

How time flies...it surely can't be a year since our last Christmas Concert, and three years since our last one here. We're delighted to be back home for Christmas, so a warm welcome to you all, thanks for coming tonight, and I hope we can make it worth the wait !

However quickly the last few years may have gone, the years before that have positively flown by. It's difficult to believe, but tonight is exactly 25 years since Sid last conducted the band, back in the days when the Christmas Concert, like most of our other concerts, was held in the school hall. The first rehearsal after that concert was undoubtedly the band's darkest hour, and the decision to continue the band with Jeff as conductor was an incredibly tough one to make. Sid was the band, and the band was Sid...I don't think anyone could imagine band without Sid, nor was anyone totally sure that continuing was the right thing to do, but it's fair to say, 25 years later, I think we got it right. I'm absolutely sure that Sid is still watching over the band, and I know that today's band members, and everyone who preceded them, would make him immensely proud.

The March following Sid's passing saw the band perform a very emotional memorial concert for Sid at a sold-out West Cliff Theatre, so I'm delighted that our March 2015 concert is also at that venue, and that Kathryn Cavender, who was a great friend of Sid's and encouraged both Jeff & I into music lessons with him, will be joining us. I'm also hoping that the intervening 25 years have made Dixie somewhat easier to get through than it was that night.

As "time" seems to have become the theme of this set of conductor's notes, I'd like to express my huge personal thanks to Alison, who as many of you know has given time and energy to the running of the band for many years. Only a few of you will know how close the July concert was to being my last one, and whilst I was pondering what to do over the summer, Alison stepped in and took a swathe of admin tasks away from me, enabling me to regain the time I need to spend with my children. Alison and I are probably unique in knowing how much time and effort it takes to keep this group going, so to those of you who are glad I'm still here - it's all down to the additional work Alison has taken on, and the time she has committed to the band behind the scenes. You all owe Alison the biggest possible debt of gratitude, as do I.

Thanks are also due to a long list of people...and Christmas is the traditional time - so :

- All of the band for their support, commitment, and occasional practice (wink)
- Ed - for being a one-man transportation, fixing, and problem solving service
- Gillian - for organising, writing and placing the band publicity
- Ian C & Ian M - for all the schools work, including four very successful workshops
- Ian C & Lynn C - for our weekly cakes & refreshments, and for getting me home
- Ian S - for sourcing and ordering all of the band's music
- Karen - for holding the fort at home whilst I'm at band or hiding away doing admin
- Michael - for all the music sorting & helping
- Moira - for covering band so I can go to Legoland occasionally
- Paul - for sorting the band finances
- Ralph - for continuing to maintain our fabulous website

As ever - please come and talk to me, or email me (Conductor@wbc.org), or phone me (01206 824157) if you'd like additional information on the band, or even better would like to join. The band's website (www.wbc.org) also has everything you need to know.

Finally – thanks again for coming, and we hope you enjoy the concert !



Saturday 12th December 2014

Church of St Mary The Virgin, West Bergholt



In aid of **East Anglia's
Children's Hospices**

(Charity No: 1069284)





West Bergholt Concert Band

(Founded in 1978 by Mr Sid Cooper)

Graham Wilson – Musical Director (1994-2014)



Concert Band

1. Dashing Through the Snow (*) J. Pierpont arr Richard Saucedo
2. A Fireside Christmas arr Sammy Nestico
3. Carol : Oh Little Town Of Bethlehem arr Colin Evans
4. An Olde English Christmas arr John Moss
5. Do They Know It's Christmas (*) arr Frank Bernaerts

Training Band

1. The Polar Express (*) G. Ballard & A. Silvestri arr J. Vinson
2. Holiday Bell Festival (*) arr Eric Osterling
3. All Is Well (*) Smith & Kirkpatrick arr M. Brown
4. Carol : The First Noel arr Colin Evans
5. Fantasia on "Christmas Comes Anew" (*) Traditional arr Michael Story
6. Let It Go Anderson-Lopez / Lopez arr J. Kazik
7. It's Beginning To Look Like Christmas Meredith Willson arr John Moss
8. Feliz Navidad Jose Feliciano arr Michael Brown

Interval

Concert Band

1. Christmas Festival Leroy Anderson
2. Oogie Boogie's Song (*) Danny Elfman arr Michael Brown
3. Carol : Once In Royal David's City arr Colin Evans
4. Walking In The Air (*) Howard Blake arr Stephen Barnwell
5. Happy Holiday / White Christmas Irving Berlin arr Ted Ricketts
6. Christmas Pipes (*) Brendan Graham arr Michael Brown
7. Christmas Recollections arr John Edmonson
8. Dixie Patrol Harold L. Walters

(*) Premiere performance

West Bergholt Concert Band – 2015 Concerts

- Sunday 22nd March 3:00pm – West Cliff Theatre, Clacton
- Saturday 14th June 3pm – Castle Park (provisional date)
- Saturday 11th July 7:30pm – Dedham Church (venue tbc)
- Saturday 14th November 7:30pm – Schools Concert (venue tbc)
- Saturday 12th December 7:30pm – St Peter Ad Vincula, Coggeshall

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

**We wish you all a very merry Christmas
and a wonderful 2015.**

Band starts again on Friday 9th Jan.