

DA CAPO CONCERT BAND
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION CONCERT
SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2007

CONCERT REVIEW

On Saturday 17th November 2007, Da Capo Concert Band celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a Celebration Concert at a packed All Saints Church, Whetstone.

Compered and conducted by the Band's new Musical Director, Ian Mitchell, the evening began with Philip Sparke's *Jubilee Overture* – its opening fanfare popping the evening's champagne cork in a brave style.

Although the Band's intonation and ensemble had not yet settled, we enjoyed the horn solo in the ever-popular *Titanic Medley*, and Woolfenden's *Gallimaufrey* offered us a wide variety of moods and styles with some assured oboe playing and a very beautiful cor anglais solo.

The quartet 'Simply Saxes' then took us to the hippest ceilidh ever, after which we hobbled back home to Derek Bourgeois' *Serenade for Wind Band* – and by now the Band were fully in their stride, giving a flawlessly graceful and unaffected account of Bourgeois' music.

This set the perfect canvas for Curnow's *Rejouissance* which, following a gentle solo rendition of 'Ein Fest Burg', truly ignited in an explosion of infectious joy, leaving hearts and spirits riding high through the interval.

Our excitement was held into the second half with Prokofiev's *Spartakiade* – (perhaps this rousing march would have been a good, if safe, way to start the entire concert?) – and *Pageant* by Persichetti was surely a highlight, giving our ears and minds some welcome stimulation after the rather common-place E.T theme.

Following Simply Saxes' second funky outing of the night, our hearts were called home by Grainger's superb arrangement of *Irish Tune from County Derry*, with some notably sensitive playing from the brass.

Sibelius's *Finlandia* was perhaps too epic and 'serious' a way to end this particular evening; however our serotonin levels dropped only slightly, and we carried home with us that warm, exhilarating bond that only live music can give.

Elizabeth Shepherd
17 November 2007