

A warm welcome to our Christmas Concert - and thanks for coming along tonight at this busy time of year. We're very much looking forward to an enjoyable evening of wonderful festive music to get us and you in the Christmas spirit.

As you may know the band started back in November 1978, which means that tonight is the band's 40th Christmas Concert...so I thought I'd again fill this page with a potted history of those Christmas Concerts. The Christmas Concert has always been one of my and the band's favourite events of the year, with our earliest Christmas Concerts at Heathlands school under Sid's baton remembered very fondly by those of us old enough to have been there. Sid's last concert with the band was Christmas 1989 which makes the Christmas concert even more special for us, and it's always poignant to think that some pieces, such as Christmas Festival and Christmas Favourites, span the band's history from those early concerts right up to this year's concert. Shortly after I took over the baton in the mid



1990s we were invited to play our Christmas Concert in West Bergholt Church, with the 50+ players just about fitting into the area between the organ, the altar and the pews...with the latter holding as many people as we could squeeze in. I recall those concerts equally fondly - the band and audience in such close proximity generated a wonderfully warm & convivial



atmosphere. Eventually the concert became so popular that we had to find a bigger venue...which led us to discover this gem of a church for our first concert here in Christmas 2012. Since then we've played a memorable Christmas Concert at the West Cliff Theatre with the Cavender Singers, returned to West Bergholt Church for a Christmas Concert (sans altar, organ & pews), and for the last few years have returned here.



As always, this year's Christmas Concert is a fun & relaxed evening where we celebrate another busy & successful year for the band by wearing daft hats and festive jumpers. You are of course welcome to join in with that, as well as with any of the pieces we play tonight...and remember, a set of keys can manage a pretty good sleigh bells impression if shaken firmly enough.

Everything you need to know about the band, including our 2018 concerts, open rehearsals and schools events, plus how to join us, (and we'd really like you to !) is on the band's website (www.wbcb.org), or you can call Graham on 07941 947541.

Finally - thanks again for coming - and we hope you enjoy the concert.

Christmas Concert



Saturday 16th December 2017

Church of St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall





West Bergholt Concert Band

(Founded in 1978 by Mr Sid Cooper)

Graham Wilson – Musical Director (1994-2017)



Concert Band

1. A Christmas Flourish James Curnow
2. A Most Wonderful Christmas arr Robert Sheldon
3. **Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem** arr Colin Evans
4. A Holst Christmas Gustav Holst arr Douglas E. Wagner
5. This Christmas Hathaway & McKinnor arr Ted Ricketts
6. A Jazzy Christmas Arr Johnnie Vinson

Training Band

1. I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas John Rox arr James Kazik
2. **Santa Meets the Big Bands (*)** arr James D. Ployhar
3. Do You Hear What I Hear N. Regney & G. Shayne arr M. Sweeney
4. **The 3-Minute Nutcracker (*)** Tchaikovsky arr Lloyd Conley
5. **Silver Bells (*)** Ray Evans & Jay Livingston arr Vinson
6. Rockin' Robin Jimmie Thomas arr Eric Osterling

Interval

Concert Band

1. We Need A Little Christmas Jerry Herman arr Ted Ricketts
2. **Concert Suite from The Polar Express (*)** G. Ballard & A. Silvestri arr J. Brubaker
3. **Wonderful Christmastime (*)** Paul McCartney arr Jay Dawson
4. **Once In Royal David's City** arr Colin Evans
5. A Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson
6. White Christmas Irving Berlin arr John Moss
7. Christmas Favourites arr James Christensen
8. Dixie Patrol Harold L. Walters

Vocalist : Mark Leah

(*) Premiere performance

West Bergholt Concert Band – 40th Anniversary Concerts - 2018

Sunday 11th March 3:00pm - West Cliff Theatre, Clacton

Sunday 10th June 2:30pm - Valley Farm, Flatford

Saturday 14th July 7:30pm - West Bergholt (TBC)

Saturday 17th November 7:30pm - St Peter ad Vincula, Coggeshall

Saturday 15th December 7:30pm - St Botolph's Colchester

See www.wbcband.org for details

We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful 2018.

Band starts again on Friday 5th January at Heathlands School.