Our annual slow melody contest was a great success with both a high level of entries, and a high level of performances throughout the day.

Our adjudicators were brass banding luminaries, David Thornton (principal euphonium player with Brighouse and Rastrick band) and former Lions player and conductor Katie Raisbeck, who rose from the Youth Band all the way to the top with Black Dyke Band!

The Beginners section was particularly noteworthy of the high level of entries (with Hannah Mills entering having only been playing for 6 weeks!) and the quality and confidence of the performers. The 9 and 10 years section was particularly hard fought, with stunning performances by every entrant.

The Junior section also saw many performances by players who belied their tender years with high quality playing. The same was true in the Youth Band sections, with stylish and mature playing being demonstrated by many performers - something musical director Nigel Birch was delighted with.

The day was concluded in fine style when all three bands joined together for their annual awards evening and Christmas concert. The Youth Band were delighted to accompany Dave Thornton in two topical solo items, O Holy Night, and Auld Lang Syne, which ensured the large audience left in the Christmas spirit!

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Welcome to Pride! - the only official Lions Youth Brass e-magazine! We’d be shocked if there were any unofficial ones!

Pride! is your magazine - we need your stories, your news, your views, on all things LYB. If you wish to contribute, have any ideas for features or are a budding journalist who wishes to write articles ‘from within the band’ then please contact Chris either at band, or via email. Pride! will be issued each term so there is plenty of time to get your news, achievements and pictures in.

As Kitchener so nearly said, ‘your e-magazine needs you!’
Coming soon to a stereo near you...

After the success of the band's last CD recording, 'Celebration,' Lions Youth Brass are delighted to be returning to the recording studio in early February to make their latest release. The new CD will be full of concert favourites, many of which have a 'Sandbach' theme, thanks to the generous donation made towards the cost of the CD by the now sadly defunct Sandbach Lions.

Don’t forget though, that past Lions recordings are still available at all of our concerts. If you’ve not got one, get one!

In brief...

Congratulations to Georgia Williams, Ruth Rhodes and Rhys Kerry, who all received awards for ‘Most Improved Player’ in 2012.

Lions Youth Brass have spent the term wowing audiences across Cheshire in a strong of well received concerts.

Since the summer break the band have performed in concert to packed audiences in Cheadle, Crewe, Elworth and the wonderful Grange Theatre in Northwich. Coupled to that, the band also led the Rememberance Day service at St Marys in Sandbach.

It was then on to an exceptionally busy Christmas period, which saw concerts in Macclesfield, Alsager and Nantwich, as well busking sessions in Northwich, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel.

The annual Christmas Eve busking in Waitrose, Sandbach brought 2012 to a close, a year that has been quite a staggering 12 months for the band.

The most obvious highlight would be the stunning result achieved at the Nationals in April. Competing in the Premier Section the band were awarded second place after a fine performance against the best youth bands in the UK!

There was also the Olympic tour to Weymouth, where the band sampled much of the Olympic attitude.

What does 2013 have in store? Let’s find out!!

Youth Band baritone player Charlotte Birch released her debut single ‘Party Now’ on Craggstar Records. ‘Party Now’ is available to purchase as a digital download from Amazon.

Player profile: Wilson Taylor

Age: 18

Instrument: Cornet (Principal)

Been at Lions for: Too long to remember!

Favourite piece of music: Oceans

Favourite thing about lions: The social side

Describe lions in 3 words: Fun, hard work

Most memorable concert: The performance at the Nationals in 2012

When we came second in the Premier Youth Band section.

Not a lot of people know that...:

I am a keen hockey player and play for local side, Triton.
how long have you been at lions? 
I conducted Lions from 1990 to 1996, and then again from 2001 to 2013, so that’s 18 years.

what is your favourite thing about lions? 
My favourite thing about Lions is the spirit that is held within the band, something which many adult bands fail to achieve.

what is your most memorable moment? 
It is very difficult to single out one moment as there have been many great moments, but the 1995 National performance was what I would describe as near perfect and meant that we retained our title which was special.

what musical history do you have? 
My Musical history stretches far and wide. As a youngster I had a really strong singing voice and won competitions all over the country, I only started playing the cornet because my voice finally gave way.

I had many great years playing with The Roberts Bakery Band, as well as being their Band Manager. I also had a fantastic 2 year experience playing with Fodens under the great Howard Snell.

