

A warm welcome to our concert this evening - we are beyond delighted to be back playing indoor concerts especially in this fabulous venue, and are hugely grateful to you all for coming out to listen this evening. We realise there won't be as many as you as usual, so please spread out and make yourselves comfortable.

Due to Covid, tonight's concert will be different to our usual concert setup. As some of the band members are yet to return due to Covid concerns, we were left with gaps in both Training Band and Concert Band, so we've repeated the setup that worked so well at Flatford and merged the bands into one larger one. I'm expecting this to be the last time we do this as for Christmas we'll be back to normal.

Tonight's programme is also influenced by Covid, with the pieces selected from the 200+ pieces we played through during lockdowns at our hugely enjoyable weekly Zoom rehearsals. As a result of all that scanning (5000+ parts !) you'll be hearing pieces from across the band's history - including some which haven't been played since the early 1990's, some of our all time favourites, and some which are brand new and would have featured in our 2020 concerts.

As these are my first programme notes for 23 months, I must say a huge thanks to all of the band for coming back to band, and especially to those who came along to our weekly Zoom sessions. I don't think any of us imagined how long we'd be doing them for, how much fun they would be, or how they'd help build wider friendships within the band, but to be able to see everyone each week, play some tunes and have a laugh and a chat was an absolute joy. Friday's Zooms were something to look forward to and knowing that band was still running was incredibly important to me, even if I had to keep thinking of new & slightly mad themes each week to keep things fresh & fun. We even managed a virtual Christmas Concert (with Carol Music recorded remotely on mobiles & mixed in York), made the band's first recording, found out who has the fastest internet in the band and saw pictures of Merv's unusual Christmas lunch.

As always there are a number of people who've helped, supported or provided advice especially as we transitioned back to normal - Chris, Martin, Anne-Marie, Nick, Rachel, Ed, Paul, Ralph, Sian, Heathlands School - as well as tonight's guest players who are covering the gaps even a merged band still has - Kyle, Olly & Pam. A massive thanks from me & the band to all of them - and to anyone else I should have listed but haven't.

For me, lockdown reinforced this band's raison d'être of bringing musical fun and enjoyment to all ages & backgrounds. With almost 2 years worth of younger players leaving us for Uni and no opportunity to recruit, we'd especially welcome any new young musicians into the band to maintain our balance of all ages...so please come and talk to me, email me (Conductor@wcb.org), or phone me (07941 947541) if you'd like more information or are interested in joining. Our website (www.wcb.org) also has everything you need to know.

Finally - thanks again for coming - we appreciate your support especially tonight - and we hope you enjoy the concert. I know we're going to !

PS : It's my 125th consecutive concert as sole conductor of the band, so I think I'm getting the hang of them.



**Saturday 20th
November 2021**

**St Botolph's
Colchester**

West Bergholt Concert Band

(Founded in 1978 by Mr Sid Cooper)

Graham Wilson – Musical Director (1994-2021)

Combined Band

1. The Great Escape Elmer Bernstein arr Robert W. Smith
2. Don't Stop Believing Perry, Schon & Cain arr M. Brown
3. Highlights from Annie C. Strouse & M. Charnin arr J. Vinson
4. A Thousand Years D. Hodges & C. Perri arr Paul Murtha
5. Never Too Late (*) Elton John & Tim Rice arr Johnnie Vinson
6. Raiders John Williams arr Paul Lavender
7. A Whole New World (*) Alan Menken & Tim Rice arr Longfield
8. It Had Better Be Tonight Henry Mancini arr Roy Phillippe
9. Jurassic Park John Williams arr Eric Wilson
10. A Million Dreams B. Pasek & J. Paul arr Michael Brown
11. Try Everything Eriksen, Hermansen, Furler arr Conaway

Interval

West Bergholt Concert Band – Forthcoming Concerts

- Saturday 18th December 7:30pm - St Peter ad Vincula Coggeshall
- Sunday 20th March 3:00pm -West Cliff Theatre Clacton

See wbc.org for all of our 2022 concert dates (as they won't fit on here !)

Combined Band

1. The Muppet Show Theme Henson & Pottle arr Frank D. Cofield
2. Don't Cry For Me Argentina Rice & Lloyd-Webber arr Sweeney
3. A Bit Of Broadway arr Frank D. Cofield
4. No One Is Alone Sondheim arr Robert Longfield
5. John Williams Blockbusters (*) arr Paul Cook
6. Gabriel's Oboe Ennio Morricone arr Robert Longfield
Soloist : Clare van Mierlo
7. Music From Wicked S. Schwartz arr Michael Sweeney
8. I Dreamed A Dream C-M Schonberg arr Bob Lowden
9. I'll Be There For You arr Larry Clark
10. Go West arr Ralph Ford
11. Pokemon Theme Loeffler & Siegler arr Paul Murtha
12. Signature Tune : Dixie Patrol Harold L. Walters

(*) [Premiere performance](#)

Details of all our events can be found on our website (www.wbc.org).