

Bill takes up the Baton

With the departure of Dr Alan Lourens to Singapore the band has begun the process of finding a replacement Musical Director. Our thanks go to Captain Peter O'Connor who stepped in at short notice to keep things ticking over & to conduct at some previously arranged performances. From a shortlist of candidates & expressions of interest from outside of the State the band is pleased that Bill McAlister is currently taking up the baton. Bill is taking the band through until Christmas & has also agreed to conduct the band at the forthcoming PIAF concert in February. The Band will be trialing other applicants in the new year before appointing the new MD.



Ben heads North

Eb Tuba player Ben Bull is taking a 1½-year break from the band & has headed off to the Northern Hemisphere. Ben starts his trip with 6 weeks in Canada before heading to Scotland & will then work his way through the UK. Bens tour may also include a spell working with West Ham United Football Club in London as a Physio. Stephen Harmer is covering Bens chair in his absence.

Perth International Arts Festival Performance

The band will be participating in a concert to be held at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre as part of the 2004 PIAF. The concert will feature the band in conjunction with the Perth Interschool Choirs. The programme will be a selected range of well known choral and brass works, including "O Fortuna" from Orff's famous Carmina Burana, Verdi's "Anvil Chorus" from "La Traviata", Handel's "Zadok the Priest"...and much more!

"O Fortuna!" is a concert not to miss out on! See below for details or visit the PIV website on <http://www.piv.aicsa.org.au/>

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 6 th December	Mundaring Performing Arts Society Picnic Concert with Elisa Wilson 5:15pm to 7:00pm Mundaring Weir Hotel Amphitheatre, Mundaring Weir Rd, Mundaring
Sunday 7 th December	Carols by Candle Light 5:00pm to 9:30pm Len Shearer Reserve Booragoon
Saturday 13 th December	Channel 7 Christmas Pageant 5:00pm to 8:30pm
Saturday 14 th December	Kalamunda Christmas Pageant and Concert 4:00pm to 5:30pm Stirk Park, Kalamunda
Tuesday 16 th December	Karinya Village -- Alexander Drive, Coolbinia Christmas Carols
Saturday 20 th December	Band Wind-Up Dinner
Saturday 14 th February	"O Fortuna" – Perth International Arts Festival with Interschool Choirs 6:00pm to 9:00pm Mandurah Performing Arts Center
Sunday 15 th February	"O Fortuna" – Perth International Arts Festival with Interschool Choirs 2:30 pm to 5:00pm Armadale Railway Station – Commerce Ave, Armadale
Sunday 28 th March	Hymns of Praise 1:30pm to 4:00pm Winthrop Baptist College Murdoch Campus - Farrington Rd, Nth Lake

Instrument Profiles

The Tenor Horn



The tenor-horn is pitched in Eb and has an upright bell (although bell-front horns are used by marching bands in America). The brass band has three tenor-horns; Solo, First and Second and they perform the equivalent of the viola and 2nd violin parts of the orchestra. The horn produces a very mellow sound and blends well between the sound of the cornets (in Bb above) and the baritones/trombones (in Bb below) however whilst it is a key component of the overall sound of a brass band sometimes its sound can be hard to hear. In four-part arrangements the horn part is used as the alto or tenor voice. The horn can be used as a solo instrument but is not used as commonly as either the cornet or euphonium, most horn solos tend to be of the more melodic type rather than technical fireworks.

The Tenor Horn finds its origins in Brussels and was further developed in Paris by Belgian inventor Adolphe Sax during the period 1840 to 1844. The shape of the modern horn has changed very little from the original, it is now more compact in height but its performance characteristics and intonation are retained. Other benefits of the modern shape are that it is easier to carry and transport and less prone to damage. The modern horn usually comes in one of two different designs based mainly on cost. The cheaper models (pictured above) have the beginning of the bell tubing looping over the top of the valves whilst the more expensive design sees the tubing wound once to leave the valves standing above the bell tubing. (See picture below). The bell of the modern horn has also changed shaped since its early days now flaring wider from narrow tubing whereas the original resembled a long narrow cone with a small flare. The horns used by Midland Brick Brass are the Besson Sovereign which are among the finest from today's manufacturers. Recommended retail price of the Eb Tenor Horn is around \$5000.

The Horn in comparison to the cornet



Information sources include:

'The Brass Crest'

'Wikipedia, The Free encyclopaedia'

'Al's Tenor Horn Page'

'Marion City Brass Band site'

To receive information about the band call the Secretary, Tony Turner on 93881263 or e-mail on secretary@wabass.com or visit the band website on www.wabass.com

Our thanks to Kathy Salter for stepping into the role of secretary for the last two months while Tony Turner has been holidaying overseas.