



June 2010

Bendigo Comps Edition!

Yes, it's been a busy month for the City of Bendigo Brass Band and Bendigo Youth Brass, with quality performances at the recent Bendigo Competitions Eisteddfod by both bands.

I'll leave it to the respective musical directors to discuss the competitions in greater detail. It was however, great to see a strong contingent of 'green uniforms' competing at the solo and party sections on the Saturday. Well done Hannah for coming second (out of 12) in the open other brass section, and an honorable mention for the slow melody section. Also to Hannah and Trevor for 3rd placing in the open duet. I managed to scrape through also with an honorable mention in the slow melody section. Well done also to Bryan and Cally for performing very well in open tuba solos. There must be a lot of tuba players sick of sitting up the back and playing 'down beats', as there was a very strong contingency of tubas entered! Special thanks go out to David Hague, and Alan and Heather Shearn for their organisational efforts throughout the competitions weekend.

At a recent Victorian Bands League (VBL) meeting, David Hague was recognised for his years of contribution to banding in Victoria with VBL Life Membership. Big congratulations to David on this achievement and recognition!

Thankyou to those who helped transport the Bendigo Instrumental Music Program instruments to the Bendigo Competitions. This is a new fundraising opportunity for the band, and our assistance was greatly appreciated. Also, a reminder that we have a Spring Gully Dance catering on this Saturday, please see Val to supply food or help out if you are available.

All the best to Trevor, who will be away for the coming school term traveling around the UK. We'll be sure to have plenty of new music with flugel solos when you get back!

Cheers! **Brendan**

MUSICAL DIRECTORS REPORT

Another Bendigo Eisteddfod has come and gone for our band. This year, it's an interesting one to try and analyse. Yes, we came sixth in the C Grade aggregate out of the six bands, but there appears to be a silver lining in the scores. Our Concert 1 piece, 'A Hymn Song of Phillip Bliss', came third narrowly behind Greater Bendigo and Marist Brothers. In isolation, this should be seen as an incredible step forward for us, as it put us ahead of Sunshine, Boroondara and Darebin. A small victory, but certainly worthy of notice. Well done to all for this great rendition of the hymn.

On listening to the other two items, there were some clear issues in the Major Work and it was blatantly obvious that half of the band could not play our second Concert piece, 'Strike up the Band'. As I've stressed many times, this basically boils down to a lack of serious home practice. You simply cannot rely on Wednesday nights to learn difficult passages of music. This limited, combined rehearsal time really should be geared towards fine tuning our ensemble sound and focusing on such things as transitions in timing, variations in dynamics and other adjustments in musical direction (ie. the way the stick is waved) to ensure we are able to traverse difficult sections.

During last week's rehearsal, Daryl made the observation that we need to be playing "more difficult" music. This is true. However, we can't do it unless "all" players are willing to work harder. We can't have a spattering of players able to play the music, whilst others, both senior and junior, just mosey on along and hope they won't be noticed.

I certainly want to see the band playing at a higher level. I believe we can, but only if we all are willing to drag the instrument out of the case on days other than Wednesday.

For the rest of 2010, for the first time in a while, we won't be going to Ballarat. I, supported by the committee, believe that one contest this year will give us a bit of breather. It will allow us to focus more on producing better quality concerts.

More details of our approach to concerts will be forthcoming in future weeks...

Andrew Trewartha
Musical Director.

BAND FEES

Please note that band fees are now due. Please see David or Alan to pay these if you haven't already done so. Current fees are as follows.

- Single adult \$70 per year or \$20 per quarter,
- Junior players \$50 per year or \$15 per quarter,
- Families \$100 per year or \$30 per quarter.

It was decided at the recent committee meeting that invoices for fees will be sent out in the coming months. We do our best to keep these fees to a minimum, but it is an unfortunate reality that we have to somewhat rely on these fees to keep the band ticking along. Your contribution is kindly appreciated!



BENDIGO YOUTH BRASS NEWS

Contact: Cally Tromans 0431 031 853

The Bendigo Youth Brass spent much of last month preparing for the Bendigo Competitions and the band was awarded 1st place in their section. It was great to have such lovely comments made by the adjudicator, particularly about the front row of cornets, but also about the band's sound in general. All members are congratulated on their hard work and fantastic effort on the day.

The Bendigo competitions also saw the debut of our new uniform. The shirts looked fantastic on stage and certainly added to our great performance. Members are reminded that these shirts are BYB property and are to be returned when (if!) you leave the band.

Finally, tonight's rehearsal will be our first Social Pizza Night for the year in celebration of our competitions victory! I hope you all enjoy the food and this fun social time.

Cally Bartlett
Musical Director - BYB