

Dalmellington Band



SCOTTISH OPEN

On the 26th November, the Band appeared at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow to compete in the Scottish Open for the second time. Last year we were successful in winning the Scottish Challenge Shield, but this year, instead of defending our Challenge Shield win, we were playing for the first time at this contest in the Championship section.

This was our first competition as a newly reinstated Championship Section band – the new grading is effective from the 1st of November - and conductor Archie Hutchison had selected quite a demanding test-piece (as it has to be in this step-up in standard), Philip Wilby's "The New Jerusalem."

This piece is not what could be classed as a "Dalmellington" piece, we tend to lean towards pieces with nice tunes and spine-tingling harmonies. "The New Jerusalem", although being a tremendous piece of music, hasn't got – in the first few hearings anyway- either of those two features.

The Band however liked the piece and set about getting it to the required standard to mount a serious challenge in Glasgow. Hot on the heels of recording our new CD, we didn't have a great deal of time to rehearse "The New Jerusalem" but we got stuck in.

On the day we drew 3rd of 14 Bands and gave a creditable performance. The band sounded very good on the stage – the Royal Concert Hall is a wonderful place to play – and although we had just one little unsafe moment in our performance, we were pretty pleased with our overall effort.

Come the results, adjudicators Robert Childs and Peter Roberts placed us 10th, which is if we're honest a fair result. However, we didn't leave Glasgow empty handed. As a result of our phenomenal past 12 months, we were adjudged to be "Scottish 1st Section Band Of The Year" and Bert was presented with a Banner for us to display in the Band Hall.

We always knew it was going to be tough stepping up a grade, but we're now more determined than ever to make our mark in the Championship Section in the coming year.

For this Contest we had a couple of guest players help us out and our sincere thanks go to David Shanks (Euphonium)(who is registered with us and helps out in case of emergencies!), Scott Burn (Percussion) from Annan Town (ADP) Band and Ian Hamilton (Bb Bass) from Newmilns & Galston.

SCOTTISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Special mention must go to the Dalmellington Junior Band and Conductor Ian Taylor.

Competing in the Development section for the first time, they emerged as winners in what proved to be a rather difficult section. It was nip and tuck between Dalmellington and Campbeltown Juniors but adjudicators David Childs and Alistair Orr found in favour of Dalmellington.



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Their programme consisted of:

Walkabout

So Deep Is The Night (featuring Principal Cornet Lindsay Roxburgh)

Overture – “The Impressario”

The Final Countdown

Considering the amount of hard work Ian and the Juniors have done in recent months, this result is richly deserved. We’re just glad they’re not in the Championship Section!