



Rathfarnham Concert Band Society

RCBS
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Rathfarnham Concert Band Society,
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Dear members,

Following on from our great National Concert Hall Concert we have more exciting times ahead as we continue to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. I want to take this opportunity to bring up to date on our plans and some of the things that have already happened.

30th Anniversary Concert – Victory Centre Firhouse Saturday 21st May 2011

We will celebrate our 30th anniversary with a great concert in the Victory Centre followed by refreshments for all. Since RCBS was founded over 1200 people have gone through music education here. Some are now teaching, some are now parents of the new generation joining and many are still in touch in one way or another. Still it would be great to be in touch with many more. So please spread the word about the concert to anyone you know previously associated with RCBS and let them know they can check in at our website www.rcbs.ie or keep in touch through Facebook. Former playing members would be welcome back to take part in the spectacular May concert.

At this concert the beginners, who will shortly form the Tyro Band, will make their debut.

To help us program the music for the concert we would like people to send in requests for their favourite band piece over the years. All request received before 28th February will be considered and the program for the concert will be decided from the requests. Feel free to add a reason why it is your favourite piece. Suggestions can be emailed to secretary@rcbs.ie handed in to band officers or conductors or written on the whiteboard that will be in the hall during Monday evening and Sunday rehearsals.

National Band Championships

The Band Championships take place at the Helix on Saturday 9th April.
It has been decided that the junior band will enter the junior competition.

The Senior and Inter bands will be combined and enter the advanced (top) competition. This band will begin rehearsing on Sunday 6th March. There will be a lot of emphasis on sectional rehearsals on both Sunday morning and Monday night in a determined enterprise to win the competition and to show the rest of the band world Rathfarnham at its best in this year of celebration. The combined band will stay together to perform at the 30th anniversary concert and I for one am really forward to hearing our wonderful musicians, past and present, perform together.

Junior Band Trip

The junior band will be taking a residential trip to Carlingford, Count Louth on the weekend of 11th, 12th and 13th March to prepare for the Band Championships. Ger and Eleanor will be in contact presently.

Prism Concert Friday 4th March

RCBS introduced the concept of a prism concert to Ireland a number of years ago. Pauline Kennedy (one of our original members from the very first band) is putting the prism concert together. It will take place on Friday the 4th March at 8pm in the Church of Ireland, Rathfarnham. A prism concert uses

light and sound to reflect music in a different way. Music comes from different places in the church and with solo and ensemble contributions. There is no applause until the very last piece and instead of an MC the audience has a program list of pieces, performers and the running order. Atmosphere is very important and once the concert starts, it is not possible to allow in late comers. The last prism concert was packed out so my advice is to get there early to avoid disappointment. Some great talent will emerge from within our current bands to delight you that eve.

Master Classes

The biggest investment in the future we are making is in the current masterclasses program being run as part of our 30th celebrations. There are two vitally important parts to the masterclass series. One is the actual instrumental session with the particular Master. The second, no less vital, is the short informal recital given by the Master where there is also the opportunity for anyone to ask a question. The format for the masterclass sessions is now established as Sunday morning and afternoon with the recital at 12.15. All parents are invited to attend the recital. Do please come in, particularly if you are outside sitting in the car, waiting to collect. Parents are also invited to sit on the classes themselves as observers. This is particularly useful for the parent of beginners and juniors.

There has been a noticeable shyness on the part of a small number of band members to stay for the Sunday morning recital by the master, particularly when it is for an different instrument than the one they play. I want to emphasise that there is so much to be learned and gleaned in these recitals from the great musicians who have and are coming to us. It is only a half hour and by the time we are tidied up it is no later than 1pm. The masterclasses given to date by Gary Curtin (Euphonium/Tuba), John Ryan (French Horn returning home to RCBS) and Gavin Roche (Trombone) have been a great success. Confirmed to come are Fintan **Sutton (Clarinet) on 6th February and Bill Dowdall on 13th February**. Still to come are Noel Eccles (Percussion – Riverdance, NSOI), Matthew Manning (Oboe – NSOI) and we are working also to finalise Trumpet, Saxophone and Bassoon masterclasses.

Fees

Enclosed with this not are the latest fee invoices. Sharon Moroney, our treasurer will be on hand on Sunday 6th February to accept payments. So this is a good date to experience a masterclass recital with Fintan Sutton also.

These are very difficult times for everyone. If you should encounter difficulty with the fees please approach Sharon Moroney or me in the strictest confidence to work things out.

Finally

I would like to thank everyone for their support of our society, a society of members for the members. I would also like to stress our thanks to the board of management and principal of St. Marys which is our home. There is a responsibility on every playing member to tidy up the rehearsal space and to put back music, and society instruments carefully in their rightful place. It takes five minutes to tidy up a rehearsal space, when everyone takes part and does their bit.

Yours sincerely

Noel Larkin
Chairman, Rathfarnham Concert Band Society

PS: Don't forget to get your request for your favourite band tune over the years in before 28th February for our 30th anniversary concert in May.