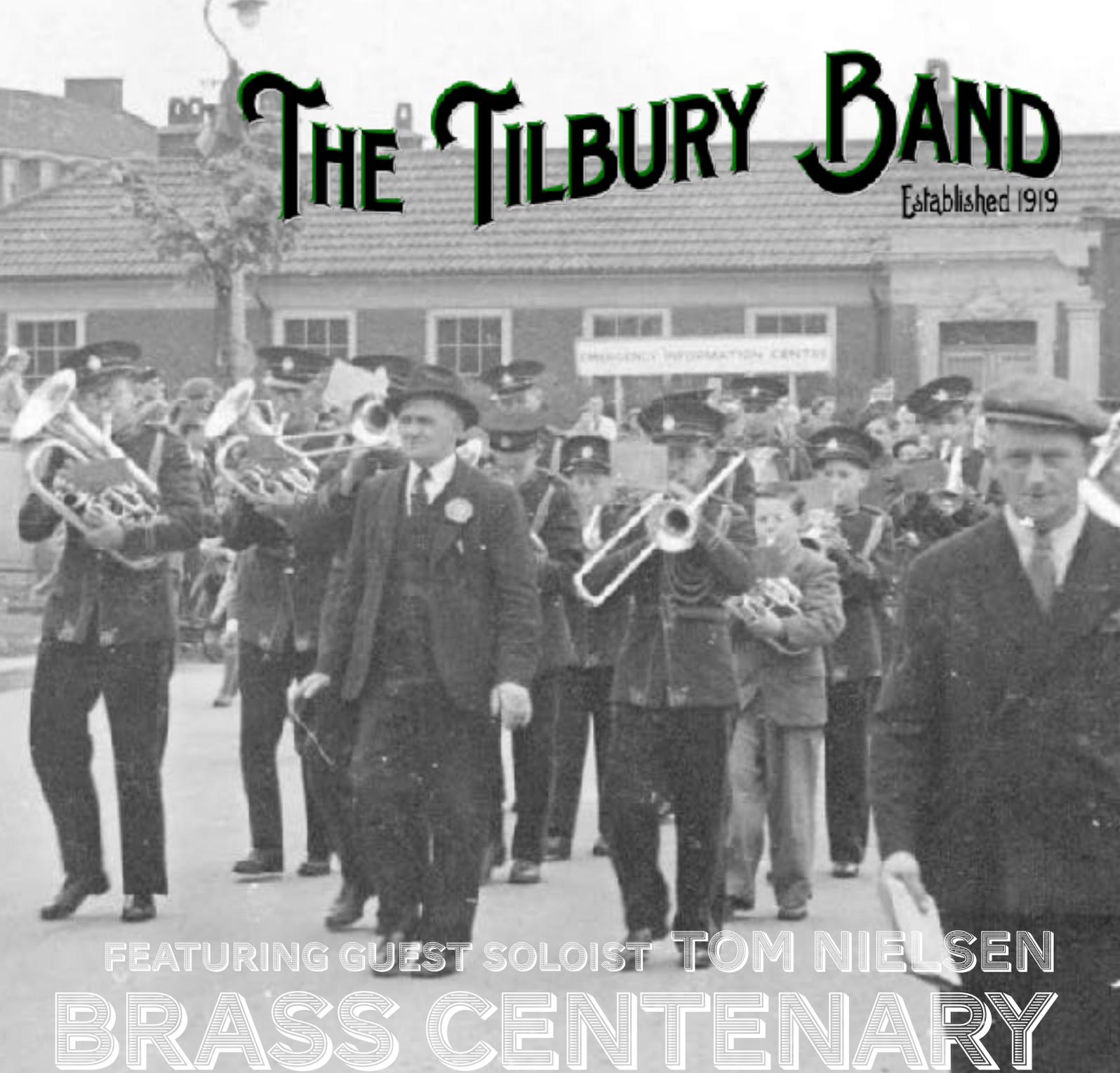


THE TILBURY BAND

Established 1919



FEATURING GUEST SOLOIST TOM NIELSEN

BASS CENTENARY

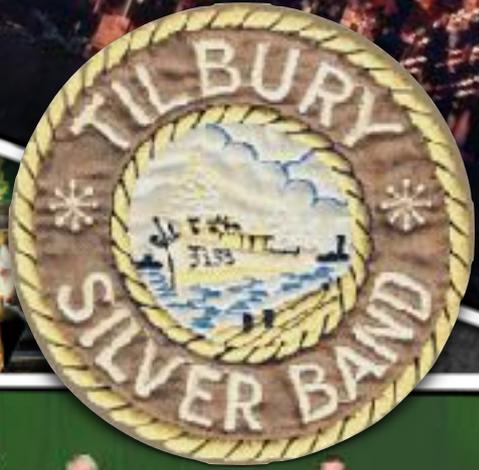
CELEBRATING ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE TILBURY BAND

WITH 2019 TYMBA NATIONAL & OPEN CLASS YOUTH MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONS
ROMFORD DRUM & TRUMPET CORPS

PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2019
LONDON INTERNATIONAL CRUISE TERMINAL, TILBURY





THE TILBURY BAND

Established 1919

INCORPORATING
THE TILBURY BRASS & PERCUSSION ACADEMY

99-101 Dock Road, Tilbury, Essex. RM18 7BX

Welcome to the Centenary Concert of The Tilbury Band. Back in 1919, who would have thought that the Band would still be here today?

