

About The Band

Hepworth band is at the heart of a small village community close to the town of Holmfirth in the Holme Valley, West Yorkshire and for over 140 years has been a constant and intrinsic part of the area's culture and tradition.

As a Championship Section brass band Hepworth competes at the highest level. In fact for a 'village band' it competes remarkably successfully, maintaining Championship status for over 20 years, having qualified during that time to represent Yorkshire at the finals of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain at the Royal Albert Hall on four occasions (most recently in 2021) and earning an invitation to compete at the prestigious British Open Brass Band Championships at Symphony Hall, Birmingham.

The band is equally proud of its relationship with the local community and plays an active role leading the traditional Hepworth Feast celebrations, the Service of Remembrance, performing concerts locally, supporting local and national charities performing at fundraising concerts and events and keeping up the tradition of carolling around the local villages over the Christmas period.

Flexible Terms

The band is able to offer flexible terms for concerts and engagements. We can agree a fixed fee, undertake a joint venture or we'll be happy to discuss a tailored package that best suits your particular requirements.

Contacts

secretary@hepworthband.com
+44 (0)7885 251454

www.hepworthband.com

Search 'Hepworth Band' on social media.



Registered Charity in England & Wales, No. 1161654



HEPWORTH BAND

EST. 1882

*A village band proud to
compete with the best.*

Director of Music: Ryan Watkins

Ryan has made an instant impression since taking up the reins at the end of 2019. Within months, the band was placed third at the Yorkshire Regional Brass Band Championships, booking a place at the finals of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain at the Royal Albert Hall.

In 2023 the band finished runner up at the Spring Festival Grand Shield earning an invitation to the prestigious British Open Brass Band Championships and were also runner up at the Scottish Open Brass Band Championships.

Ryan graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music with first-class honours, and he is no stranger to Hepworth, having played with the band before taking up Principal Trombone seats with Fairey's and Brighouse & Rastrick.

Ryan has also enjoyed branching out into the orchestral world, performing with the Hallé Orchestra, Gilbert & Sullivan National Orchestra and the Manchester Camerata.

In 2012, Ryan was presented with the British Trombone Society "Young Trombonist of the Year" award and in 2014 progressed to the brass final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition.

Concerts & Performances

As well as the bands' impressive contesting record, it is equally at home on the concert stage where it has gained a reputation for presenting varied and exciting performances. The band promotes concerts in venues across the local area and performs further a-field in concert series, festivals and as guests of other music organisations.

For some, the sound of a brass band is evocative, bringing back memories of times past. For others it stirs deep emotions. But it is the ensemble sound, dynamic range, vitality and drive of the music making together with the emotional draw it creates for the listener that are perhaps the most unique.

The flexibility of the brass band enables it to embrace a wide range of musical styles and programme concepts. The band has successfully staged and promoted themed concerts and we can offer the opportunity to tailor and theme programmes to meet your particular requirements.

To help engage with communities and audiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, the band developed and promoted a series of themed online concert and performance videos, free to view across its YouTube channel and social media platforms.

Recordings & Creative Projects

More recently the band has focussed on developing creative projects and community-based initiatives. "From Lockdown to Stage", an ambitious, highly successful two-year programme supported by grant funding from One Community Foundation, Garfield Weston Foundation and Arts Council England helped the band to develop new performance opportunities, engage with existing and new audiences and supported the band as it emerged from the impacts of Covid-19.

"Rhythm of Light", an innovative collaboration between the band, composer Dr Liz Lane and The Hepworth Wakefield, provided a high-profile centrepiece to the programme. The band commissioned Dr Liz Lane to write a new work for brass band celebrating the life and work of sculptor Dame Barbara Hepworth that was premièred at The Hepworth Wakefield as part of the acclaimed Barbara Hepworth Art & Life exhibition.

"Hepworth Band Online" is a successful live recorded four-part online concert video series, free to view across the bands YouTube channel and social media platforms, that has been watched by more than 16,000 people across the world including viewers from Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

The band has recorded with international soloists from the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Orchestra of the Hague for the CDs 'Shining Waters' and 'Portraits'. The bands 'Yorkshire Heritage' CD celebrates the County's rich musical heritage. Other recordings include 'Celebration' released to mark the bands 125th anniversary, 'Pratty Flowers', 'Carnival', 'Marching with Hepworth' and 'A Century of Brass'.