

2014 National Contest Reviewed

This year's championships in Invercargill (9th–12th July) marked the end of an era for two of our significant personnel, Drum Major **Graeme Bremner** and Music Director **Graham Hickman**. Graeme Bremner has won the Champion Drum Major's trophy an unprecedented eight times, and he has led us to street marching victory nearly every year since his appointment as our Drum Major in 1999. On the Friday afternoon of the contest week he triumphed yet again. Graeme also led Woolston Concert Brass's marching effort earlier in the day. We sincerely thank Graeme for his long and distinguished contribution.

Unfortunately our success in the Street March was not to be a predeterminant of our other contest endeavours. As the 4barsrest report suggests, finishing a distant fourth in the championship was hardly the "fairytale finish" we had hoped for as a parting gift for our outgoing MD Graham Hickman. Graham's highly successful eight-year tenure ended with the final note of our Own Choice, *Of Distant Memories* (Edward Gregson) on the Saturday night. The audience seemed to be aware of the significance of the moment because they gave us a wonderful reception and they joined the band in acknowledging Graham's outstanding contribution.

The other works performed at the contest included the Sacred Item *I'll Walk with God* (Nicholas Brodsky) and the Test *On Alderley Edge* (Peter Graham). Though generally well received, our performances did not find favour with the judge who afforded us but a meagre third place in the Sacred Item and an award for the "Best Section" in the Test which went to our bass team: Nigel Seaton, Sam Pinder, Phil Johnston and Jordan Seaton.

Woolston Concert Brass were unplaced in the C grade but played well, performing their hymn *Colne* (Thomas Rive) and Test piece *Rhapsodic Variations – My Strength, My Tower* (Dean Goffin) on the Friday morning, and their Own Choice *Inspiration* (Jan de Haan) on Saturday afternoon where they gained 3rd place. Well done to Woolston Concert Brass and their Music Director Nick Johnson!

We had a good representation of Woolston players in the Open, Junior, Masters, Slow Melody and Championship events. Congratulations to the following:

Nigel Seaton and **Phil Johnston** – 1st Open Duet.

Todd Turner, Cameron Lee, Julia Horsnell, Hamish Upton and **George Buchanan** – 1st Open Percussion Ensemble.

Andrew Yorkstone, Anthony Bracegirdle and **Richard Hogarth** – 2nd Open Trombone Ensemble.

Dave Johnstone, Chris Broadbent, Emma Caunter, Anthony Bracegirdle, Ben Cuff and **Sam Pinder** (Woolston Brass Ensemble #2) – 3rd Open Ensemble (6 to 12 players).

Jordan Seaton – 3rd Junior Bass.



Ending a long and distinguished career, Woolston Drum Major Graeme Bremner – Eight-time Champion Drum Major of New Zealand

Georgia Hoy – 1st Junior Baritone/Junior Horns.

Hamish Upton – 2nd Open Percussion.

Kyle Lawson – 2nd Championship Cornet.

Brent Hoy – 3rd Open Soprano.

Sarah Hickman– 2nd Open Flugelhorn.

Matt van Emmerik – 2nd Open Euphonium.

Andrew Yorkstone – 2nd Open Tenor Trombone.

Sam Pinder – 3rd = Open Bb bass

So there were highlights, and our contest week was fun and not without its rewards, but the superlatives this year belong to Dave Bremner and his band from Wellington. Our congratulations also to Dalewool Auckland Brass (2nd) and North Shore (3rd).

Attending the Invercargill contest would not have been possible without the support and contribution of the following people and organisations, thank you to:

Graham Hickman and **Nick Johnson** for their hard work and dedication in the band room and on the stage. Our assisting musician **Matt van Emmerik** who not only performed brilliantly on stage as our Principal Euphonium, but also represented us in the Open Euphonium solo (gaining 2nd place). Matt performed as part of a Woolston ensemble and worked tirelessly with his section as part of their contest preparation. **Graeme Bremner** for a seamless contest as Contest Manager and leadership on the Street March. **Bob Neil** and **Wayne Shears** for driving the truck and assisting in percussion gear logistics. Accompanists **Beverley Kench**, **Jill Pears** and **Julia Horsnell** for their great work and dedication accompanying the soloists. Thank you to the tutors, mentors and conductors for their support and expertise provided to soloists and ensembles. **Stephen Leader** who was on the NZ Contest organising committee – we were very impressed for the smooth running of the contest. Seat Patrons **Derek** and **Lynn Anderson** for their support down in Invercargill. Charitable trusts; Air Rescue Services, Blue Sky Community Trust, Lion Foundation, NZ Community Trust, The Trust Charitable Foundation, Infinity Foundation, Christchurch Earthquake Recovery Trust. Thank you to the Kelvin Hotel for their great customer service and hospitality.

