



FRIARY BRASS BAND

London & Southern Counties Regional Champions 2015 - date
Finalists, National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain 2013 – 2021
Audience Entertainment Award, Brass in Concert 2019 & 2021
Most Entertaining Band, Butlin's Mineworkers Contest 2015, 2017 & 2019
British Open Senior Trophy Champions 2014
First Section National Champions of Great Britain 2010

FRIARY DIARY – ISSUE 80 – NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to Friary Diary issue 80 - a monthly round-up of news about the Friary Brass Band.

**STOP PRESS: FRIARY RETAINS AUDIENCE ENTERTAINMENT AWARD AT BRASS IN CONCERT
ISOBEL DAWS SCOOPS TWO AWARDS! Please read on for more details.**

WOKING CONCERT: Friary received the warmest of welcomes at the Woking Salvation Army on 13th November for our first indoor concert since February 2020. The first half ran along traditional concert lines with a varied programme including Gregson's *Prelude for an Occasion*, Borodin's *Polovtsian Dances* and first class solos from Chris Straker (*Grandfather's Clock*) and Lauren Straker (*Send in the Clowns*).

The second half provided an opportunity to run out the Brass in Concert programme which was well received by the enthusiastic audience, although a few final changes were made subsequently before the final version was rolled out in Gateshead. We thank the Salvation Army for their hospitality.

REMEMBRANCE: It was a busy weekend for the Band: our Woking concert on Saturday evening was followed by Remembrance Sunday. As usual, Friary led Guildford's Remembrance parade down the High Street to Castle Grounds where a short service took place. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Band.

On Armistice Day, cornet player Simon Persin sounded *The Last Post* and *Reveille* from the Guildhall balcony: well played and thank you, Simon.



Armistice Day (photo: Shirley West)

BRASS IN CONCERT: The long trek to Gateshead the weekend before last proved to be well worthwhile for Friary. The Band successfully defended the Audience Entertainment Award, taking just under a third of the total audience vote, and our star trombonist, Isobel Daws winning two soloist awards for her dazzling performance of Arthur Pryor's classic *The Bluebells of Scotland*.

Drawn to be the final band of the contest, Friary took to the stage at 8.30pm; it had been a long wait. The Band presented the sequel to the successful 2019 programme of Princess Isobel's quest for true love, aided by her enchanting trombone, and was again narrated by the excellent Tim Mylchreest. Bach's *In Thee is Joy*, provided a suitably majestic opening to introduce the princess. Despite Princess Isobel's successful wooer in the previous episode, Tubalini, proving to be a disappointment, everything in the kingdom was good. That provided a suitable link to the second in Friary's programme: a new arrangement by Callum Au of *What a Wonderful World*, a cornet solo by Richard Straker.



Celebrating with Princess Isobel! (photo: Jenny Crossfield)

Sadly, though, the idyllic world in Friaryland did not last, with good king Christoph being struck down by a terrible lurgy, the only known antidote being some magic bluebells only found in the far-off land of Scotlandia. Princess Isobel set off to find them, aided by her trombone. Another new Callum Au arrangement of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn classics, including *Take the A Train* and *Caravan* provided the soundtrack for the journey, cleverly plotted on screen. Arriving in the wild wood where the bluebells were growing, Princess Isobel charmed them with a virtuoso performance of Arthur Pryor's *The Bluebells of Scotland* before returning to Friaryland and healing her father (although he might require a bluebell booster after six months!). And so the circle of life continued, and Friary's set concluded with a new arrangement by Chris King of that Elton John/Tim Rice showstopper from *The Lion King*.

The adjudicators made many favourable comments about the performance: 'This was so entertaining'; 'This is a well organised outfit'; 'A cleverly concocted and performed programme'; 'Captivating from start to finish (*What a Wonderful World*) ... a brilliant soloist with innate lyricism and an impressive range too.' But the highest plaudits were deservedly for Isobel Daws: 'Truly virtuosic trombone playing'; 'Top drawer stuff'; 'Wow! I've been waiting for this all day! Stunning artistry – world class.' Those final comments came from euphonium virtuoso David Childs who was judging soloists and awarded Isobel not only the Don Lusher Trophy for the best trombone but also the Geoffrey Whitham Trophy for the best overall soloist.

With the markings based on performance quality, programme content, entertainment and presentation, Friary was placed 8th overall based on, narrowly missing out on 7th on a tie-break. The audience clearly loved the programme, with 32% of the total vote going to Friary.

Defending Brass in Concert champions Cory took the top slot, with National champions Foden's runners-up and Flowers completing the podium places. Warmest congratulations to all of them. For full details of all the awards and a report on the contest, please go to <https://www.4barsrest.com/news/53285/report-result-2021-brass-in-concert-championship>

Finally, it would be remiss not to mention our Chairman, Nigel Stevens, who helped ensure that the contest went ahead safely and successfully in these exceptional times. As a director of Brass in Concert, Nigel was unable to play with the Band but we are all immensely grateful to him and all involved with the organisation of the day.

HOG'S BACK BREWERY CAROL CONCERT: Our next engagement is a carol concert at the Hog's Back Brewery, Tongham on Sunday 5th December at 3.00pm. As for the Salvation Army concert, numbers are strictly limited and tickets must be booked in advance. Contact the brewery via <https://hogsback.co.uk/collections/tap-events/products/christmas-at-the-hogs-back-tap>

RANKING NEWS: As at 13th October, Friary is 25th in the world. For full ranking details, please go to <https://www.4barsrest.com/rankings/>

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Sun 5th Dec	Carol concert	Hog's Back Brewery, Tongham	3.00pm
Sun 12th Dec	Carolling	The Meadows, Sandhurst	11.00am
2022			
Sun 30th Jan	Afternoon concert	Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney	2.30pm
Sat 26th Mch	Joint concert with Vivace Chorus	G-Live, Guildford	Evening
Sun 30th Oct	Afternoon concert	The Hawth, Crawley	3.00pm

For further information, please contact Tim Straker, Public Relations Officer, Friary Brass Band
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