

Music making in Alton



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Chairman's Report on AGM

The AGM was attended by 22 orchestra members, with apologies from 8 more. The Chairman, Chris Leggett, reported on a very successful year. Thanks to the hard work of a very active committee, we have recruited 10 regular and good new players. The orchestra is very grateful to Graham Cross for his enthusiastic leadership and marked this by presenting him with a baton case – picture on following page. We have maintained our Community Partnership with Eggar's School, although this is subject to an annual review by the Headmistress.

Publicity for the orchestra has been displayed more widely, with posters and leaflets in public places, an entry in "What's Happening" locally, and our own web site maintained by Daniel McGowan. Last autumn's successful Open Evening will be repeated in October this year and Sarah Main and

Treloar College (Ian Karten CTEC Centre) have done a magnificent job in re-launching 'CODA'.

We put on two excellent concerts – Four Marks at Christmas, and Treloar's in May. We have purchased lots of new music, and are building up quite a repertoire – a good argument for putting on a concert at least once a term. The Committee instituted an annual award for players, and the first recipient was Caroline Fisher for being a very promising young new player in her first season with the orchestra.

We are proposing to hold a Beer & Skittles evening at the 'French Horn' by The Butts in Alton sometime in February, and we will be making preliminary enquiries about the possibility of an orchestra visit to Alton's twin town in Italy.

Chris Leggett

The Committee remains unchanged for the next season. We are:

Conductor	Graham Cross	
Chairman	Chris Leggett	Oboe
Secretary	Mac Newton	Leader
Treasurer	Lawrence Storey	Violin
Minute Secretaries	Debbie Slater	Clarinet
	Isabel Tucker	Violin
Publicity	Lindy Wiltshire	Violin
	Chris Collins	Violin
Concert Secretary	Claire Hartley	Clarinet
CODA Editor	Sarah Main	Flute
Webmaster	Daniel McGowan	Trombone



Spring Concert at Treloar School

A warm May Day evening saw Treloar School Choir join forces with the orchestra to put on a well-chosen selection from the lighter end of their repertoire to the great pleasure of a 60-strong audience. The centrepiece sung by the choir was 'Running on Rails'- a docu-musical telling the true story of the creation of one of Britain's first 19th century railways. Everyone was dressed in period costume, and a splendid choir conducted by Judith Lazell and accompanied by Mair Cross backed the enthusiastic narrator of the tale. The choir obviously enjoyed performing in close proximity to the orchestra, especially the loud brass bits.

The concert began with Offenbach's overture to 'Orpheus in the Underworld'. After some impressive solo passages from the woodwind and string sections, we got on to the only bit people really know - the famous foot-tapping Can-Can. The orchestra brought the first half to a close with the

ever-popular selection from Lloyd Webber's 'Phantom of the Opera'.

Von Suppe's 'Poet and Peasant' overture was first up after the interval, followed by a technically-demanding setting of the 'Star Wars' theme tune. A selection from Richard Rogers 'The King and I' reflected the growing contemporary interest in this composer, who was the subject of Radio Three's 'Composer of the Week' recently. Sending a strong political message for May Day, we finished with a selection from 'Les Miserables', with an impromptu choir of peasants and workers joining in the final chorus of liberation.



Chris Leggett

Why did the saxophone player play lots of wrong notes?

He thought the key signature was just a suggestion

What is the difference between a violin and a fiddle?

Nobody minds if you spill beer on a fiddle

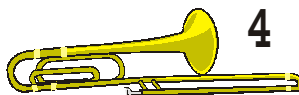
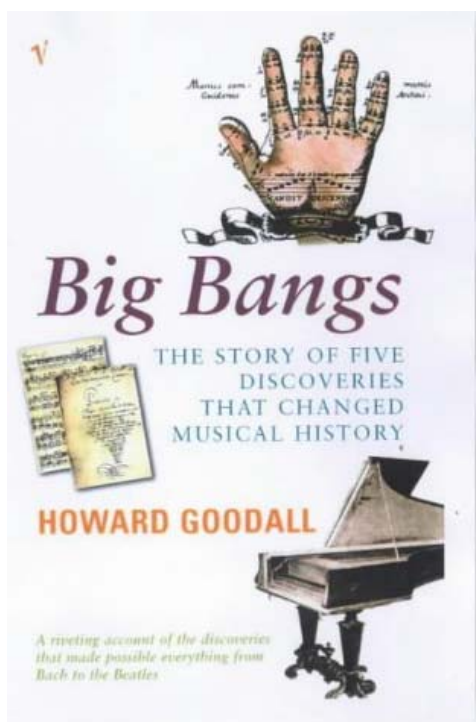


