

## **SURREY BRASS CHAIMAN'S REPORT FOR 2002**

Our first engagement was a charity event at Newland House School where we played an assortment of standard repertoire pieces to an enthusiastic audience and helped to raise £1,400 for Barnardo's. Later on in the year we took part in a fundraising event for Reed's school.

The first major concert of our own was held in Holy Trinity Church, Claygate and featured a selection of fanfares, which were judged by a panel of professional musicians, the winning composers received cash prizes. Hugh Davies performed two solo items, which added to a warmly received concert.

Our next outing was a trio of events to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The first was poorly attended partly due to the rain. The second was poorly attended because it was in Woking and the third was well attended because the rain had stopped and hundreds of people gathered to see the fireworks & beacon lighting in Riegate. It was a long day but was good PR for the group as well as being fun in a kind of masochistic way. John Goodwin had a particularly long day as he was being broadcast on the radio before the events took place. This started a relationship with the BBC who recommended the group to play at two events at the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley. These were also enjoyable and good publicity for the group. We were then booked for a wedding in Ham House where the events co-ordinator was very impressed and wanted to take our details for future engagements.

The latter half of the year kept us busy with an exciting Russian concert, a Venetian concert (both featuring the sonorous tones of Robin Smith) and two Christmas concerts. The first two stretched the performers to their limits and in the case of the Venetian evening the performance was far from polished. There was much to learn from both events especially the importance of regular *full* rehearsals. We have suffered over the year with a lack of regular trombonists and it has been difficult to arrange enough full rehearsals well before a concert date. Consequently, we end up rehearsing too long on the day and are too exhausted to pull off a first rate performance in the evening. It was decided that in 2003 we would only have two major concerts. The first concert is to be of English Music, and the other based on theme of "Star Crossed Lovers". We have also decided to make a promotional CD. Although this seems like a much easier program for the year it is important that we use the extra rehearsal time to improve the standard of our performances, and that we try to make each one count.

On a brighter note, the two Christmas events were successful in almost every way, with items from Reed's Chapel Choir, The Ripieno Choir, children from St Anne's school in Chertsey, as well as distinguished reader, all adding to well rounded concerts, which left us with a feeling that Surrey Brass really was on the map.

WS

15/01/03