



The Newsletter of St Kilda Brass

www.stkildabrass.org.nz

April 2010

St Kilda Brass has begun what will surely become a busy year, with a successful provincial contest completed, dates and themes set for the St Kilda Brass Southern Victorian Charitable Trust 2010 Concert Series (check the calendar inside), and the national contest being held in Dunedin this year. St Kilda has also just adopted a new constitution, after which the band became a registered charity – read inside to find out how this can save you money.

St Kilda receives new instruments

St Kilda received a shipment of new instruments just before Christmas, in the first stage of a three-year instrument replacement programme. With several grants combined, the band was able to purchase three Besson Prestige cornets, one Bach Stradivarius flugelhorn, three Besson Prestige tenor horns and three Edwards trombones. These are the instruments of choice in top international bands, and will help St Kilda perform at a world-class level at concerts and contests.

By selling on its older instruments, the band can now help local organisations, such as the Southern Brass Academy, Mosgiel Brass and the Otago Symphonic Band.

2010 Otago/Southland Contest

St Kilda Brass recently competed in the Otago/Southland brass band contest, held in Oamaru on 27-28 March. On the Saturday night at Wataki Girls' High School the band placed second in the Sacred Item and Test, playing Eric Ball's *How Great Thou Art* and Bram Gay's transcription of *Les Preludes*, by Franz Liszt. The Sunday's entertainment section was held in the Oamaru Opera House, where St Kilda easily won with a fully choreographed and enthusiastically vocal performance of Philip Harper's *Beyond the Tamar*. The band is grateful for the assistance given by Kyle Lawson, who flew down from Wanganui to join the solo cornet section.



www.oamaruoperahouse.co.nz

Several soloists performed exceptionally well, with the following results:

Tony van Alphen (Bb Bass) – 1st Amateur Air Varie

Errol Moore (Euphonium) – 1st Open Slow Melody

Rose Evans – 1st Under 16 Slow Melody

Erynne Scherf (Tenor Horn) – 2nd Open Slow Melody; 3rd Amateur Air Varie; Dunedin Ladies' Trophy

Keenan Buchanan (Eb Bass) – 2nd Amateur Air Varie; 4th Open Slow Melody

Matthew Toomata (Euphonium) – 4th Championship Air Varie; 3rd Premier Slow Melody

Katie Blair (Cornet) – 3rd Premier Slow Melody

Ian McCabe (Bass trombone) – 3rd Championship Air Varie; 4th Premier Slow Melody

We're now a charity

St Kilda Brass (Incorporated) is now a registered charity (registration number CC43125). This means that if you are already a financial member, **you can claim tax credits** from Inland Revenue for your donations. For more information on how to do this, look under *Non-profit organisations* at www.ird.govt.nz or phone Inland Revenue on 0800 227 774.

If you are interested in assisting the band by becoming a financial member, please contact Dot Brieseman at dottie.brieseman@clear.net.nz or on (03) 489 7575.

Add these dates to your diary!

8 May

Concert 1: *Saints and Divas*

7-11 July

National Contest in Dunedin

21 August

Concert 2: *A Night at the Opera*

2 October

Concert 3: *Brass at the Church*

19-20 November

Concert 4: *The Rat Pack Returns*

2010 National Youth Brass Band

The 2010 National Youth Brass Band course was held in Dunedin, with a lower South Island tour during 12-21 February. Asked at the last minute, St Kilda Brass made its band rooms available for the youth band's rehearsals, and lent its percussion gear for the course and tour. St Kilda was well represented in this year's band, with **Katie Blair** on soprano cornet, **Keenan Buchanan** on Eb Bass, **Rene Spoors** on Bb Bass (and, briefly, on vocals) and ex-Saint Stacey Ward on 2nd Cornet.