I have been fortunate to receive a few awards including the Stanley Jackson Trophy for services to the music department of Sandbach School, the Citizen of the Year Award from the Rotary Club of Sandbach and the Brian Hicks award for services to youth music. I was also introduced to Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to Crewe in 1996.

who has influenced you? 
I have been lucky to have received help from many people over the years, but in particular Colin Cranson, Richard Evans and more recently Mike Fowles.

what styles of music do you listen to? 
I try and listen to as much different styles of music as possible and so I don’t have a particular favourite, but you may be surprised to know that I very rarely listen to brass band music.

what is your favourite piece of music? 
My favourite piece is Stantonbury Festival by Ray Steadman Allen. The reason for this is that Lions played it in competition 5 times and won on each occasion.

do you have any favourite musicians? 
My favourite musician at the moment is a big band singer called Matthew Ford. He sings with ease and every word means something.

how do you relax away from band? 
During the months of April and October I relax by playing Crown Green Bowls, and I’ve actually been involved in bowls longer than brass bands and won my first competition at the age of 9.

a lot of people don’t know that....
When I applied for Lions in 1990 I was unsuccessful, and in 2001 when Jane asked me to come back I actually said no at first. It was my wife Helen, who gave up her job at Leighton Hospital so that I could re-join the band.

What is your ambition for lions? 
My ambition is that the organisation can maintain its position as one of the leading youth organisations in the country, regardless of who is conducting or running it, whilst not forgetting about the values and expertise that has brought us to the position that we find ourselves in at the moment.
meet our new musical director

The Lions Youth Brass organisation is proud to announce the appointment of Tom Hancock as the new musical director of the Junior Band.

The appointment sees Tom step up from his role as Junior Band tutor, and he took over from previous MD Ian Raisbeck at the start of the Autumn term. Tom has a long association with the Lions Youth Brass, having been a former Principal Cornet player of both Junior and Youth bands, before moving into the tuition team on his ‘retirement’ from the band at the age of 20.

Tom is still a very active player, and has been a stalwart of the Roberts Bakery Band, a Sandbach based championship section band, where he currently plays cornet.

Tom has already been hard at work with the band, which has been shown to good effect in performances over the past term.

Tom and the band are now looking forward to the challenges of the new term including the Newcastle Festival and National Finals. We wish Tom every success in his new role.

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tuba night is roaring success

The Junior Band were delighted to welcome Samantha Minshall from the Marsden Band to one of their rehearsals in October. Samantha visited the band to give a tuba demonstration, as part of an organisation wide drive to encourage members to try larger instruments, and wowed both Junior and Beginner band members with her ability on the tuba and the range of differing styles the tuba can perform.

Samantha’s visit has already seen a rise in tuba players, with both Rebecca and Lottie having swapped to the instrument recently!

The Juniors gave their first public performance under new Musical Director Tom Hancock at very end of November, when they braved a chilly night to perform at Weston Village Primary School’s annual Christmas fair.

In a 45 minute solo spot that saw the band mixing concert repertoire with Christmas items, their playing went down well - much better than Tom’s tie! - with a large audience who gave lots of positive feedback after their performance had finished.

player profile

william brooks

age: 10
instrument: drums
been at lions for: 4 months
favourite thing about lions: getting to work together with other people to make great music
describe lions in 3 words: fun, creative, loud!
the best thing about playing the drums is...: when you get to hot them really hard!
not a lot of people know that.....: I also play piano and clarinet and this year I got Music for Schools’ highest ever score in my Grade 1 clarinet exam!
In each issue of ‘Pride!’ we endeavor to introduce you to the people behind the Lions Youth Brass organisation. This time, it’s the turn of the conductors!

**Tom Hancock**
Musical Director
Lions Junior Brass

**How long have you been at Lions?**
16 years

**What is your favourite thing about Lions?**
Seeing the progression of players through the organisation. It’s amazing to see players that I have helped tutor over the last few years really start to excel in the Youth Band.

**What is your most memorable moment?**
Leading the Youth Band on their landmark first tour of the Costa Blanca, Spain in July 2008 - I performed the solo Spanish Eyes.