Woolston Concert Brass would like to thank **Tim Anderson**, **Janet Powell** and **Nick Johnson** for booking vans and accommodation, and for organising their whole trip. **Martin Bennett** and **Dan Wallis** for sharing the driving. And also... the kids for behaving really well, they were a pleasure to travel with.

Woolston Brass and Woolston Concert Brass would like to thank everyone for their messages of support via distance, and those who were able to listen to our performance via live streaming or in the theatre on the night.



Our award-winning percussion section: Julia Horsnell, George Buchanan, Todd Turner, Hamish Upton and Cameron Lee



Richard Hogarth, Anthony Bracegirdle and Andrew Yorkstone - Runners-up in the ensemble competition

Kyle Lawson ~

New Zealand's first Young Brass Musician of the Year

Adjudicators **Philip Johnston**, **David Bremner** and **David Elton** (Sydney Symphony Orchestra) have named our own **Kyle Lawson** as the inaugural winner of the **New Zealand Young Brass Musician of the Year**.

The five finalists were **Kyle Lawson** (Cornet), **Andrew Yorkstone** (Trombone) **Toby Pringle** (cornet), **Luke Spence** (Euphonium) and **Kieran Smith** (cornet)

Kyle received a \$1000 scholarship from the New Zealand Brass Foundation. He will also perform with Woolston Brass and Dalewool Brass in 2015.

The competition was open to all New Zealand brass players aged between 16 and 25 years old. After the audition round a panel of jurors selected the five finalists to compete in the final. The finalists each gave a 15-25 minute solo performance accompanied by the 2013 Champion band of New Zealand, Wellington Brass.

The New Zealand Young Brass Musician of the Year Competition is run by the New Zealand Brass Foundation.





"Phil-ie" and "Nige-ie" - Duet champions



Hickman Bros. Sam and Jake - and (below) ace Flugel horn player and busy mum, Sarah Hickman



Annual Band Dinner

Woolston Brass' annual dinner and awards presentation was held at the Meshino Bistro on Rutland Street. The band and their partners enjoyed a delicious three-course meal.

Graham Hickman awarded the awards to the following: Woolstonian Trophy - **Mark van der Klei**, Most Improved Player – **Ben Cuff**, Band Person of the Year – **Graeme Bremner**, Best Section – **Bass Team**

There had been a few events leading up to the farewell of Graeme Bremner and Graham Hickman, however this was their very final send off. Mark spoke about their accolades and their valuable contribution to Woolston Brass. Both Gra(ha)emes were presented with plaques to thank them for their outstanding service to the band.



Band Person of the Year - Graeme Bremner



Section of the Year - The bass team, with Hettie Adams standing in for Phil Johnston



Ben Cuff (above) - most improved player and (left) Mark van der Klei - new holder of the Woolstonian Trophy

"Jack's Room" a Treasure Trove

We owe a lot to the late Jack Elliot, however the sanctity of "Jack's Room" was breached on Saturday July 19th as "stage one" of our relocation/rebuild operation. Over a hundred years' worth of carefully archived documentation and other memorabilia were carefully packed ready for removal, off-site storage and eventual restoration. It was fun, but it took a lot longer than it should have because we kept stopping to ponder the past as we unearthed long forgotten treasures. The sentimental among us were the greatest hindrance, though some were more effected than others!



