

Da Capo Winds

Newsletter 3 – December 2009

Editor - Katherine Bett

Welcome to Da Capo Winds' third newsletter. A lot of exciting things have happened to the band since the last newsletter, with our summer concert, rehearsals and the percussion section, but I'll let Len and Gail tell you about that!

As always, if any band members (adults and children) would like to put forward an article for any future newsletters, it would be much appreciated.

From the Rostrum



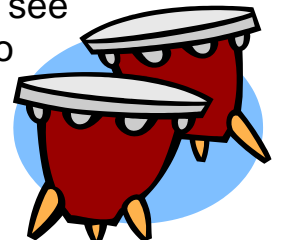
It seems such a long time since we moved to Yateley School and became a fully independent band, but in reality it is only a matter of a months. I look back on the progress made since March and I have to say that it is quite impressive. Our first concert has to be considered a huge success. The audience was much bigger that we had expected and the comments, emails and phone calls that I received in the days following our concert were a fitting testimonial to the whole band.

I am sure that everyone will agree with me when I say that the band's performance was one that will never be forgotten.

The band was on good form and really rose to the occasion. With the arrival of a pair of timps the percussion section is now more complete and is able to play a fully musical role in all that we do.

Rehearsals towards our Christmas concert are going well and the musicianship sessions continue to go well with the underlying skills of tuning, balance and sound quality being constantly worked on. It is these skills that transfer directly to our instrumental playing and help the band to sound so nicely "in tune". The Christmas Concert will be another major step for the band as this is the first time we will be performing for a ticket buying audience. People will be paying money in advance to come and listen to us and I am pleased to say that the rehearsals are going extremely well.

As the band increases in size and we need to accommodate the new players, I am pleased to see that we still manage to maintain a really friendly atmosphere. Since the arrival of the timps, the percussion section is now virtually complete, with all the very basic instruments (including a pair of good quality hand cymbals)



I can look back at what has been a rather interesting and exciting few months. It was on March 16 that we became a fully independent band and had our first rehearsal in our new venue. Since then everyone has worked hard to get things off the ground and well established. There has been a real "buzz" about things and, by popular request, evening rehearsals have been extended by 30

minutes each week. The extra time has meant that I have been able to do so much more during each rehearsal, and we now have at least seven items in the folders (as opposed to the two we used to have). Having our own music folders is another new development. Membership is rising as people locally start to hear about us and hopefully this trend will continue. I would like to say a big "Thank You" to all for the support that has been given by all the band members and their friends and families. Special thanks go to Gail, Angela and Angy for helping to set up the "Friends of Da Capo Winds" which will certainly be a huge asset. Thanks go to the Staff at Yateley School for being so helpful in accommodating us at what was very short notice. With all this support how can we do anything but succeed? I am now turning my thoughts to planning for our Christmas concert on the afternoon of Saturday 19 December. This will be a full public concert, specially aimed at the younger audience, so we will need to get some good interactive Christmas Music organised for this event. Now where did I put my Christmas hat!!

Len Tyler (Music Director)

Musical Murmurs from the Chair (of the Friends of Da Capo Winds):

We are now well established in our new home at Yateley School. The school has been very welcoming and they have now arranged for us to have some storage space for our percussion instruments. We have purchased a large lockable



cupboard for the equipment to be kept safe, but this will mean that Len and family don't have to bring two cars full of instruments each week. We have also purchased 35 music stands at £10 each which will mean that band members no longer have to bring their own stands to rehearsals each week.



The band is going from strength to strength with almost 40 members, (and still increasing) now on the register. Rehearsals are well attended with around 30 members attending each week. As I am sure you are all aware we are very well off for woodwind players but we could do with a few more brass, particularly lower brass. If you know any brass players please ask them to ring Len to discuss joining the band or bring them along on a Monday night.

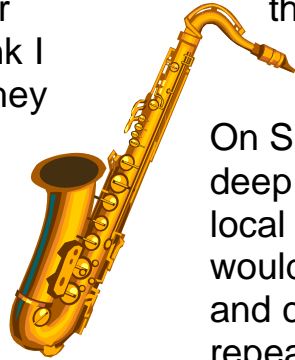
We have raised £55 from the sales of the DVD of our first concert. Angy still has a few left if anyone wants one. We are grateful to Roger Bull (Ben's dad) who made the DVDs for us and donated them to the band he also supports the band every week at rehearsals. Thank You Roger!

The Committee is now well on their way with organizing the Christmas Concert, our first concert with a paying audience. Tickets have been on sale for a few weeks and we have already **sold out** with over 250 people coming to the concert!

Gail Mack (Chair)

WIND BAND FESTIVAL 2009.

The wind band festival is a once-a-year get together of wind players who spend a weekend together practising and playing. This year it was in Bonnie Scotland so off we went - to Glasgow actually - to try our hands. Well Don did, I was not so sure. I sent my saxophone up with the other instruments but really didn't think I would be able to play, though they did have a training band and that was my aim, if anything. We all met up on the first evening and yes, I was in the training band. A bit of a shock I must say. There were ten of us altogether, two flutes, one oboe, one clarinet, one bari sax, two tenor saxes, one trombone and two alto saxes, one of which was me, ho, ho, ho. Fortunately the other alto sax player was really good. She had a degree in music and should have been in the big band (who played next door and made a lot of noise). Don



joined us later after he found there were seven horns in the main band and we had none; and I suspect he wanted a less stressful life.

With the exception of the other alto sax player, the bari player and Don we were all beginners of one sort or another, so we supported each other and laughed at each others' mistakes, which were many. Our conductor was very patient with us and after four two hour training sessions we showed some improvement (some more than others and I was in the latter group). Some of the harder pieces were too much for me, so I just played when I could and left the difficult bits to Lindsay; much the same as in Da Capo when you come to think of it!

The big band of nearly fifty players came from all over the place, mostly from Scotland but quite a few from England with eight from the Bagshot Concert Band, who incidentally are hosting this event next year, and the odd Welshman etc.

On Sunday morning we performed to each other and any other guests in the hotel. Our efforts were well received and I think we all enjoyed the experience.

On Sunday evening Don and I went deep into the Scottish interior, found a local cafe and had a haggis supper: would you believe deep fried haggis and chips? Delicious - but not to be repeated!

Kit (Alto Sax)

PLAY DAY 2010

The date for our first ever PLAY DAY has now been fixed for Sunday 28th February. It all happens at Yateley School and should be a great day. Please make a note in your diary and come and join in all the fun.

Future Dates to Remember:

- Christmas Concert – 19th December, 3 pm
- Play Day – Sunday 28th February 2010
- Easter Mini Concert – 29th March 2010, 7:15pm
- Summer Mini Concert – 19th July 2010, 7:15pm

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