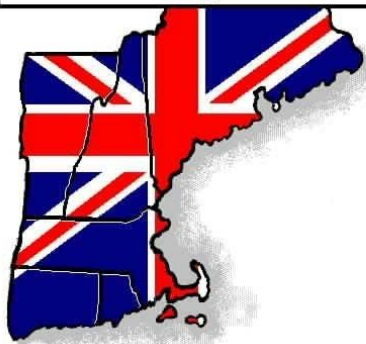


Fall 2005 Newsletter

Notes from the Music Director

New England Brass Band



The beginning of a new season with the New England Brass Band brings with it a sense of excitement and anticipation. As I begin my eighth season as Music Director of the NEBB, I am impressed once again with the dedication and commitment to excellence of our 30 members. Throughout the band we move from strength to strength and each year it seems that the band improves measurably. This commitment has allowed us to play an ever increasing variety of excellent music that we can bring to our audiences through our concerts and recordings.

Every season has many highlights and this season is no exception. We are very excited that the band's fourth CD, "This is Christmas", has just been released (details can be found in this newsletter). The band's first concert will take place in one of the best concert halls in the world, Symphony Hall in Boston. Three Christmas concerts follow in December and the spring brings more concerts throughout New England. In February, we will welcome Stephen Bulla, a long-time friend of the band and staff composer for "The President's Own" US Marine Band, to come to work with the band in an all day series of rehearsals and clinics as we prepare for our trip to the North American Brass Band Association's national championship in Louisville, Kentucky. In June we will have the first of two recording sessions for the band's fifth CD release, this one of all-American music. We hope you will join us for the NEBB's 2005-06 season either by attending our concerts or by hearing us at home on CD or podcast. We deeply appreciate our enthusiastic and loyal audiences and you have our assurance that we will continue to do our best to bring you the best quality music played at the highest level as

NEBB at Symphony Hall November 7th 8:00 PM

Come hear the NEBB in Boston's Symphony Hall on Monday November 7th for our first concert of the 2005 – 2006 season. Tickets are \$11 and can be purchased at the Symphony Hall box office.

we continue our mission to advance brass banding "in the British tradition."

-Douglas Yeo

Goodbye and Hello

Each season the NEBB said goodbye to members who move on to new chapters of their lives and therefore welcome new players to fill their chairs. At the end of the 2004-05 season we reluctantly say farewell to Elizabeth Jewell (solo cornet), Stephanie Watts (solo cornet) and Bradley Kerns (principal trombone). Each had been a part of the NEBB for several seasons and had contributed to the band's growth and ongoing success in recent years. We wish them well in their new endeavors. In September we welcomed three new members to the band: Mark Mashburn (solo cornet), Roy Miller (solo cornet) and Don Lucas (principal trombone). Please join us in welcoming these new members to the band. In addition, two members of the band's bass section have decided to switch instruments this season so principal bass Bill Conant will play BB flat bass and Steve Noel will play E flat bass. Musical chairs!

New NEBB CD: This is Christmas

Since 1999, recording has become an important part of the NEBB's activities. Beginning with our first CD, "Christmas Joy!" the band has had great success with its recordings. Not only have our recordings been commercially successful and critically acclaimed, but they have helped the band improve and hone our performances to a polished edge. "Honour and Glory" (released in 2001) and "The Light of the World" (released in 2004) continue to be popular releases with our audiences but "Christmas Joy!" proved to be so popular that it sold 2500 copies and is now out of print. Given that the band has changed and improved so much since "Christmas Joy!" was released, we decided to record a new Christmas CD which has just become available.

"This is Christmas" is the NEBB's most ambitious CD to date. Recorded in Boston's acoustically acclaimed Symphony Hall in January and June 2005, its 13 tracks represent a cross section of Christmas music from around the world including several world premiere recordings. Among the album's highlights are Alfred Reed's dramatic "Russian Christmas Music" arranged for brass band by John de Salme, "Gaudete" by Kevin Norbury and a collection of carols by American composer Alfred Burt in "Christmas Bells are Ringing." Terry Everson (cornet), Kevin Maloney (flugelhorn) and Douglas Yeo (bass

trombone) all contribute solo tracks and Terry also has a sizzling jazz cornet solo on William Himes' "Three Kings Swing." The CD includes many tracks that have become favorites with our audiences and several new pieces that will be heard for the first time at our Christmas concerts this December.

With Christmas coming, we hope you will put "This Is Christmas" on your Christmas list. Copies can be purchased at any of the band's concerts or on the band's website at www.newenglandbrassband.org or with the order form found in this newsletter.



