Pictures of Youth – a look at some early views of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain

Gavin Holman, 16 June 2020

The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain was founded in 1952, following two earlier massed children’s concerts arranged in 1947 and 1950, both of which were conducted by Denis Wright who went on to become the first Music Advisor of the Band.

The Band, for children aged 14 to 19, usually holds two residential courses each year, at Easter and in the early summer holidays, during which there is intensive musical tuition from leading instrumentalists and guest conductors, a final concert and a lot of fun. There have also been a number of overseas tours over the years. It has helped shape the musical careers of thousands of young players and significantly enriched the brass band movement in Britain. In 2004 the National Children’s Brass Band of Great Britain was formed, for children aged 8 to 14, extending the good work of the organisation and offering further opportunities to the young brass and percussion stars of the future.


The following photographs are some early examples of those taken at each course as a record of the band and its members.

NYBB inaugural course, Easter 1952, Bradford, conductor Denis Wright
NYBB Easter course 1957, Wallasey, conductor Denis Wright

NYBB Summer course 1957, Weston-Super-Mare, conductor Eric Ball

NYBB Easter course 1958, Cranleigh, conductor Sir Adrian Boult
NYBB Summer course 1958, conductor Leonard Davies

NYBB Easter course 1959, Birmingham, conductor Harry Mortimer

NYBB Summer course 1959, Portsmouth, conductor Eric Ball
NYBB Easter course 1960, conductor Denis Wright

NYBB Summer course 1960, Brighton, conductor Tom (T.J.) Powell
Further information:

The National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain website
https://www.nybbgb.com