

Meet our adjudicator

Striking the right chord



Perhaps the most important member of the Scouthead & Austerlands Whit-Friday contest team is the person who is rarely seen by the masses, our contest adjudicator. This year we are very pleased to retain the services of Jonathan Pippen as the man in charge.

Jonathan hails from Pontypool in South Wales where he began playing the trombone at 7 years old and at 15 he became principal trombone of the BTM band and the National Youth Brass Band of Wales.

In 1997 he won a foundation scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music and in the same year was appointed principal trombone of the Brighthouse and Rastrick band. He subsequently transferred to the Royal Northern College of Music in 1998 and made his professional debut with the Halle Orchestra in the following December.

While studying at the Royal Northern, Jonathan, following a successful audition, was appointed as the Principal Trombone with the Remix Ensemble Casa da Musica, based in Porto, Portugal.

Returning to the UK in 2003 he embarked on a freelance career as an orchestral musician, soloist, conductor and teacher. Jonathan has played principal trombone with many UK orchestras including the Philharmonic Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, English National Opera, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra to name a few. He was engaged to play on the soundtrack for the recent popular TV series Dr Who along with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales.

As a Soloist Jonathan has appeared with many of the country's leading bands and has been featured as a soloist for the BBC Radio programme "Listen to the Band" on 6 separate occasions. In 2008 Jonathan was featured as the guest soloist for the Lithuanian National Band Championships, and for the last 4 years has captured the title of Welsh Open Solo Champion. From 2007-2015 Jonathan held the position as principal trombone with the Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

It is important, at any contest, for competing bands to have faith in the ability of the adjudicator and a trust in his impartiality. Jonathan is well respected in the brass band movement because of his vast experience and knowledge of music; we are fortunate indeed to have him as our adjudicator. That is why, with his re-appointment, we are confident of striking the right chord with the competing bands.