The band performed a concert at Tahuna Normal Intermediate, to thank them for lending rooms for sectional practices, and held its first official concert at the Mayfair Theatre on Wednesday 17 February, conducted by Graham Hickman. Highlights were excerpts from Stravinsky's *The Firebird*, Philip Sparke's popular *Year of the Dragon*, and the more recent *Enter the Galaxies* by Paul Lovatt-Cooper. Two other pieces were originally commissioned for the National Band of New Zealand: Ken Young's *Pastoral* and Gareth Farr's *Trigger Happy*. The band performed lighter numbers with just as much enthusiasm and skill. These numbers featured Rene singing *Mack the Knife* and Katie joining euphonium soloist Davey Boyes for a duet, *I'll not turn back*.

For the next few days the band travelled to Wanaka, Queenstown and Invercargill, performing a concert in each destination.

Welcome



Keenan Buchanan, Eb Bass

Keenan, 21, has come down from Palmerston North to work towards a Music degree. He was a member of this year's National Youth Brass Band, which toured the South Island in February.

Pippa Maessen, Cornet

Pippa, 17, is in her first year of university, studying English and Theatre Studies. She joins us from the New Plymouth Brass Band.

2009 AGM and band awards

The band's 108th AGM was held in November 2009 – and combined with the annual band dinner and awards to boost attendance. A major focus for the meeting was the adoption of St Kilda Brass's new constitution. Under the (very) old constitution, women were prohibited from the band, among other outdated things, so it was due for a modernisation. Following the AGM, the following awards were presented:

Bandsperson of the year – **Kimberley Johnston**

Most improved player – **Griegan Panckhurst**

Section of the year – **Baritones (John McAdam and Kimberley Johnston)**

Soloist of the year – **Ralph Miller**

Player of the year – **Kalie Eathorne-Gould**

National Secondary Schools' Brass Band

Last year **Kalie Eathorne-Gould, Rose Evans and Greg Thomson** were accepted into the National Secondary Schools' Brass Band course. Here is their report:

The 2009 National Secondary Schools' Brass Band was held at Burnham Military Camp in early September. 46 successful applicants attended this course and had a blast.

As a part of the course each person got to choose one of four electives – arranging with Dwayne Bloomfield, conducting with Graham Hickman, sound engineering with Mike Chesnutt and David Fiu, or drum majoring with Phil Johnston. The arrangers arranged one of three hymns for brass band, later played by the full band and conducted by those who choose conducting as their elective. These conductors learned how to beat in 2, 3, 4, 5 and more. The sound engineers made a song – *Always have to steal my kisses from you*. They also learned how to set up microphones and manipulate recordings. The drum majors learned the main commands and signals with the mace.

We were all split up into six ensemble groups, taken by army band members. While most ensemble groups took the performance seriously, group three took a more laid-back comedy approach. The two given pieces were very boring and in one someone had nothing to play, so a group decision was made to change one of the pieces. After the first playing through the new piece it was asked if we could “swing it”. The end result was an interesting performance with costumes, acting and swaying.

Amusingly enough there was a lesson on how to breathe... even for percussion! In this we spoke the alphabet as many as times as possible in one breath. We also held a note for as long as possible. The flugels won this every time.

While the course was about playing brass instruments the students also organised a talent quest, held on the Sunday night. The winning performance was Kalie Eathorne-Gould's singing of *Maria Wiegenlied*. The prize was a copy of the National Youth Band's CD.

During the course there were two lots of organised marching, the first held just before band practice one evening. Everyone

was sitting in their rooms when an army band person knocked on everyone's doors. The first thought was “Are the vans here already?” But then everyone was lined up in rows of three and it became apparent that we were marching to practice, because it was “such a nice night”. So we all set off marching to the chant of “left right left right left right left”. On the way we picked up some late-comers who were hiding in their rooms and marched to the band rooms. The second march was held after a band practice on the Sunday morning. In this we marched around the road for a bit before moving to lunch. One night a group of ten of us got tired of waiting for the vans, so decided to march to the band rooms. We formed up our lines and set off with one of the students as the drum major. When we were marching we had several run-ins with army vans where we had to move to the side. We stopped at the stop sign and marched through the middle of the roundabout.



