



Band News

Summer 2020

Number 21



Concert Brass

As you can imagine, the lockdown situation has been extremely frustrating for all of us in Hathern Band. We had taken advantage of being allowed to have six people playing outside, socially distanced. However on 9 July, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) prohibited any gatherings of non-professional brass, wind and singing groups.

Brass Band England (BBE) made it very clear since that the health and wellbeing of members of the brass band community is their top priority. However, BBE was very disappointed that the DCMS announcement signalled a reverse in the progress that had been made in allowing brass groups to gather in small numbers outdoors with suitable precautions and social distancing in place. Research is being carried out to assess the risk of playing brass instruments and we can only hope that it will not be too long before we can play in some way. We are conscious that our AGM is overdue, and this will take place when we get back to normality.



Senior Band

How are the Neighbours coping? – Message from the Colonel

You may or may not have noticed that for the past 6-months or so all of the large music publishers have been pushing out emails on a weekly basis promoting every kind of 'learn to play' publication they have in their catalogues. The reason is obvious of course and learning to play a musical instrument, as we all know, is a wonderful and most enjoyable journey well worth making. It is not an easy one though as I am sure all those who have made a recent purchase have been finding out. Especially if they have been learning alone without help, even if the book is an inviting and colourful one, well laid out and with helpful pictures and diagrams.

In a similar manner, all of us have had to cope alone in recent months with no rehearsals to look forward to and no clear end to the current situation in sight. It may have proved difficult for some to find the right kind of motivation to stay 'in practice'. For me, the embouchure, especially that of a Brass Player who is 'in practice', is equivalent to a match fit athlete. For athletes, it takes many hours of cumulative exercise to achieve a well-honed and muscular body, capable of producing the maximum amount of stamina, flexibility and range humanly possible.

Likewise, all that has been gained can be quickly lost if regular exercise suddenly stops. It is exactly the same for Brass Players. Stamina and range can quickly wane through a lack of practice. If time (unlikely), motivation or even the patience of your neighbours has been proving problematic in recent months, then I have the following recommendation – little but often. Exercising 15 minutes a day is much better than an hour plus every now and then and much better for the neighbours too. At least they know that when you start it will only be 15 minutes or so before you stop and much less likely therefore to complain.

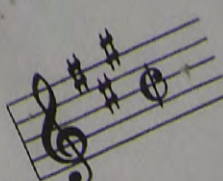
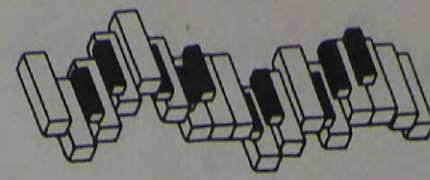
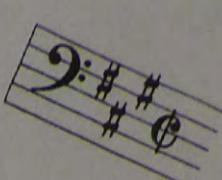


If time is short then, what are the best exercises to squeeze in to the time available? For me, it is lip flexibility exercises. The continuous airflow improves stamina, flexibility and range. I would advise routine also. Do the same ones everyday, varying the rhythms perhaps for interest and above all remain patient. Only extend the range of the exercises as your stamina returns. Finally, tongue the odd note too, just to make sure you've still got one!

Oh, and don't forget your musical directions which I've included on the next page as a reminder.

Best wishes

Stephen

Nota Bene for Musicians

p - piano (soft) - the neighbours have complained

f - forte (loud) - the neighbours are out

Crescendo - getting louder - testing the neighbours' tolerance level

ff - fortissimo (VERY loud) - to hell with the neighbours

pp - pianissimo (VERY soft) - the neighbours are at the door

Dim - thick

Obbligato - being forced to practise

Rit (and/or) *Rall* - coming up to the bit you HAVEN'T practised

Con moto - I have a car

Allegro - a little motor car

Maestro - a bigger motor car

Metronome - person small enough to fit comfortably into a Mini

Lento - the days leading up to Easto
(with eggo and choco and things)

Largo - brewed in Germany

(Hence "Handel's Largo reaches parts other beers cannot reach")

Piu Animato - if you don't clean that rabbit out, it will have to go

Interval - time to meet the players in the bar

Perfect Interval - when drinks are on the house

Cantabile - singing (that is, viz. drunk)

Con spirito - drunk again

Cantata - a fizzy drink

Tutti - ice cream

Coda - served with chipsa

Codetta - child's portion

Chords - things that organists play with one finger

Dischords - things that organists play with two fingers

Suspended chord - for lynching the soloist

Rubato - ointment for the musician's back

Subdominant - "I can't play until I've asked the wife"

Tonic - a pick-me-up

Syncopation - bowel condition brought on by an overdose of Jazz

Crotchet - knitting

Quaver - the feeling before a lesson when you haven't practised

Key signatures - silly things put there to frighten you
(ignore them - they will go away and so will your audience)

Time signatures - things for drummers to ignore

Colla voce - this shirt is so tight I can't talk

Professional - anyone who can't hold down a steady job

Flats - English apartments

A tempo - in time

A tempo de cafe - Ah, coffee time!