Chairman Mark van der Klei with some of Jack's treasures



Archivists Colleen Hoy, Merton Tapp, Todd Turner, Chris Reside, Mark van der Klei, Caroline Blackmore and Dave Johnstone (photographer)

Obituary ~ John Anthony Ritchie

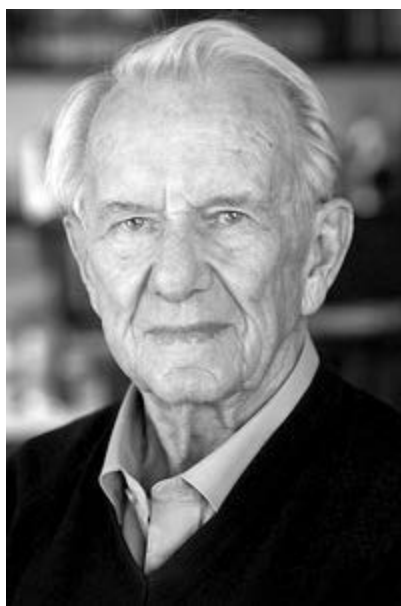
Emeritus Professor of Music
29/09/1921 ~ 29/09/2014

John Ritchie passed away on the morning of his 93rd birthday, the 29th of September 2014.

A past-Patron and long-standing supporter of our band, we reflect on his passing with great sadness, but also with immense gratitude for a long and wonderful life spent making music and contributing tirelessly to the cultural enhancement of our city and beyond.

Woolston Brass was privileged to have had John Ritchie's support for so many years. As our Patron he took an active part in supporting our band at every level. Not only did he write wonderful music for us, but he was also deeply concerned with our welfare in the same way that he was with all of Christchurch's and New Zealand's music makers. John was awarded the CANZ Citation for service to New Zealand music in 1992.

A Funeral Mass celebrating John's life was held at St Marys Cathedral, 373 Manchester Street, Christchurch, on Friday, October 3.



Band Solos

The annual Woolston Solo competition was held at the bandrooms on Sunday 6th July, the weekend before the nationals championships in Invercargall. Timed specifically to give any players intending to compete in the National solos a practice run though, it happened to coincide with the KidsFest concert that both Woolston Concert Brass and the Woolston Junior Band were performing at. It took a bit of careful shuffling of times, but in the end those who wanted to (about three people) were able to attend both.

The adjudicator was the experienced Nick Johnson, who had just adjudicated the Canterbury solos the week before. Compering was provided admirably by **Corrina Dennison**.

Special thanks to the accompanists:
Bev Kench, Jill Pears, Julia Horsnell and Cyrenne Seaton.

Results:

Open:

1st place Kevin Hickman, 2nd place Emma Caunter, 3rd place Graeme Bremner

Junior:

1st place Georgia Hoy

A sizeable audience attended and a pot luck meal was provided afterwards by audience and contestants. A large plate of cheerios and another of hot chips was speedily consumed.

Uniform Update

Caroline Blackmore has taken the sub-committee's uniform design for Woolston Brass' new stage uniform to a couple of clothing manufacturers to discuss.

The draft design is very similar to the image below, black jacket, with maroon features and gold detail. Uniforms for the Academy will also be aligned with these branding colours. Once the preferred provider is confirmed, we will gain a quote that will be used to apply for funding, depending on success of applications we hope to have the uniforms made sometime next year.



Proposed new uniform

Rainy Day for the Virgin Mary's Parade...

Back in April I was asked by an old friend if I knew of any brass bands that would be able to play for a procession. The Catholic community were preparing to celebrate a festival dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and this involved a procession around the church singing hymns, accompanied (preferably) by a brass band. I asked the Junior band if they would be interested, and although none of them had ever marched before, they bravely agreed to help out. To bolster the numbers a little (since many of the players were away) I enlisted the help of some senior band players - namely myself, Anthony Bracegirdle and Callum Hewson, as well as my afore-mentioned friend Judith Evans on trumpet.

The procession was due to be held at 2pm, and the morning before was sunny and calm. But as we headed down to the Church of Our Lady of Victories on Main South Road, a huge black cloud started to roll in, and rain looked imminent. The players gathered outside the church and we had a few quick practices - 'actual' marching would not be required but we would still have to walk and play at the same time.

People started to pour into the church. We calculated afterwards that more than 200 people were in attendance. Once everyone was inside we crowded into the back with instruments and lyres at the ready, happy to be out of the freezing cold wind that had begun to blow. The bishop started the service and we waited anxiously for our cue to start playing. As the procession started out the door, led by the banners and the people carrying the bier, we launched into the hymn "Fatima Ave" and followed them outside.