**What musical history do you have?**
I started playing in about 1996/1997 at Rode Heath Primary School. My teacher Rachel Woollam, then the conductor of the Youth Band recommended I join Lions, where I progressed to the Youth Band in 2002, after taking up lessons with Andrew Welsh. After a year with Rode Hall Band I was invited to join Roberts Bakery Band in December 2003 where I still am, playing Solo Cornet. I have represented Great Britain at the European Blasmusikfestival on 7 occasions, made 3 recordings and won two North West Area (1st Section) titles. I was very proud to be appointed Principal Solo Cornet of Lions Youth Band in 2006 - a position I held for two years until my ‘retiring’ from the band at the age of 20.

**Who has influenced you?**
Matt White, who was Principal Cornet of the local Rode Hall Silver Band was an early influence, and then when I progressed to Roberts Bakery Band their Principal Cornet player Mark ‘Satchmo’ Davies took me under his wing. It was awesome to listen to his jazzy solos as a young lad!

**What styles of music do you listen to?**
I listen to all genres - jazz, classical, indie - but I like electronic music most.

**What is your favourite piece of music?**
An der schönen, blauen Donau (The Blue Danube Waltz), by Johann Strauss II.

**Do you have any favourite musicians?**
I admire the cornet playing of Mark Wilkinson, Roger Webster, Stuart Lingard and Richard Marshall and the conducting of Mariss Jansons, Georges Pretre and Daniel Baremboim with famous orchestras like the Vienna Philharmonic and the Royal Concertgebouw. I am also obsessed with the electronic duo Pet Shop Boys.

**How do you relax away from band?**
As a private brass tutor and freelance cornet/trumpet player, I am always keeping busy - luckily I love my job! When I do get some free time, I like to spend a few days in Estonia with my good friends there who I met through various tours.

**Not a lot of people know that...:**
I deputised for the world famous Fodens Band on their 2008 recording ‘Patrons’ Choice’.

**What is your ambition for Lions?**
I would really like the Junior Band to have success at the Nationals in April. We will be up against bands with an average age of about 14 or 15, but anything can be achieved with hard work - you never know! Ultimately my job is to get players ready to play in the Youth Band, and their continued success is the most important thing.
are you more musical than your ten year old?

Judging by the results of our annual quiz night, the answer is… no!

The four adult teams who bravely (or foolishly!) entered the competition were given a sound thrashing as the band teams showed them how it was done!

With rounds based on topics from ‘name that tune,’ to ‘putting a music stand up,’ the evening proved great fun for all who entered and at the end of the night it was the suitably named ‘Team Marvellous’ who were crowned ‘are you more musical than your ten year old’ for 2012.

Congratulations to Adele Jones and Oliver Webb, who won our ‘Player of the Half Term’ awards. A big well done to the 2nd Cornets and the Bass section for winning Section of the Half Term awards too!

Our annual awards were given out to the following recipients:

- **Player of the Year**: Niamh Ronald
- **Players Player of the Year**: Craig Shaw
- **Most Improved Players**: Leon Gill and Adele Jones
- **Bandsperson of the Year**: Bethany Harby

Congratulations to Cerys Smedley, who has been at Lions Beginner Band for 4 years and is a tenor horn player. Learning to play music with others is her favourite thing about Lions. In 3 words, she describes Lions as friends, fun, loud. She loves to dance and go to ballet 4 times a week, and one of the best things about playing the horn is it’s easier to play!

Lions Beginner Band welcomed one of the leading names in the brass band world to their rehearsal last term as Black Dyke baritone star, and world renowned soloist, Katrina Marzella led the band through a rehearsal in November. Katrina was quick to put the band through their paces, starting with a warm up routine of ‘buzzing’ through Frere Jacque, and the combination of her ability and her easy manner soon made her a firm favourite with the band.

After an hour of rehearsing that flew by, Katrina then proceeded to give the band a baritone demonstration, treating her audience to snippets of Donegal Bay, The Swan and even Star Wars!!

To complete a fabulous evening, Katrina then presented James (our ‘cool crotchet for the night) with a signed CD and donated a copy of her arrangement of Wallace and Gromit - which will appear in our National Finals programme.

Further good news for the band came when Katrina agreed to come back in early 2013 as we prepare for the Nationals and Newcastle contests!

We are all already eagerly awaiting it!