THIS IS CHRISTMAS

The New England Brass Band
Douglas Yeo, Music Director

1. **The Spirit of Christmas** by Peter Graham
2. **Christmas Bells Are Ringing - The Carols of Alfred Burt** by Alfred Burt, arr. Stephen Bulla
3. **What Sweeter Music** by John Rutter, arr. Douglas Yeo
4. **Huron Carol**, a French-Canadian folk carol, arr. Kevin Norbury; Terry Everson, cornet solo
5. **March: Christmas Rejoicing**, arr. William Gordon
6. **Away in a Manger** by William Kirkpatrick, arr. Peter Graham; Kevin Maloney, flugelhorn solo
7. **Gaudete!** by Kevin Norbury

8. **Three Kings Swing**, a French folk carol, arr. William Himes; Terry Everson, jazz cornet solo
9. **Russian Christmas Music** by Alfred Reed, arr. John W. de Salme
10. **Once in Royal David's City** by Henry John Gauntlett, arr. Terry R. Everson; Douglas Yeo, bass trombone solo; Terry R. Everson, conductor
11. **Mid-winter** by Gustav Holst, arr. Stephen Bulla
12. **Feliz Navidad** by José Feliciano, arr. Dorothy Gates
13. **The Kingdom Triumphant** by Eric Ball

The NEBB on the Internet

Those familiar with the latest in Internet technology know of a new kind of program called a "podcast." With the success of Apple Computer's iPod and other portable music delivery systems, a podcast is a program that can be downloaded to a personal computer and then uploaded to an iPod for convenient listening any time. Peter Ryan is the host of the first brass band podcast called "Brasscast" and he has recently produced a podcast featuring the New England Brass Band. Visit brasscast.com and download the free NEBB podcast which features several tracks from "Honour and Glory" and "The Light of the World" in addition to an interview with NEBB Music Director Douglas Yeo. Be sure to return to brasscast.com in December for another podcast from Peter featuring the NEBB and selections from "This is Christmas."

Thanks for a Gift

The NEBB would like to publicly acknowledge the receipt of an extraordinary gift to the band.

In recent years, the NEBB has been playing music that has required the use of a wider variety of percussion equipment. While the band has steadily added to the amount of percussion equipment it owns, the high cost and need for a suitable place to store a set of chimes has made such a purchase illusive. Nevertheless, the NEBB board saw such an acquisition to be essential to enhance the band's performances and when Stan Whitlock (NEBB soprano cornetist and band librarian) and his wife, Carolyn, heard of this need, they decided to make a new set of chimes their gift to the band. This extraordinarily generous donation which allowed the NEBB to purchase the finest chimes made (Yamaha/Deagan 9190 concert chimes), has been made in memory of Stan's father and a plaque commemorating this gift is now attached to the chimes:

A GIFT TO THE NEW ENGLAND BRASS BAND
FROM STAN AND CAROLYN WHITLOCK

IN MEMORY OF
DR. JOHN B. WHITLOCK
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION
PERCUSSIONIST, BRASS ENTHUSIAST,
NURTURING AND LOVING FATHER

We want to thank Stan and Carolyn for their generosity in donating the chimes which will be heard for the first time this season at our Christmas concerts where we will perform Alfred Reed's "Russian Christmas Music."

Enhancing our Presentation

Those who have seen concerts presented by British style brass bands in Europe know how spectacular their concert presentations can be with music stands draped with elegant stand banners. This year, the NEBB has taken delivery of its own stand banners that feature the NEBB logo.

Manufactured by Tor Industries in England (a leading manufacturer of stand banners for brass bands in the UK), the banners will first be used at the NEBB concert in Boston's Symphony Hall on November 7. We are one of only a few bands in the United States to use these elegant banners and we are certain they will be appreciated by our audiences. The NEBB logo, featuring a "Union Jack" flag superimposed over the New England States, was designed by Drew Currie who for many years played flugelhorn with the NEBB.

Special thanks go to Band President Ken Griffin who, with the assistance of one of our band's friends in England, John Stubbings, saw the banner project through from start to finish.

