

SOUTHWARK CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION



NEWSLETTER

June 2003



PRIMARY BRASS BAND SPECIAL EDITION

How It All Began!

Southwark Children's Foundation began in 1978 with the aim of providing the children of Southwark with opportunities for holidays that poverty denies them and to give them experiences of the arts and culture. The charity uses all unpaid volunteers. It raises money by donations to fund its projects and receives no funding from local government sources.

The Brass Band idea was discussed in 1996 and emerged in 1997 as a Southwark Children's Foundation Saturday Morning Primary Brass Band.

The children come from local primary schools and rehearse only on Saturday mornings for two hours during term-time. They learn to sight read music. Any child can join even if they can only blow one note. The tuition is free in a range of brass instruments and the children gain experience in playing a variety of music with a band. The main aim of the project is that very young children learn and play music together. Public performance is a secondary function.

The rehearsal space is a gift in kind from Eveline Lowe School, and the instruments are also loaned to the children by the schools the children attend. Heber School gave rent-free office space to the Charity.

. The Charity has been highly successful in all of its projects i.e. Artists in Residence, where local artists work with children in schools, Children to Holland, where children have a three week holiday in Holland and The St Leonard's Seaside Centre.

(Minutes taken from a committee meeting held in 1996)

The Proposal. We wish to establish initially a Saturday morning school for about 30 players. It would operate from 10am – 1pm at Geoffrey Chaucer School, SE1. Geoffrey Chaucer would be used initially but eventually we would wish to see the band being a key part of the Southwark Children's Art Centre, perhaps based at Eveline Lowe School. Each session would involve setting up for sectional practice in trumpet, horns and bass for one hour. Then there would be a break followed by one hour of ensemble/band work with everyone together. The key elements would be good quality music, high expectations of good behaviour, building commitment from each player and their family and most especially, a very enjoyable musical experience. Each individual's skills and experience would be developed and feed back to their schools. We would wish to work towards a concert after the skill level of each player has been established.

talks involving Eveline Lowe School and Steven Wray, Assistant Director of Education & Leisure Department, about an eventual Lottery Bid.

Budget. Initially, the costs would seem to be as follows:

Tutor Fees	£8,100
Rent to Geoffrey Chaucer	£3,600
Photocopying costs	£800
SCF Contingency/Administrative Support	£500
TOTAL	£13,000



The Southwark Children's Foundation is keen to act as "broker" for the band. The Southwark Children's Foundation has a long-term intention of creating a Southwark Children's Arts Centre for both visual and performing arts. There have already been exploratory

This proved too expensive in terms of rent. Gary Foskett and the Governors of Eveline Lowe Primary School offered their premises for the Brass Band to meet and play free of rent. It has been operating there ever since.

Fred Greenhill, Musical Director and Tutor In Charge explains...

When I was approached by Dick Edwards to be Tutor in Charge of a new venture of the Southwark Children's Foundation – a Primary Brass Band, I really needed to think twice. I was working all week with young brass players, so, did I really want to give up my Saturday? Eventually Dick made me an offer I couldn't refuse and promised he would never try to sell me another Toby Jug!! He just got himself a Tutor!

The idea of working with very young children of different standards and completely different social and cultural backgrounds actually appealed to me a great deal. It also was a challenge to my own skills to make a group such as this into a very high standard performing band. Dick also wanted my wife Freda to be one of the tutors; this unfortunately wasn't possible as she was working for the Centre for Young Musicians. So, the tutors were to be Paul Beer, Jane Harris and myself.

The band was up and running although only on a term's trial. It was a success. It was great to see children and parents from all walks of life giving their time every Saturday. The children wanted to be there learning and improving their skills with such enthusiasm and happiness, unlike some other Saturday music centres where children are made to go and didn't really want to be there.

It was working. It was decided that the band would continue. The band gave regular concerts at some very prestigious venues, gathering quite a few admirers along the way. Unfortunately, Jane had to leave, and after much persuasion, my wife Freda decided to leave the Centre for Young Musicians and take up the post. The band has continued to grow in number and it was hoped that at our next concert there would be between 55-60 young players all from Southwark Schools.

Although I consider the standard of the band to be quite high, it was a great honour to be chosen to play for the opening of the GLA building in the presence of Her Majesty The Queen, a fitting tribute to the fine young children and parents in the band.

As I write this, I can see great things happening for the band in the future. It is very good to see children wanting to perform to such a high standard and with full support from their parents.



My time with the Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band

Nicholas Newland, Tuba Player

I joined the Brass Band when it was first formed in 1995 when I was 9 years old. I became its first full time tuba player, and continued to play with the group full time until moving to the Centre for Young Musicians. During my time with the band, I made many new friends and had many new experiences, but the most obvious change was my musical development.

