

Perth International Arts Festival

During February the band participated in two concerts as part of the Perth International Arts Festival. The band was invited to join forces with the Perth Interschool Choir (a gathering of 150 choristers from every state of Australia) under the leadership of conductors Andrew Wailes & Bill



McAllister. Performances were given on Saturday 14th February at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre before a very appreciative 600-strong audience & again on Sunday 15th February at the Jull St mall Armadale as part of the street fest .The Concert entitled 'O Fortuna' included a programme of selected 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", Parry's "Jerusalem" & featured individual performances by the choir & the band.

Michelle's new arrival

The band's 2nd Baritone player Michelle Ward is a proud new mum having given birth to daughter Chelsey Jasmine in late January. Michelle is currently taking a break from band to look after the new arrival but plans to return mid-year. We wish mum, dad & baby all the best & look forward to Michelle's return. Her place is currently being held by Bill McAlister (Sen), father of the bands conductor Bill McAlister. Our thanks go to Bill (senior) for stepping in to fill the vacancy at short notice. Other new arrivals to the band are Ken Day on euphonium, Julia Conroy on Cornet, Peter Garnaut returns on cornet after a break & Judith Findlay returns on tenor horn.

State Band Championships

The band will shortly commence preparations for the State Band Championships. This years event is to be held on 29TH and 30TH May at Churchlands Senior High School. The Adjudicator for the competition will be Major Eric Andersen formerly of the Australian Army Band. The band will play for it's performance the Hymn – Rockingham, Set Test Piece – Pagentry by Herbert Howells, March – Castell Coch by TJ Powell & for our Own Choice Test Piece – A London Overture by Phillip Sparke.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 28 th March	Hymns of Praise 1:30pm to 4:00pm	Winthrop Baptist College Murdoch Campus - Farrington Rd, Nth Lake
Sunday 25 th April	Anzac Day Parade 9.30 am	St Georges Terrace, Perth
Sat/Sun 28/29 th May	State Band Championships 1.00 pm	Churchlands Senior High School

Instrument Profiles

The Baritone



The Baritone sits in size between the Eb Tenor Horn & Bb Euphonium & is played with the bell pointing upward. Constructed using cylindrical tubing, the instrument has a smaller bore size than the Euphonium producing a sound that is midway between the brightness of the trombone and the mellow sound of the euphonium. They are pitched in B-flat, with the same pitch range as the tenor trombone. There are usually three piston type valves, although some baritones are made with four valves (the photo to the left shows a four-valve baritone). The fourth valve is utilised to improve the intonation of certain notes. The standard three-valve baritone often has a compensating system that uses connecting tubes between the valves to alter the length of the air column for particular valve combinations.

There are usually two baritone parts used in the Brass Band. First baritone often shares the bass line but may be used in unison with the melody line or can easily play an inner harmony part or countermelody. Second baritone shares the load and can also harmonise.

The baritone was rarely used as a solo instrument, as its agility and range are quite limited in comparison with the euphonium but many virtuosi players are now bringing it to the fore.

During the 1830s, instrument manufacturers in Germany and Austria began experimenting with designs of brass instruments in the baritone range, which eventually led to the present-day instrument. The length of the bell was shortened & the amount of tubing reduced whilst retaining the performance characteristics & intonation thus creating an instrument that is more compact, less prone to damage & easier to transport.

American versions of the instrument have a forward facing bell primarily for its use in marching bands. Older versions of the American Baritone had rearward facing bells from the time when the band was at the head of the column of soldiers circa 1850-1880.

The picture to the right shows a size comparison of the cornet against the Baritone

Information sources include:

'Musicarts.com.'

'The Brass Crest'

"The Shepherds Crook"

"Als Tenor Horn Page"



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