DAILY HERALD

National Brass Band Championships
of Great Britain

Festival Contest and Concerts

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Saturday, October 16th
1954
Impressive in their Festival Concert setting, the nine massed champion brass bands create a blaze of colour and sound.
The Gathering of the Bands

An air of family reunion, brought to London from 30 English, Scottish and Welsh counties by 60 competing bands and by 15,185 friends and supporters, pervaded the tenth-year celebrations of the Daily Herald National Brass Band Championship Festival on Saturday, October 16, 1954. For this was the first occasion that the National Finals of the Second, Third and Fourth sections—hitherto staged at Manchester—were held at the same time as the Championship class contest in London.

The three main events of this biggest National Festival day of brass band music since the war succeeded each other in the Royal Albert Hall, starting with the National Championship contest followed by two Festival Concerts, another innovation.

At 10.30 in the morning, the traditional ceremony surrounding the draw for the order of playing in the Royal Albert Hall was repeated in three other halls—in the Kensington Town Hall where 16 bands competed for the Second section Championship; in the Lime Grove Public Baths Hall, Shepherds Bush, where 15 bands vied for the Third section title; and in the H.A.A. Drill Hall, Iverna Gardens, Kensington, the proving ground of the musical ability
Stuart Bullas, 11-year-old cornetist, signs the signature form watched by other Linthwaite Silver Band members before competing in the National Fourth section contest. The Linthwaite Band won the second prize.
of the 15 contestants for the National Fourth section trophy. Knowledgeable and
enthusiastic audiences thronged the four halls throughout the morning and mid-afternoon to
follow the progress of the contests, each with its separate testpiece.

Among the 14 National Championship contenders in the Royal Albert Hall only the
top six could be said to have established a firm grasp on what was acknowledged to be the
most searching test for technique, set so far. For in the specially composed Symphonic
Overture Sovereign Heritage by 54-year-old film music composer Jack Beaver, of Great
Missenden, only technical mastery could release the full flow and unity implicit in the music.
High levels of brass band performance were attained in coping with the new work.

The composer, and Frank Wright who had arranged the band score, refereed the
National Championship contest. The two experienced adjudicators Harry Heyes
(Birmingham) and Harold Moss (Leyland), who said they had been faced with the most
difficult contest decision either had ever had to make, awarded the first prize to the Fairey
Aviation Works Band, of Stockport. The Aviation Band had won twice before, in 1945 and
1952, and had also been runners-up in 1946 and 1947. For the second year in succession
C.W.S. Manchester Band gained second place, and the 1953 Champions, Fodens Motor
Works, of Elworth, Sandbach, came third this time. Harry Mortimer conducted both the
first and third prizewinners, his younger brother Alex the runners-up.
Seven girls are in the front rank of Rhymney Youth Silver Band which, on its first National Championship appearance, did well to gain sixth place in its class.
The fourth prize went to the Brighouse and Rastrick Band, whose entire performance of the test piece was televised. During this transmission the results of the National Finals of the Second, Third and Fourth sections were broadcast before the prizewinners in the senior class were announced.

There has been a steady increase over the post-war years in the numbers of women who have taken up brass band instruments. Reflecting this trend, more than 30 bandswomen appeared among the National Championship competitors, the highest total so far.

Another audience filled the Royal Albert Hall for the first Festival Concert (from 4.30 p.m.) when Edric Cundell, C.B.E., the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, presented the prizes to the successful bands in the Second, Third and Fourth sections.

The third great surge of bandsmen and their supporters into the Royal Albert Hall for the second Festival Concert (from 8 p.m.) re-created the atmosphere of keen expectancy. But no longer partisan, the interest merged upon the colourful array of the 220 players in the nine massed champion bands. The unanimity and precision of the massed bands, and their splendid tone, won the acclaim of the packed audience. Simultaneous television and sound broadcasts brought millions at home in touch with this stirring climax to the competition year for Britain’s 100,000 brass band players and million supporters. In all, there were two television transmissions and four sound broadcasts from the Festival.
Sir Adrian Boult, the principal guest conductor, had Harry Mortimer and Frank Wright as associate conductors. These three had directed the same programme given by the massed bands at the earlier Festival Concert.