As we stepped out of the door, the rain started to drip down. When I had looked at the route we were to take earlier (just around the outside of the church), I didn't think it would take very long, but I had reckoned without the pace of an elderly bishop. By the time we had played the hymn through what felt like twenty times, I was exhausted, so I can only imagine how the junior band players were feeling. By the time we got back to the front of the church, the rain had stopped and we tramped back into the church for the end of the service. It was a lovely ceremony with lots of singing. All the players did extremely well, especially considering that many of them had absolutely no experience with that kind of performance, and the organizers were very grateful for their contribution

Emma Caunter.



Standing around in a cold wind waiting to start



Playing in the church before the procession started



Following behind the bier

Round the Bandstand

Seat Patron and great supporters of the band, **Derek and Lynn Anderson** celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in August. A Woolston Brass Quintet (**Kevin Hickman**, **Graham Hickman**, **Callum Hewson**, **Andrew Yorkstone** and **Phil Johnston**) helped them mark the occasion by entertaining the happy couple and their guests on Saturday 16 August at the Copthorne Hotel where the anniversary celebrations took place. Congratulations Derek and Lynn!

Chris Broadbent gained his Commercial Pilots Licence on 17 July. Congratulations Chris! Chris posted on FaceBook that day, *"big thanks to my family, friends and instructors who helped me along the way. It has been an awesome experience and it's only just begun!"* Chris will continue his studies until early next year when he will start looking for career opportunities as a pilot!

We had three representatives in the 2014 National Band of New Zealand, all of whom travelled thanks to the generous support of our Patron, **Adrienne, Lady Stewart**: **Graham Hickman** (Third Cornet), **Kyle Lawson** (Repiano Cornet) **Andrew Yorkstone** (Principal Trombone) and **Anthony Smith** (Solo Cornet). The band toured China and Korea during August and September. You can read all about their travels at:

www.travelpod.com members/14nationalband, the last entry of which reads: *"42 people, 4 countries, 11 concerts, 1 parade, 2 fast trains, 1 sleeper train, 8 flights, countless bus trips, 2 hospitalisations, a flock of ducks, 5 interpreters, 756 cases of diarrhoea, 1 police call out (not us!), 11 standing ovations, 7 hotels, 2 comfortable beds, 851 servings of KFC, 1 drip to the DMZ and a whole pile of fantastic memories."*

For the last two years **Anthony Smith** and his wife **Helen** have been living and working in New York. Anthony has returned to work for Deloitte as a Chartered Accountant, and Helen has a maths teaching at Burnside High School. It's great to have them both home, and it's especially good to have Anthony back on the solo cornet row!

Andrew Yorkstone (Trombone) and **Hamish Upton** (Percussion) were selected for the 2014 NZSO National Youth Orchestra. In July they took part in concerts in Auckland and Wellington where the Orchestra celebrated Richard Strauss' 150th birthday (11 June 1864). Conductor **Alexander Shelley** directed this romantic-sized (large!) orchestra as it performed two iconic works by the great German composer,

Georgia Hoy (Baritone – Woolston Brass) and **Emma McMorran** (Tenor Horn – Woolston Concert Brass) have been selected for the 2014 National Secondary Schools Brass Band. It looks to be a very exciting year for the 15th annual NSSBB with the course being held from 8-14 October at El Rancho Christian Camp, Waikanae, under Musical Director, **Mark Carter**.

Concert Brass Eb Bass player **Martin Bennett** (pictured right) made the papers recently - the Christchurch Press specifically - in an article about craft brewing and the 10th birthday of The Twisted Hop pub in which Martin holds a business interest. Originally located in Poplar Lane (Christchurch CBD), post-earthquake this popular pub is now sited, rather handily, in Woolston!

We would like to thank the Canterbury Community Trust for funding two new Besson Prestige Tenor Horns which were presented at the band to **Callum Hewson** and **Emma Caunter**. We are very grateful for organisations supporting projects such as this one.



Callum Hewson and Emma Caunter with their new Besson Prestige tenor horns

Our Committee has recently announced that **Todd Turner** has accepted an appointment as Woolston Brass' new Drum Major.

Phil Johnston is currently our acting MD and he will continue in this role until a permanent appointment is made. The auditioning process is on-going, but we expect an announcement to be made presently. Phil's first engagement with the band was at the funeral of "Mrs Hogarth", the mother of our bass trombone player, **Richard Hogarth**. A loyal supporter of the band, **Constance June Hogarth** died peacefully at Christchurch Hospital aged 91 years on Wednesday July 23. The band was pleased to attend a service for Mrs Hogarth at Lamb and Hayward's Westpark Chapel, 467 Wairakei Road on Thursday July 31 at 2pm.