For the first time, I could play with a large group of children my age and study under three teachers, one of whom played the euphonium. This provided me with the insights of a bass player, rather than the trumpet-playing teachers I had previously encountered. My time with the band was thoroughly enjoyed and the welcoming and fun atmosphere created by Fred, Paul and Jane added much to my experience.

The group helped me develop sight-reading skills and prepared me for the commitment needed to maintain a life featuring music, as well as giving me an insight into the world of large concerts – something I rely upon to this day.

Since leaving the band, I have continued to play regularly, taking up bass trombone and singing, as well as sometimes returning to the group to play in concerts. This is a wonderful opportunity to give something back to the group and its current players. I am now 16 and have been principal tuba with the London School's Symphonic Band for two years – I know that this would not have been possible without my time in the Southwark Children's Foundation's Primary Brass Band. I shall be forever grateful for the years spent there, and continuing friendship with Fred, Freda and Paul.

Vickie Greenhill.

I joined the Southwark Children's Foundation Brass Band in 1996 when I was 9 years old and I really enjoyed going on Saturday mornings making music and making new friends.

I attended the College for Young Musicians for 3 years after I left the band then I decided to move on somewhere where I was going to become a better brass instrument player.

Now I attend the Junior Royal Academy of Music on Saturday mornings. I have been going there for 2 years and I really enjoy it. I am now 16 years old. I play in my school's Symphonic Band and Brass Ensemble conducted by Fred, my dad.

I enjoy going back to the Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band to help them and also to play in some of their performances.

I want to become a musician in the future. "Follow your dream and let its spirit guide you". That is what I hope to do. Good luck to all the children in the band for the future.



OPENING OF CITY HALL, JULY 25TH 2002 BY HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH 11. Southwark Children's Foundation Hit's The Headlines



"On Tuesday 23rd July 2002, 60 children from Southwark will be performing at the official opening by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, of the Greater London Council's new headquarters. All the music for the event will be performed by the Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band. The band of 60 are aged between 6 years to 11 years and attend Dulwich Hamlet Junior School, Eveline Lowe Primary, Gloucester Primary, Joseph Lancaster Primary, Michael Faraday Primary and Peckham Park Primary. The band will also include a few former members who now attend Haberdasher Askes Secondary, Prendergast Secondary and Bonus Pastor Secondary."

News For Schools, July 2002

I love Saturday band because I learn new songs and I get to perform in front of important people. It is fun and I meet lots of new friends. I also like going there for my parents to get a bit of a rest for a couple of hours. **Isheba Barnes**

"Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band played a selection of music, including Beethoven's Ode to Joy and Henry Purcell's Trumpet Tune, as she entered the Chamber.

The Queen was led around the building accompanied by the Mayor and Mr Phillips, where she was introduced to the staff and shown a 3D map of London before meeting the members of the London Assembly. Then she signed the visitor's book before meeting the children of the Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band."

Tenor horn player Jordan Stephens, nine, said: "She said it must have been a great honour for us to play at the opening of the building."

Robert Penney, eight, who plays the trumpet, said: "Then she told us it must have been fun – she was really nice."

The Duke of Edinburgh said sorry for arriving late. It was wonderful.

"I like Saturday band because I have lots of fun and play with lots of friends and I also learn lots of new pieces and go on concerts."

Juwel Barnes, Year 4, Joseph Lancaster School

"Congratulations on an outstanding performance on the occasion of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth opening the Greater London Authority City Hall on Tuesday July 22nd 2002. You should be very proud of your own performance and as part of the performance of the whole band. You have attended rehearsals throughout the year and the result is there for everyone watching the television to judge. All the Trustees of the Southwark Children's Foundation are also very proud of you and your very special tutors."

Fred Greenhill – Tutor in Charge



"Superb Performance"

"They were 'Bowled Over'"

"An Inspiration & Truly Humbling"

"I was really impressed both by the children and the organisation of the band. While only just in on the end, I felt privileged to have been involved in the City Hall opening." Noel Fraser – Tutor

"I like Saturday Brass Band 'cause I learn lots of new people and learn new songs and go to concerts."
Julie Barnes, Year 3, Joseph Lancaster School

Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London Says.....

Dear Fred,

"I just want to express my sincere thanks to you and the Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band for your superb performance at City Hall on Tuesday. It was a pleasure to have such a fabulous representation of young people from Southwark and H.M. The Queen and London Assembly members were all delighted you could join us."

Dear Fred & Pat,

With reference to the Opening of City Hall, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for all your hard work. We really appreciate the time and effort you put in to make the day run smoothly. Southwark Children's Foundation Brass Band was a pleasure to work with. Not only were you responsive, professional and unfailingly helpful, you delivered all that we could have hoped for and more.

Your work with the young community is both an inspiration and truly humbling and you can rest assured that your dedication and devotion did not go un-noticed.

