

Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



March 2016

Welcome to our March e letter following on from your Foden's Fanfare which I hoped you enjoyed reading. As always if you have any ideas how we can improve the e letter, Foden's Fanfare or anything we do in general please let me know.

We start with good news!!!

FODEN'S ARE THE CHAMPIONS



On Sunday 28th February Foden's competed at the North West Area Competition held at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool. The 'Area' contest is a qualification contest for the Nationals Finals which are held at the Royal Albert Hall, London in October.

Each of the 12 bands performed a set test piece - this year the chosen piece was 'Cambridge Variations' by composer Philip Sparke. A capacity audience were present to hear the contest.

After a solid performance that was described by one of the adjudicators as being a 'clear winner' Foden's were crowned the North West Area Champions for the first time since 2011 under the baton of Professor Nicholas Childs (a former Musical Director of the band). Foden's look forward to representing the North West Area in October.

FULL RESULTS

1. Foden's (Prof Nicholas Childs)**
2. Wingates (Paul Andrews)**
3. Fairey (Garry Cutt)*
4. Ashton-Under-Lyne (Philip Chalk)
5. Leyland (Thomas Wyss)
6. Milnrow (Mark Bentham)
7. Blackburn & Darwen (Huw Thomas)
8. Co-operative Funeralcare North West (Jef Sparkes)
9. Diggle (Alan Wycherley)
10. Roberts Bakery (Simon Stonehouse)
11. Freckleton (Paul Dalton)
12. Oldham (Lees) (John Collins)

*Pre-qualified for the National Final

** Qualify for the National Final

Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



FODEN'S APPEAR AT THE RNCM 'BRASS BAND FESTIVAL'



On the 30th January Foden's once again appeared at the prestigious RNCM 'Brass Band Festival' under the direction of guest conductor James Gourlay and Resident Musical Director Michael Fowles.

The festival is regarded as one of the most important festivals of brass band music, often featuring new commissions, ground breaking performances of contemporary repertoire as well as classics of the brass band repertoire.

Foden's provided a deliberately electric programme which received the below

review from 4barsrest magazine.

'An effervescent Foden's certainly provided a high energy climax to a full day of engrossing music making at the RNCM Festival.

It was bold, boisterous and bohemian; MD James Gourlay infused with an adrenaline rush that brought vivid colour and texture to substantial and slightly less substantial repertoire alike: Michael Fowles wasn't far behind either.

Only David Thornton remained cool under the collar - his performance of the esoteric Michael Ball 'Euphonium Concerto' a masterclass in cultured refinement.

It all began with a splendid performance of 'King Arthur: Scenes from a Radio Drama' - expertly realised in condensed narrative form by Paul Hindmarsh to bring us the highlights of the mythical tale in drama-packed Technicolor.

Gourlay was Errol Flynn; a swashbuckling focal point of heroism as he cut a brilliant swath through the ebullient score. You can only hope we hear this work again very soon - even in test-piece guise.

It was followed by an equally heroic lead from David Thornton in Ball's 'Euphonium Concerto' - a work that emerges from its slumber to display surprising aggressive intent and momentum before a wistful, discombobulating central section breaks into a Scherzo finale full of vitality.

The soloist and accompaniment was superb - the clarity of the musical thought process crystallised into a delivery that throbbed with dark energy.

The first half closed with a welcome reprise of 'Theme and Co-operation' - a playful title to a serious work inspired by the pioneering spirit of the co-operative movement which celebrated its 150th anniversary when it was used at the National Final in 1994.

Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



It's deceptive challenges; rather more abstract in form and structure than many of the Horowitz works showcased at the event, was a timely reminder the composer's wonderful scoring skills; the music developing in engrossing complexity to a glorious close.

For some reason Foden's went feral after the interval with 'Asphalt Cocktail' - a brilliant explosion of riotous sound and effect that left many in the audience gasping for breath. It was a jalapeno lollipop dipped in LSD; Jim Gourlay's right leg twitching as if powered by a Luigi Galvani experiment.