Band President **Tony Lewis** underwent major heart surgery just prior to the contest. Though he is now up and about, his recovery has not been all that we would have wished for and Tony is still spending a fair amount of time in hospital. Our very best wishes go to Tony and to his family.

Sarah Hickman has moved to the Junior band where she can keep watch over her son Jacob, so **Kyle Lawson** is in the Flugel chair for the up-coming Provincial contest and **Kevin Hickman** is back in the hot seat. We are looking forward to welcoming **Steve Miles** (euphonium) and **James Sutherland** (Bb bass) into the band as assisting players for the aforementioned "Provincial". We are pleased to welcome **Denis Broadbent** back as



Martin (the brewer) Bennett

a playing member after a period of absence.

As reported at our AGM on Wednesday 24th September **Chris Reside** and **Stephen Leader** are still painstakingly on the search for a new property (preferably in the Woolston area) to call our home. If you know of an opportunity that might be of interest, please get in contact with our Chairman **Mark van der Klei** mark@woolstonbrass.org.nz

Officers elected were:
Patron - **Adrienne, Lady Stewart**
Vice Patrons - **Colin Tregurtha, Derek Anderson** and **Graeme Coomer**
President - **Tony Lewis**
Chairman - **Mark van der Klei**
Secretary - **Colleen Hoy**
Assistant Secretary - **Stephen Leader** (Welcome Stephen to this role!)
Treasurer - **Graeme Coomer**
Assistant Treasurer - **Todd Turner**
Band Sergeant - **Brent Hoy**
Custodians - **Colleen Hoy** and **Wayne Shears**
Librarian - **Wayne Shears**

Caroline Blackmore, Brent Hoy and **Emma Caunter** (who will be the Academy's representative) were elected on to the management committee.

Vince Pheloung and **John Thorne** have stepped down from the Committee. Our thanks go to Vince (22 years service) and John (over 30 years service) for their outstanding contribution.

Mark van der Klei noted in his Chairman's report: *Over the next year everyone in the Woolston family will have the opportunity to contribute to our future as we face many challenges - including rebuilding the band room. We have people from all different walks of life within this organisation, and this is a resource that will help us flourish. Music is a discipline that requires skill, selflessness and dedication. These attributes should help us make positive, forward-thinking decisions. This may sound somewhat dramatic, but I implore you to all get involved so that we can leave future generations of Woolstonians something to be proud of."*

Bold as Brass

Saturday 20 September, 7.30pm, Air Force Museum, Wigram

We were honoured to participate in the premiere performance of Kenneth Young's *Symphony No.3*, a work especially written for Woolston Brass and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

The Press of Monday 22 September carried this review by David Sell:

Brass was good in the space of the Air Force Museum, where there is room for the players to spread out and the sound to reverberate.

It wasn't all brassy, however, and one of the loveliest items was the Vaughan Williams Five Variants of Dives and Lazarus for harp and string orchestra. A welcome reminder of the musically thriving times of early 20th century England, and its folksong tradition, this was played with gentle sensitivity by harpist Helen Webby and the strings of the CSO.

The concert opened with a rich, if undistinguished, account of Finlandia by Sibelius.

The programme describes Sydney trumpeter John Foster as "one of the world's leading exponents of performance on historical trumpets". So I hoped to hear Haydn's Trumpet Concerto played on a valveless trumpet. This was not to be, though I revelled in the slightly hollow sound that gave an authenticity seldom heard in this familiar work.

After interval came the major work of the evening, the world premiere of Kenneth Young's Symphony No. 3. A first performance is a great occasion for any composer. For Young, there was a special significance in that as a boy he played in the Woolston Brass Band, and his first experience as an orchestral player was with the CSO.

It was also the fulfilment of an ambition to compose a work that truly incorporated the brass band into the orchestra. In this respect, his third symphony was an impressive success. Its traditional structure, and the composer's familiarity with both orchestral and brass band writing produced a work that was immediately approachable. His skilful melding of orchestra and band brought out the best of both without compromising either.

Young's music always impresses me as genuine. It is seldom innovative, but it speaks clearly, and in a way that we can readily hear. And there are stirring moments, such as the extended chorale with which the symphony finishes.

He must have been pleased with the strength of the performance by both the orchestra and the brass band.

