

Minutes of Surrey Brass Concert Planning Meeting held Weds 10 Jan 2007 in The Plough, Cobham

Minutes by COO.

Present

Steve Dawes, John Goodwin, Cyril Stoneham, Huw Evans, Michael Straker,
Tim Costen, Iain McDonald, Michael Chapple.
Apologies - Adrian Warren.

Purpose

To plan the concert programme for 2007 and 2008.

Topics covered:

- Dates
- Venues
- Repertoire
- Appointment of new MD
- Recruitment
- Development of Core Offering (e.g. the story of brass)
- Showmanship (projection of personality, dress)
- Branding

Note Minutes are not in the order in which events were discussed.

Note all concerts are provisional unless marked [Definite].

We should all be aware that the concert programme concluded by the meeting was embryonic and needs a great deal more work.

- ACTION Secretary > Arrange Concert Planning meeting 7th February 2007 in The Plough to fix repertoire for all 2007 concerts in stone!
- ACTION Fixer/COO > Contact potential Venues to determine Availability and Cost.

The latest state of play is always on the website Events page. Members please use it to remain informed and up to date!

Repertoire

Principle agreed to recycle repertoire more for concerts. If a piece is popular it will bear a repeat performance. If it's in our repertoire we win back rehearsal time for new stuff. However recycling needs careful planning of course.

Action > VC Identify all proposed arrangements and commissions asap

Action > COO Progress Concorde idea urgently

MD Selection

It was agreed to invite candidates to each take one rehearsal starting immediately. The group would decide the way ahead once we had trialled candidates.

- Action SD to book conductors.
- Action SD to speak to Lev re 2008 possibilities – Pictures in particular.

Recruitment

Will Spencer will not return until summer 07 at the earliest and Richard Knights will not be available until April. A new trumpet player has approached us and hopefully will try out but she is not a strong player after having a lay off. We need a couple of other good new trumpet recruits. Holly Ransom, our original Bass Trombonist has returned to UK permanently, living in Kew and is keen to fill in where possible on Bass or Tenor.

ACTION> Fixer to headhunt candidates. COO to trawl historic emails etc. for candidates.

Showmanship

Our showmanship could be improved very significantly, to our benefit. Items to work on include:

- MD charisma, chat and liaison with audience
- Soloist engagement with audience
- Chats to the audience to tell them about the music, instruments, etc.
- Players projecting their personality more
- Soloists projecting personality more
- Dress code change from all black – but to what?
- Develop a “core offering” e.g. “the history of brass” or “how instrument work” around which a concert could be constructed. We could be innovative here!
- **ACTION> Prepare to Discuss next meeting**

Branding

- Who has heard of us and why?
- What do they think of us and why?
- What is the perception of the SB Brand? Is it “innovative and entertaining”?
- What do we need to do to make our brand, and our “product” work much better?
- **ACTION> Prepare to Discuss next meeting**

2007 Concerts

- **Note Half term is w/c 15 Oct 2007 and w/c 22 Oct 2007. Avoid!**

[Definite] 3rd March 2007 Pyrford Charity Concert

Concert Manager Michael Chapple

No fee, cash neutral with profits going to charity (which one not yet known). We need to minimise costs, hence no MD and percussion only if FOC/cheap. Marketing done by MC and charity and church. If numbers are same as Tsunami Brass this will be a good start to 2007.

Repertoire suggestions

- Half a programme, no MD required
- QOS
- Blooz March
- Midnight in Merstham
- A few felines
- Sabre Dance

[Definite] 4th May 2007 Brooklands Museum Elmbridge Festival

Concert Manager John Goodwin MD Tom Hammond ???

Opening concert of Elmbridge Cultural Festival to invited audience only. Reps from all 60 organisations in the festival will be invited – great for partnerships! We play under the Sopwith Camel in the Hangar at Brooklands Museum. Underwriting grant. New commission idea well received but needs to be made to stick.

Repertoire suggestions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on theme of cars and planes • Magnificent Men (must) • 633 (must) • Concorde (commission) • Star Wars • Eagles Dare • How it feels to be run over • Italian Job • Thunderbirds • Flower Duet • Great Escape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top Gear • Formula 1 theme • Knight Rider • Spitfire • Dambusters • Tijuana Taxi •
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Other Notes

- **Plan to get underwriting grant for this show**
- **Plan to get underwriting grant for new commission**

[Definite] 23rd June 2007 Hersham Brass and Organ

Concert Manager Adrian Warren, MD Richard Stubbings?

Good audience last year, should be financially secure especially if we get some support. Still need to market well and put on exciting show, but with some repeats of popular numbers and core repertoire.

Repertoire suggestions

- Widor Toccata
- Suite Gothique
- Pian e Forte
- In Ecliesis
- Walton Spitfire
- Pictures extract
- Gabriel's Oboe
- Also Sprach
- Bourgeois Serenade
- Dave Horden Solo, Tim Costen Hunter's Moon, other solos
- Burnham Beeches
- Manfredini/Vivaldi/Bach Double Concerto

Other Notes

- **Plan to get underwriting grant for this show**
- **The “Brass and Organ” concept is portable to just about any church. We may care to exploit that for example do a repeat somewhere else e.g. St. Martins Epsom or the large parish church in Dorking. However we would need a good relationship with the church and local arts organisation to be assured of a good audience.**

July 2007 Electric Guildford (?) SB 5th Birthday Concert

Concert Manager TBD, MD Robin Smith?