In August 1969 the Band held it's Golden Jubilee Concert, with high-profile guest soloist Derek M. Garside (then principal cornet of the now defunct C.W.S. Manchester Band). In the forward to the concert programme the anonymous author stated that "to reach the golden age of fifty is no mean achievement... To be as active as we are after all this time, in fact we feel that our best years are still to come, is the result of the enthusiasm, devotion and dedication of numerous people over many years." This is something we feel is as true today as it ever was.

Around 1900 there were in the region of 10,000 brass bands playing regularly across Great Britain. By the 1960s this number had dropped to 3,000. Indeed, it is a sad fact that there are no statistics today on the number of bands currently playing across the country. We are sure that, although new bands have appeared in different areas, the number of active bands must be considerably lower, particularly in the local area, where two failed within three months of each other.

We are grateful for the kind generosity of the Port of London, Tilbury, who have given us the use of the beautiful London International Cruise Terminal for no charge. When the Band was founded in 1919 this building had not been conceived, but the station next-door (then known as "Tilbury" or "Tilbury Fort" station) was already in it's second reincarnation. It is from this station that the founding members of the Band were drawn.

Tonight's concert is the collaboration of much work behind the scenes; we are particularly grateful for the help from Melvin White and Spencer Down in planning and organising the music for this evening's performance and, of course, not forgetting our cornet soloist, Tom Nielsen and our old friends the Romford Drum and Trumpet Corps (who are now National & Open Class Champions 2019 of the Traditional Youth Marching Band Association) and their Band Director, Paul Binder.

We hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS ON THE RAILROAD

In Eastern Europe big things happened on Wednesday 28th May, 1919 with the Union of the Republic of Armenia was agreed, establishing the first start of Armenia since its dissolution in the middle ages. Meanwhile in Tilbury, a meeting of the local branch of the National Union of Railwaymen made the decision to form a brass band. Just over four weeks later, on 1st July, the first meeting of The Tilbury Railwaymen's Band was formed.



Having no instruments, an enquiry had already been made with another N.U.R. brass band just down the coast in Shoeburyness, and a delegation of two potential bandsmen were sent to examine a set of instruments which had been made available for sale. The said set of instruments, 24 in total, were purchased for the price of £50 (around £2,000 in today's money).

THE RAILWAY DISPUTE.
—
MINISTERS AND MEN CONFER.
—
“NOT THE LAST WORD.”
—
ANOTHER MEETING TO-DAY.

(By Our Labour Correspondent.)
Negotiations between the Government and the National Union of Railwaymen were resumed yesterday, first at the Ministry of Transport and later at 10, Downing-street. After a conference which lasted for several hours between the Prime Minister and other members of the Government and the full Executive Committee of the Union, it was announced that a further discussion will take place to-day.

Beyond this bald statement no official information about the progress of the negotiations is available. The fact, however, that the conference is to be continued creates a presumption that the discussions have not been barren and that there is at any rate a possibility that the strike danger may be averted. Unofficially it is learned that the “full and frank” exchange of views between Ministers and the railwaymen's leaders has gone far towards removing the misunderstandings which precipitated the strike threat, and that appreciable progress has been made towards a settlement.

Another meeting of the Band was called. This time 40 members were in attendance, and it was discovered that of the 40 only Mr. H. Jones was able to play a brass instrument! Rapidly, Mr. Jones was appointed as the first Bandmaster of the Tilbury Railwaymen's Band. Candidates came forward to stake their interest in various musical instruments. It was found that 30 of the members wanted to play the ‘big drum’.

Within a few weeks, the new instruments had arrived, and the Band were ready for their first rehearsal. Coinciding with the Great Railway Strike of 1919, the band were able to adjoin to a neighbouring meadow at the bottom of Chadwell Hill to hold their first rehearsal. The date Monday, 29th September, 1919. From this point, they never looked back.

By December the new Band were ready for their first outing and it was discovered that six men were highly effective to play only four carols so, in the



words of E. Jones' original history of the Band (written in the 1920s) “Mr. Jones with his happy Band went to gain funds to lay the foundation stone of the present organisation... One foggy night was chosen; the Band was greatly flattered by the inhabitants of Tilbury who responded to the tune of £22.” The night may not have gone to plan; street lighting by gas was limited and had not a member of the Band cleverly improvised lighting with candles in jam jars the evening may have ended much sooner and far less profitably.

PROGRESS AND A NEW NAME

January 1920 saw the band out of debt from the purchase of their new instruments, and H. Jones continued his 'blackboard practice' with the Band, until the arrival of Mr. Snelling in August 1920. By the AGM of January 1921 the Band made the decision to go back into debt by purchasing a new set of instruments from brass and woodwind specialist Hawkes & Son (forerunner of Boosey & Hawkes). It was noted that the favourable progress was had on these instruments.

At the 1921 half-yearly meeting, owing to repeated request of supporters in the town, it was decided a change of name was in order for the Railwaymen's Band, which in July 1921 became "The Tilbury Town Band". The newly renamed Band remained active playing out on a Sunday evening at the Riverside, with dances being arranged in the Winter months.



In February 1922, a contest was arranged at Grays for local bands and the Town Band decided to enter. Wishing for a conductor with prior contesting experience, Mr. George Nicholls of the Grays Temperance Silver Prize Band was engaged. After just five weeks of Nicholls' tuition, the band mounted the contest stage for the first time, securing second prize and two medals; out of the five bands competing, the others four had been in existence for over twenty years. It was also noteworthy that of the Band's 24 members playing, only five had more than three year's tuition.

