



BUGLE

The Newsletter of the Friary Guildford Band

All American!



Friary on stage at the Octagon, Yeovil where they performed their American themed programme (pic. Chromum Records)

The start of 2013 has already seen a packed schedule for Friary including two contests which have gained superb results. The annual trip down to Yeovil yielded the Band's most successful result at the contest to date and there was also a good turnout at scaba's solo, quartet and ensemble competition. Also, rehearsals have started for the 'Brassed Off' production which takes place at the Electric Theatre, Guildford in May with the Pranksters Theatre Company. Looking forward to the Spring contests, the Band will be hoping to secure a trip to the National Finals at the Albert Hall by coming in the top two at the Area Qualifier contest in March.

Fundraising efforts pay off

The Band has recently been on a bit of a spending spree, buying some essential pieces of kit.

Firstly, Friary have a new set of walking out jackets. After initially looking to replace their navy jackets nearly two years ago, three companies later, a well fitting set of black jackets complete with badges arrived in time to be debuted at Yeovil. These were paid for using subscriptions to the Supporters' Club so the Bugle would like to thank all the supporters for their generosity.

A set of vibes have also been purchased using some of the money raised through carolling during the Christmas period. Eagle eyed chairman, Nigel Stevens saw some listed on eBay and scooped a bargain for the Band. More and more frequently, pieces require vibes and now we won't have to keep borrowing them from other bands!

Finally, the cornets have a new set of matching mutes, essential for an even sound and tuning across the section. Bright blue, you're sure to notice them at our next concert!



Friary couple get engaged!



Friary couple Richard Straker (principal cornet) and Lauren Cave (Flugel) have recently got engaged. "Richard popped the question on New Years Eve and for the first time ever I was stuck for words!" said Lauren.

Naturally, the Band will play a big part of their day with the 10 piece playing during the ceremony which will be in September this year.

Taking a break...

Two of Friary's members are to take a little timeout from the Band. Both Tim Gregory (cornet) and Alan Westwood (B flat bass) will be stepping down due to heavy work commitments. The Band looks forward to their return.

Ranking check

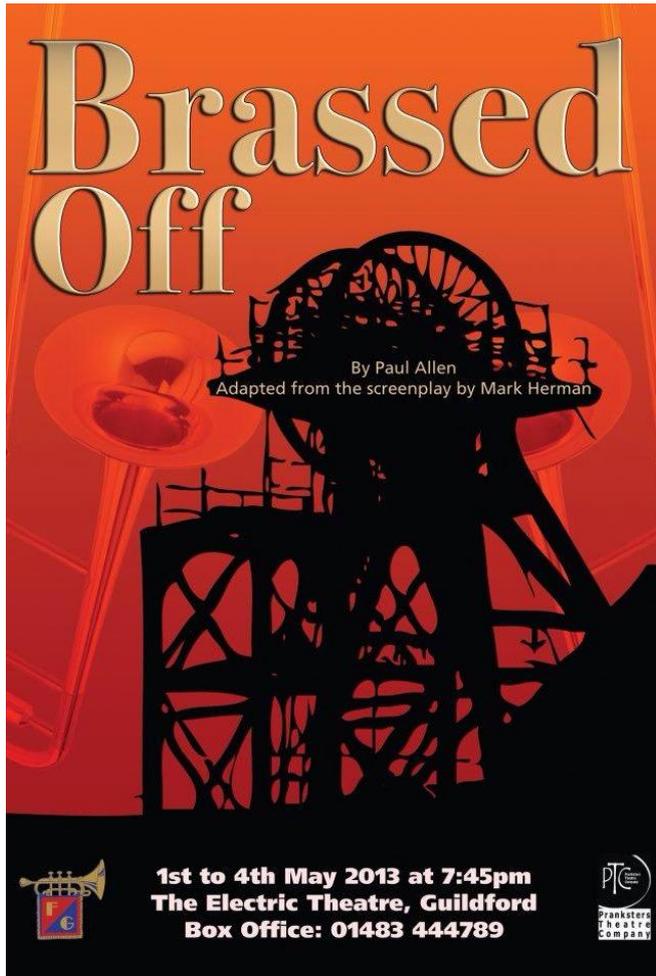
Currently, Friary is number

64 (no change)

in the 4barsrest/British Bandsman world rankings.

For a full list of the top 200 bands visit

www.4barsrest.com/rankings/



Rehearsals have begun in earnest for the upcoming production 'Brassed Off' in which Friary are playing an integral part. The play, which follows Grimley Colliery Band is based on the story of Grimethorpe's pit closure and features the music from the award winning film. It became clear early on in rehearsals that band members were going to be expected to bring out their 'luvvy' sides with scenes that involve some acting. Two band members, Mike Trumble and Phil German even have on stage wives!

Production director Marie Gardner said "The band have been such a pleasure to work with. They are so professional and add something really special to the show. The audience are in for a real treat!"

The production runs from 1st to 4th May at the Electric Theatre, Guildford and tickets can be purchased in advance from Guildford Tourist Information (tel: 01483 789789).

MD in A&E

Musical Director, Chris King has recently had a nasty slip which left him with his arm in plaster.

Returning home from work, Chris lost his footing just metres from his front door and fell heavily, breaking his wrist. The accident happened just a couple of days after Yeovil contest. It could have been very interesting on stage if it had happened before! "It was very embarrassing" said Chris. "Luckily I can carry on conducting but my cast makes turning the pages of my scores very difficult!"



