

# *Dalmellington Band*



## WEST LOTHIAN FESTIVAL OF BRASS

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June, the Band travelled to Livingston to take part in the West Lothian Festival of Brass competition for the second time.

This Contest – held in the Howden Centre – is unique as there are only six Bands invited to participate and it is played in two “Semi-Final” heats with the winning Band from each heat going on to contest the final.

We were drawn in the second semi-final alongside Whitburn and Kingdom Brass.

Another feature of this Contest as the requirements imposed by the organisers. Each programme must be no longer than 30 minutes in length and include : An Overture, a piece featuring a Soloist, a piece featuring several soloists or a section of the Band, and for this year as it’s the 250th anniversary of his birth, a piece by Mozart.

This format is great from a listeners point of view, but a headache for Conductors. Archie in particular found it a bit of an ordeal picking our programme. In the end he opted for:

- Caravan (Duke Ellington, arr. Steve Sykes)
- Euphonium Solo - Pantomime (Philip Sparke) featuring David McKellar
- Overture Candide (Leonard Bernstein, arr. Howard Snell)
- The Day Thou Gavest (C.C. Scholefield, arr. Philip Wilby)
- Mozart On Parade featuring our Quintet : Eleanor Ferguson & John Boax (Cornets), Christopher Dale (Tenor Horn), Derick Kirkwood (Trombone) & Ian Taylor (Eb Bass)
- Los Hermanos de Bop (Mark Taylor, arr. Sandy Smith)
- Finale from “Glorifico Aeternum” (Dean Jones)

On the night the Band played quite well, but not without the occasional blemish. The heat in the hall proved to be a little bit more uncomfortable than we would have liked.

In the end, adjudicator Tony Swainson put Whitburn through to the final (where they will meet Scottish Co-op) with Kingdom Brass 2<sup>nd</sup> and us 3<sup>rd</sup>.

However, we can take some heart from the fact that it’s another step up the ladder of progress for us, which can only do us good in the long run.