NABBA 2006

The New England Brass Band will return to the North American Brass Band Association's National Championships in March 2006. This will be the fourth time the NEBB has attended the NABBA Championship, the most recent being in April 2004 when the band took first place in the "Challenge" section. The 2006 Championships will be held on March 31-April 1 in Louisville, Kentucky and at Indiana University Southeast. Having taken first place in the "Challenge" section in 2004, the band has decided to move up to the "Honors" section. Those who are familiar with such contests know that each band in a section is required to play a 30 minute program which must include a "test piece" that is played by each band. This year's Honors section test piece is Gilbert Vinter's "Spectrum", a challenging but very rewarding work composed in 1968 in which each color of the spectrum is given a unique musical treatment. To round out the NEBB's program, the band will play the most difficult work it has ever attempted, Philip Sparke's "The Year of the Dragon." In three movements, "The Year of the Dagon" features an extensive trombone solo in the second movement that

will be played by our new principal trombonist, Don Lucas, who is professor of trombone at Boston University. Members of the NEBB will also participate in the solo and small ensemble contest that is associated with the band contest. NABBA is always an exciting event for the NEBB. Not only does it provide us with an opportunity to work on new, challenging music, but it provides a place for our members to interact with members of other brass bands from around North America. For more information about NABBA and the national championships visit the NABBA website at nabba.org.

Thank you to our Host

There are many essential things needed for a band to be successful including dedicated musicians, a library of high quality music, and a loyal audience. None of that would mean much if a band did not have a place where it could regularly rehearse. The NEBB is very fortunate to have such a place at the Congregational Church in Wilmington, Massachusetts. Each Monday night, the church opens its doors to the NEBB for rehearsal. This relationship with the church has been ongoing for many years and it is something we deeply appreciate. Each year, the band gives a concert at the church to benefit the church's ministry and last year the band made a special gift to the church for projects to be undertaken by its worship and music ministry. You can join us in thanking the church (and its pastor Miles Hall and church secretary Diane James) by attending our annual Christmas concert at the church which this year will be held on Sunday, December 4, at 3:00 PM.

Concert Schedule:

In addition to our benefit concert for the Wilmington Congregational Church, come hear the band at these other scheduled concerts. We are still looking to add one or two more concerts to our schedule, so for the most up to date listing, and for directions to the scheduled concerts, visit our website at newenglandbrassband.org

Monday November 7th – Symphony Hall, Boston, 8:00PM

Sunday December 4th – Wilmington Congregational Church, Wilmington, MA, 3:00 PM

Sunday December 11th – First Parish Church, Westwood, MA, 3:30 PM

Saturday December 17th – Free Christian Church, Andover, MA, 7:00 PM

Sunday February 12th, 2006 – Westgate Church, Weston, MA, 6:00 PM

Sunday May 21, 2006 – Trinitarian Congregational Church, North Andover, MA, 4:00 PM

Sunday June 4th, 2006 – Hope Church, Lennox, MA,
6:00 PM

Concert Arrangements - The New England Brass Band is available for concerts throughout the New England Area. We may be reached by mail at:

**The New England Brass Band
Attn: John Bassett
P.O. Box 541462
Waltham, MA 02454**

Or email us at: newsinfo@newenglandbrassband.org
A Reminder and Thank You:

This newsletter is sent to you because you have indicated you would like to be informed regularly of the New England Brass Band's activities. We appreciate very much your ongoing support of the band through your presence at concerts, purchase of our CD's and other products, and your communication and interaction with the band and its members. Without supporters like you, the NEBB would be playing concerts in empty halls!

We want to remind you that the New England Brass Band is a non-profit organization and a tax-exempt corporation. We are a volunteer group and pay no salaries to members, board members or our conductors. All funds raised by the band through our concerts and sale of CDs and other items are used for the ongoing work of the band, allowing us to purchase instruments and music, take trips, produce recordings and engage in other activities which help bring the unique sound of the British brass band to audiences in New England and beyond.

We welcome the tax-deductible financial support of our friends who contribute either to a specific need or project the band is undertaking, or toward assistance in promoting the general and ongoing mission of the band. If you would like to make a donation to the band, please send it to our treasurer at the address below; we will be pleased to give you a receipt for tax purposes and will be most grateful for your support. If your company or place of work participates in a matching program, your contribution could double. To all of you who continue to support the NEBB, we offer our thanks.

For more information about the NEBB's activities, or if you would like to make a donation, please write to us at:

**New England Brass Band
PO Box 541462
Waltham, MA 02454-1462**

NEBB CD Order Form:

To order any of the New England Brass Band's CD's,
please fill out and mail this form with payment to:

**New England Brass Band
PO Box 541462
Waltham, MA 02454-1462**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Quantity:

This is Christmas - \$15.00 each

The Light of the World - \$15.00 each

Honour & Glory - \$15.00 each

Shipping and Handling: Please add \$2.00 for the first
CD and \$1.00 for each additional CD to your total
payment.

Total Amount Due