Mr. W. Surrey Dane, chairman of the *Daily Herald*, presented the prizes to the winning bands in the Championship class.

The 1954 National Festival, the biggest organised in the ten years of the sponsorship of these brass band championships by the *Daily Herald*, showed how remarkably Britain’s Brass Bands have advanced in performance, in prestige. It was the proudest day in a decade for Britain’s worker-musicians.

The prizewinners in the four National Championship classes were:

*Championship Section:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Band</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fairey Aviation Works</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>Stockport</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>C.W.S. (Manchester)</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fodens Motor Works</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>Sandbach, Cheshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Brighouse and Rastrick</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
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Behind them lie many hours of careful study and practice. Now, as Fairey Aviation Works bandsmen play the test, all the rehearsed details flow out. Then, hopefully, they await the result. The big honour is theirs—their performance has won the National Championship.
When Whitburn Miners Welfare Band (West Lothian) won the Third Section Final, it became the first Scottish band to capture a Daily Herald National Championship. In the band play these five members of the Dewar family (from l. to r.) Robert junior, aged 11, Janet, James senior, James junior and Robert senior.
The smooth, mellow tone characteristic of Fodens Motor Works Band fills the Albert Hall as these reigning Champions defend their title against 13 opposing teams. But this time the challenge is too strong, and Fodens lose the title but gain the third prize.
Will the brilliant style and attack of C.W.S. Manchester Band, the runners-up the previous year, turn the tide this time? Just a few hesitant moments tell against them, victory is denied, and for another year the C.W.S. players have to be content with the second prize.
Second Section:
1. Wharncliffe Silkstone Colliery 188  Barnsley, Yorks.
2. Marston Valley 180  Beds.
3. Farnworth Old 177  Bolton, Lancs.
4. Storeys of Lancaster 175  Lancaster

ADJUDICATORS: W. B. Hargreaves (Deal) and T. J. Powell (Cardiff)

Third Section:
1. Whitburn Miners Welfare 194  West Lothian
2. Barton Town 192  Lines.
4. Haltwhistle Old Silver 187  Northumberland

ADJUDICATOR: E. C. Buttress (Manchester)

Fourth Section:
1. Woodhorn Colliery 184  Ashington, Northumberland
2. Linthwaite Silver Prize 182  Huddersfield, Yorks.
3. Burbage Silver Prize (Buxton) 180  Derbyshire
4. Stanhope Silver 179  Co. Durham

ADJUDICATOR: D. Aspinall (Newark-on-Trent)
Proud and pleased to have won the National Championship again, Fairey Aviation Works bandsmen surround Jack Beaver, composer of the testpiece Sovereign Heritage, as he congratulates Norman Ashcroft, the principal cornetist.
While the order of playing is being decided by ballot, the championship trophies gleam in the background.
Out on the Royal Albert Hall stage after five critical listening hours in their special box, the judging quartet have arrived at their decision. They are (l. to r.) — the two referees, Frank Wright, who arranged the testpiece and Jack Beaver the composer, with the two adjudicators Harry Heyes and Harold Moss.
Yorkshire challenger Brighouse and Rastrick, the last of the 14 competing bands, plays its test. As many in the Royal Albert Hall audience look down at the music score, countless television viewers look in. This televised performance won the fourth prize.
Mr. W. Surrey Dane, C.B.E., M.C., Chairman of the Daily Herald, presents the first prize to Harry Mortimer who conducted the winning band Fairey Aviation Works.
Sir Adrian Boult, guest conductor at the Festival Concerts, directing the massed bands.
Star trumpeter Kenny Baker, whose career began in a brass band, caught during one of his solo contributions to the concert programme.
Typical of the fresh charm bandgirls are bringing into brass bands is 17-year-old cornetist Merial Howells, of the Llansaint Silver Band (Carm.) which competed in the Third Section Final.
Mr. Sydney Elliott (Editor of the Daily Herald), accompanied by his wife, photographed during the Festival Concert interval.
Mr. W. Surrey Dane, (on left) with Sir Lincoln Evans, C.B.E., (second on right) and (on right) Mr. Tom Williamson, C.B.E., J.P., secretary National Union of General and Municipal Workers.
Mr. G. L. McLellan (Executive Director, Odhams Press) and Mrs. McLellan with (centre) Lady Boult, wife of Sir Adrian Boult.
BBC cameras sweep over the massed bands array at the evening concert, during the second television transmission from the National Championship Festival in the Royal Albert Hall.
This is celebration day for Britain's big family of brass bands and supporters. From thirty English, Scottish and Welsh counties the Area Champion bands and runners-up have surged into the capital, after their long and joyful trek, to share in the greatest national festival of brass-band music since before the war.