Big Bangs by Howard Goodall

Despite the title, this is a book you can give your maiden aunt for Christmas. Howard Goodall is a knowledgeable populariser of music, and the book is based upon a TV series that ran on Channel 4 some years ago, which I missed out on. It sets out one man's view on the five most important discoveries that enabled the development of western music as we know it today. Starting with the invention of a system of musical notation by Guido Monaco in Italy around 1000AD, it moves to the creation of operatic form by Monteverdi in the early 17th century. The problem caused by having various scales and modes was eventually

cracked by the adoption of the equal temperament scale of 12 mathematically similar intervals, but that took until the mid-1800s to be made universal by John Broadwood's piano workshop. The invention of the pianoforte itself, attributed to one Bartolomeo Christofori around 1720, is one more of the five key developments. (The string section might disagree!) However, nobody could contest that sound recording is the final invention that brings us bang up to date. Read it for yourself – it is an enjoyable and instructive book, and only £7.99 in paperback.

Chris Leggett



Player Profile – Graham Cross

The ‘Cross Contingent’ make Orchestra a family affair, with Graham conducting, his wife Mair playing Cello, Piano, Harp (to name a selection) and their daughter, Nia, playing Saxophone.

Graham joined the clarinet section of Alton Concert Orchestra at its formation in 1992. He plays a number of wind instruments such as clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones – as well as brass instruments such as the trombone. Previously he had played in a variety of brass bands, orchestras, dance bands and jazz ensembles, as well as conducting since the age of 17.

However, Graham now has little chance to practise and perform with the orchestra – even though he attends every rehearsal! Since 1996, the

conductor’s baton has been waved ably (and expectantly!) by Graham, interspersed with a plethora of food analogies.

Another important date on Grahams calendar is the annual AODS (Alton Operatic and Dramatic Society) production held in the Assembly Rooms each spring, for which Graham is ... the musical director.

Graham has now retired from the personnel department of a high street bank and spends his time – when not involved with music – at his second home in Brittany, running his small investment business or enjoying his hobby sailing yachts.

Music certainly comes first in the Cross household.

Sarah Main

Diary

Event	Time	Date
Open Evening	7:15	9 th October
Rehearsal in MS1	7:15	16 th October
No Rehearsal, Half Term		30 th October
Rehearsals with Alton Choral Society		4 th , 11 th , 14 th December
Last Rehearsal before Christmas Break	7:15	11 th December
Festival of Christmas Music	7:30	14 th December
First Rehearsal after Christmas Break	7:15	8 th January
Beer and Skittles Event	7:30	7 th February

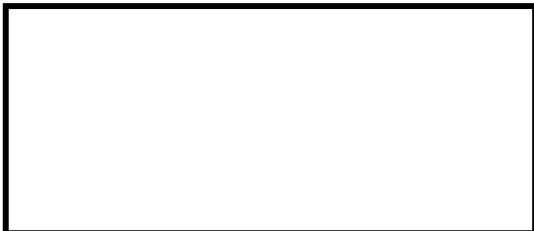


Conductor's Spot

We have commenced the new season with the anticipation of an excellent concert in prospect and I am looking forward to joining with my friend Richard Toll and the Alton Choral Society in enjoying a truly festive time. (See details on page 8). We are naturally looking at some new music for that occasion including, A Rhapsody on Christmas Carols (Claude Smith), A Christmas Festival (Leroy Anderson), O Holy Night (Adolph Adam) and the lovely Vaughan Williams setting of Greensleeves.

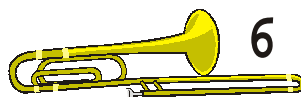
We shall be accompanying the choir in arrangements by John Rutter and encouraging the audience to participate in several traditional carols. An exciting prospect and I would urge any musicians reading this who may have put their instrument into 'moth balls' to get it out and join us. The Orchestra continues to grow and develop as well as enjoying social evenings.

