



Sounds from the South

Newsletter of Rushen Silver Band

July 2011



Rushen Silver Band join forces with championship band 'Leyland Band'

Rushen Silver Band were delighted to welcome the world famous Leyland Band to the Isle of Man on Saturday 14th May for a Gala Concert at the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas.

This special evening was the culmination of a weekend that had included some Leyland Band members working with both the Rushen Silver Band and their training band Ballafesson Brass.

The large audience enjoyed a short individual programme by Rushen Silver Band, before an extended individual programme by Leyland - with solos by Philippe Schwartz (euphonium), Matthew Balson (soprano cornet), and a trumpet solo by conductor John Doyle.



The finale of the concert featured combined bands and included an arrangement of Tchaikovsky's 1812 and, as a welcome encore, the Gallop from Rossini's William Tell Overture.

Rushen Silver Band President Jim Crebbin came to the microphone to say a few words of thanks and to present to John Doyle and the Leyland Band with a picture of Bradda Head painted by Band Chairman Tom Sinden.

'10 minutes with the Ballafesson Brass Conductor, Matthew Callister...'

Highlights taken from article in the 'National Association of Brass Band Conductors' magazine

Matthew started playing the cornet with Rushen Silver Band in 1995 at age 9. Matthew left the Island in 2005 to attend university, at St Martin's College where he achieved a BA (Hons) Music with Qualified Teacher Status degree.

It was whilst he was away that he was given the opportunity to conduct a band - Blackpool Brass Training Band, and from that moment on he had caught the conducting bug!

Returning to the Island in 2009, he rejoined Rushen Silver Band, and also took on the position of conductor of Ballafesson Brass.



Has brass banding been something your family have been involved in for a long time or are you its first brass musician?

MC: As far as I am aware, I'm the first brass musician in the family. My father has a musical background in singing and used to be in various choirs when he was younger. With not having a family tradition to maintain in the field, I'd never really given consideration to brass banding in my early childhood. However, one of my friends joined the band and our mothers got talking, with mine then convincing me that I should have a go too. The rest as they say is history...

We all tend to have different musical heroes throughout our lives – from the brass band world, who would you call a musical hero?

MC: In my early playing days as a young child, I was inspired by just watching the senior band players at concerts. I was fascinated by how they could make the instruments produce such great sounds, and it was these experiences that spurred me on to make sure I would one day be sat with them.

On that first rehearsal standing in front of the Blackpool Brass Training Band – what was it like being the man in the middle on that first rehearsal?

MC: I remember feeling very nervous beforehand. I had a lot of questions going through my head such as, 'what happens if I go wrong? And 'how do I decide what needs looking at?' However, I was very fortunate to have a supportive group of people in front of me who all helped me develop as a conductor by allowing me to make mistakes and correct myself when needed. This helped me greatly in gaining experience and confidence in front of a band. Members of the senior band were equally supportive by giving me advice and coming along to rehearsals to give me feedback on my conducting.

...and finally – what is your favourite piece of music to conduct, and where would your favourite venue be to conduct this piece?

MC: Well, my favourite piece I would LIKE to conduct, as it is one of my favourite test pieces would be The Dark Side of the Moon. However, conducting a training band also means I get to go through some brilliant what I'd call 'novelty' pieces. At the moment we are rehearsing a suite of music by Alan Fernie, incorporating Postman Pat, Bob the Builder, Batman, and Wallace & Gromit, and I have to say I am really enjoying conducting this as it takes me back to my childhood, which wasn't all that long ago! In terms of venue, I think the Symphony Hall in Birmingham is a fantastic place and if ever given the opportunity to conduct Bob the Builder there, I'd certainly go for it!



Joint Concert with Campbeltown Brass

Sunday 3rd July, 7.45pm, at Rushen Primary School



The Band are delighted to announce that they are holding a Joint Concert with Campbeltown Brass, who are visiting the island in July.

Tickets for the event will be £5 for adults, and £3 for under 16s and over 65s, and will be available at the venue on the night. Tickets will include light refreshments.

The event will feature solo spots from both bands and a massed band performance to finish off the evening.

Campbeltown Brass are from the Mull of Kintyre, on the West coast of Scotland. For more information on Campbeltown Brass, you can visit their website at www.campbeltownbrass.co.uk.

Joint Concert with Ramsey Town Band

Saturday 16th July, 7.30pm, Auldyn Infants' School in Ramsey

Following last year's successful concert in aid of the Neo-natal Unit at Noble's Hospital, the Band are participating in a return Joint Concert with Ramsey Town Band on Saturday 16th July. This concert is hoping to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Tickets are available from RSB Secretary or available on the night.



RSB Family Fun Day and Picnic

Saturday 23rd July, 3pm – 6pm,

at Ballachurry Orchard

An afternoon of family fun for all!

With a bouncy castle slide for all ages, a small bouncy castle for toddlers, and various fun activities throughout the afternoon!

Tickets £4 for adults, £2 for children (under 10) – and include a visit to the ice cream stand!

For tickets, please contact Jo Kinley on 835917 before the 18th July

Bowls Afternoon - Sunday 28th August, 2pm – 4pm, at Breagle Glen, Port Erin

There will be a Band Crown Green Bowling Afternoon at Breagle Glen, Port Erin. The event will be open to all players, families and friends. Tuition for beginners will be available at the start of the afternoon. Tickets for the afternoon will be priced at £3 and will include hire of the bowls. The tickets will be on sale later in the summer.



Dates for your Diary



Saturday 2 nd July	Friends of the Band Coffee Morning at St Catherine's Church Hall, Port Erin	10.00am
Sunday 3 rd July	Joint Concert with Campbeltown Brass at Rushen Primary School	7.45pm
Wednesday 6 th July	Port Erin Commissioners Summer Season Concert at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Saturday 16 th July	Joint Concert with Ramsey Town Band at Auldyn Infants School, Ramsey	7.30pm
Saturday 23 rd July	Band Fun Day and Picnic at Ballachurry Orchard	3.00pm
Tuesday 26 th July	Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Sunday 31 st July	Port St Mary Lifeboat Day at PSM Lifeboat House on the Quay	1.30pm
Sunday 7 th August	Songs of Praise Service at Ballafesson Chapel	6.30pm
Thursday 11 th August	Summer Season Concert at Villa Marina Arcade, Douglas	8.00pm
Sunday 14 th August	Bandsman's Service at Port Erin Methodist Church	6.30pm
Saturday 20 th & Sunday 21 st August	Band Camp at Peel Campsite	All day
Sunday 28 th August	Band Bowls Afternoon At Breagle Glen, Port Erin	2.00pm
Wednesday 14 th Sept.	Port Erin Commissioners Summer Season Concert at St Catherine's Church, Port Erin	8.00pm
Sunday 25 th Sept.	Harvest Service at Ballakilpheric Chapel	3.00pm



For more information about Rushen Silver Band
or suggestions for the Sounds from the South newsletter,
please contact the Band Secretary – Peter Faragher, 28 Paik Beg, Port Erin, IM9 6NQ.
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