Today's climax to the tenth year of the Daily Herald National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain—with four National Championship classes being decided in London the same day, followed by twin Festival Concerts in the Royal Albert Hall—sees Britain's brass bands united in fellowship with each other and with the Daily Herald as never before.

The ten years of Daily Herald contests are years of outstanding achievement. The acceptance throughout the land of honest rules and standard contesting practice has meant greater enthusiasm, greater assurance and greater drive at contest rehearsals. This, in turn, has brought ever-mounting standards of performance, an ever-growing recognition of the merit, the skill and the worthwhileness of brass-band music-making.

Throughout the decade, the bonds of friendship and understanding forged during Area Contests have been strengthened and widened at the National Festivals. Today, the different, yet equally cherished, patterns of Area contesting have been knit together for this triumphant peak to the decade of advancement. Today has brought the finest hours yet of the people's music.

Ahead in the series of Daily Herald Brass Band Championships which never stop lies the beckoning goal of still greater perfection. Within the fair-for-all framework of Area and National competition, the countless friends of Britain's brass bands are confident they will take up that challenge with spirit and with success. For behind them all stands that enduring tower—a decade of progress.
Today's adjudicators

The composer of today's Test Piece, 54-year-old London-born Mr. J. Beaver, lives in Great Missenden (Bucks). After studying the piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music, played the pit piano in silent cinema orchestras for 12 years. On the introduction of talking pictures, he turned to composing and arranging for films, and has since written to a considerable extent for features and documentaries. From 1949, he has specialised in children's films. Has contributed incidental music for B.B.C. programmes. Sovereign Heritage, his first big-scale work for the brass band, was inspired by the brilliant performances given by the competing bands at the National Championship last year.

ACKNOWLEDGED among the foremost adjudicators of band competitions, Australian-born Mr. Frank Wright has fulfilled major judging roles throughout Britain, on the Continent and in the Dominions. He is the musical director (Parks Department) of the London County Council, a professor at the Guildhall School of Music, and has composed a number of brass-band works. For the third successive year, has arranged the brass-band score of the National Championship Test Piece. He has been one of the judges at the Daily Herald National Championships four times, has refereed on three other occasions.

First a violinist, then a tenor horn player and, at 16, among the soloists in Wingates Temperance Band tells the early musical background of Lancashire-born Mr. Harry Heyes, whose home is in Birmingham. As conductor and trainer, many Welsh bands under his direction before establishing his long association with Midland bands, including Metropolitan Works (1931-1940). City of Coventry (1941-1945), Sheffield and Ludlow Works, and currently with Revo Works (Tipton). His many judging appointments include the Daily Herald National Championships of 1951 and 1952.

The Competing Bands

BROUGH AND BASTRICK BAND
From Brough, Yorkshire. Was originally formed by local musicians in 1914. Has the unique distinction of being the only band to compete at every Daily Herald National Championship since 1914. Has the greatest number of players since 1915. Besides winning the National Championship title in 1920, has been a prizewinner on three other occasions.

CAMBOURNE TOWN BAND
From Camborne, Cornwall. Has a history extending over a century. Under the West of England Area Champion since 1945, scoring the first Area Championship with wins in 1948-49-50, and again in 1954-55. Has been a competitor at every National Championship since 1945, winning the first prize in 1954-55.

CRESSWELL COLLIERY WELFARE BAND
From Cresswell, Derbyshire. Founded in 1894. Was the Midland Area Champion for the third time this year, and has been the Area runner-up on four occasions. Followed its fourth prize at the 1952 National Championship with the third prize for last year.

