



Gloucestershire Music & the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association

Supporting Brass Bands in partnership

Dear GBBA Member,

Over the last five years, Gloucestershire Music and the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association have been working together to support banding throughout Gloucestershire. There have been many successes and initiatives that have resulted in the formation of three county bands as well as a range of local support tailored to the needs of bands.

BLAST OFF

BLAST OFF provides the opportunity for young brass and percussion players to meet once a term to play as part of a county group.

Junior Band – open to players who know only five notes to grade 2

Intermediate Band - grade 3 – 5

Youth Band – grade 6 and above (secondary aged pupils – year 7 and above)

The bands are led by members of the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association and Gloucestershire Music. Often we attract many young players who have lessons at school but do not play in a brass band. We use this opportunity to promote youth bands around the county.

Each BLAST OFF event attracts well over 100 students who seek to move through the band into the Gloucestershire Youth Brass Band (GYBB).

RESOURCES

Gloucestershire Music is the local authority music service providing whole class, group and individual tuition to schools throughout Gloucestershire. It runs 20 music centres and county groups that provide pathways for young musicians to fulfil their potential. Gloucestershire Music also runs an instrument hire scheme for strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. The service currently has a stock of over 11,000 instruments. These instruments could be hired to a local brass band looking to help support opportunities for young people in their area. Please contact Gloucestershire Music on 01452 330300 for more details.

Steven Legge has also worked closely with BIG SHINY BRASS to provide free resources for bands setting up a new youth band. These include free starter packs and backing tracks as well as a teacher's resource book. These can all be accessed via www.musicmarvels.co.uk

THE NATIONAL STAGE FOR COUNTY YOUTH BAND

Gloucestershire Music and the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association help provide a support network for the Gloucestershire Youth Brass Band to perform and compete at the highest level of youth music making.

By participating in Music for Youth (world's largest youth music festival) the band has had the opportunity to perform at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham and the Royal Albert Hall, London. The band has also made five appearances at the National Youth Brass Band Championships where they won the intermediate championships in 2009.

In its short life, the GYBB has established itself as one of the country's top youth brass bands.

NETWORK OF SUPPORT

Gloucestershire Music and the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association have developed a network of support to help bands and young players. We are dedicated to promoting music to our younger generations.

Steve Legge	Assistant Head of Gloucestershire Music	Tel: 01452 330300
Philip Cowley	Head of Brass – Gloucestershire Music	philip.cowley@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Karin Lythell	Youth representative for the GBBA	www.gbba-online.org.uk

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

SCHOOL DEMOS AND BRASS DAYS

Since 2008, Gloucestershire Music has delivered a programme called WIDER OPPORTUNITIES. This national initiative has resulted in over 25,000 primary aged students receiving 10 free instrumental lessons from 2008 – 2011. Many brass workshops have led to young players being encouraged to join their local band. By working closely with band leaders and the GBBA we have given support to Tewkesbury, Chalford, Nailsworth, Lydney, Cirencester, Lydbrook, Drybrook and Cheltenham Silver.

One example of our work was a two day project in the Forest of Dean. With the support of 'Making Music' (Music Industry Associations charity branch) we were able to visit 6 schools and give over 500 young people the opportunity to play a brass instrument. Letters were sent to all students with details of how they could contact their local brass band.

LET'S TALK

Sometimes it is as simple as talking to each other. There is a great support framework of musicians within Gloucestershire committed to encouraging the next generation of brass and percussion players. We are keen to share ideas, support each other and provide a workable framework of support for everyone's benefit.

Gloucestershire Music and the Gloucestershire Brass Band Association are here to help. If you have any questions or feel you could contribute to future events, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01452330300 / email steve.legge@gloucestershire.co.uk