With such success at Grays, the Band had the taste of contesting and was eager to compete again. With this in mind, the Band entered the National Band Festival in September at Crystal Palace. We are unsure of the result of the contest performance, but it did not stop the Band's willingness to compete.



In December 1922, the band still had no uniform. Having paid-of the new instruments from Hawkes & Son, it was decided once again to bring the Band into debt to ensure the uniform presentation of the Band. An order for 30 new bandsmen uniforms were ordered from the Uniform Clothing & Equipment

Company. June 1923 saw a return to the Grays Contest, securing this time first prize, two medals and the Connelly Challenge Shield. This was followed in September by a return performance at The Crystal Palace, in the Junior Shield (Section B). Competing against 22 other bands from across the country (and with four additional bands withdrawing), the newly-uniformed Tilbury Town Band secured third place.





1923 saw the Band still eager to perform and compete. The next local opportunity was in Grays at a local contest where they were pleased to compete in June and secured first prize, two medals and the Connolly Challenge Shield. Following this, and again under the baton of George Nicholls the Band returned to the National Brass Band Festival at Crystal Palace, in the Junior B Section, playing 16th and securing third place, playing against 22 other bands (only seven of whom are still playing today - including the former Walthamstow Band - East London Brass, and Sandhurst Band).

The end of the year came and the Band was finally out of debt again, after the purchase of band uniforms, but December also saw a large deposit in hand which was 'liberated' by burglars. Despite the setback, it was decided in January 1924 to take out a line of credit with the London instrument manufacturer Hawkes & Son to purchase a brand new set of 27 silver-plated instruments at the cost of

£5110.4 (the equivalent of approximately £30,000 in 2019). The Band's biographer of the 1920s E. Jones, the band fared well securing a third place at the 1924 Watford Contest (May 1924), first and third place at Grays and retaining the Connolly Challenge Shield (June, 1924) and third place in the fourth section of the London & Home Counties Amateur Bands Association contest, as well as fourth place in the march contest.

Reaching the end of the Band's first five years, local contests in the final year had seen two 1st place awards, one 2nd place, three 3rd places and one 4th place, competing against 64 other bands, and securing £22.10.0 (around £1,300 today).

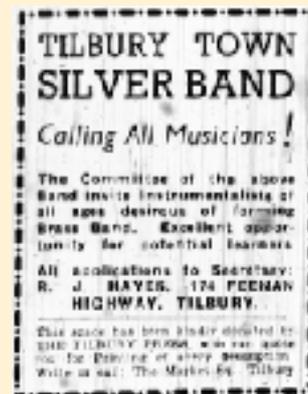
Up until the outbreak of War in 1939, the Band continued with regular practices, rehearsing at the Co-Op Hall in Dock Road (the road on which the Band still rehearses today), performing every Friday night at Tilbury Dock (Town) Station and three Sundays a month at the Ferry Booking Office at Tilbury (Riverside) Station. Contesting continued, and back in 1969 the reminder of "Dancing on the Lawn". The lawn was the Daisy Field, which at the time contained two ditches and a mass of potatoes! Up to 200 people from the local area would turn up, clear away the bedsteads, bicycle frames and other associated litter, then dancing would commence, to the enjoyment of all concerned. The band also began taking on engagements such as garden fetes in surrounding villages during the Summer and accompanying dancing at the Lansdowne Road School.



On the outbreak of War, band activities were suspended and founder Fred Chipperfield looked to the future. With the support and assistance of his wife, Chipperfield stored and maintained all of the Band's property until the end of hostilities and the possibility for banding activities to resume.

At the outbreak of peace, band resumed. Advertisements were taken out in the local press to help recruit new members, and practices were held thanks to the goodwill of local organisations such as the Tilbury Club & Institute (the 'Tute') and the Tilbury Catholic Church.

George Nicholls followed his pre-war service as Bandmaster, leading the Band to many successes including First Place at the Daily Herald Open Brass Band Festival in 1952 playing Henry Geehl's "Thames Valley Suite". George Nicholls hung up his baton in 1957, having conducted the Band for 35 years (excusing the war years).



On the 23rd November, 1949, on behalf of the Band, Fred Chipperfield and Adam Harris purchased a 'Mission Hall' from The Salvation Army & Trustee Company, 30 years, one month and 25 days after the first rehearsal, the Band now had a permanent home of its own.

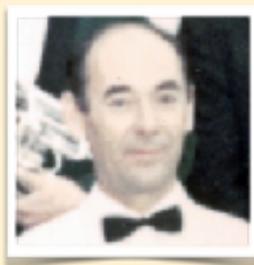
In the period 1950-1969, leading up to the band's Golden Jubilee, fortunes began to fail and membership dropped off. Several bands at this time, including Thurrock & District Band and Ockendon Silver Band failed completely and it was only due to the tenacity of some stalwart members which kept Tilbury afloat. Of the players with the band in 1959 only seven or eight still remained by 1969. The appointment of Harry Curley as Bandmaster in 1960 saw the tide slowly turning until in 1969 the Band could claim an active playing membership of 28 (three over strength) and a lively junior band under the direction of Fred Pittick.



*George T.
Nicholls*



*Frederick
Chipperfield*



*W. Harold
Curley*



*Frederick
Pittick*



TOM NIELSEN

GUEST CORNET SOLOIST



Thomas started playing the cornet in 2009 under the tutelage of his father, Carl, and passed Grade 8 with distinction at the age of 13. Brought up in The Salvation Army, he was recently featured as a cornet and trumpet soloist at prestigious Salvation Army events around the UK and in Europe.