Foden's continued with a performance of 'A Child Like You' from the pen of Andy Scott. 'A Child Like you' featured narration from Fodens Youth members as well as featuring soprano singer Anna-Clare Monk and Harpist Lauran Scott.

The malevolent, elusive spitefulness of 'Odin - From the Land of Fire and Ice' was played with an almost reckless abandon that brought the music thrillingly to life - a gallop at full pelt aboard the eight-legged steed Sleipnir. It was a fine way to close a high impact concert - even the 'Lost Chord' encore warming the earlobes.'

The following day Foden's Youth Band were also featured in this high profile festival and received a lot of rave reviews from the Banding Press.

FODEN'S IN ARMAGH



On Friday 5th February Foden's made its annual pilgrimage to Northern Ireland as guests of the Armagh Old Boy's Brass Band. Now in its 16th consecutive year, this trip is one of the undoubted highlights of Foden's hectic concert schedule.

On Saturday, Foden's held a 3 hour rehearsal accompanying 35 young soloists, as well as providing performance tips. Following a short lunch break the band then performed a concert involving all the soloists to a large and appreciative audience made up of proud parents, supporters and tutors. The soloists and groups were of

mixed ability with those who were just starting out in their banding careers and had chosen their respective solos wisely, whilst others showed great maturity and understanding of demanding pieces. The future of banding across the Irish Sea continues to be in good hands!

The evening concert belonged to Foden's, who performed tracks from their latest CD 'Patrons' Choice IX' to a large and enthusiastic audience who later showed their appreciation by giving the band a standing ovation.

A team of tutors from Foden's will return to Armagh between the 8th and 13th August to hold their 16th consecutive Summer School which each year attracts between 80 to 100 participants.

Our thanks go to Ivor Stephenson and his team for their hospitality and for arranging another fantastic weekend.

FODEN'S PATRONS CONCERT

On Tuesday 16th February the annual Patrons Concert took place at Sandbach School.

The event gives the band a chance to thank our loyal supporters for their continued support by giving them a free concert each February. As usual, the hall was packed with 500 patrons attending the concert which also saw the release of the latest in the Patron's Choice CD series - 'Patron's Choice IX'.



As always, the patrons were treated to an entertaining programme of concert items, star soloists and repertoire from the new CD directed by Musical Director Michael Fowles. As an extra bonus, there was also a guest appearance by a former Musical Director & Principal Euphonium player; Professor Nicholas Childs has returned to Foden's to conduct the bands forthcoming North West Area Regional Contest and took the opportunity to perform the test piece, Philip Sparke's 'Cambridge Variations', during the first half of the concert.

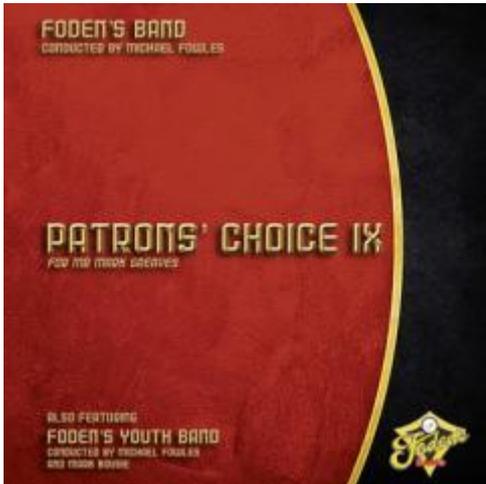
In addition to the music, the patrons concert gives Foden's the chance to update Patrons on latest developments. One notable contribution came from local MP Fiona Bruce who proudly announced that Foden's Band will perform at the Houses of Parliament for the prestigious National Prayer Breakfast in June this year.

Finally, annual awards are also presented at this concert for 'Player of the Year' & 'Bandsperson of the Year'. The awards are voted for by the members of the band and this years winners were Sarah Lenton - Solo Baritone (Player of the Year) and Richard Poole - Soprano Cornet (Bandsperson of the Year).

Congratulations to both players.