As a part of the course we split in half and joined with the NZ Army Band to perform four concerts. These concerts were performed to a packed-out Christchurch Town Hall full of screaming primary school students. These concerts were themed “around the world”. We played pieces from different countries

and there were acts going on in the front: Star Wars, High School Musical, SpongeBob SquarePants and William Tell Overture. When one band performed the other band got to watch them. This was entertaining because we got to see the acts performed, however we were almost deafened by the screaming kids. The atmosphere on the stage was amazing and everyone got into the dancing during the pieces. Even the audience was hyped up and dancing at the end.

The whole band performed a concert to the Army Band and parents. We played Dwayne Bloomfield's *Behold the Narrows from the Hill*. This was a stunning performance earning 30 seconds' silence at the end, followed by a standing ovation.

At the end of the course everyone gathered together for the farewells and presentation. The conducting award went to Andrew Yorkstone, the arranging award went to Jane Holt, and the drum majoring award went to **Rose Evans**, and the best audition award went to **Greg Thomson**.

Review – Swing with the Rat Pack

The Rat Pack reincarnated returned to Dunedin on Saturday night [21 November, 2009] as slick, smooth and funny as the original Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr and Frank Sinatra. A full house in the Glenroy auditorium loved every minute of the smooth crooning, irreverent humour and stylish moves of the local cool cats: Douglas Kamo, Rob Enari and Kris Bate.

This was an excellent concert put on by St Kilda Brass: all the great songs were there, delivered with the panache, if not quite the vocal qualities, of the original “rats”. **Kamo, Enari and Bate** were all over the auditorium working the audience with all the skills, humour and charm of the originals. No one was safe: audience member Avis (“Isn't that a rental company?” quipped **Kamo**) found herself on stage lying across rat pack knees being serenaded in a love song. Audience participation was mandatory and great fun – a Mexican wave for *That's Amore*, phonetic punctuation for *Doe a Deer* and finger clicking and clapping along all adding to the success of songs like *My Way*, *New York, New York* and *Mack the Knife*.

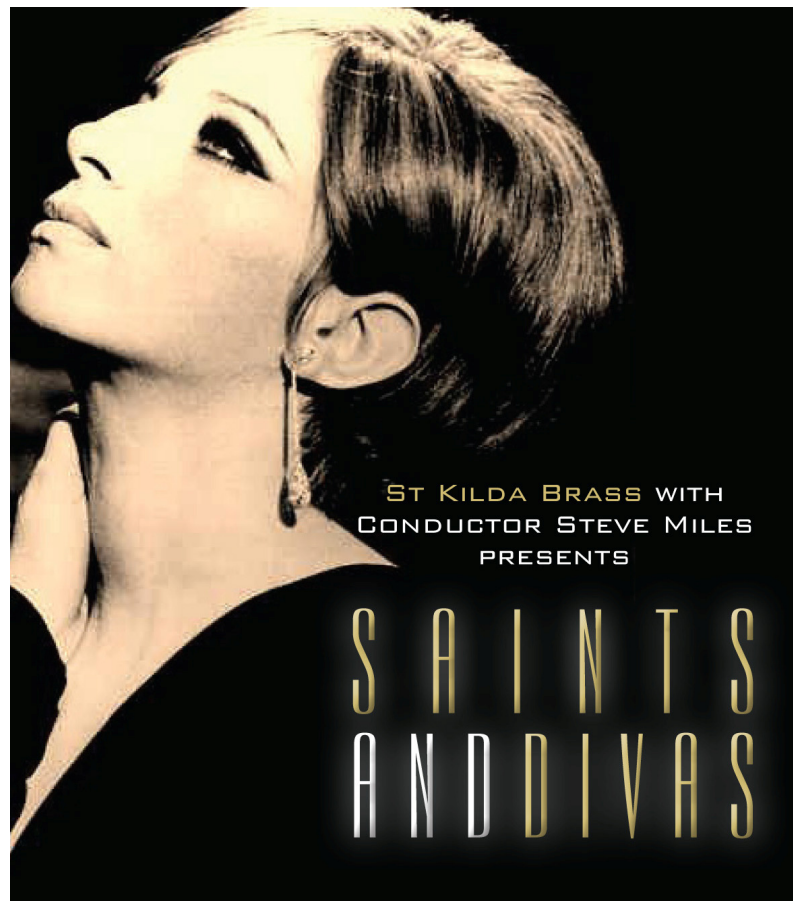
All credit to musical director **Steve Miles** whose roles included conductor, compere, singer and arranger. His idiomatic arrangements transformed St Kilda Brass into a swing big band: cornets discarded for Freddie Hubbard-style trumpets complete with screamers and fall-offs, and the middle of the band imitating saxophones. At the heart of the accompaniment was a strong rhythm section of **Stuart Walker** (keyboards), **Ian McCabe** (bass guitar) and **Daniel Dance** (drums) who kept up a high energy backing.