CROOKHALL COLLIERY BAND
From Crookhall, Co. Durham. Was established by colliery workers in 1921. After winning the Northern Area Championship three times running in 1951-52-53-54, has been the Area runner-up on four occasions. Followed its third prize at the 1952 National Championship with the second prize for last year.

C.W.S. MANCHESTER BAND
From Manchester. Started early this century as the Tanfield Factory Band, and added its present strength to the Area Championship contest this May, won again, qualifying for the fifth year in succession.

FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND
From Heath Chapel, Stockport. Following its 1957 entry, found made its way into the championship in 1958, the first band to win back the title since 1920, and the fourth prizewinner at the 1951 event.

FERODO WORKS BAND
From Chapel-on-the-Hill, Derbyshire. Was formed three years ago. By becoming the Midland Area Championship runner-up this year, has qualified the National Championship for the first time.

FODEN'S MOTOR WORKS BAND
From Elworth, Cheshire. Today's defending National Champion Band has consistently won major contest honours during its busy year. Since gaining third prize on its first appearance at the Daily Herald National Championship in 1947, the band has been second (1948), first (1950), second (1951 and 1952) and winner (1953).

GOYAN BURGH BAND
From Glasgow. Derived from a brass and reed band in 1899. Represents Scotland for the third year running at the National Championship contest. Last year, became the first band to be televised whilst competing for the National title. It was placed seventh in the contest.

HOO SILVER BAND
From Rochestor, Kent. Founded more than 60 years ago. In a successful post-war contest career, gained the first place with wins at the Daily Herald National Second section title in 1950. Made its National Championship debut in 1952, as the London and Southern Counties Area Champion, which title it won again this year.

MORRIS MOTORS BAND

PARK AND DARE WORKMEN'S BAND
From Treforest, Rhondda. Dates from 1900. Did the hat-trick at the Welsh Area Championships 1949-50-51, won again in 1951. Has been the Area runner-up in 1954, the year the band won the third prize at the National Championship, where it qualified for the fourth time two years later.

SCOTTISH C.W.S. BAND
From Glasgow. Instituted in 1914, entered the top rank of Scottish bands some six years later. Has won the Scottish Championship several times, and other important awards. Has represented Scotland at the Daily Herald National Championship in 1945, and competed again in 1946, and won in its third National title bid today.

YEWCRO WORKS BAND
From Idle, Bradford. Formed in 1921 from the nucleus of the once-famous St. Hilda's Band. At this year's North Eastern Championship, makes its first appearance at the Daily Herald National Championships.
### The Championship Awards

- **First Prize**
  - The "Daily Herald" National Championship Challenge Trophy
  - 150 Guinea

- **Second Prize**
  - 100 Guinea

- **Third Prize**
  - 75 Guinea

- **Fourth Prize**
  - 50 Guinea

### The Test Piece

**Sovereign Heritage**

(J. Beaver arr. Frank Wright)

The main rhythmic idea behind the music will have spent the listener's mind before the principal theme, played as a short solo, Allegro tranquillo, is reached. From this point onward, and particularly in the following, closely wrought development section, this theme is never far distant.

After a contrasting and exhilarating march-like Allegro giocoso, which also reflects the theme, we arrive at the Da Capo asterism where the complexity of the theme and its development is quite different — and, not least, the rhythm goes through some dramatic power. Allegro giocoso in the unique quarter cadence which grows out of this part of the music. The euphoria is the first to speak, then the triumphant, followed by the horn.

- **Order of Play**
  - 1. Brighouse and Rastrick Band
  - 2. Camborne Town Band
  - 3. Creswell Colliery Welfare Band
  - 4. Crookhall Colliery Band
  - 5. C.W.S. (Manchester) Band
  - 6. Fairey Aviation Works Band
  - 7. Ferodo Works Band
  - 8. Foden's Motor Works Band
  - 9. Govan Burgh Band
  - 10. Hoar Silver Band
  - 11. Morris Motors Band
  - 12. Park & Dare Workmen's Band
  - 13. Scottish C.W.S. Band
  - 14. Yeouco Works Band

### Championship Adjudicators

- H. Heyes, Esq.
- H. Moss, Esq.
- J. Beaver Esq.
- Frank Wright, Esq.

