success

Unfortunately the band was unable to attend the recent Otago & Southland Festival of Brass in Mosgiel. However this didn't prevent our soloists - from a range of age groups - entering with the following results:

- Katie Blair – 1st Premier Slow Melody, 2nd Championship Air Varie
- Les Green – 1st Senior Event, 3rd Open Slow Melody
- Tony Van Alphen – 1st Friends and Family
- Fred Knopp – 3rd Amateur Air Varie
- Kalie Eathorne-Gould/Rose Evans – 3rd Junior Duet
- Rose Evans – 1st Under 16 Air Varie
- Greg Thomson – 3rd Under 16 Slow Melody

St Kilda members take on the world

2009 has been a good year for New Zealand banding, with both the National Band and National Youth Brass Band having gone overseas. It has also been a good year for St Kilda, which had members in both bands.

In July the National Band, led again by principal cornet **John Lewis**, returned to the World Brass Band Championship at Kerkrade in The Netherlands.

The band had hoped to improve on its 2005 result of 3rd in the Championship section, but, despite a top performance, it was placed 4th. The Cory Band (Wales) won the championship, followed by Brass Band Treize Etoiles (Switzerland) and Brass Band Buizingen (Belgium). Considering the band had come together only a week before the contest, we can all be very proud of this result.



John Lewis and fellow National Band members celebrate a good performance.

Later in July, the National Youth Brass Band flew to Japan, where it took part in the 11th Japan International Youth Musicale. Eb bass **Matthew Toomata** and tenor horn **Eryne Scherf** were a part of this band, as were ex-Saints Ian O'Malley, Bridget Walker and Stacey Ward.

Highlights for the band were a visit to the Hamamatsu Musical Instrument Museum and a tour of the Yamaha instrument factory. The trip culminated in a massed band performance with the Kansai All Stars band in Kobe, featuring Philip Sparke's *Aotearoa*. This band had a 12-strong bass section, and more than twice as many cornets.

To celebrate 50 years, the National Youth Brass Band recorded a CD earlier this year. Copies are available from members, and should also be available online soon.

In August another national band gathered, again with St Kilda members. The 2009 National Secondary Schools Brass Band included **Kalie Eathorne-Gould**, **Rose Evans** and **Greg Thomson**, who was awarded the prize for best audition. A detailed report from them will appear in the next newsletter.

Welcome



Meet our two newest additions, Shannon Fahey and Joanna Craigie. Shannon is in year 13 at Kavanagh College, and joins us in time for the next concert on tenor horn through the Southern Brass Academy. She also plays clarinet. Joanna is in her first year at university, studying music and performance cornet with Steve Miles. She also plays in Mosgiel Brass.



Also welcome aboard new financial members Nan Hogg, Pip & Bruce Robertson, Cath Smith, Harry Smith and Steve Randle. We really appreciate your help, and hope you continue to enjoy the band's concerts. If you'd like more information about becoming a financial member, don't hesitate to contact Dot Brieseman at dottie.brieseman@clear.net.nz.

Review – Dad & Dave with the Saints

A near capacity crowd filled the Glenroy Auditorium at Dunedin Town Hall last Friday night for the second in the 2009 Southern Victorian Charitable Trust Concert Series presented by St Kilda Brass, Dad & Dave with the Saints.

The concert got underway with **Philip Harper's** *Lionheart*, originally written for the Gala Concert of the European Championships held at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in 2007, this piece was full of youthful exuberance and dynamic contrast though did not always dispaly exact rhythmic control. Next on the programme came 2 movements from **Phillip Sparke's** *Hymn of the Highlands; Ardrross Castle and Dundonnell*, this was a real highlight of the programme with the band sounding on absolute top form. Great balance was heard between the melodic and accompaniment lines, exciting dynamic effects and all topped off with some very fine Percussion work.

David Bremner has become a favourite with the Dunedin public and the Trombone superstar showed once again why he is without doubt the finest Trombone player on this side of the world. *Clouds*, originally written by Dunedin based composer and Otago University lecturer **Anthony Ritchie** for the New Zealand National Band tour of 2005, had been performed many times before but never to a New Zealand audience. This New Zealand Premiere of the highly descriptive work held together very well and the band gave a very solid framework for the soloist to work within. Some very impressive, controlled high register playing from Solo Cornet and Soprano dominated the opening statement before the technical wizardry and panache of David Bremner was displayed in all its glory. David's evenness of tone throughout the range of the instrument was a real highlight and a shining example to the many young brass players scattered throughout the Glenroy audience that had come to hear him play. An extended ovation for soloist, band and composer was thoroughly deserved.