Improvisation - what you do when the music falls down

Fugue - clever stuff

Prelude - warm-up session before the clever stuff

Acciaccatura/appoggiatura - insects

Opus - exclamation made when Moggy has done a "whoopsie" on the carpet

Scales - fishy things

Trill - bird food

Virtuoso - someone who can work wonders with easy-play music

Antiphonal - crossed lines

Melody - an ancient and now extinct art in songwriting

Music - Happiness

Message from Chris Groom



This is a really difficult time, and believe me I am missing Concert Brass just as much as you are. I can't wait until we're playing all together again. Don't lose heart and keep the enthusiasm and practice up. We'll be back, stronger than ever!

Take care and stay safe

Chris

Euphonium (and trombone) player Ian Bartram has been composing during lockdown. Ian said, "Really missing band now. When does this end? "Woke up this morning wid dem lockdown blues...."

We're looking forward to hearing this one, Ian, but we've searched our reference book and can't find the musical term "Brassedoffioso"! Definitely not on Stephen's list!



Band Cold Turkey Blues

Steady blues tempo

Ian Bartram

Brassedoffioso

Swung Quavers *

A musical score for a brass instrument, likely euphonium or trombone, in 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It begins with a piano (p) dynamic and ends with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third staff starts with a forte (f) dynamic and ends with a piano (p) dynamic, followed by a very piano (pp) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, as well as dynamic markings and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking. A footnote at the bottom left explains the 'Swung Quavers' notation.



* Tap foot loudly on hard floor on each crotchet beat

Socially Distanced Band Practice



Another Future Cornet Player?

Many congratulations to our front row cornet player, Susan Hargrave and husband Dale, on the birth of their second son, Arran, a brother for Dylan. Arran arrived at 7.30pm on 22 July weighing in at eight pounds.



Rachel's 72 in 24 Challenge

Rachel Miller, whose children Lucy and Jack play in the Training Band, is Ladies Captain at Longcliffe Golf Club this year and her charity is Hathern Band. On 14 August, Rachel will be attempting 72 holes in 24 hours. We were going to do things with her to raise funds, but obviously it's turned out not to be a normal year! If you would like to support Rachel (and the Band), the Just Giving link is:

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/72in24?utm_id=1&utm_term=wqBJYaJEr

or you can go to the JustGiving website and search 72in24.



Longcliffe Ladies Captain, Rachel Miller, is taking on the challenge in a bid to raise money for the Captain's Charities



Please chip in for charity...
Use the QR code or go to JustGiving.com and search "72in24"
Cash donations at the Bar



Where's the Band?



This photo was taken in Loughborough Market Place on the morning of Sunday 1 July 1917. Workers from the Hathern Brick and Terracotta Company were on strike having requested a rise in wages (inflation was 25%). The company's refused the pay rise and dismissed the union officials, resulting in the strike. A big demonstration was organised for 1 July with the strikers and supporters to march from Hathern to Loughbough where there would be a big meeting. The strikers wanted to have a brass band at the front of the procession, and at the time there were two brass bands in Hathern - Hathern Old Prize Band and Hathern Prize Band resulting from an acrimonious split in 1890. The Hathern workers approached each band to lead the procession but because of the war, neither band could muster enough players. As a result the two bands amalgamated as the Hathern United Prize Band and duly led the procession into Loughborough.

So the photo is from the day that the United Band carried out its first engagement - a big event in the Band's history. But there's something strange about the photo - there isn't an instrument or a band uniform in sight. There's no mistake about the photo, so what has happened to the band?

It's quite a walk from Hathern to Loughborough, tiring enough without playing a brass instrument all the way. Loughborough is packed with people in the Market Place listening to the speakers which would mean that the hostelryes and other establishments would be empty. Perhaps the band members had gone off for some refreshment? (The pubs would have been open at 12.30pm for two hours).

In the following months there were many parades and concerts given by the Band both in aid of the war effort and also in support of the strikers and their families. Despite the government taking the company to court for causing the strike, not all the strikers were re-engaged. Including the union officials.