**Joint Referees:**

- Frank Phillips
SOVEREIGN HERITAGE

J. BEAVER

Programme Note by Frank Wright

CAST in an unconventional mould, "Sovereign Heritage" shows no regular overture pattern. Its impressive unity is largely achieved not so much by its originality as by the high quality of invention shown by the composer in the treatment of a single musical idea set to a strongly rhythmic figure. (The first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and the slow movement of his Seventh provide prodigious examples of what can be done with a simple recurring phrase and a simple rhythm.)

The opening ceremonial fanfare serves as a brief introduction—a preliminary, statemast-like announcement, as it were—which is to prove important in shaping the overture's course. Out of the quiet bass notes which quickly follow is to blossom the fine, folk-song-like melody—but not before a second "announcement," and more thematic forecasts—which is the principal theme of the whole work.

The main rhythmic idea behind the music will have sprung to the listener's mind before the principal theme of the fanfare, played as a cornet solo, Allegro tranquillo, is reached. From this point onward, and particularly in the following, closely-wrought development section, this theme is never far distant.

After a contrasting and exhilarating march-like Allegro giocoso, which also reflects the theme, we arrive at the Dramaturgo where the complexity of the rhythms and some audacious harmonic touches—and, not least, the thrilling three-part treble—add to the dramatic power. A tranquillo baldacchino in the unique quartet cadenza which grows out of this part of the music.

The euphonium is the first to speak, then the trombone, followed by the horn. Last to enter is the cornet, with the horn doubling his initial phrase. The players and audience alike will be enchanted by the grace and elegance of this novelty.

The cornet solo, Moderato poco maestoso, may be described as a sentimental extract from the main theme and its devotional mood will be apparent. When this tune is transferred to the lower section of the band with an added soaring soprano cornet obbligato, the cumulative effect of the horns and baritone accompaniment is to mark separately all nine quavers in each bar.

In the second Allegro giocoso the music takes wing and its lucidity and eloquence at once capture the interest. We hear again the march-tune, and some triplet figuration brings us to a short Maestoso twelve-eight, leading to the Grandioso.

This exultant climax sees the clash of two strong, opposing rhythms. The "Coda," Allegro vivace, a nimble two-four with florid ornamentation—the affinity between this and the preceding section will be noted—leads to the final "announcement," bringing the work to a resplendent close.

The nature of this overture sets an enthralling problem for the conductor. Clearly the work had to be of considerable difficulty and virtuosity to meet the requirements of bands competing in the Finals of a DAILY HERALD National Championship, although these two qualities are not in themselves enough. Scope has also to be provided for imaginative treatment of part of the conductor. That "Sovereign Heritage," the product of a mature mind, abundantly meets these demands, there can surely be no two opinions.
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Programme

FANFARE BY THE TRUMPETERS OF THE LIFE GUARDS
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM
Massed Bands and Audience

March, Youth of Britain (The Three Ellizeths Suite) Eric Coates arr. Denis Wright

Suite, The Water Music Henry Purcell

Featuring Trombones, Panis Angelicus Cesar Franck

Finale—Overture, Orpheus in the Underworld Johann Offenbach

Overture, A French Comedy Karel Béla arr. Frank Wright
(First Concert performance for Brass Band)

Cornet Carillon Ronald Binge
(First Concert performance)

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND
CRESWELL COLLIERY WELFARE BAND
FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND
FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND

Pilgrims March from Symphony No. 4 Mendelssohn

Scena, Misercere (Il Trovatore) Verdi

Pomp and Circumstance No. 4 Elgar

INTERVAL

March of the Peers (Iolanthe) Sullivan arr. Drake Rimmer

Sovereign Heritage (First Concert performance) J. Beaver arr. Frank Wright

KENNY BAKER
Britain's Famous Recording and BBC Star.

PRESENTATION
of the
DAILY HERALD
National Brass Band Championship Trophy
and Cash Awards.
EDRIC CUNDELL, ESQ., C.B.E.,
PRINCIPAL, GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

Minuet from Samson Handel

Hallelujah Chorus Handel