In 2014, Thomas first attended The Salvation Army's Territorial Youth Band course in Bournemouth and has been principal cornet of the band since 2015, aged 13. Dr. Stephen Cobb, Bandmaster of The International Staff Band of the Salvation Army, has also mentored him in recent years. In September 2014, he won a place to study trumpet with Andrew Mitchell at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's Junior Department, where he continues to study.

In 2017, Thomas became principal cornet and leader of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain - a position he still holds today. During his time in the National Youth Band, he has won the Katie Ogden Memorial Solo Award twice, the Harold and Bernard Tovey Memorial Award for Excellence and become the first person ever to win the Phillip McCann Cornet Award three times.

In April 2018, Thomas became the first cornet player to win the prestigious BBC Radio 2 Young Brass Award. The final round was broadcast live on Radio 2 from the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, with Foden's Band. Thomas was also featured as a soloist with the Black Dyke Band at the 2018 British Open Brass Band Championships Gala Concert at Symphony Hall, Birmingham last weekend.

Recently appointed to the solo cornet section of The International Staff Band of the Salvation Army - an appointment of which he is immensely proud – Thomas is also a Young Besson Artist and plays the Besson BE928-GT Sovereign cornet.

His immediate ambition is to study performance at one of the UK's senior conservatoires with the ultimate aim of becoming a professional musician.



SPENCER DOWN

Spencer has established a reputation as a dynamic and entrepreneurial conductor. His love of music began when he started playing euphonium in Tilbury Band alongside his brother and grandfather.

He is now Musical Director and founder of the Docklands Sinfonia, which has become a major cultural force in London's Docklands and has performed at most of the UK's major concert halls. Recently Spencer was honoured to be entrusted with Roy Budd's score to the 1925 classic silent film Phantom of the Opera, conducting the premiere at London's Coliseum and subsequent performance at the Barbican.

Spencer has been orchestral director for high profile events including concerts for the Queen in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace and the world premiere of Grammy award-winning singer Imogen Heap's 'Love the Earth' at the Royal Albert Hall. He was privileged to conduct the Mayor's Jubilee Band on one of the music barges taking part in the spectacular Queen's Jubilee Pageant on the river Thames.

Spencer is proud to have worked with renowned songwriter and producer Mike Batt on the recording of Katie Melua's album 'Ketevan', Hawkwind's album and tour 'Road to Utopia', Suzi Quatro's album and UK's 'The Voice' singer Bob Blakeley's debut album 'Performance'.

Spencer is professor of euphonium and tuba at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall and conductor, brass co-ordinator and professor of euphonium at Junior Guildhall. He is Creative Director for Guildhall Young Artists Islington, a new Barbican/Guildhall project aimed at inspiring young musicians in Islington, especially those who are financially disadvantaged.

In 2012, Spencer received the Freedom of the City of London for his services to music.

SAMANTHA BARRAND

Samantha is an enthusiastic and passionate musician based in Essex who recently gained her PGCE from Suffolk University and currently teaches Secondary School Music. Primarily a Saxophonist she achieved her Master's in performance and conducting at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. During her time there she was awarded the Charles Proctor Prize for conducting and led a collaboration project focusing on Zydeco Cajun style music.



Throughout her college and professional life Sam has played at locations both at home and abroad, such as Italy, France, Russia, Spain and America supplying music in a variety of forms. She is a founding member of saxophone quartet 'One Screw Loose' and Dixie Jazz Group 'Tradjazzled' which perform at dinners and private events.

Whilst studying for her degree in Colchester she was winner of the concerto competition. During her studies there she was given the opportunity to play in a range of musicals with local music theatre society's these included playing keyboard, saxophone, and violin for Seussical, Cry Baby and Wizard of Oz.

As well as teaching Sam has been Musical Director for the Romford Drum and Trumpet Corps since 2014. Whilst working with the band she was given the opportunity to take part in a composition competition for the charity Soldier On, where she placed as runner up against former and serving musicians of the British Military. Sam's passion for Music and the military led to her joining the Army which unfortunately she could not continue with but works weekly with the RDTC members developing their interest in this style of music as well as nurturing their musical knowledge and skills, making them one of the best military youth bands in the country.

ACT ONE

The Tilbury Band

Conductor - Mr. Spencer Down

Original Work	Prismatic Light	Alan Fernie
Cornet Solo	Jubilance performed by Tom Nielsen	William Himes
Original Work	Renaissance (excerpt)	Peter Graham

Romford Drum & Trumpet Corps

Conducted by Musical Director - Ms. Samantha Barrand

March	The Trombone King	Karl L. King
Selection	Highlights from "Chicago"	Kander & Ebb, arr. Ricketts
Popular Work	Friend Like Me	Alan Menken, arr. Blair
Popular Work	Circle of Life	Elton John, arr. Sweeney
Selection	Selections from "Mary Poppins"	Sherman & Sherman, arr. Brown

Massed Band - RDTC & The Tilbury Band

Conducted by RDTC Band Director, Mr. Paul Binder

March	The Voice of the Guns	Kenneth J. Alford
Classical Transcription	Finale from "The Firebird"	Igor Stravinsky, arr. Michael Story

