

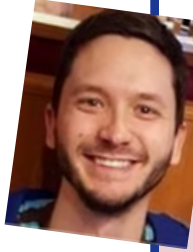
CAPITAL CONCERT BAND NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

Welcome to our first newsletter! We are a Leith-based wind band and we love to bring the local community together through music. We hope you enjoy reading. Please get in touch if you have any questions or ideas. Thanks, the CCB.

Player spotlight!

This edition's player spotlight is on Clay Young, our 1st french horn player. Clay joined the CCB about 9 years ago and is also a hard working member of the Committee. Clay was 'told' to play the horn when he was 13 and stopped playing after his first year at university. It wasn't until he moved to Scotland and his husband, Jonathan, bought him a horn that he picked it up again. Clay works as a manager at Heriot-Watt University, supporting admin teams looking after three of the six schools. He grew up in a small town in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. He then lived in Texas and France before settling in Scotland. Clay loves the perfect combination of city and country that Edinburgh offers, but it's the people of Edinburgh that make it feel like home now. Music gives Clay a challenge different from his working life and forces him to let go of control (he claims the horn rarely allows control!). Clay used to play roller derby and wanted his roller name to be 'Quaver' until he realised it was a crisp. He also played in an orchestra supporting Donnie Munro not long after moving to Scotland, but didn't know who he was!



Our New Conductor!

We are delighted to welcome Dean McGain-Harding (MSc, BMus Hons, PGDip, PGCE, LRSM, AmusTCL) as the new conductor of the CCB in 2025. Dean has been playing music throughout his life, from school to the Royal Marines Band Service, to latterly community ensembles. His career has allowed him to travel the world with the Royal Marines, and he spent 2 years working with the Royal Navy as a Volunteer Band Master on an aircraft carrier, where his primary task seemed to be to drive the ship and play guitar in the ship's rock band! As a trumpeter and violinist, Dean has played with a huge variety of bands throughout his career. He also spent 2 years conducting the Edinburgh Military Wives Choir, which was an eye-opening experience. He is a published composer and arranger, honing his skills as Bandmaster at the Royal Marines School of Music. To his family's delight, Dean likes to relax by learning new instruments, having learned mandolin, violin, trumpet, bouzouki, classical and tenor guitar, ukelele and banjo! He is currently learning pirate songs on the concertina. As a former band member, Dean was thrilled to be asked to take over from the legendary Kevin Lamb MBE.



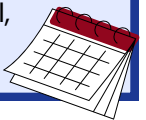
Kevin Lamb, MBE



Congratulations to our recently retired conductor, Kevin Lamb, who was awarded an MBE in the King's New Year Honours List, for the establishment of the Wind Band Association and services to music. A very well deserved accolade!

Upcoming Gigs

- **Next up!** March 29th - 7pm, Leith St. Andrews Church. Join us for a celebration of sea songs, "All at Sea".
- May 31st - 2pm. Concert for the SSAFA (Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmens' Families Association) at St. Mary's Cathedral, Palmerson Place, Edinburgh.



Festive Roundup!

We had a busy festive season, kicking off with our 'Carols by Candlelight' Christmas concert - a firm favourite with locals, family and friends. We also enjoyed carolling at Tesco Canonmills and Asda Newhaven, to raise funds for the band. Finally, after all the hard work we had a brilliant Christmas Party at the Wardie Bowling Club!



About the CCB!

The Capital Concert Band was established in 2004 in Edinburgh and started out with only 14 members. 20 years on, we number over 50 and have an exciting and varied history to look back on. Kevin Lamb MBE was the band's conductor for 20 years, and having recently retired has handed the baton into the very capable hands of Dean McGain-Harding. The Band has played at the Great Hall, Stirling Castle (twice!), represented the UK in a tri-nation commemorative "Concert for Peace" in Verdun, France and travelled to Gibraltar. We rehearse every Thursday and have 3-4 concerts every year at Leith St. Andrew's Church. We also do gigs further afield, for example last year we played in Kinross for a charity concert. We are made up of players of all ages and walks of life and are a very sociable band. Our fanfare trumpeters featured in Netflix's "Princess Switched 2", as well as playing a number of other prestigious events. Our smaller ensemble also regularly plays at venues within Edinburgh. We are delighted to bring more music to the local community in Leith over the coming years.



Leith St. Andrew's Church Exhibition - "The Heart of a Community"

Leith St. Andrew's Parish Church, home of the Capital Concert Band, has been a landmark on the corner of Easter Road and Lochend Road for over 140 years. It now faces a moment of transition as the Church of Scotland prepares to sell the building. Join Leith St. Andrew's Trust for "The Heart of the Community", a new exhibition at the church, celebrating its history, role in the community and future potential. Local historian Dr. Julian Grant has collaborated with the church, congregation and local community over the last four months to delve into the church's archives and hear personal stories. "The Heart of a Community" will display the findings from this research in the church's beautiful main sanctuary hall, which will be open to the public and free to enter at the times below -

- **Launch Night:** Friday 21st February 6-9pm - Be the first to see the exhibition and meet the team behind the project.
- **Exhibition Open House:** 22nd / 23rd February and 1st / 2nd March, 12-3pm - Drop in at any point and explore at your leisure.
- **Panel event with guest speakers:** 26th February, 7-9pm - Join us for an evening discussion of church and community history with local experts (free but ticketed via Eventbrite).

Visit the website (leithstandrewstrust.org) or Leith St. Andrew's Trust social media for more information.



Musician Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for a trumpet or cornet player and a bassoon. To apply, please email CCBsecretary@gmx.com.

Can the CCB play at your concert or event?

If you have a concert, gig or event in mind and would like to enquire about the CCB playing or collaborating with you, please email CCBsecretary@gmx.com. We have a full 50+ wind band and smaller ensemble and would be delighted to discuss opportunities.

Contact us!

If you have any questions or feedback, you can email us on - CCBsecretary@gmx.com. You can also find us on social media - Instagram: [@Capital Concert Band](https://www.instagram.com/CapitalConcertBand) Facebook: [CapitalConcertBand](https://www.facebook.com/CapitalConcertBand)



2025 Term Dates

Spring term: Thursday 9th January - 3rd April
Summer term: 24th April - 26th June
Autumn term: 14th August - 18th December

Thanks for reading!