Graham Cross



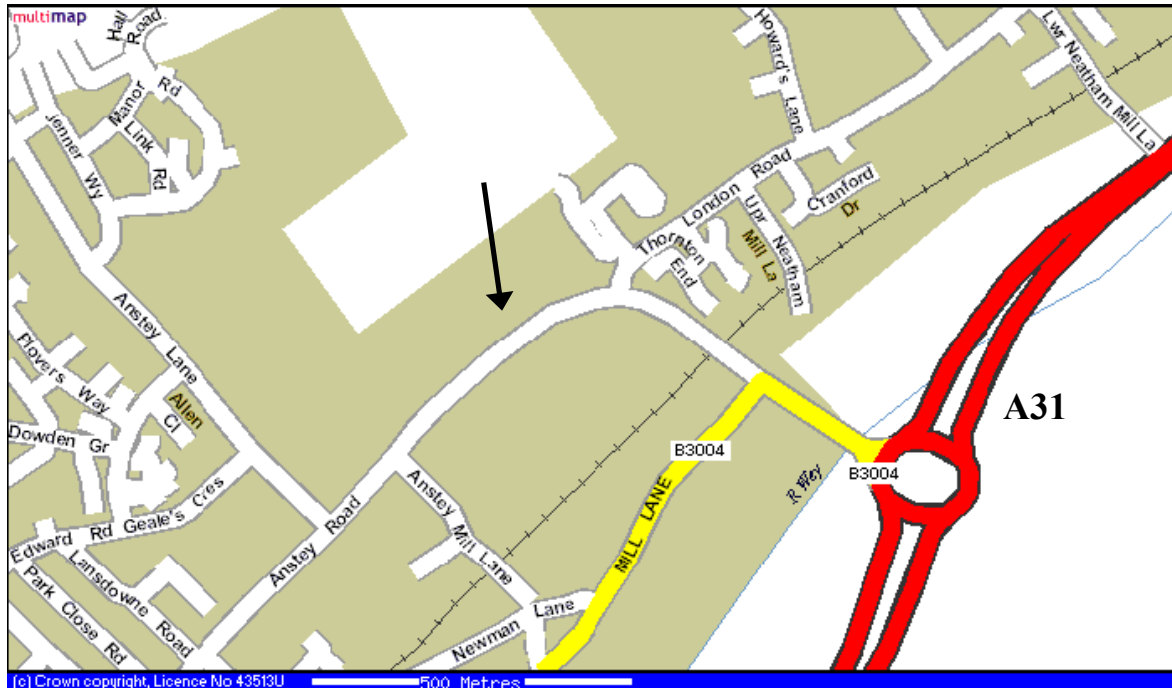
*What is the dynamic range of a
bass trombone?*

On or off



Thinking of Joining Us?

We meet at Eggar's School every Wednesday
(except in school holidays)
from 7:15 to 9:00



The cost of joining is, at the moment, £5 for students and £10 for adults. We always welcome new players to the orchestra - there is no audition required to join and we do not insist on you attending every rehearsal.

If you are thinking of joining then please contact one of the following:

Name	Telephone Number	Position
Graham Cross	(01420) 562234	Conductor
Chris Leggett	(01730) 893032	Chairman
Mac Newton	(01962) 773130	Leader

***We will be holding an 'Open Evening' at our rehearsal night on Wednesday 9th October in the main hall at Eggar's School. Bring along your instrument and meet the conductor. For more information please visit our website:
www.altonconcertorchestra.org.uk***

Produced by Rob Wyatt in the Ian Karten CTEC Centre at Treloar College, Alton (01420 87640)





Festival of Christmas Music

With
**Alton Concert Orchestra,
Alton Choral Society
And
Yourselves**

Admission free with ticket; retiring collection

Tickets can be collected, for free, from:

- Corbett's Bookshop, Alton
- Video Box, Four Marks
- Graham Cross (01420) 562234
- www.altonconcertorchestra.org.uk

The Festival is at the
**Church of the Good Shepherd
in Four Marks**

It starts at **7.30 pm**
on **Saturday 14th December**