Once again, many thanks and we look forward to the possibility of working with you once again on future events.



Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band at the official Opening of City Hall

The following is an extract from the Official Opening Programme:

The Foundation began in 1978 with the aim of providing children of Southwark with opportunities for holidays and cultural experiences denied them because of poverty. Southwark Children's Foundation has been successfully meeting current needs throughout the changing times since 1978. We operate a residential Seaside Centre in St. Leonard s for school and youth groups, a Children to Holland summer holiday scheme, an Artist in Residence project using local artists working with children in Southwark Schools and the Saturday morning Primary Brass Band providing free tuition for the primary age children.

The charity uses all unpaid volunteers and raise money by donation. We are helped by gifts in kind. Eveline Lowe Primary School Headteacher Gary Foscett, provides the band with rehearsal rooms and the use of the school s brass instruments. The charity owns only six instruments, Alan Penney, Eveline Lowe Premises Officer gives us his time. Heber Primary School gives us office accommodation rent free.

The dedication to giving the children of Southwark wider experiences of their social and cultural inheritance is shared by all the unpaid volunteers, the facilitators through gifts-in-kind, by inspirational local artists and music tutors and our donors. It is the spirit of London that is reflected in the music of these very young musicians that you will hear today

Members of Southwark Children's Foundation Primary Brass Band

Trumpets: James Loftus, Allan Penney, Robert Penney, Wenona Barneih, Natasha Barnieh, Phung Ho, Keskes Ukueku, Isheba Barnes, Jewel Barnes, Abigail Udoyen, Angela Tran, Aurora Gould-Morandi, Chelsea McGrath, Rebecca Cadogan-Christie. Cosima Ehni, Krystal Coe, Lauren Nichols, Toluope Kayaode, Folu Awoyemi, Daisy Pizarro-Miguel, Danielle Mason-Brome, Ayokinle Omotayo, Ivan Taylor, Madeline Taylor, Mae Warr, Laura Davorn, Jessa Wallace, Josef Pitura-Riley, Timothy Bamigbade. Jumilla Lamalfa, Jonathan Baker, Katie Smith, Harriet Charters, James Bromley, Jack Pagan(trumpet & timpani), Louise Camm-Crosbie, Emma Gayner, Vicki Greenhill, Emma Charters, Rachel Southall.

E-flat Tenor Horns: Julie Barnes, Gemma Clark, Ashleen Lamalfa, Oyin Lapite, Esther Olagbemiro, Jordan Stephens, Joseph Williams