How do you fix a broken bass? With a ‘tuba’ glue!
Meet the team

Chris Thompson
Musical Director
Lions Beginner Brass

How long have you been at Lions?
I played for the Youth Band from 1999 to 2004 before 'retiring,' and then returned as part of a team of conductors in the Beginner band in 2005. I’m now entering my ninth year with the beginners - which is scary when you realise it’s older than 75% of the children in it!

What is your favourite thing about Lions?
It’s always enjoyable to watch children join the Beginners as a 5/6 year old, and watch them develop both musically and as people as they progress through the organisation.

What is your most memorable moment?
It’s probably the first time the Beginners played at the Nationals on their own. It was memorable for the sense of achievement that the band themselves seemed to have as they walked off stage - it made all the worrying I was doing ten minutes before hand more than worthwhile!

What musical history do you have?
I actually had failed attempts on both cornet and clarinet before landing on the trombone, which was purely down to my lanky arms! I joined Lions and swiftly progressed to Roberts Bakery Band and then Audley Brass. I held the principal trombone seat at Nantwich and District Wind Band for ten years, and formed the brass group, Delta Brass in 2006. Finally, in 2012 I started my own brass instrumental teaching business, C Sharp.

Who has influenced you?
I’ve been lucky to have many excellent teachers; Jenny Harding, Gill Ryder and John Pyatt. All three were exceptional teachers with a real passion for music, and my first instrumental teacher, Neil Fryer, had a real enthusiasm for performing that just hooked you in. I was lucky to receive tuition from Brett Baker, a world famous trombone player, and a man who certainly shaped how I tried to play.

What styles of music do you listen to?
I’ll listen to pretty much anything and everything. If you look at my ipod playlist I have music that ranges from Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals to Phil Collins, and from Pavarotti to Rihanna!

What is your favourite piece of music?
I have differing favourites depending on the genre. In the brass band world then it would have to be Electra by Martin Ellerby. Overall, I would say my favourite piece comes from Holst’s ‘Planets’ suite. ‘Mars’ is an inferno of aggression that rages like no other piece I’ve heard.

Do you have any favourite musicians?
In terms of an instrumentalist, then the Norwegian trumpeter, Tine Thing Helseth is well worth a listen - her playing speaks so vividly. Overall though, it is without doubt Hayley Westenra, a kiwi classical vocal soloist. She sings with a grace and a purity that few can match - I’ve been lucky enough to meet her too!

How do you relax away from band?
I’ve been a season ticket holder at Crewe Alexandra since I was 6, and you’ll often find me at Gresty Road on a Saturday! I’m a keen - if rubbish - golfer too, and dream of a sub 100 round!!

A lot of people don’t know that...
As a 5 year old I got my head stuck in a chair at school. I decided to place it through the gap in the back, and couldn’t get it back out again. I had to walk up the stairs at school to the head’s office so he could get me out!

What is your ambition for the band?
I want to see the Beginners continue to progress as a band, whilst producing individuals of high quality that move on to the Juniors. Most importantly, I hope that all players who have played in the Beginners move on with a understanding that, above all, music is fun!
Our gallery of images from the last term!

Beginner Band prize winners from the slow melody concert

The Youth Band on stage at the Grange Theatre, Northwich.

Busking with the Beginners at a chilly Blakemere Craft Centre!

Junior Band prize winners

Youth Band members show off their slow melody prizes!

Caught On Camera
Forthcoming Events

January 2013
- Friday 4th, 7pm
  Lions Beginner Band Workshop, Sandbach Boys School
- Friday 11th, 7pm
  Lions Junior Band Workshop, Sandbach Boys School
- Saturday 26th, 7.30pm
  All bands in concert for Wilmslow Lions
- Sunday 27th, 9.30am
  Lions Youth Brass Workshop, Sandbach Boys School

February 2013
- Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd
  Lions Youth Brass CD recording, Sandbach Boys School

March 2013
- Friday 15th, 7.30pm
  All bands in concert with local Primary School
- Saturday 16th, Time TBC
  Junior and Beginner Band at Newcastle Music Festival
- Sunday 17th, TBC
  Lions Youth Brass workshop with Fodens Band, Sandbach Boys School

April 2013
- Sunday 14th April, All day
  All bands at National Youth Brass Band Championships
  Royal Northern College of Music
- Friday 26th April, 7.30pm
  All bands in concert for Alsager Lions
  Civic Hall, Alsager

Please contact the Musical Director or Chairperson if you need clarification of any details concerning concerts or competitions at least one week before the event.