



PRESS KIT

LANCASTER BRITISH BRASS BAND
www.LancasterBBB.org

For bookings, inquires, or other information contact:

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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.

Now beginning its fifth season, 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

Walter Blackburn, Conductor

Walter Blackburn, Music Professor Emeritus of Millersville University, completed music degrees at West Chester (Music Education) and the University of Indiana (Conducting), Bloomington, Indiana. Subsequent studies were at Temple University, Peabody Institute and the Dalcroze Institute in Geneva, Switzerland. He taught instrumental and vocal music in the New Jersey public schools and at Drexel University, where he founded the university wind ensemble and orchestra in 1964. While serving on the faculty at Millersville, he directed the choral program and taught voice, rhythmic training and choral and instrumental conducting. In addition he was Principal Conductor and Chorus Master of Opera Lancaster for 15 years. He has been the conductor of the Lancaster Chamber Singers and for 40 years served as guest conductor for numerous high school band, choral and orchestra festivals. More recently he has taught conducting at Elizabethtown and Lebanon Valley Colleges. He currently teaches ear training, harmony and piano at home.

Board of Directors

Paul Belser, President
Doug Albert, Vice President
Scott Loose
Rick Staherski
Gene Clark

Bob Belser, Treasurer
Walter Blackburn, Secretary

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

Soprano Cornet (1)	Bass Trombone (1)
Solo Cornets (4)	Eb Tuba (2)
2nd Cornet (2)	BBb Tuba (2)
3rd Cornet (2)	Timpani (1)
Repiano Cornet (1)	Percussion (2)
Flugelhorn (1)	
Tenor Horn (3)	
Baritone Horn (2)	
Euphonium (2)	
Tenor Trombone (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!