

May 2015

Dear Patrons,

Please see below some highlights from the past few weeks of Foden's Band...

Foden's at Congleton Town Hall

On Tuesday 17th March the band made a welcomed return to Congleton Town Hall. Our guests for the evening were the Love Music Trust String Sinfonia and the Love Music Trust Saxophone Orchestra who performed a varied repertoire in the 1st half. The 2nd Half featured Foden's who provided a mixed repertoire of pieces from a number of their recent cd releases.

Speaking about the concert Mark Wilkinson commented 'We enjoyed sharing the stage with the talented youngsters from the Love Music Trust Ensembles in what was a great entertaining concert. Foden's are heavily involved in Youth education and a great supporter of the fantastic work that the Love Music trust are doing in Cheshire.'

Foden's and Lions Youth Brass

As the National Youth Brass Band Championships approach Lions Youth Brass once again engaged with Foden's Band to assist with their preparation, with a workshop which was supported by The Love Music Trust.

The tutors were Anna Hughes-Williams, the former very successful Musical Director of St. Helens Youth Band, (front row cornets), former Lions Youth Principal Cornet and Junior Band Director, Ian Raisbeck (Back row cornets). There was a welcome return to Lions for Ian's brother Neil Raisbeck, former Solo Horn of the band who tutored the horn section. Taking the Baritones and Euphoniums, and making her first visit to Lions was Sarah Lenton. The band have competed many times against Sarah and her former band, Youth Brass 2000, where she was an outstanding Euphonium soloist. Principal Trombone and The Love Music Trust Director, John Barber tutored the trombones, while Sam Minshall took care of the bass section. Finally, Anthony Mann made a welcome return to Lions to direct the percussion section.

The day started at 10am with sectional rehearsals on this year's test-piece, The Saga of Tyrting. The Foden's team worked the band very hard all morning to overcome lots of difficulties in the set piece. Following a well-earned lunch, it was time for rehearsal. This year the band have commissioned a new work, Hustle, by Ian Raisbeck, which will get its premier performance at the Youth Championships. It was great to get the composers insight into his musical intentions for the piece.

The final part of the day was directed by Mark Bousie, the highly regarded musical director of the very successful Sellers International Youth Band. As always the band really enjoyed the rehearsal with Mark with his musical insight into the music as well as working on the fundamental elements of ensemble playing.

The day came to a conclusion at 4pm with the band having worked extremely hard and gained lots musical tips from the great team from Foden's.

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Speaking on behalf of the band, their musical director, Nigel Birch commented ' As well as directing the band on a weekly basis I regard it as my responsibility to give my players the best musical tuition and experiences possible. By bringing the members of Foden's Band to Lions I believe I am fulfilling that responsibility. Also, the fact that we are based in the same town is a great community collaboration. As we get closer to the competition the band will welcome their Musical Advisor, Michael Fowles to the band for several rehearsals.'

Foden's Youth Band support Youth



The Foden's Youth Band recently performed the leading role in a special 'celebration concert' hosted by our partners Love Music Trust.

The Trust are the leaders of the Cheshire East Music Hub and organise an annual School Music Competition. The concert, held at Hanley's Victoria Hall, featured two winning primary and two winning secondary schools. Foden's Youth Band performed several new items for brass band including an English premiere of Andrew Stevenson's 'Runaway Train' and 'Momentum' by Ben Hollings. There were also Brass Band classics such as the Foden signature march 'The

Cossack' and film music 'The Circle of Life' and 'Batman The Movie'. There was a stunning performance of 'Children of Sanchez' by our guest soloist, Helen Williams.

Worth noting, is the extreme lengths that some of the young players go to in order to be part of Foden's Youth Band; players travelling from as far north as Cumbria and as far south as Birmingham.

Next for our Youth Band is a performance alongside Foden's Band which will feature a world premiere of a new composition by Andrew Stevenson featuring both bands. Details to be released shortly.

Foden's Youth Band would like to thank Love Music Trust for inviting us to perform at such a prestigious concert, and to our partners Besson Music Instruments who provide annual support which enables the world class opportunities we can offer young musicians.