Some light relief was on offer next with a very comedic rendition of *Mr. Sandman* arranged by **Leigh Baker** featuring 4 of the band playing different pitched bottles and Tubular Bells. A very amusing number which even had vocals and dancing!!! More Phillip Sparke followed with *Mountain Song* which had some moments of unease and a number of intonation issues which did detract somewhat from the music, not the bands best offering of the evening but this was soon forgotten within the excitement of **Malcolm Arnold's** *Peterloo Overture* which was full of atmosphere and some wonderful Timpani playing from **Julia Horsnell**.

The second half got underway with another Leigh Baker arrangement; this time of Lionel Ritchie's *All Night Long* which featured 4 Trumpets led by **Ralph Miller** screaming out the lead line. A much calmer mood followed with the introduction of Cornet Soloist **Trevor Bremner** playing *Shepherd's Song* whilst wandering through the auditorium. Trevor's glorious tone and exceptional control was a joy to listen to and the band seemed to relish the opportunity to provide accompaniment to his playing. *Danse Napolitaine* showed more of Trevor's musicality and technical competence before the band launched into a Freddie Mercury tribute with *Fat Bottomed Girls* and *Bohemian Rhapsody*. These were real audience pleasers and almost brought the house down. Once more a beautiful rendition from Trevor Bremner this time of *Rusalka's Song to the Moon* followed before father and son joined forces for *Softly As I Leave You*.

Valero arranged by **Sandy Smith** gave **Daniel Dance** a real chance to shine on the Drum Kit before the big finale, **Paul Lovatt-Cooper's** *Vitae Aeternum*. The finale again showed the band on real form though there did seem to be a few very tired players onstage by the end of the piece. Nevertheless, some fine solo work from **John Lewis** and **Marty Kibble** together with great back row and Trombone lines in the climax of the central theme. The programming of this concert was a real highlight with something for everyone and once again a very slick and professional lighting design enhanced the whole performance.

I look forward to the bands next concert on the 26th September, 20th Century and Beyond which will welcome back another Dunedin favourite, Gladys Hope.

Sean McDonald

Jonathon Penno – Class Act

(From The Otago Daily Times, 1 September 2009)

"Balancing music, volunteer commitments, school work and a job can be a nightmare some days.

But Kavanagh College cultural prefect Jonathan Penno says his passion for all four, and his unwillingness to sacrifice one means he has had to learn to prioritise during the past year.

"That's how I make the impossible possible."

The 18-year-old plays saxophone, clarinet, piano, guitar and tuba in the school's show band, jazz combo, chamber music group, "The Company" Christmas pantomime group and the St Kilda Brass Band.

Several nights a week are spent rehearsing and performing with the ensembles, and it is his love of the saxophone which led him to his second passion - being a buddy in the IHC Buddy Programme.

Jonathan says spending several hours a week playing sax with his IHC buddy is a highlight of his week.

"I don't do it for myself - it's enriching someone else's life. That in itself is so rewarding. If I've done nothing else for the day, I come away from my IHC buddy thinking, 'at least I've made someone else's life a bit better'."

Jonathan also enjoys volunteering at the Edmund Rice Camps which provide a break for children who need a holiday due to their family, financial or social circumstances.

In the classroom, Jonathan is a high achiever, gaining first in class for physics (2008), English and French (2007), and NCEA level 1 with excellence and level 2 with merit.

He also works at the Dunedin Public Library.

And if there's any spare time left at the end of his busy weeks, he enjoys flying at the Taieri Aero Club.

Achievements: Cultural prefect, peer mentor (2009); academic (2007) and Cultural Blues (2007-08); Edmund Rice Camp volunteer; IHC buddy; piano grade 6; St Kilda Brass Band tuba player (2009).

Role model: "Generous people-people who give their time freely."

Hopes for the future: To study health sciences at the University of Otago and become a doctor.



Preview – The 20th Century and Beyond

This Saturday night sees the third concert in the St Kilda Brass Southern Victorian Charitable Trust 2009 Concert Series, *The 20th Century and Beyond*. This concert is a chronological journey through the twentieth century, starting with John Philip Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and ending with Ray Farr's *Galaxies*. Particular highlights will be the New Zealand premiere of the much sought-after *Symphonic Dances* from *West Side Story*, arranged for brass band by Eric Crees, and *Rhapsody in Brass* - a brass band classic from 1943 by New Zealand's Dean Goffin. The guest vocal soloist for the evening is Gladys Hope, who will join us for a wartime bracket and a few solos throughout the concert – including *Beauty and the Beast* and *Summertime*. There will even be some more of that crowd-pleasing singing from the band. Don't miss it!

The 20th Century and Beyond – 7:30pm, Saturday 26 September, Mayfair Theatre