FODEN'S RELEASE PATRONS CHOICE IX



Foden's are pleased to announce the release of their latest CD 'Patrons Choice IX'.

For the past 9 years the Patrons Choice series has become an annual recording of concert repertoire. Released each February (at the annual Patrons Concert) the discs have become a firm favourite with our loyal supporters and our top selling CDs at concerts around the UK.

Patrons Choice IX features a number of the bands soloists as well as a selection of their 2016 concert repertoire conducted by Musical Director Michael Fowles.

Each year, the Patrons Choice CD has been dedicated to an individual who has given support/service to the band over a number of year. This year's disc is dedicated to Mark Greaves, who will step down as president of Foden's Band this year. Mr Greaves is CEO of Flowcrete Group (where our bandroom is sited) as well as holding numerous other roles as an international business leader & advisor. Over the past few years, Foden's Band have benefitted greatly from his advice and support and we would like to thank Mark for this by dedicating Patrons Choice IX to him.

Foden's are proud that the Foden's Youth Band are also featured on the recording, which showcases their extremely high standard of performance, as well as range of performing styles.

The CD can be purchased at our online store here - <http://shop.fodensband.co.uk/patrons-choice-ix.html>

A recent review of the disc can be read here - <http://www.brassbandworld.co.uk/reviews/544/cd-patrons-choice-ix>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

On the 16th April Foden's will appear as guests of the award winning ladies choir 'The Chanterelle's' in Macclesfield. This is the first time that the band have appeared in concert with this talented Choir

On the **17th April** Foden's will once again lead the Sandbach Transport Parade though Sandbach Town Centre. The band will start playing around 12.15 before leading the parade to the Old Hall Public House in Sandbach where we will play outside to entertain the crowds.

Following the bands successful 'St George's Day Themed Concert' last year at Sandbach Town Hall, the band have decided to promote this same concert again (but with different music!). This will take place on **Thursday 21st April**. Entrance is pay on the door only – £10 (with £1 off for Patrons showing their membership card).

Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



In 2015 we began a partnership with Keele University, we are delighted to announce that we will continue this new link with a concert at the University Chapel on **Saturday 16th April**. The concert will also feature the university brass band and local youngsters who will work with Foden's during daytime workshops.

24th April sees Foden's will make our first appearance at Glossop Parish Church, again to deliver a 'St Georges Day Themed Concert'

On the **30th April** a small group from Foden's Band will record a 'BBC Song's of Praise' in Leeds for transmission on a future date (we will keep you posted).

ST GEORGE'S DAY THEMED CONCERT	BEST OF BRASS AND VOICES	ST GEORGE'S DAY THEMED CONCERT
National and British Open Champions 2012 Foden's Band	 Foden's Band and The Chanterelle's	National and British Open Champions 2012 Foden's Band
Thursday 21st April 2016 7.30pm	Saturday 16th April 2016 7pm	Sunday 24th April 2016 7.30pm
SANDBACH TOWN HALL High St, Sandbach CW11 1AX	St Michael & All Angels Church Market Place, Macclesfield, SK10 1HW	GLOSSOP PARISH CHURCH Church Street South, Glossop, SK13 7RU
Tickets £10 Payable on the door <small>(£1 discount to Patrons on display of membership card)</small>	Tickets £10 Concessions £5 <small>Mark Wilkinson (Band) 07740 34106 markw@btinternet.com Jane Haden (Choir) 0791 58571 chanterelletickets@gmail.com</small>	Tickets £12 Concessions £10 Under 16's £5 PAY ON THE DOOR

PATRONS' RENEWALS

Thank you to all who have forwarded their Patron renewals. Reminders will be posted out in the next week for those who have not yet return their renewal notice. We are extremely grateful to our Patrons for their continued support and always look at encouraging people to join our society

If you have any friends, family who may be interested in becoming a Patron's please see the below link

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/assets/Uploads/patrons/patron-form2015.pdf>

Hope to see you all soon

Thank you again for your support

Mark Wilkinson

Band Manager