ACT TWO

The Tilbury Band

Conductor - Mr. Spencer Down

Original Work

Living Power

Tom Davoren

Cornet Solo

Share My Yoke
performed by Tom Nielsen

Joy Webb
arr. Ivor Bosanko

Popular Work

Blue Rondo à la Turk

Dave Brubeck
arr. Edwards

Popular Work

Don't Stop Me Now

Freddie Mercury,
arr. Philip Harper

Tilbury Reunion Band

Conductor - Mr. Spencer Down, Bandmaster - Mr. Gregory White

Showstopper

Let's Face The Music &
Dance

Irving Berlin,
arr. Goff Richards

Hymn Setting

Amazing Grace

Traditional,
arr. William Himes

Selection

Breezin' Down Broadway

arr. Goff Richards





Romford Drum and Trumpet Corps was founded on 11th October 1957 by Richard Bouchard, MBE along with twelve boys, a few battered instruments and a loan of £100. They adopted a traditional military style, which they maintain today.

The bands early days were spent marching through Romford on Sunday mornings and supporting local charities at fetes and garden parties. They quickly progressed and an appearance at the Soldiers', Sailors' & Airmans' Family Tattoo at White City led to engagements throughout the Home Counties. Such was the Bands popularity there was soon a waiting list to join. Soon the band had spread their wings and after successful band performances in Jersey, the Isle of Wight, the Isle of Man and Spalding Flower Festival were invited on several trips to France where they quickly became personalities. Civic Receptions, television and press coverage were arranged, the Corps were now an international institution. Further television appearances with Leslie Crowther, Jimmy Tarbuck, Frank Ifield, Reg Varney and Tony Blackburn, guests of Charlie Drake on 'Sunday Night at the London Palladium', Billy Smart and Chipperfield's Circus spread their reputation nationwide.

Soon it was time for change and the Band enlisted girls! A popular decision for band members and spectators, this has led to many romances within the Corps, some resulting in inter-band marriages. In fact the Corps now boast a second generation of the Romford Drum and Trumpet Corps, having the children of ex-members in the ranks!

Trips to Europe became more frequent and friendships were formed with European bands which they still maintain. In 1974 the Band performed at a music festival in Ostend, and were introduced to Jurgen Kuhlmann of the Billstedt Band who invited them to enter a contest in Busum, Germany. The band needed somewhere to stay and a small village opened their doors to welcome the band, the long association with Lunden had begun. In 2002 the Corps visited Lunden, Germany to compete in the North German Championships.

An honour for the Band was to be adopted by the Romford Branch of the Burma Star Association, through this they were invited to play on Horseguards Parade in the presence of Lord Louis Mountbatten who paid his respects by inspecting the Band. The relationship with the Burma Star Veterans flourished and in 1995 they performed at the 50th and final reunion at the Royal Albert Hall with Dame Vera Lynn and war veterans in the presence of the HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The Band has performed in the presence of the entire Royal family.

In recent years the Band have appeared on television many times including the Children's Royal Variety Show at the London Palladium, on the "Big Noise" with their own version of "The Shoop Shoop Song", had the frightening experience of playing on top of one of the largest cranes in London for the Six O'Clock Show, the Disney Club, the Big Breakfast and made a promotional video for Sky Sports. The band have played for the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and the Russian Convoy Veterans at the Cenotaph, for the Merchant Navy Veterans at Tower Hill and taken part in the VE Day celebrations in Hyde Park and the VJ Day Parade past Buckingham Palace. They also performed at Earls Court to celebrate the Queen's 40th year of accession to the throne.

In recent years the band have formed friendships with the REME Band, whose Bandmaster, Clinton Bray, composed our march "Green and Gold" dedicated to Dick Bouchard.

In March 2003 the Band visited Chicago, Illinois performing in the Downtown and South Side St. Patrick's Day parades, as well as performing in the Market Place for HM The Queen when she visited Romford. 2003 also saw the band return to the contest arena and won three qualifying contests. This entitled the band to enter the 'National Championships'. In November 2003 they successfully won achieving the double by winning the championships and the league title becoming Supreme National Youth Marching Band Champions of Great Britain.

In 2004 the band remained undefeated and retained the National Title and League for the second time.

In 2006 the band entered the last European Championships held in Bath and scored the highest marks ever given in its history in the Concert. This year saw the band record its first CD "Green & Gold" which included a track recorded with Roger Daltrey of The Who.

Celebrating the Band's 50th Anniversary, 2007 saw the band visit and perform in Gibraltar's world famous St Micheal's Cave. The band also celebrated its milestone year by holding a tattoo, reunion and dinner and dance. In March 2010 the band launched their training academy for younger members as well as undertaking a tour of Delaware USA and for the first time in decades the band secured somewhere it can call home.



Dick's Digest *64 years with The Tilbury Band*



My main reason for joining the band was in 1955 when I was 11 years old and friends of my parents invited me to watch The Royal Tournament on their television (as we did not have a TV until 1959) the finale was the massed bands of the Royal Marines and that encouraged me to tell my parents that I would like to learn and play in the Band. Fortunately for me our next door neighbour was Fred Chipperfield who played trombone and was a founder member of the Band, he was also the treasurer, also George Nichols who was the Bandmaster lived in the next road and worked in the docks with my father. I had two cousins who played in the band one played the Cornet his name was Teddy Osborne and had left the band just before I joined, and the other was Freddy Tomlin who played Tenor Horn and was still playing, he also played in the National Youth Brass Band.