Opening each half alone, St Kilda Brass displayed quality soloists of its own with **Ralph Miller** giving a splendid account of the Harry James Trumpet Concerto, principal cornet **John Lewis** all style in *Georgia on my Mind* and **Ted “foot-long” Pheloung** delivering *Just a Closer Walk* with New Orleans-style jazz panache.

St Kilda Brass is to be congratulated on its innovative Southern Victorian Charitable Trust concert series. For the last couple of years they have shown that the modern brass band is a versatile and exciting ensemble that can put on imaginative programmes and professional, entertaining concerts.

Peter Adams

What a way to end the year! Due to the wonderful success of this sold-out concert, St Kilda Brass and the Rat Pack will reunite in the fourth concert of this year's series. Don't miss The Rat Pack Returns, on 19 and 20 November.



ST KILDA BRASS WITH
CONDUCTOR STEVE MILES
PRESENTS

SAINTS AND DIVAS

SATURDAY 8TH MAY
MAYFAIR THEATRE 7.30PM

A concert featuring popular and exuberant Dunedin musical theatre stars.

Joined by special guests – Gina Miles, Kelly Hocking, Melinda Joe, Elizabeth Adams and Jane Craigie-Read, the Saints will present an eclectic mix of music from the romantic colours of Franz Liszt to the wonderful sounds of Musical Theatre and Contemporary Pop.

With songs such as Blow Gabriel Blow (Anything Goes), Don't Rain on My Parade (Funny Girl), It's Oh So Quiet (Bjork), Gimme Gimme (Thoroughly Modern Millie), All that Jazz (Chicago), Macavity (Cats), Ladies who Lunch (Into the Woods), Tell Him (Barbara Streisand & Celine Dion) and Proud Mary (John Fogarty)

TICKET PRICES: \$25 adults, \$20 concessions, children under 12 free

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: Regent Theatre Box Office Ticket Direct
0800 4 TICKET or www.ticketdirect.co.nz (booking fee applies)



ST KILDA BRASS SOUTHERN VICTORIAN
CHARITABLE TRUST 2010 CONCERT SERIES

2010 National Contest in Dunedin

After *Saints and Divas*, the next appointment on St Kilda's calendar is the 2010 National Brass Band Contest, which is being held in Dunedin on 7-11 July. As contests are usually out-of-town, this will be a rare opportunity to not only support St Kilda in the A Grade section, but to hear the best bands from around the country in all grades. Several individuals and ensembles will be performing on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 July. The Parade of Bands leaves the Octagon from midday on the Friday, and that evening the A Grade bands will play their test, Peter Graham's *The Torchbearer*, plus their chosen Sacred Items at the Regent Theatre. The A Grade Own Choice event will take place on the Saturday evening. This year, St Kilda has also been invited to perform in the Band of the Year concert on Sunday 11 July, which will be a good chance for the band to do what it does best: entertain. Don't miss out!