



BANDING TOGETHER 19th-21st JUNE 2020

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. The repertoire for the weekend is always a good mix of styles and genres.

Parts are available to download 2-3 weeks in advance together with audio files and practice notes. All participants are expected to spend time with their music, working with the practice guidance and audio files. Players should come to the weekend familiar with their parts and be able to play most of them 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 result of this work is an electrifying big band sound; finally, the dots leap off the page to become the music we fall in love with.

Is this weekend for you?

Banding Together wouldn't wish to discourage anyone from coming but the Team wants to protect the integrity of the weekend as one for **advanced and fluent** players. Banding Together sets the bar high to which up-and-coming players can aspire and upon which proficient players can rely.

There are training grounds for this weekend. Most useful is the band workshop at the West Country Concertina Players residential weekend held in March (details: thewccp.org). I run this workshop on similar lines to Banding Together but with music and direction more suited to the intermediate and competent player. If you need help deciding, please **email or ring me** if you have concerns about your level of playing (bandingtogetherwithj25@gmail.com 07584 305452).

Banding Together, now in its eighth 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

