

Silicon Valley Brass Band
www.siliconvalleybrassband.com

About the Band

Founded in 2008, the Silicon Valley Brass Band is made up of volunteer musicians from all over the Bay Area. The band is based in Santa Clara and is associated with Mission College.

SVBB is a large brass and percussion ensemble formed in the tradition of the British brass band. A traditional brass band strives to emulate the rich, full sound of a pipe organ. In order to achieve this unique sound, they utilize the following instruments: Bb Cornets, Eb Soprano Cornet, Flugelhorn, Eb Tenor Horns (instead of Horns in F), Euphoniums and Baritones, Tenor Trombones, Bass Trombone, Bb and Eb Bases and percussionists playing a wide variety of instruments.

Mission

The mission of the Silicon Valley Brass Band is to present high quality performances which utilize a variety of music that showcases the unique sound and style of a British-style brass band. In addition, we will provide a community for Bay Area brass and percussion players and the opportunity for them to learn and develop as musicians.



Silicon Valley Brass Band
A Traditional Brass Band
Tony Clements, Director

Spring Concert

Sunday, March 28, 2010
2:30 p.m.

S.E.S. Hall
1375 Lafayette Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050

About the Conductor

Philip Sparke was born in London in 1951 and studied composition, trumpet and piano at the Royal College of Music, where he earned an ARCM. His conducting and adjudicating activities have taken him to most European countries, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and the U.S. He runs his own publishing company, Anglo Music Press, which he formed in May 2000. In September 2000 he was awarded the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his services to brass bands.

Tony Clements started his tuba studies at the age of seven in Lindenhurst, New York. He received his schooling at Cal State Northridge where he was a student of Tommy Johnson, Jim Self and Roger Bobo. Tony became Principal Tubist with the San Jose Symphony, now Symphony of the Silicon Valley, in 1981. Tony is the Director of the Humboldt Brass Chamber Music Workshop, Ohlone Wind Orchestra, Ohlone Community Band, and is Tuba/Euphonium instructor Stanford University and Cal State East Bay.

About the Composers and Arrangers

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908) was one of the great Russian nationalist composers of the latter part of the 19th century. He was also a master of orchestration. For much of his life, Rimsky-Korsakov combined his composition and teaching with a career in the Russian military—as an officer in the Imperial Russian Navy, then in the civilian rank of Inspector of Naval Bands. His best-known orchestral compositions are considered staples of the classical music repertoire, along with suites and excerpts from some of his 15 operas.

James Curnow was born 1943 in Port Huron, Michigan. Curnow received his first musical instruction in the public schools of Michigan and The Salvation Army Instrumental Programs. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from Wayne State University and a Master of Music from Michigan State University, where he studied conducting with Harry Began and euphonium with Leonard Falcone. Curnow has been commissioned to write over two hundred works for concert band, brass band, orchestra, choir and various vocal and instrumental ensembles. His published works now number well over four hundred. Currently he resides in Kentucky, and is the owner of Curnow Music Press, Inc. He also serves as Composer-in-Residence Emeritus for Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

John W. N. Palmer (1954) graduated from Queen's University at Kingston, Canada with a B.Mus. in 1976. For the next 14 years, he was a trumpet player with the Kingston Symphony, pit orchestras for local musicals and a regular performer with other

groups in Kingston and Brockville where he taught music at a local high school. In 1990 John switched to Trombone and since 1993 has been the Bass Trombonist in the Kingston Symphony. John is one of the founding members of the Kingston Symphony Brass Quintet and much of the music that the quintet plays are his arrangements. He is a five-time winner of the annual composition competition sponsored by the Brass Chamber Music Workshop at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA.

Gordon Langford (1930) is best known as a brass band composer and arranger. In particular, the test pieces *Facets of Glass* and *Rhapsody for trombone* are well known. In addition, he has also arranged the works of other composers, such as Henry Mancini, Jerry Goldsmith and John Williams. He is also known for his theater compositions, such as *The Crooked Mile* and *The House of Cards*. Langford has often been used by Hollywood as a score orchestrator, with *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Superman II*, *First Great Train Robbery*, *Clash of the Titans* and *Return to Oz* to his name. Langford also produced several arrangements for the King's Singers in the 1970s.

Bill Whelan was born in 1950 in Limerick, Ireland. He is the only child of two musicians, his father played harmonica, his mother was a classical pianist. He earned a law degree from University College in Dublin, and had a brief career as a lawyer, which he later abandoned to pursue a professional life as a pianist and guitarist. In the late 1980s he returned to composing and arranging music. In 1994, he composed a short intermission piece called "Riverdance" which went on to top the music charts in both Ireland and the United Kingdom, and won a Grammy Award in 1997.

Ray Farr (born 1948) was brought up in a musical family in the small town of Hereford, England. He started playing the cornet at the age of 6, and studied at the Birmingham School of Music and at the Royal Academy of Music, where he played 1st trumpet in the academy's orchestra. As a teacher Ray has given lectures on conducting, arranging and brass band contest adjudicating. In 2009 Ray was appointed Musical Director/Principal Conductor of the Sunderland Symphony Orchestra. A position he combines with conducting and teaching duties at Durham University.

Patrick S. Gilmore (1829-1892) In many ways Gilmore can be seen as the principal figure in 19th Century American music. He was a composer, the *22nd Regiment March* from the early 1880s is just one example. He held the first *Promenade Concert in America* in 1855, the forerunner to today's Boston Pops. He set up *Gilmore's Concert Garden*, which became Madison Square Garden. He was the Musical Director of the Nation in effect, leading the festivities for the 1876 Centennial celebrations in Philadelphia and the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. In 1888 he started the tradition of seeing in the New Year in Times Square. In 1891, he played for some of Thomas Edison's first commercial recordings. Musically, he was the first arranger to set brass instruments against woodwinds, which remains the basis for big band orchestration. His arrangements of contemporary classics did a great deal to familiarize the American people with the work of the great European musical masters. He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1970.

Goff Richards was born in Cornwall, Great Britain in 1944. He studied at the Royal College of Music and Reading University, and is best known as an arranger and composer for brass band. Between 1976 and 1989, he taught arrangement at Salford College of Technology (currently University College, Salford) and directed the College Jazz Orchestra. He has composed and arranged for many artists and ensembles including The King's Singers, Evelyn Glennie, Phillip McCann, the Symphony orchestra of Boston, the BBC Northern Radio Orchestra, Huddersfield Choral Society and Benjamin Luxon.

Josef Zawinul (1932-2007) Zawinul was born and grew up in Landstraße, in Vienna, Austria, where he went to school with the late former Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil. Classically trained at the Konservatorium Wien, Zawinul played in various broadcasting and studio bands before emigrating to the U.S. in 1959 on a music scholarship at Berklee School of Music and arts, in Boston. In the late 1960s, Zawinul recorded with Miles Davis's studio band and helped create the sound of jazz fusion. Zawinul won the "Best Keyboardist" award 30 times from American jazz magazine Down Beat's critics' poll.