

# Foden's Band E-Update

Regular updates to your inbox



**September 2015**

Dear Friends

I hope you have had a good relaxing summer, please see our latest 'e letter' for September.

## FODEN'S AND THE HALLE ORCHESTRA

Prior to our summer break, the band had the honour of appearing at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester as guests of the 'Halle Orchestra.' It is very rare for a brass band to appear in concert with a major symphony orchestra so obviously, there was a major announcement when we started to advertise the concert.



The concert was a huge success and gave the band an opportunity to perform to a large audience, a number of whom had not heard a brass band before.

Please see the below letter sent by Andrew Duncan, a previous tuba player in the orchestra and a composer of a joint item between band and orchestra...

*'Last night's Halle Prom at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester was an important moment in the*

*history of brass bands. A world class symphony orchestra sharing a performance on equal terms with a world class brass band.*

*Foden's Band weren't there to simply support or to play a cameo role to the Halle, they were given the opportunity to express themselves fully as a musical partner in the concert.*

*The Halle Orchestra were magnificent, a great orchestra nearing the end of their season, on form and a joy to listen to. Equally, Foden's Band were magnificent too both in their role as musical partners with the Halle in 'A Tale of Two Empires' and 'The Pines of Rome' and by delighting the audience with their solo performance of 'Resurgum.' Foden's Band were received by the audience for what they were, a great musical ensemble able to play with a depth of power and a delicate musicality compatible with the expectations of a classical music audience used to regularly hearing the Halle.*

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*As the composer of 'A Tale of Two Empires' I was delighted and honoured by the performance, and I am extremely grateful to the Halle and to Foden's Band, and to Stephen Bell for his forward thinking in scheduling this concert.*

*The enduring legacy that should be taken from last night's concert is that a question often asked, has now been answered. Can a great brass band hold its own, on equal terms, with a great orchestra? The answer is yes!*

## FODEN'S ARMAGH SUMMER SCHOOL

Whilst some were enjoying a well-deserved summer break from band a number of players were passing on their experience at a number of summer schools that are organised over the holidays which include 'Bolsover,' 'Wessex,' 'National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain' and the 'National Youth Brass Band of Scotland'



Richard Poole led a team of Foden's tutors on the 'Armagh Summer School' which features tutors just from Foden's. Richard has provided a report on the summer school:

Monday 3rd August saw the start of the 15th Annual Armagh Old Boys' Summer School led once again by 9 tutors from Foden's Band. This year's tutors were Richard Poole, Ian Raisbeck, Lesley Poole, Sarah Lenton, Mark Bousie, Shaun Farrington, Stewart Baglin, Anthony Mann and Michael Fowles.

The course copied the format of last year with the creation of two separate bands. The Sterling Band, conducted by Mark Bousie, featured players of a standard equivalent to grade five and below and the more advanced delegates attended the Sovereign Band rehearsals led by Michael Fowles.

The course began in its usual fashion on the Monday night at the City of Armagh High School with a rehearsal for all players titled 'Meeting the Music'. This gave all players the opportunity to sight read the music for the course, catch up with friends from last year and arrange their seating positions.

Tuesday saw the start of sectionals, full band rehearsals, warm ups and master classes led by Ian Raisbeck, Mike Fowles and a rather energetic morning aerobics session by Sarah Lenton. The transition into two bands for this course proved yet again to be an immediate success as the Sterling Band members got to grips with their repertoire whilst the Sovereign Band had detailed sectionals led by the tutors. During the first coffee break, whilst being presented with every type of cake and biscuit known to man, the tutors discussed the positivity and potential coming out of the first rehearsals.

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Thursday evening saw the annual Young Soloists Night, which featured music by the Foden's tutors as they accompanied over 20 solos, duets and section ensembles from the excellent and brave young musicians on the course. Special mention must go to Shaun Farrington for his superb Piano accompanying before being put to shame yet again by 12 yr old Derva Tracy who brought the house down with her own Piano Irish jig that was faultless in every way. The solo night once again proved what excellent talent there is within the summer school band with superb performances



by Daniel Sharpe, Andrew Milligan and Ian Brown to mention just a few that will stay in the memory of the audience for a long long time!