2007 is the fifth full year of Surrey Brass and it's an excuse to have a party! Aim is to get some corporate underwriting from PKF who underwrote us in the Guildford Spring Festival in 2006.

Repertoire suggestions

- Audience favourites
- Also Sprach
- Sabre Dance
- Cats
- Aces High
- Napoli and other solos
- Gabrieli
- Concorde
- Happy Birthday variations
- Queen of Sheba

Other Notes

- Plan to get this underwritten by PKF

3rd November 2007 Venue TBD Around the World in 80 Minutes Brass and Percussion

Concert Manager Cyril Stoneham MD ???

- Joint concert with Impact Percussion
- THIS WILL BE EXPENSIVE TO PUT ON Impact want a lot of money
- Grant applications sought in Waverley
- No venue yet will need to be spacious and big, could be St. Saviours, Kingston PC, Christ Church Woking, Landmark etc.

Repertoire suggestions

- Music from each country
- Lots of African and Latin Percussion, gamelan, etc.
- Nigel Hess Global Variations (arr. Pinton)
- YPG
- Bohemian Rhapsody
- Suite Monette (Brazil)

- Tij
- Common Man
- Zulu
- Australia Fanfare
- Russian stuff
- Rising Sun
- Finlandia
- Lord of Dance
- Last Post (next day is 11/11)

Early Dec 2007 Walton Screen Cinema Fun at the Flicks

Concert Manager TBD MD none

Repeat of community carols. Paid gig.

Repertoire suggestions

- Christmas Trios
- Christmas Choones

9/16/23 December 2007 Hambledon Village Christmas

Concert Manager Jackie Kendle MD none

Repeat of 2006 concert, well attended. Only just paid gig, good for partnership with Impact Percussion. Have to influence this to make it lead somewhere, since it's not much of a gig as it stands.

Repertoire suggestions

- Quintet with Impact Percussion

[Pencil] 15th December 2007 Landmark Carols By Candlelight

Concert Manager TBD MD TBD

Not sure whether we will do this one or not, unless we can be sure of a larger audience base. Better marketing will help. A "big name" MC may attract an audience outside the friends and family circuit. Takes a lot of organising and the choir may want more money this time. Could also do with more rehearsal!

Repertoire suggestions

- Usual Tosh plus a new "big piece" for choir and brass – "Angels" by William Berry.
- COO has some ideas for innovative (bought in) Christmas Repertoire!
- Depends on choirs etc.
- Not sure whether we want to do this gig here due to declining audience.

?? December 2007 Dorking? Candles by Carolight

Concert Manager same as Landmark? MD TBD

Repeat the magic Christmas formula somewhere else to try and revive audience numbers. Partner with local adult and childrens choir to get the local F&F core, supplement with walk ins and advertising. May need local MD too.

Repertoire suggestions

- Same or similar repertoire as Landmark, contracts permitting.
- Dorking Choral Society?
- Different, local kids choir (better be good!)

2008 Concerts

March 2008 Guildford Spring Music Festival, Electric Theatre

Concert Manager TBD MD TBD

Repeat of 2006 event, if underwritten. Need to get this one sorted in principle Q1/07 if possible.

Repertoire suggestions

- NOTE this will likely be a weekday gig
- “Versatile Brass” type, or “Brass Journey”

May 2008 St Peters Hersham Brass and Organ

Concert Manager Adrian Warren MD TBD

If they liked 2007 we’ll do it again. If they didn’t, we’ll do it somewhere else.

Repertoire suggestions

- Mix of 2006 and 2007 repertoire plus new brass and organ big piece

Other Notes

- **Plan to get underwriting grant for this show**

July 2008 Farnham Maltings? “Pictures”

Concert Manager TBD MD TBD

This is far enough in advance for us to commission new art works and music to go with it. Would need to choose date carefully wrt term end etc. Would need a rather large grant for that, hence Awards for All application is essential plus other funding too. Involve Surrey College of Art (if willing) if not another art college. They could go mad decorating the venue! Make money by auctioning artwork, run composing competition one piece per picture per composer, or.....

Repertoire suggestions

- Commission of new “Pictures” music to go with new artwork
- Some Mussorgsky Pictures for the first half (!)

- Needs at least 6/7 rehearsals beforehand.

Late October 2008 Venue TBD Jazz Night

Concert Manager Huw Evans MD Bill Geldard

We have 2 years to learn how to swing. Could combine with a dinner perhaps? Vocalists would add a lot to this gig. Need a solid backing section. May prefer to use sax section instead of horns and turn ourselves into a big band for the night?

Repertoire suggestions

- Er... Jazzy stuff
- Some with vocalist?
- Need a strong Perc/Rhythm section

Christmas 2008 Venue TBD

- Something will happen!

Ideas for other shows which we can't afford yet

Date TBD Venue TBD Independent Schools Brass Massive

Concert Manager Steve Dawes MD TBD

- **This concert was NOT discussed at the meeting but added as a post meeting note.**
- **As an alternative to the SCA-linked Brass Massive, SD suggests involving Independent Schools in Surrey instead. There would be no conflict of interest with SCA and it would introduce us to a new audience. The schools might even have some money too!**
- **Could alternate annually between public and private sector.**

Repertoire suggestions

- Massive Music!
- Star Guests