Foden's Patrons

For the past 25 years Foden's have run a very successful Patrons society that presently boasts over 400 members. For an annual donation Patrons receive 2 tickets for our annual Patrons concert in Sandbach, 2 Colour Foden's Fanfare magazines per year, discounts on CD and merchandise purchases, access to the bands 'restricted' site on the website as well as monthly emails about Foden's forthcoming engagements and news.

The band have now set up a Patrons committee to look at ways to increase numbers of Patrons, different levels of Patronage, added benefits of becoming a Patron as well as setting up Area Patron

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Groups who will look into fund raising projects, advertising local concerts and local Patron recruitment on behalf of the band

If you would like to help this committee in any way please contact:

Mark Wilkinson 07740 354106 or markwilky@hotmail.com

Foden's become Political

On Tuesday 14th April and Wednesday 15th April the band were invited to appear on the BBC2 programme 'Daily Politics'

To see a review of the event as well as Pictures and a video of the screening please click on the below



<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/about/news/fodens-in-bbc-politics-coverage/>

Foden's and the Sandbach Transport Parade



On Sunday 19th April Foden's Band were once again involved in the Sandbach Transport Parade.

Due to roadworks in the area the format of the weekend changed and this year included a classic car show as well as music festival on the cobbles.

Foden's were heavily involved in the event where they performed a 30 minute set prior to marching to the 'Old Hall' where they entertained a large crowd for an hour in the sunshine

It is anticipated that 20,000 people attended the weekends activities

Foden's and the Halle Orchestra

On Wednesday 1st July Foden's will appear in concert as guest of award-winning symphony orchestra, the Hallé, at Manchester's stunning Bridgewater Hall. The concert, entitled Foundation of Liberty, marks the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the Magna Carta. The concert is influenced by the ancient

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document, which forms the basis of many modern freedoms. The programme also has connections with great historical empires, the Roman and the British, as well as links to famous Manchester events, such as the Peterloo Massacre of 1819.

Speaking about the forthcoming concert, Foden's Band Manager Mark Wilkinson commented 'We are delighted that the Hallé has invited us to be their guests at this high profile concert. The Hallé is one of the world's leading Orchestras and we hope that our appearance will raise the profile of Brass Bands as well as introducing Brass Bands to a new and wider audience.'

Foden's will combine with the Hallé for a new commission by Andrew Duncan entitled A Tale of Two Empires: Cottonopolis as well as Respighi's The Pines of Rome. Audiences can also hear Foden's perform the brass band classic Resurgam by Eric Ball, conducted by Michael Fowles.

The Hallé will perform Arnold's Peterloo Overture, Walton's Henry V Suite and The History of the English Speaking Peoples.

Further info and ticket purchases can be made via <http://www.halle.co.uk/> or call The Bridgewater Hall box office on 0161 907 9000.

Listings

The Hallé and Foden's
Wednesday 1 July, 7.30pm
The Bridgewater Hall

Arnold Overture: Peterloo Walton Henry V: Suite Andrew Duncan A Tale Of Two Empires: Cottonopolis Walton The History of the English Speaking Peoples Ball Resurgam Respighi The Pines of Rome Stephen Bell conductor • Foden's Band Tickets from £19 (including booking fee) A number of concessions available. Check the website for details. Box office: 0161 907 9000 | www.halle.co.uk

About the Hallé Now in its 157th season, the Hallé ranks among the UK's top symphonic ensembles. With a reputation for artistic excellence, the Hallé remains determined to seek ways to enhance and refresh what it undertakes. Sir Mark Elder became Music Director in 2000. Founded in Manchester by Sir Charles Hallé, the Hallé gave its first concert in the Free Trade Hall on 30 January 1858. The Hallé's distinguished history of acclaimed performances includes over 70 concerts each year in The Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, around 40 concerts a year around Britain, international tours, frequent broadcasts and televised performances.

<http://www.halle.co.uk>

We look forward to lots more activity over the coming weeks, to stay updated please visit

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk>

Mark Wilkinson

Band Manager