Timpani: Jack Pagan

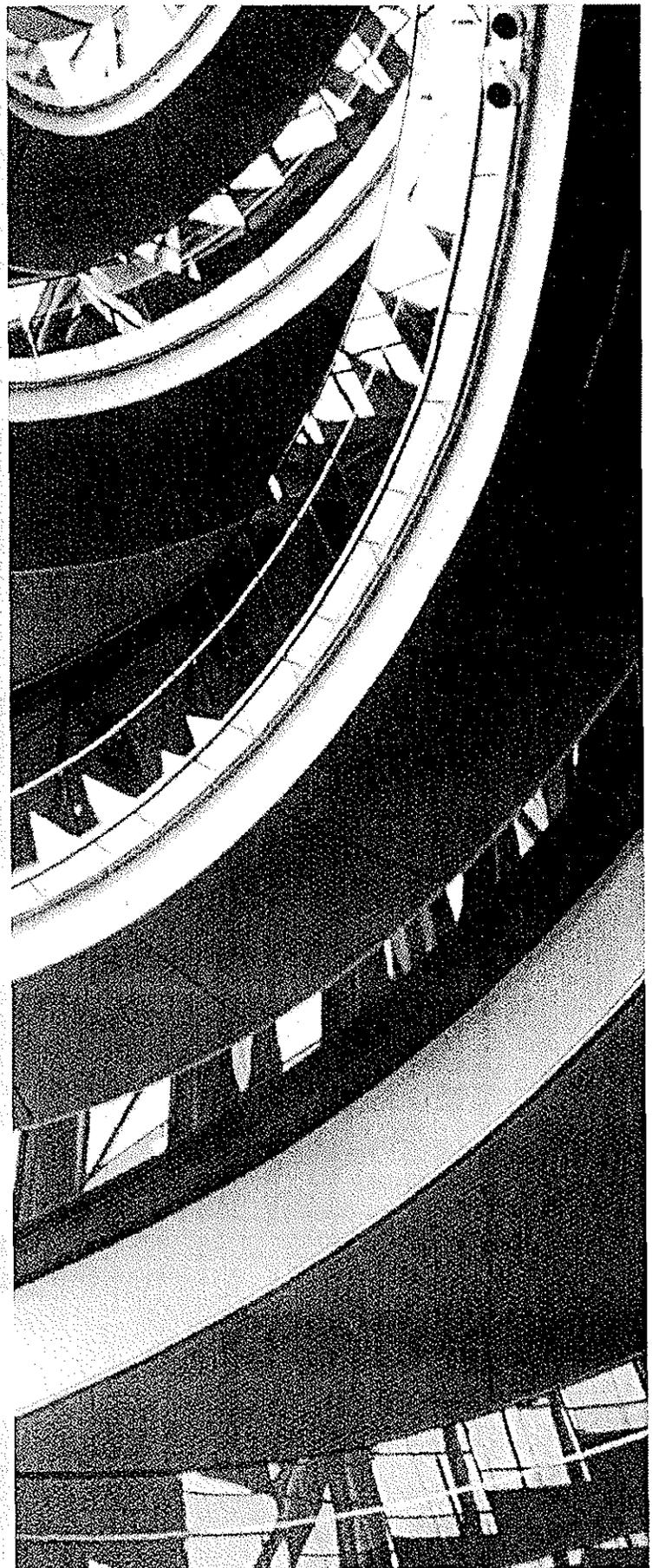
Trombone: Noel Scott

Baritones and Euphoniums: Jay Jay Balogun, Tobi Ajala, Cherelle Dixon, David Craig, Ray Moemeka, Harold Stevens, Luciano Njomo, Liz Onen, Julia Barnes, Oluwatobi Awoyemi, Tyler Jay Cambridge, Melissa Figueiredo, Jonathan Bromley.

Tuba: Mary Craig, Nick Newland

Tutors: Paul Beer, Fred Greenhill (tutor in charge), Freda Greenhill

Accompanying adults: Carol Bromley, Pat Harte, Terri Penney



**Liz Thomas, Senior Events Organiser,
The Event Organisation Company**

The invited dignitaries were 'bowled over' by the professional performance of the 60 children within the band. The programme included Processional March, Frank Erickson, Trumpet Voluntary, Jeremy Clarke, Trumpet Tune, Henry Purcell, Men of Harlech, Welsh Traditional, Ode to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven and the National Anthem arranged by Fred Greenhill. The performance was powerfully presented, very expressive and played with a maturity that was well beyond the children's very young years. The occasion was demanding for any performer and the children responded in an impeccable manner. They were not phased, as the television coverage clearly showed. The children listened intently to the speeches by H.M. The Queen, Ken Livingstone the Mayor of London and Trevor Phillips the Chair of the London Assembly. Fred Greenhill's arrangement of the National Anthem played by a section was very well received."
Dick Edwards – Co-Founder of the Primary Brass Band



A message from our Chair – David Davies.

"I am proud that our Primary Brass Band has come such a long way since its inception in 1996. The children in the band should be absolutely delighted with the fantastic year they had in 2002. Who would have guessed that our band would be playing to Her Majesty the Queen and on National Television?"

"I would like to thank all the children and their parents for their hard work and dedication. Thank you to our Tutors, Fred & Freda Greenhill and Paul Beer and to Jane Harris previously, who work so hard with such enthusiasm and skill. I must also thank Heber Primary School who provided us with rent free office space, Eveline Lowe Primary School who as a gift-in kind provides the band with rehearsal rooms and the use of the school's brass instruments. Thanks is also extended to Alan Penney, Eveline Lowe Premises Officer, who regularly gives up his free time to provide assistance every Saturday morning when the band meets to practice. A big thank you must also be given to Terry Penney and Carol Bromley, the and everyone who continues to support the Southwark Children's Foundation in its work."

**Gary Foskett, Honorary Secretary
Headteacher of Eveline Lowe Primary School.**

The Southwark Children's Foundation will continue to support and develop the high standard of music learning and playing opportunities for young children with the Brass Band. We hope to be able to extend this provision to many more children with the continued support of the inspired and outstanding tutors, Fred Greenhill, Musical Director, Paul Beer, Freda Greenhill and others yet to join us.

There is a potential to develop similar experiences for young children playing other instruments in ensembles out of school hours in other school sites. The standard and quality of primary children's playing and performance has already been demonstrated by the Brass Band's experience and can and should be available free of any charge to as many Southwark children as possible.

The achievements of the tutors and players in the Southwark Children's Brass Band over the past years has shown that commitment and enjoyment in learning can produce the highest standards of performance from very young children in a very short time. They can start in the band at age 6 then at age 11 they leave to go to secondary schools.

Performing for Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth, His Royal Highness Prince Philip, The Mayor of London Ken Livingstone and many guests from around the world at City Hall, broadcast on national television, was an acknowledgement of the level of sophistication that the young musicians in the Band have achieved.

Southwark Children's Foundation is dedicated to giving the children of Southwark wider experiences of a social and cultural inheritance enjoyed by others but of which they are often denied through lack of opportunity or lack of funding.

