



PRESS KIT

LANCASTER BRITISH BRASS BAND
www.LancasterBBB.org

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This press kit contains the following information

- A profile of the Lancaster British Brass Band
- LBBB Snapshot
- A biography of the Conductor
- A listing of instrumentation and board members
- Sample Repertoire

High-Resolution files of the LBBB and its logo are available on the band's website for downloading. Go to www.LancasterBBB.org and click on the "Public Relations" tab. This page also has mp3 audio samples of the band available for downloading.

Staying in the tradition of the original brass bands, the LBBB is an all-volunteer 501-C3 non-profit organization. The band is available for hire to perform year-round at a variety of events. Please contact us for a customized quote for your performance.

A Profile of the Lancaster British Brass Band

The Lancaster British Brass Band was founded in 2004 by Paul Belser, Walter Blackburn and Rick Staherski, three well-known Lancaster, Pennsylvania, musicians. They saw the need for and the potential of a highly professional musical ensemble of this type for the region. A roster of first-rank professional brass and percussion players from a four state region was drawn up, music chosen, and a concert schedule with appropriate rehearsals established. The premier concert was given on April 30, 2005, in downtown Lancaster at the historic First Presbyterian Church to an enthusiastic and overflowing crowd.

The band continues to draw large and enthusiastic audiences, continuing the brass band tradition which began over a century and a half ago in the British Isles.

The Lancaster British Brass Band follows the path first laid down in the smoky mill and mining towns of mid-nineteenth century Britain. Gradually evolving into a fixed instrumentation of 28 players (and 1 conductor), the brass band flourished under the sponsorship of mill and mine owners bent on “morale and spiritual uplift”. Thus laying the groundwork for a later time when the Salvation Army began capitalizing on the success of the bands by establishing brass bands as part of their outreach through music.

For concert programs brass bands borrow from virtually every musical genre. A typical program consists of transcriptions of the classics, marches, hymns, popular music arrangements, solos and, last but not least, original compositions written for the medium. In keeping with the democratic spirit of the brass band movement, a small committee selects all programs. A balanced presentation that attempts to please a wide range of tastes and interests is the goal.

The unique sound quality of the Lancaster Brass Band is due to its being composed entirely of brass winds and percussion instruments. (Woodwinds are an integral part of the symphony orchestra and the military-style concert band). The sound of the Lancaster British Brass Band has been compared to “one big, magnificent pipe organ.”

LBBB Snapshot

The Lancaster British Brass Band consists of 28 players including 3 percussionists. It draws its personnel from the four state region of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Originally conceived as a top-level, professional quality ensemble, it includes among its membership professional solo and ensemble players and music teacher/performers. The band members bring years of playing and teaching experience to the organization from such diverse institutions as The United States Marine Band, the Lancaster, Harrisburg, Reading and York Symphony Orchestras, and L'Orchestra del Maggio Musicale of Florence, Italy. Many Players are currently engaged as teachers in various public and private school venues and in such institutions of higher learning as West Chester and Millersville Universities, Lebanon Valley College, and The University of Delaware.

Conductor Biography and Personnel List

Dr. Stephen Allen, Conductor

Dr. Stephen Arthur Allen came to prominence in the UK as one of the finest euphonium players of his generation. He was awarded the ALCM at age 16 and achieved national distinction in competition, winning the Open section of the British National Solo Championships. He was awarded a Royal Academy Scholarship by legendary brass band composer Eric Ball, OBE and Geoffrey Brand, conductor of Black Dyke Band.

An associate professor of music at Rider University, Dr. Allen is also a visiting professor of Euphonium at Rutgers University in New Jersey. In 2004 Dr. Allen founded the Princeton Brass Band, ensemble-in-residence at Rider University since 2010, of which he is Musical Director. Since 2008 Dr. Allen has served the North American Brass Band Association (NABBA), most recently becoming its President for 2011-13.

Dr. Allen is a recorded and published composer. His *Gaudy Flourishes* was commissioned by and premiered at Oxford University and his *Heroes: A Symphonic Fanfare* was written with a Rider Fellowship in Composition. Receiving his doctorate in 2003 from Oxford University, Dr. Allen is a world authority in the operas and music of Benjamin Britten on which he is widely published.

The LBBB is made up of a very strict roster of 28 musicians as outlined below:

Soprano Cornet (1)

Solo Cornets (4)

2nd Cornet (2)

3rd Cornet (2)

Repiano Cornet (1)

Flugelhorn (1)

Tenor Horn (3)

Baritone Horn (2)

Euphonium (2)

Tenor Trombone (2)

Bass Trombone (1)

Eb Tuba (2)

BBb Tuba (2)

Timpani (1)

Percussion (2)

Sample Repertoire

<i>Tower Music</i>	Jean-Francois Michel
<i>English Folk Song Suite</i>	Vaughan Williams
<i>Scarborough Fair</i>	English folk song
<i>Colonel Bogey</i>	Kenneth J. Alford
<i>The Standard of St. George</i>	Kenneth J. Alford
<i>Overture to The Force of Destiny</i>	Giuseppe Verdi
<i>Royal Water Music</i>	George Frederick Handel
<i>Vocalise</i>	Sergei Rachmaninov
<i>Abide With Me</i>	W.H. Monk
<i>Jerusalem</i>	Hubert H. Parry
<i>Cwm Rhondda</i>	John Hughes
<i>Cross of Honour</i>	William Rimmer
<i>Radetsky March</i>	Johann Strauss
<i>Fanfare and Flourishes</i>	James Curnow
<i>The Great Gate of Kiev</i>	Modeste Moussorgsky
<i>Valdres</i>	Johannes Hanssen
<i>Rolipops</i>	Jean-Francois Michel
<i>Men of Harlech</i>	traditional Welsh
<i>Gaelforce</i>	Peter Graham
<i>Overture for Brass Band: Henry the Fifth</i>	Vaughan Williams
<i>Basin Street Blues</i>	Spencer Williams
<i>Let's Face the Music and Dance</i>	Irving Berlin
<i>Lux Arumque</i>	Eric Whitacre Arr. Scott Loose
<i>Music for a Festival</i>	Phillip Sparke
<i>Suite for Brass</i>	Bulla
<i>Suite Gothique</i>	Boellman
<i>Windows of the World</i>	Peter Graham
<i>The Cossack</i>	Rimmer

...And Much More!