

Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



November 2015

Dear Friends

Please see our November E-Update...

RECENT CONCERTS

On the 17th October the band made their first visit to the Brindley Theatre, Runcorn where we performed as guests of the Warrington Male Voice Choir. Both Band and Choir were on fine form to a capacity audience. We are hoping to appear in this venue again during 2016 and talks are presently on going with the Theatre management.

A week later we travelled to Barrow in Furness to appear at 'The Forum' which I believe is the first time we have appeared at this venue since 1973. The band had an enjoyable and scenic coach trip to the venue for a lunch time concert and have since received a number of emails from audience members saying how much they enjoyed the concert and asking us to make a repeat visit.



More recently, the band embarked on a 5 hour coach journey to perform at the Newton Stewart Community Cinema. The Cinema was purchased by members of the local community after it was forced to close and has been run by the people of the town, for the people of the town, ever since. Foden's were delighted to perform to a packed hall and very warm and appreciative audience.

ANDY SCOTT NOMINATED FOR BRITISH COMPOSER AWARD



Foden's Band are pleased to announce that 'A Child Like You' from the pen of their composer in residence Andy Scott has been shortlisted (final three works) in the Wind & Brass Category at the British Composer Awards with the winner due to be announced on the 9th December at the Southbank, London.

'A Child Like You' depicts the real life story of a 17 year old Ugandan Asian who fled Uganda in 1972 under the brutal regime of Idi Amin, and who subsequently lived with the family of composer Andy Scott via UK refugee camps. Andy subsequently composed music and lyrics that are powerful and thought provoking, producing a 15 minute mini opera featuring soprano/narrator Anna-Clare Monk, harpist Lauren Scott, Foden's Band and four young musicians from Foden's Youth Band who both play and narrate.

'A Child Like You' was the recipient of a prestigious commission from PRS for Music Foundation's New Music Biennial and subsequently received performances at the Southbank Centre, London, Glasgow

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Royal Concert Hall as part of the Commonwealth Games Celebrations as well as the world première which was held at the RNCM on the 2nd May 2014

Foden's and the above musicians will next perform the work at the prestigious RNCM Brass Band Festival on the 30th January 2016

A promotional video of the work recorded during a rehearsal in Sandbach can be viewed by clicking on the image below...



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq2t-uqzf7I>

DAVID THORNTON WINS CD OF THE YEAR



Foden's are pleased to announce that Principal Euphonium player David Thornton has won the 'BBW Solo CD of the Year' for his recording 'Parallel Realities' which takes a cutting-edge approach to euphonium repertoire.

A panel of judges reviewed all the various solo cd's released during the course of 2015 and voted for 'Parallel Realities'

Panel members commented

Owen Farr : 'This incredibly innovative CD brings together repertoire that frames the euphonium in new musical environments. Students across the globe should all own a copy.'

Christopher Thomas : 'This is such adventurous, thought-provoking music played with an innate understanding of the ideas of the various composers. It really is outstanding in every way,'

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Steven Mead : 'Great playing combined with some of the most original writing for euphonium that we have witnessed.'

Speaking about the award David commented ' "I'm absolutely thrilled that the disc has been given recognition, especially given the incredible nature of the artists on the other nominated discs. It's always somewhat of a risk to record or perform a project that strays from convention and I still feel I'm only scratching the surface of what's possible within the electro-acoustic world. However, I'm delighted with the resulting combination of repertoire and hope that people enjoy listening to it!"

The CD can be purchased direct from David at thorntoneuph@gmail.com

NICK BIRCH JOINS ON 2ND TROMBONE



Foden's are pleased to announce the appointment of Nick Birch who joined the band in October on 2nd Trombone.

Nick is a former student at Sandbach School and was part of the Sandbach School Big Band, directed by Foden's John Barber. Nick is currently a Masters student at the RNCM studying Trombone having completed his undergraduate studies at the RNCM on Euphonium.

As a Euphonium player, Nick played with the National Youth Brass Band as well as Solo Euphonium with 'Pemberton Band' before leaving to join 'Fairey's Band' on 2nd Euphonium. Nick is also a member of the 'Slidin' About' Trombone Quartet.

Commenting on his appointment Nick said *'I am really pleased to have joined my hometown band. Particularly as I get to sit next to John Barber, who persuaded me to play the Trombone 10 years ago. I have enjoyed having the 6 months off brass bands but well and truly got the banding bug back since being with Foden's'*

FODEN'S SOLO CONTEST

There was a fantastic international flavour to the 5th annual Foden's Band Solo, Duet & Ensemble contest held on the 31st October at Sandbach School with over 150 entrants performing in various categories in what is now the largest event of its kind in the country. Competitors travelled from as far as Norway, France and Belgium to compete for the various prizes and awards on offer.

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The trip to Cheshire was certainly a memorable one for the talented Gaëlle Lefevre from France who claimed the Blue Riband Besson International Prize in superb style. Despite her luggage not turning up with her at Manchester airport on the same flight, Gaëlle still produced a wonderful winning performance to gain a trip of a lifetime to the United States to tour as a guest soloist with James Gourlay and the Pittsburgh based River City Brass Band.



Foden's Band members were kept busy organising the setting up of classrooms and main hall, registrations, managing the trade stands, comparing duties in each section, manning all 4 performance areas and practice rooms as well as serving on the refreshment stands. Band members also provided some of the fine food on offer from classic bacon sandwiches and hot dogs to homemade soup and an amazing array of cakes and pastries.