Yeovil Entertainment Contest

Contest: Yeovil Entertainment
Location: The Octogan, Yeovil
Date: 2nd February 2013
Programme: 76 Trombones
(Own Choice) Overture: *Candide*
 Saturday Serenade
 Sing, Sang, Sung
 An American Tale

Adjudicator: Chris Davis OBE
Position: 2/8



Friary celebrate their best result at Yeovil

Friary Guildford Band kicked off their contest season in fine form at Yeovil with a performance which wowed the adjudicator and turned the form book on its head. Second to odds-on favourites and defending champions Flowers, the Band pulled off their American-themed programme in superb style, leaving much-fancied West Country opposition trailing in their wake.

Opening their programme with the classic march *76 Trombones*, arranged by Musical Director Chris King, they then showed their musical finesse with the overture to Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*. Principal cornet Richard Straker took centre stage with the solo *Saturday Serenade*, from Philip Sparke's *Manhattan* cornet concerto, which was followed by *Sing, Sang, Sung*. The stunning performance concluded with the rousing *An American Tale* by Dan Price, with moving narration about the American Civil War by band newcomer Mike Trumble.

Adjudicator Chris Davis summed up the programme as 'innovative and well-executed'. Band Secretary Lauren Cave was delighted with the result. 'We put so

much hard work into the programme, it's fantastic to perform so well in such a strong field. We're going to celebrate our success – but only briefly! Tomorrow we knuckle down to our preparations for the Regional Championships at Stevenage on 17th March. This result will give us such a boost, as we are hoping to qualify for the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall, having missed out by one place last year,' she added.

Thanks goes to Simon Tong (Soprano) and Matt Tallamy (percussion), for their help at this contest.

Full results as follows:

Band	Points	Pos.
Flowers	197	1
Friary	194	2
Mount Charles	193	3
Jackfield	191	4
Woodfalls	190	5
Bournemouth	189	6
Cambourne	187	7
Brunel	186	8

scaba Solo, Quartet & Ensemble Contest

Contest: SCABA Solo, Q&E
Location: St. Paul's College, Burgess Hill
Date: 16th February 2013
Results:
Open Ensemble: 1st
Open Quartet: 1st

Slow Melody: 1st Chris Straker (Euphonium)
 2nd Lauren Cave (Flugel)
 3rd Richard Straker (Cornet)

Senior Solo: 1st Chris Straker (Euphonium)
 2nd Richard Straker (Cornet)

Adjudicators: Nicholas Garman (Q&E)
 Alan Duguid (Solos)

Friary maintained their impressive record at the Southern Counties Amateur Bands' Association Solo, Quartet and Ensemble contest at Burgess Hill, winning both the Quartet and Ensemble classes for the fourth successive year. 'We know that there was some determined opposition, bent on taking the Ensemble title away from us,' explained Band Chairman, Nigel Stevens, 'But we managed to pull it off once again. We'd put in some serious practice over the past few weeks, and this clearly paid off.'

In the open solo classes, Friary's solo euphonium player, Chris Straker picked up first place for both Air Varie and Slow Melody, with flugel horn player Lauren Cave taking second in the Slow Melody, and principal cornet Richard Straker taking second in the Air Varie and third in the Slow Melody. 'It was something of a family affair,' acknowledged Chris Straker, 'Particularly as my brother Richard will be getting married to Lauren in September!'



Friary prizewinners pose with their silverware

Not only that, Lauren Cave's youngest brother Braedyn aged 8 and sister Madisyn aged 6, who play for Aveley & Newham Juniors, took first and second in their Junior Slow Melody class, whilst younger brother Rhys (aged 18), a Thundersley Brass player, won the Youth Slow Melody class, with Braedyn taking third place. Madisyn also won the award for the youngest player on the day.

Friary Christmas Concert Review

The second of Friary's self promoted concerts took place in December with a Christmas theme and it was a resounding success.

Continuing to evolve the series of concerts, the Band decided to invite vocalist, Darren Bartlett (left) to perform two sets as well as a couple of joint numbers during the evening. The programme featured two of Friary's soloists with Principal Cornet, Richard Straker playing the lyrical 'Saturday Serenade' and Emma Stoffer wowing the audience with a swift whip through 'Helter Skelter'. The audience lapped up crowd pleaser 'Bohemian Rhapsody' before the finale 'Silent Night' which saw the lights dimmed and Darren singing again.



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The evening also saw the annual player awards presented by MD Chris King. Richard Straker picked up the 'Player of the Year' award with Nick Krebs nominated the 'Most Improved Player'. Kevin Webb was awarded the 'Bandsman of the Year' which was voted for by band members.



(left to right) Richard, Nick and Kevin pick up their awards

FRIARY DIARY

- **17th March** **Area qualifer contest**
● All Day Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage
- **15th April** **AGM**
● 20:00 Chobham Club, Chobham
- **28th April** **scaba Spring contest**
● All Day The Hawth, Crawley
- **1st-4th May** **'Brassed Off' production**
● 19:45 The Electric Theatre, Guildford
● (plus 14:30 Matinee on 4th)
- **11th May** **Senior Trophy contest**
● All Day The Winter Gardens, Blackpool
- **26th May** **Masters contest**
● All Day The Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering
- **7th July** **Bandstand concert**
● 15:00-17:00 Godalming Bandstand, Godalming
- **13th July** **Friary Summer Concert**
● 19:00 United Reformed Church, Woking

More details on all events on our website:

www.friaryguildfordband.co.uk

Or contact our secretary:

Lauren Cave 07974 804394
secretary@friaryguildfordband.co.uk

Bugle Call!

Don't forget that our next self promoted concert is coming up on **13th July**. Please come along and enjoy our evening of entertainment. If anyone would like to hear a certain piece, please feel free to send in your request to supporters@friaryguildfordband.co.uk. We'd also be interested to hear from anyone who would be prepared to volunteer their services, helping out by selling raffle tickets to serving refreshments. See you there!