After the Friday lunchtime BBQ which featured a tutors treat from Foden's, including the 'Disney Parade' and a stunning rendition of 'Donegal Bay' by Sarah Lenton, the hall was packed down and transferred to the Armagh Presbyterian Church ready for the Saturday night gala concert.

The Saturday night gala concert, which included the traditional course award ceremony, saw two stunning performances by the Sterling and Sovereign Band before joining forces for the massed items of 'Death or Glory', 'Little Hymn', 'Conquest of Paradise' and the course favourite 'Uptown Funk'.

The week finished in usual fashion back at the Armagh Old Boys Music Centre with socialising until the early hours.

Whilst at Belfast Airport on the Sunday morning the Foden's tutors were left arguing over who had gained the most weight throughout the week, the one thing they did agree on was that this was yet again a fantastic course, the highlight of their year and already looking forward to next year.

Richard Poole

## GAWSWORTH HALL



Following the return from our summer break the band appeared in concert at Gawsorth Hall. 'Foden's are Brassed Off' was the theme to this year's concert which featured the bands usual entertaining programme as well as music from the film 'Brassed Off.' This is the 3rd time that the band have appeared at this picturesque venue and this was its most successful. Around 750 people attended the concert, the weather was fantastic and the lawn was full of people enjoying picnics prior to the concert.

## ROYAL CONCERT HALL, NOTTINGHAM

On the 23rd August Foden's made their first visit to the 1300 seater concert hall in Nottingham. The acoustics in the venue were fantastic and the audience were treated to a wide range of music. The concert also marked David Thornton's first public appearance as our new principal Euphonium player with the band. He dazzled the audience with a fantastic performance of 'Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms'.

The band enjoyed their visit to Nottingham and received much good feedback from audience members as well as selling CDs to a good number of them.

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## SANDBACH TOWN HALL

On the 17th September 2015 the band will make a welcomed return to Sandbach Town Hall where we will perform a themed concert 'Stage and Screen'.

Speaking about the forthcoming concert Mark Wilkinson commented '*Following the success of a concert earlier in the year at the Town Hall we have decided to promote another themed event. The concert will feature music from 'Stage and Screen' featuring South Pacific, West Side Story, I Dreamed a Dream, Live and Let Die to name a few. Due to the popularity of the last concert, where we received a full house, we are asking people to arrive early to avoid disappointment'*

Entry is via pay on the door £10 and £8 concessionary commencing at 7.30pm.

## FODEN'S PATRONS

Just a reminder if you could please push the Foden's Patrons Society. Unfortunately the number of Patron's is starting to decline and this is an area where we are trying a number of new ideas to encourage people to become Patrons. We have recently launched an 'Overseas Patrons Society' that will hopefully appeal to those who are unable to take advantage of the various perks of being a UK Patron (ie our annual Patron's concerts). Download forms can be found via the below link

<http://shop.fodensband.co.uk/patrons.html>

## WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Please feel free to visit us at <http://www.fodensband.co.uk> as well as via Facebook and Twitter. All the 3 sites are regularly updated with news, events etc about the band

The next 'e letter' will be sent around the 1st October and will hopefully contain good news about the bands performance at the 'British Open Contest' to be held at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham on the 5th September where we are hoping to be crowned the 'British Open Champions'

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Thank you for your continued support and hope to see you at the concert on the 17th September

*Mark Wilkinson*

Band Manager

**MUSIC FROM STAGE AND SCREEN**  
National and British Open Champions 2012  
**Foden's Band**

Thursday  
17th September 2015  
7.30pm

**SANDBACH TOWN HALL**  
High St, Sandbach CW11 1AX

**Tickets £10**  
Concessions £8  
Tickets available on the door