Major sponsorship support once again came from Besson Musical Instruments, with Werner Duwe, Director of Brass, on hand to enjoy the action and to help with the presentation of awards as well as Audi Macclesfield and Cheshire East.

Besson's support also enabled the competitors to be judged by world class musicians such as Owen Farr and Florent Didier.

Professor John Wallace CBE (a Vice President of Foden's) and his father were also on hand, as they recalled the happy memories of their own slow melody competitions days in Scotland. Prof Wallace spent much of the day listening to the younger players, and was full of admiration for their excellent efforts. He also delayed his return home so that he could attend the awards ceremony, and present the Blue Riband prize to Gaëlle.

Former Foden's Flugel star Helen Williams, now at Cory Band, also travelled up from Wales to adjudicate a number of the young classes, and as usual was full of enthusiasm and encouragement for the players she listened to.

Contest organiser Fiona Rolfe commented that once again the Foden's contest had shown that there was an increasing demand for an event with an undoubted worldwide appeal. "We continue to grow thanks to the wonderful support of our partners - especially Besson Musical Instruments, Cheshire East and Audi Macclesfield. This year's competition gained a great deal of publicity and with the invaluable support of our traders and sponsors we continue to welcome players from all over the banding globe. Foden's is dedicated to ensuring that we provide a contest that gives players of all ages and abilities the opportunity to shine and enjoy their performance experience. That is why we have a panel of judges of renowned musical experience who not only provide detailed adjudications, but give invaluable advice.

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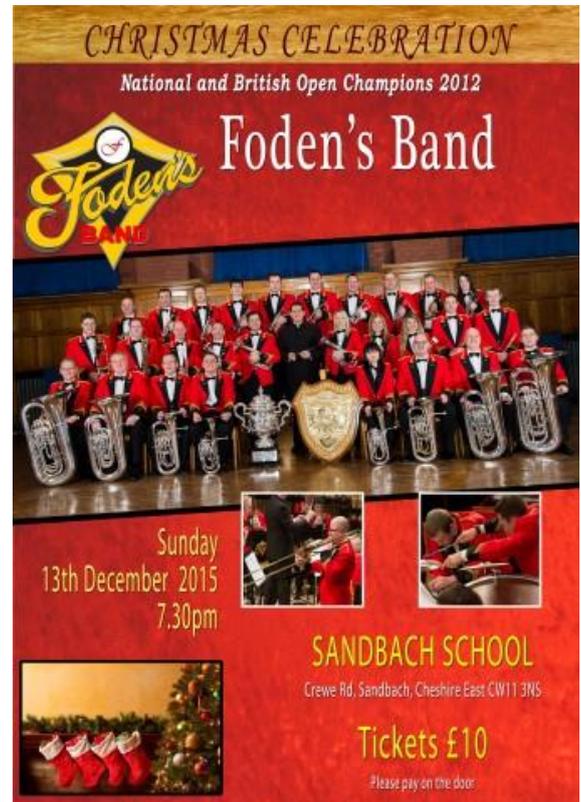
We believe in providing the platform for future generations to go on and enjoy either playing in a brass band or to become life-long brass and percussion musicians.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Sunday 13th December the annual Foden's Band Christmas Concert will take place at Sandbach School 7:30pm.

Following feedback from patrons, this year we will return to the traditional style concert simply featuring Foden's Band, with a little help from you the audience for a couple of carols.

We hope to see you all there to spread some festive joy, tickets can be purchased on the door.



FODEN'S JUNIOR BAND SET FOR FIRST PERFORMANCE



The recently formed Foden's Junior Band are gearing up for their first ever performance, less than 3 months after forming.

A new addition to the Foden's family, the Junior Band were formed in September offering opportunities for grade 2-5 players to receive monthly guidance from Foden's conductors / tutors / soloists and seemed like a natural extension to the work of the Foden's Youth Band (formed in 2012). The project is run in partnership with Accent Music Education Hub and the Foden's Youth Band's existing partners - Besson & RNCM.

The Junior Band have accepted an invitation to perform alongside another relatively new ensemble; the Love Music Trust Primary Brass Band as well as a number of other ensembles in a 12 noon concert at Sandbach School on 28th November. Speaking about the event, Foden's Youth Band co-ordinator Ian Raisbeck said *'I am delighted that the young players who have joined our Junior Band have not had to wait long before performing in public for the first time. Under the*

directorship of the experienced and inspirational Anna Hughes-Williams they have made a great start and I'm sure this will be the first of many FJB performances over the next few years'

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Tickets for the concert can be purchased on the door at just £4 each with all proceeds going to the Salvation Army Food Parcel and Toy Appeal.

LOOKING BACK IN TIME...

This month's historic photo was taken in 1961 when Foden's Band visited Niagra Falls...



SUPPORT US

Foden's are always on the lookout for new Patrons, so if you would like to join our society please see the below link. Also, please share amongst your friends / family

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/support-us/patrons/>

If you would like to 'Sponsor a player' please see the below for more information

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/support-us/player-sponsorship/>

In order to help raise much needed funds we have registered the band for the 'Weather Lottery' where a minimum of 37 percent of monies raised (via our supporters) is donated back to the band. For more information about the lottery and how you can join please see the below

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/support-us/fodens-band-lottery/>

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If you would like to make a difference that lasts, then please consider leaving a legacy which can be in the form of money, property or memorabilia.

<http://www.fodensband.co.uk/support-us/legacies/>

Looking for an ideal Christmas Present? We have the perfect gift!

<http://shop.fodensband.co.uk/cd-recordings.html>

Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at our Christmas concert on the 13th December.

Mark Wilkinson

Band Manager