



BANDING TOGETHER 14th – 16th JUNE 2019

A letter from the Musical Director ~ Claire Wren

Dear Concertina Player,

The BANDING TOGETHER weekend provides **advanced and fluent** players with the opportunity to join others of similar proficiency to play demanding band music at a high level. I believe the decision to engage a different guest conductor each year has contributed to the continued improvement of ensemble playing of the band as a collective. Preparation support notes also enable the individual player to practise effectively at home and come to the weekend "Band Ready".

The music is varied and intended to challenge. Some music will have technically tricky sections whereas other pieces will be very demanding from an expressive standpoint. Music parts, support material and audio files will be available 2-3 weeks in advance on a remote site accessed via a link. All participants need to spend time with their music, working with the practice guidance and audio files. Players should come to the weekend familiar with the music and be able to play most of it comfortably, holding their line on their own if necessary (eg if a player has to cancel at the last minute).

The Guest Conductor pulls all our efforts together, making sure players have the right notes in the right order, in exactly the right place at exactly the right time with the right rhythm, the right dynamic, phrasing and articulation. The carefully programmed rotation of pieces enables the conductor to revisit all the music several times. The attention to detail is relentless and thoroughly riveting. The result of this work is an electrifying big band sound. Finally, the dots leap off the page to become the music we love.

Are you ready for this? Is this weekend for you?

Whilst Banding Together wouldn't wish to discourage anyone from coming, the Team wants to protect the integrity of the weekend as one for **advanced and fluent** players. Banding Together is something extra special to which up-and-coming players can aspire and on which proficient players can rely. All players are expected to "step up and forward" and play their part. Every player can expect to be assigned a short, straightforward section where they are the only one on their line.

There are training grounds for this weekend. Most notable is the band workshop at the West Country Concertina Players residential weekend held in March (details: thewccp.org). This workshop is run on similar lines to Banding Together but with music and direction more suited to intermediate and competent players. Please **email or ring me** if you have any questions or concerns about your level of playing (2019bandingtogether@gmail.com 07584 305452).

Banding Together, now in its seventh year, continues to push the musical boundaries of Concertina Band repertoire and raise the standards of ensemble playing and musicianship ever higher. I hope Banding Together will be the weekend for you.

Claire
2019