It was a great experience for the band to be seated among the orchestral brass, woodwind and string players throughout the rehearsals and during the performance. For many of our players, this was a new experience. The members of the orchestra too, enjoyed an education as they encountered the flugel horn, cornets, euphoniums and tenor horns!

We would like to thank Ken and the CSO for involving us in this memorable performance. Well done to all of the performers and to those behind the scenes and thank you to everyone who donated to this project that made the commission possible.



Once-was-a-bandie Thomas Eves featuring on a billboard as part of the Bold as Brass promotion



In rehearsal with the CSO

Seriously Brass

Woolston Brass and Woolston Concert Brass (pictured below) held their pre-contest concert on Sunday 30 June, 2pm at the Jack Mann Auditorium. Both bands featured their contest repertoire in preparation for the upcoming national contest in Invercargill. The concert was very well supported this year which was great to see. This may have been due to a press article earlier in the week recording Graham Hickman's resignation.

Concluding the concert, a function was held for all of our performers, their families and our Seat Patrons to mark the upcoming National Contest and also acknowledge the contribution of **Graham Hickman** and **Graeme Bremner**.

We would like to thank Coopers Brewery for sponsoring the beer and Giesen Wine for sponsoring the wine for this event.



Learners Group – Biannual Learners' Concert

On the last Tuesday of the second term of 2014, the Woolston Academy held its biannual Learners' Concert. This is an important event for the students in the academy, as they get to perform the pieces they have been practicing to their friends, family and fellow learners in a concert environment, albeit an informal one.

This year we were a little short on performers for several reasons, one of which being that the Academy is currently seeking fresh faces to sign up. In other news, the Academy has a tutor with **Joe Thomas** taking over from **Sima Bagheri**. Joe and **Bill Vail** are currently away with the National Band so **Sarah Hickman** and **Clare McKinlay** are filling the gap. Thanks guys for helping out!



Bill addresses the audience



Joe plays a duet with student Harry



Shemaia Dixon plays "Mission Impossible"



Brendan Lancaster shows off his new trombone



Grace and Siola play their duet "German Tune"



Hazel Wilson plays "Send in the Clowns"



Joe and Daniel play a trombone duet

Acknowledgements:

We are grateful to these individuals and organizations for their continued support:

Seat Patrons

Principal Cornet	Adrienne, Lady Stewart
Solo Cornet 1	John and Helen Thomson
Solo Cornet 2	Ernest and Catherine Henshaw
Solo Cornet 3	Asko Design/ Peter and Jean Hyam
Solo Cornet 4	Gilbert and Patricia Glausius
Soprano Cornet	Derek and Lynn Anderson
Repiano Cornet	Carolyn Schuitman
Second Cornet 1	The Ron Ball Charitable Trust
Second Cornet 2	Judith and Graeme Coomer
Third Cornet 1	Jenny and Lindsay Moir
Third Cornet 2	J Ballantyne & Co
Solo Trombone	J Ballantyne & Co
Second Trombone	Eliza's Manor Boutique Hotel
Bass Trombone	Michael and Lesley Pettersen
Principal Euphonium	Available
Second Euphonium	Available
First Baritone	Available
Second Baritone	Sara Daly
Flugel Horn	Derek and Lynn Anderson
Solo Tenor Horn	Quality Property Management
First Tenor Horn	David and Hilary Stock
Tenor Horn 2	The Keith Laugeson Charitable Trust
Tenor Horn 3	Christchurch Casino
Principal E flat Bass	Mahar Charitable Trust
Second E flat Bass	Archibald Motors
Principal B flat Bass	Available
Second B flat Bass	Ron and Audrey Harris
Percussion 1	The Ron Ball Charitable Trust
Percussion 2	Robin and Ralph Redpath
Percussion 3	Coral Mazlin-Hill

Project Supporters:

The Flaxwood Festival, First Sovereign Trust, Christchurch City Council, The Trusts Charitable Foundation, The Canterbury Community Trust, New Zealand Community Trust, Air Rescue Trust, The Southern Trust, Mainland Foundation

Please contact Caroline Blackmore Marketing and Promotions Manager)
caroline@woolstonbrass.org (021 533 466) for:

- Information about sponsoring a seat
- Information about donating to the Woolston Brass Foundation
- Concert email alerts

Contacts: Chairman – Mark Vander Klei: mark@woolstonbrass.org



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