

Brass Band Concert July 2010

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What do you think of when a brass band is mentioned? Maybe a collection of red-faced blokes blowing mightily into brightly shining instruments perhaps.

Well, the all female band Boobs & Brass gives an altogether different view, not only to the eye, but also to the ear. I found their sound to be much sweeter, if that's the right word, and the total experience was of a band that had a cause and believed in that cause and really enjoyed playing together.

The concert was expertly compered by Carolyn Oldershaw who gave us an history of the band and some background information on the pieces.

The evening started in rousing style with an eye to the future, with John Williams's *Olympic Fanfare And Theme*.

Talking of the future, Boobs & Brass will not be able to return to Raunds until at least 2012 due to their popularity which means a busy schedule. So if you want a return visit tell Rita!

Seven pieces followed, more loud stuff and some exquisitely sensitive arrangements (not at all 'blokey') including *Genie With The Light Brown Hair* - their spelling - perhaps someone was thinking of The Shadows track *Genie With The Light Brown Lamp* from, I think, the pantomime *Aladdin*, which I saw when I were a little ol' boy a lung while ago!

After the interval we were kept spell-bound by another seven scheduled pieces ranging from classical, jazz, film music, and including two pieces worthy of special note.

Mairi Addy performed on her accordion (difficult, but she didn't fall off once!) - not strictly 'brass' some might say, but I was lucky to be in a position where I could see her hands on the keys and buttons. TALK

ABOUT SPIDERS ON STEROIDS, her fingers skittered up and down at lightning speed producing an absolute feast of music in a seemingly effortless way.

For once in the programme the only man in the band, the conductor Derek Renshaw, was allowed to speak, but only to set the scene for *My Sister Kate*. Using words and mime he asked us to imagine a time a while ago when the wind-up 78rpm gramophone was popular. Having wound up the gramophone and put the needle in the groove, Derek retired to the back of the church to listen. The 'record' started with the hiss of the needle - courtesy of the band - then swelled into the tune 1930's style.

All went well until the gramophone started to run down, causing the listening Derek to rush forward to wind it up again. Near the end of the tune the needle seemed to get stuck and Derek sprinted forward yet again to give the gramophone a quick clout!

Finally we were given a roof shaking rendition of *The Final Countdown*, well, not quite as we were treated to an encore.

As the band retired they were given a standing ovation - I don't remember seeing this at Raunds Saint Peter's before!!

Many thanks to ALL who played in Boobs & Brass - did you know they come from all over and have only limited time for rehearsing together - what professionalism.

Thanks also to the Friends of St Peter's Church for organising the event. The profit of around £1300 was split 60/40 with the 60 going to Boobs & Brass for the Breast Cancer Campaign.

A big Thank You to ALL who came and supported either as audience or helpers.

TED BUCKBY