



The Saints

June 2019



St Kilda Brass Street March during the 2018 National Brass band Championship held in Blenheim

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How The Saints went at the recent Otago Southland Provincials

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A note from Peter Adams, our musical director leading us to the national champs!

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2018 Band awards, new players, fond farewells and upcoming events!



The Saints debut in the new Air New Zealand safety video



Provincials

The 2019 OSBBA Provincial Contest was recently held at the Roxburgh Entertainment Centre on the 6th and 7th of April. A big thank you must go out to Pete McHenry for leading the organising charge, which enabled The Saints to compete.

The band fielded a good turnout of soloists, a duet and 3 ensembles. Creditable performances from these players enabled St Kilda to win the trophy for most solo/party points - a return to the bandroom of the Besson Shield after an absence of many years.

In the band events on Saturday night, Shane Foster conducted Alan Fernie's arrangement of the hymn *Lloyd* and Philip Wilby's *Paganini Variations* as the own choice work. The performances delivered second placings behind old friends and rivals Ascot Park Invercargill, with Dwayne Bloomfield as adjudicator. The Saints took out the Sunday afternoon Entertainment section with a jazz inspired program, including *Birdland*, *Georgia on my mind* (featuring soloist John Lewis), *Opus One*, *Ain't That A Kick In the Head* (featuring vocalist Alex McAdam) and *Cute*, culminating with a rousing rendition of *Sing Sing Sing* featuring percussion extraordinaires Joshua Cooper and Robbie Craigie – who won the new George Duncan Memorial award for player or band with the 'wow' factor.

Returning to the fold for the weekend were John Lewis, Kerry Wood, Matt Toomata, Dave Froome, Keenan Buchanan and Mike Ford.

We thank the Bendigo Valley Sport and Charity Foundation for their financial assistance helping The Saints attend this year's provincial contest.

Results

1st Championship Air Varie – John Lewis

1st Premier Slow Melody– Mike Ford

1st Open Slow Melody – Pete McHenry

1st Novice Event – Susie Grigg

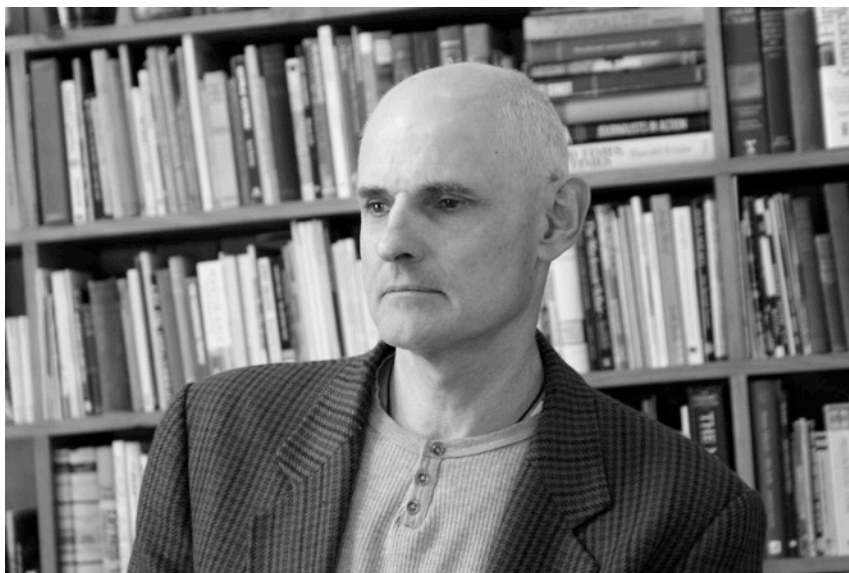
1st Open Ensemble – St Kilda 3

2nd Open Ensemble – St Kilda 2

2nd Open Duet – Shane Foster/Jamie Cunningham

3rd Championship Air Varie – Mike Ford

3rd Amateur Air Varie – Sarah Arnel



Upcoming Nationals

2019 New Zealand Contest – Hamilton

Peter Adams is delighted to be back doing a national contest once more. His first national contest with a St Kilda band was way back in 1990 (here in Dunedin) where the band placed last in the A grade! Not a great start, but in 1991 the band competed in Christchurch and was much more competitive finishing in the middle of the field. The upward direction continued in 1992 with the band winning the A grade in Auckland. To show the win was no fluke, the band backed this up in 1993 with a close second place narrowly missing out to Woolston Brass. Over the years PA has taken the band to 17 national contests and always enjoys the challenge of getting the band up to a good standard and performing alongside the many other fine bands competing.

This year the set test piece for the A grade is a brass band 'classic' - Gilbert Vinter's *Variations on a Ninth* which was composed in 1964. The work is based on the musical interval of a ninth - and the arpeggiated chord with seventh and ninth (C E G B D). Appropriately, there are nine variations that are full of character including a waltz, a jig and an expressive lyrical centrepiece. There are cadenzas for all the 'corner people' - soprano and Bb cornet, horn, baritone and euphonium, and the work still holds plenty of challenges for our bands.

The own choice piece that Peter has chosen is Edward Gregson's *Of Distant Memories (Music in an Olden Style)*. Gregson was Professor of Music and Principal of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England until his retirement in 2008. He shot to prominence as a brass band composer with his 1976 work *Connotations* that was extremely popular with players and audiences and introduced Stravinsky-like changing time signatures to brass band music. His 1984 work *Dances and Arias* continued this Stravinsky and Bartok influence with barbaric harmonies and changing rhythms and it became one of the most used test pieces in major contests all over the world.

Of Distant Memories is Gregson's most recent work for brass written in 2013 to mark one hundred years of British Open brass band contests. Gregson looks back at the tradition of music for contests and pays tribute to some of the earlier more melodic brass band pieces written at the turn of the twentieth century. The work is expressive and lyrical - but with fast sections of dancing triplets that shows off the virtuosity of the band. It is not an easy piece but it is one that PA and the band should enjoy working on - and that's important when you live with a piece for over two months!



2018 player of the year Sarah Arnel performing in the first edition of the Caversham Concert Series.

Quiz Night

Hopefully the beginning of a regular event, The Saints hosted a quiz night at the Kensington in an effort to raise some much-needed funds. A big thank you for the organization and energy of Nadia Kevill, we managed to raise approximately \$1800! Thank you to everyone who donated items included in the raffles.

2018 Band Awards

Most Improved – *Joshua Cooper*

Soloist of the Year – *Harry Smith*

Player of the Year – *Sarah Arnel*

Section of the Year – *Percussion*
(*Malcolm Jones, Joshua Cooper, Kendall Gadomski, Robbie Craigie, Hannah Brown, Lee Martelli-Wood*)

Bands Person of the Year –
Malcolm Jones

New Arrivals and Farewells

This year we welcome to the band Casey Lane, Grace Beatson and Jamie Cunningham.

As well as gaining a few new players, we bid farewell to Kendall Gadomski, Hamish Tildesley, Claire Yorkstone, Fenella Deans, Erin Lee, Malcolm Jones, Devyn Fowles. The Saints thank them for their contribution over a number of years.

Upcoming Events

- BBANZ National Championships (Hamilton) July 10-14
- Saturday 7 September, 2 pm – St Peters Church, Caversham
- Thursday 10 October, 7:30 pm – Friends and Family Concert - Hanover Hall



2018 St Peter's Church Concert, conducted by Shane Foster