Anyway back to my first experience of the band. I was called to be interviewed by the committee and was asked if I knew anything about the band and if I could read music to which I said that and I quote "if the music goes up you go up and if the music goes down you go down", how's that for an 11 year old! I started in the learners class in September 1955, and it was held every Friday. The music teacher was Ernie Pryor, who was the Solo Euphonium player and reputed to be the best in the South East of England. We spend 6 months learning to read music and a further 6 months learning to play an instrument. After a year I was put into the main band and sat on the 3rd Cornet chair alongside another fellow learner named Johnny Sheen. As you all know I was useless as a cornet player and went onto tenor horn and sat next to Fred Carrett who was then the band secretary.

I well remember my first contest it was held in the Central Hall, Westminster and I believe it was the National Finals, 2nd Section. A strange thing happened before we went onto play the Bandmaster George Nichols purchased a glass of orange juice and passed it round to all the players in the band, I thought what a tight fisted so and so, it wasn't until long afterwards that I learnt that it was to moisten the lips before we played. After our performance a few of us made our way to the Royal Albert Hall where the Championships were taking place.

Apart from the usual local park engagements the band had to audition for the London Parks and this took place in the sub-basement of County Hall London and the panel consisted of Frank Wright and Harry Mortimer. Carnivals were another part of the bands yearly engagements especially Southend, we used to start at Leigh-on-Sea Station and march to the Kursaal at the end of Southend sea front. I remember on one carnival we were about to pass under the pier and starting on a five beat roll from the drummers Fred Carrett who was playing the Bass Drum put the drum stick through the skin of the drum. We were in Cliffe for another parade and we were marching down hill when the strap broke on the Bass Drummers harness and the drum went rolling down the hill. Another one of my fellow 2nd Horn players was Ron Goodwin who used to kick me in the ankle every time I played a wrong note, I used to go home black and blue (good job he is not around today otherwise I would not be able to walk!) I remember during one rehearsal I had quite a few bars rest and fell asleep and felt another kick!!

Christmas time we used to go round the streets of Tilbury and Chadwell carolling. There was one house in Tilbury when we played under the lamp post outside they came out with mince pies and glasses of sherry. Christmas Eve was spent touring the pubs and clubs and on Christmas day playing carols at Tilbury Hospital and then in the "Tute".

At the age of 14 I was commandeered onto the Committee as minute secretary and spent many years listening to the pros and cons of this and that, years later I took on the roll of Treasurer and was succeeded by Ivor Hancock.

Another highlight for the Band was playing home the coaches from the children's outings from the two workingmens' clubs by marching in front and leading them from Feenan Highway to Calcutta Road, and afterwards giving a short concert.

As a 14 year old schoolboy one of my tasks was to light the fire in the old band room which stood on the site where the band room is now. Unbeknown to me Bill Russell who was the Bass Trombone player and worked as a signalman for British Rail had managed to get some old railway sleepers to burn on the fire. On lighting the fire suddenly there was a great deal of black smoke which completely filled the band room, (little did I know that the sleepers are soaked in Creosote before they are used) so we never burnt any more!

The highlight of my banding career was when we qualified to play in the Second Section National Finals which this particular year was being held in the Royal Albert Hall and was the only time it was held there. The test piece was *Academic Festival Overture* which is still one of my favourite pieces today, there was also a very young 2nd baritone player in the band then named Spence Down who is conducting the 100th Anniversary Concert.

I have enjoyed many happy years in Banding and believe it or not have only been a member of Tilbury Band, I have seen many players come and go and many Musical Directors too.

Dick Fox.

BAND PROFILE



Amanda Aitken (First Horn) was taught by her father, Bill Jarret at the now defunct Romford Band. She spent 20 years there and a further 20 at the Newham Band (then the Aveley & Newham Band) before giving up playing, or so she thought, and bringing her children to learn at Tilbury. Before she knew where she was, she was sitting in the first horn seat where she remains 10 years later!

Murray Aitken (BBb Bass) After a brief period as a promising young cornet player with the Romford Band, Murray ran out of high notes and moved to the Bass Section. This led to many happy years of banding, much of it with the Aveley and Newham Band. Having retired for a while, Murray returned to playing on second baritone with Becontree Brass. He moved to the Tilbury Band in order to spend more time with his family.



Stanley Aitken (Eb Bass) joined Tilbury Learners' Ensemble Band at the age of six, progressing through the Brass Academy and Senior Bands and from seventh baritone to the bass section! He is a member of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain which he absolutely loves. In his spare time, Stan has grown very tall.

Stuart Bowes (Repiano Cornet) started playing the cornet at the age of 10, with the Barking and Dagenham Music Service. He was the principal cornet at Redbridge music school for a brief spell, before having to prioritise other activities. He progressed beyond grade 8 before leaving school, and played with local brass bands, big bands, wind bands and orchestras too numerous to mention. He went on to study music at the University of Surrey, and later joined the Tilbury Band in 2012.



Cameron Burrows (Principal Euphonium) joined Tilbury Band in 2013 on second euphonium. He became principal euphonium in 2017. Cameron was brought up in the Salvation Army where he continues to play in the band. He moved to Birmingham in May of this year, as he is getting married next year. (Before moving away he also played euphonium for the Regents Hall Band of the Salvation Army and conducted local ensemble Eastbury Concert Band.) Tonight is Cameron's last engagement with the Tilbury Band and we wish him well for the future.



Paul Carver (Solo Horn) joined the Tilbury Band in 1978 and was taught by Rosemary Mann and Nigel Taken. Paul has fulfilled many of his dreams playing for the Band, including playing at the Royal Albert Hall, being involved with TV and Radio recording for the BBC, toured America (in the days of PanAm), played at the Whit Friday marches as well as some amazing venues including Westminster Abbey and Tilbury Daisy Fields! Paul's grandfather Bill Mansfield played with the Band back in the 1930s and Paul says: *"For me Tilbury was, is and always should be a family band; I even met my wife through the Band and yes, both my children now play and enjoy music."*

Barry Chaplin (Bass Trombone) started to learn the piano age 10 and played in his first concert at his local church in Langdon Hills just 3 years later. At 14 he joined the Basildon Boys Drum & Trumpet Corps., playing against the likes of the Romford Drum & Trumpet Corps., and leading him to sign up to the Essex Yeomanry (T.A.) 304 Regiment as a musician, where he was taught trombone. A few years later he was 'recruited' to the Tilbury Band on trombone, following friend Malcolm Lewis to Castle Point Brass Band (in those days with solo horn player Philip Harper, now MD of Cory Band). He joined Thundersley Brass Band before making his way back to his 'spiritual home' at Tilbury.



Greg Evans (Second Baritone) started to play euphonium later in life at the age of 48 with Tilbury Learners Ensemble under Rosemary Mann. He continued his studies with Thurrock Music Services' John Malam up to grade six euphonium, whilst playing with Thurrock Spectrum Brass from 1998 to 2003. In 2003, Greg rejoined The Tilbury Brass Academy and subsequently joined the senior band on baritone when a seat became available.

Richard Fox (Second Baritone) was encouraged to join the Band in 1955 by his father, who was a non-playing committee member. He received his first tuition on cornet at the age of 11 from Ernie Pryor, his only other musical activity was playing recorder at school. Since that time he has proven his versatility on a number of instruments. Dick is the longest-serving playing member of the Band and a trustee of our organisation.



Jane Groves (Second Horn) started playing the recorder at junior school, before venturing to the Haverettes All Girl Marching Band where she played trumpet at many varied venues, including London's Royal Albert Hall. She was an active member of the Thundersley Brass Band, joining in 1993 on cornet, before moving for a number of years onto tenor horn. Following a break from playing she joined Grays Town Band in 2011, before moving to the Tilbury Band in 2016.

Charlotte Johnston (Second Cornet) started playing the cornet when she was eight years old playing in Thurrock Spectrum Brass. At age 14 Charlotte joined the Tilbury Band. Currently she is studying 'A' Level Music. Charlotte explains her major influence on playing brass was her father, Steve, who she always wanted to follow in playing in a brass band. Outside of Tilbury, Charlotte plays in the Brentwood Ursuline Wind Orchestra, Thurrock Music Services Orchestra and Wind Band and has participated in several orchestral workshops. As well as brass music, Charlotte has sung with the Brentwood Ursuline Chamber Choir in two tours of Italy, to Rome and Venice and at places such as St. Paul's Cathedral.



Steve Johnston (Solo Cornet) began playing aged nine in Hereford. Over the past 53 years, he has played and conducted with different bands in all sections. In 2014 Steve joined the Tilbury Band, with his daughter Charlotte. Steve has worked with a large number of bands over the past years including City of Hereford Band, Ryde Concert Band, Newark Town Band, Ransome Band, Kirkby Colliery Band, Dinnington Colliery Band, Calverton Colliery Band and Syston Royal British Legion Band. He also currently holds the post of principal cornet with local Thurrock Spectrum Brass.

Andrea Lewis (Flugelhorn) started playing at the age of seven and was taught by her father, Malcolm Lewis, starting on horn, then Eb bass, finally settling on flugelhorn aged 10. She grew up playing for Castle Point Brass Band. Andrea joined Tilbury in 1999 and, with the help of David Klein, led the Tilbury Brass Academy. Andrea has been privileged to perform in several top venues, including the Royal Albert Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey Library Gardens. Andrea describes banding as... *"more than a hobby - it's a way of life"*.



Elizabeth Marshall (Euphonium) has been with the Tilbury Band for three years. She has now settled in well to tutti euphonium after switching between baritone and euphonium for her first year with the Band. Since completing a Performing Arts degree at Middlesex University in 1999, she studied with teacher Andy Grappy (regular tuba player with the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra) to pass her grade eight euphonium, and qualified as a music teacher. She now teaches primary music during the week and peripatetic trumpet as the weekends.

Brian Martin (BBb Bass) learned to play in the Salvation Army as a teenager, where his only claim to fame was that he played in the same Youth band as now famous conductor Bramwell Tovey, but then didn't return to playing until he was dragged back into banding by Colin Darley when he started bringing his son to lessons at Tilbury in the early 1980s. Apart from a short spell as a very average drummer where he excelled on the tambourine, Brian has always played the tuba, and is now the regular Bb bass player. Brian has been chairman of the band for a number of years.





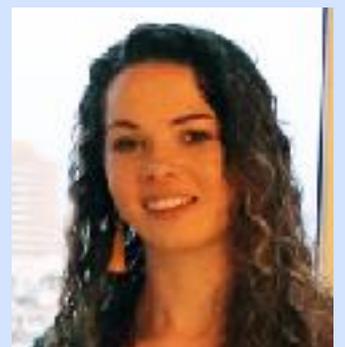
Laura Moore (Second Horn) started playing at a young age, whilst attending Gidea Park Primary School and was a member of both the Havering Youth Brass Band and the Romford Band. Laura settled at Tilbury in October 1998 and has played both tenor horn and baritone in the Band. One of Laura's high points was having the Band play at her wedding service back in March 2009.

Michael Nielson (2nd Trombone) went to Royal School of Music only to find it closed because of a bank holiday. Mike is a "professional forger" at the British Museum where he makes copies of ancient sculpture and artifacts. He is largely self-taught as a player and has been playing with the band for almost three years.



Robert Rowe (Soprano Cornet) started playing the trumpet aged seven encouraged by his mother who had played trumpet in big bands during her teens. He joined the Romford Band. After passing grade 8, he played mainly classical trumpet with many groups including the London Repertoire Orchestra. Big band playing took over and he played at many prestigious venues such as the Dominion Theatre and the Savoy Hotel. Robert first played for Tilbury in the late 1990s in various seats, before relocating to Herts due to work, playing for Ware Brass. Having stopped playing to concentrate on family life, Robert rejoined the Tilbury Band in 2014 on Soprano Cornet and hasn't looked back.

Katy Smith (Solo Cornet) Has been playing with the Tilbury Band since 2003 (when she was just 9 years of age) and is now in her 16th year of banding, which she thoroughly enjoys. Katy started off in the Tilbury Academy Band playing 3rd, then 2nd cornet and repiano before moving over to flügelhorn alongside her brother Oliver for a few years. She has played at many concerts and contests in the past in lots of locations, including the Isle of Wight and Westminster Abbey. Katy currently play solo cornet for the Band and have always enjoyed progressing within the band. *"I am very grateful to Tilbury as they have taught me everything I know about music, even how to hold a cornet! I am looking forward to celebrating our centenary and the years to follow."*



Dee Solley (2nd Cornet) returned to banding in January this year after a 30-year gap. She learned to play at the Romford Band at the age of six, and was coached and taught by the MD (and her father) Bill Jarret, before going on to study at the Guildhall School of Music in London, playing in their first ever junior brass band under Paul Cosh. A short spell with Cinderford Band and family ensembles (sister Amanda, Murray, Jack and Stanley Aitken) since then led her back to banding at Tilbury.

Adrian Storey (Solo Cornet) started playing cornet at the age of nine with Romford Junior Band, progressed to the Senior Band a few years later. By 1987 he was principal cornet and Romford had been promoted to the championship section. A move to the NW in led Adrian to join Chester Band, and from there he played with several other bands until commitments made it difficult to continue. An opportunity arose and Adrian spent the next three years as trumpet lead in a local R&B band. This was a huge amount of fun but another move to Lincs in put a stop to his *alternative career*. Adrian didn't play at all until moving back to Essex in 2012, initially in the Northfleet Brass, joining Tilbury Band in 2018.



Gregory White (Solo Trombone) started playing baritone at the age of 11 under Bob Bearman, before taking up trombone. Greg grew up playing for the South West Essex Wind Orchestra, before joining Tilbury in 1997. He studied Music at Colchester Institute (studying trombone with Helen Vollam). Greg has played regularly for several local bands and is currently the Conductor of Thurrock Spectrum Brass and Essex Yeomanry Band, as well as Tilbury Band's Bandmaster (deputy conductor). Greg's best moment as a musician was playing at the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank. He is currently Director of Music at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School.

Sarah White (Principal Cornet) started playing flute after a 'competition' at brownies to see who get a note out of the it! Some time later an advert in a local newspaper encouraged her to join Woodbridge Excelsior Band where she learned horn, before joining the Senior Band on cornet. She made the jump to Ipswich Co-Op Band, before a music degree at Colchester, where she met husband to be Greg and was encouraged to join Tilbury, with the exception of a brief spell with the Aveley & Newham Band, Sarah has been at Tilbury for the last 17 years. Sarah is currently Head of Music at Grays Convent High School.



Eamon Wilson (Eb Bass) started playing music on guitar aged five, before taking up the cornet age 11. Over time he progressed onto baritone, Eb bass then BBb bass, before settling finally on Eb bass. Eamon has played with Armthorpe Elmfield Band, Rossington Colliery (later Polypipe Rossington) Band, Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band and Beacontree Brass Band before finding his way to Tilbury.

Liz Yarrow (1st Baritone) started playing at nine years old as a student at Gidea Park Primary School under the tutelage of Alf Reece. Since that time she has played with Havering Youth Band, the Romford Band, the Aveley Band, City of Birmingham Brass Band and Northfleet Brass before joining Tilbury in 1998. Liz describes the best places she has played as Alexander Athletics Stadium, Birmingham, St. Paul's Cathedral, London as well as several tours of Germany, although confesses to be still waiting for her first appearance at the Royal Albert Hall.



Musical Directors 1919-2019

1919-1920 - H. Jones

1920-1922 - Mr. Snelling

1922-1958 - George Nicholls

1958-1960 - Ernest Pryor

1960-1963 - Leonard R. J. Nicholls

1968-1977 - W. Harold Curley

1978-1982 - Melvin White

1982-1983 - Ron Cooper

1983-1985 - Paul Cosh

1985-1988 - Nigel Taken

1986-1989 - Maj. H. Arthur Kenney

1988-1993 - Ian Coombes

1993-1994 - Philip Lawrence

1994-2000 - Jon Bennett

2000-2008 - Robert Nunnery

2008-2011 - Alan Duguid

2011-2016 - Andrew Austin

2016-2018 - Benjamin Jones

2018-2019 - David Stokes



THE TILBURY BAND
Established 1919