

# The Beginning of Concert Bands and Wind Ensembles.....



It  
didn't always look like this!



Many times  
it's predecessor could look like this!

**In  
England it often appeared like this**



**So where do  
concert bands have their  
beginning?**

**What had to happen?**

**Instrumental Music was finally  
“tolerated” by the church.....**

**Even the organ was a**

latecomer to “church music”, which had always been VOCAL.

Secular music was provided by wandering Feudal musician = music performance!

entertaining feudal states,  
scandals of the day, song parodies,  
accompanied skits,  
witty, controversial and always supporting their local benefactors

**The simple wind instruments of the medieval period were:**

**awkward to play**  
**always out of tune**  
**made in various pitches**  
**changes in fingerings and design**





**The development of wind instruments was essential to allowing various kinds of instruments - to perform together, best known by the German term - Harmoniemusik.**

**recorders of several sizes and pitches: to flutes**  
**shawms (unpleasant and uncontrolled): to oboes and bassoons**  
**bassett horns: to clarinets**  
**various pitched horns with crooks (key centered: to rotary valves)**

bugles: to trumpets  
(variously pitched): to piston valves  
Renaissance slide  
trumpet and sackbut: to trombones  
serpentine basses: to  
baritone horns and tubas  
Invention of the  
saxophone in 1846

## Standardization of design, family development and preferred pitch

- **Harmoniemusik**

- Starting in the mid-1700s a form of instrumental music or “*medium for performance*“ was developed in Europe.
- A small ensemble which led to the beginning of the band movement as we know it today.
- This was called “Harmoniemusik”. For all practical purposes it was an octet or double quartet.
- The most common instrumentation:
  - **2 oboes**
  - **2 clarinets**
  - **2 horns**
  - **2 bassoons**
  -
- These performances were very popular in Europe. Especially with composers such as:
  - **Mozart, Haydn and Beethoven.**
  - These composers would take a break from their normal writings for strings and for the keyboard.

- This classical period music was challenging and quite good.
- Harmoniemusik would continue into the 19th century but would soon die off and be replaced with larger instrumentation.
- These larger groups would eventually become what we know as the modern day concert band.
- Here is an example of one such piece composed by Mozart during the classical period, Serenade No. 11 in E-flat.

- **Harmoniemusik: Mozart Serenade No. 11 in E-flat, K.375**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0ggqoNe4h0c>

**The Presidents Own - performance**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76fJWIZZ\\_f0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76fJWIZZ_f0)

## **Military Music as a concert band beginning**

Throughout most of the 17th century, the key components of British Military Music were;

- the fife
- the trumpet
- the drum

In the soldiers military guidebook of this time period the precise use of these instruments is described in **The Lawes and Ordinances of Warre** (1639). It stated:

**Every Souldier shall diligently observe and learn the distinct and different sound of Drums, Fifes and Trumpets, that he may know how to answer and obey each of them in time of service**

Due to colonialism, these British musical military ensembles were well accepted and received preferential treatment.



## **English Brass Bands**

The English Brass Bands got their start during England's Industrial Revolution. (Early 19th Century)

Originally organized and financed by mining and milling companies.

An effort to keep the working classes from politically organizing.

In 1860. there were around 750 brass bands in

England.

The Salvation Army has kept the tradition alive in the United States.

**Brass Bands are made up of 28 to 30 members.**

Programs can include original music, traditional marching songs, hymns, and medleys



Common Instrumentation of a brass band:

**1 soprano Eb cornet**

**9 Bb cornets**

**1 flugelhorn**

**3 Eb tenor horns**

**2 baritone horns**

**2 tenor trombones**

**1 bass trombone**

**2 Bb euphoniums**

**2 Eb basses**

**2 Bb basses**

**2-4 percussion**

## **Grimethorpe Colliery Band**

### **William Tell Overture - Rossini**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjpAM5YWeQU>

Several classical composers have written music specifically for brass band. These include:

**Little Suite for Brass - Malcolm Arnold**

**The Seventh Suite - Edward Elgar**

**A Moorside Suite - Gustav Holst**

**Overture from Henry The Fifth - Ralph Vaughn Williams**

## **Civil War Bands**

- Small instrumental groups were formed to entertain the troops for morale purposes.
- Less than 30 members in size, they were primarily composed of brass instruments, but would also include fifes and drums.
- Many regiments would have a band assigned to their particular outfit.
- Some of these Civil War bands were already formed as private units and allowed to enlist and be

assigned to a regiment or

Bands of this nature were restricted and later not allowed to enlist as a unit.

- The music literature performed was centered around the song that represented either the north or south, along with many
  - of the grand popular songs of the day.

Brass instruments were of various design and pitch. Music was not necessarily written down. Play and harmonize by ear.

## **Civil War Brass Bands (video and audio)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPFdMurkYrw>

## **Public School Bands - the beginnings.**

Lowell Mason was given credit for establishing music programs (late 1800's) in the public schools across America.

These early music programs emphasized singing as well as the teaching of basic fundamentals in music.

Some of these early music educators believed that instrumental music should be taught in the public schools.

These educators formed instrumental music classes and eventually bands after school hours, without pay.

- This was possible because of the interest by the students and these teachers had great passion for their jobs.
- When World War I ended there were many veterans trained in the service bands.
- They accepted music teaching positions throughout the country.
- Instrumental music programs in high schools and colleges were started and were developed, achieving greater support
- for music education across the country.
- Because of the efforts and the persistence of these early educators instrumental music education has spread around the world
- 
- **In fact some countries school systems accomplish it much better than our own!**

**A London Symphony by Philip Sparke**

**Performed by Japanese Elementary School Band.**

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED8\\_61jvvE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED8_61jvvE)

## So where did all of the band arrangements come from following World War I?

- **Composers and Arrangers**
- **for Concert Band**



- **Gustav Holst 1874 - 1934**
- **First Suite in Eb for Military Band**
- **Second Suite in F for Military Band**
- **Jupiter from the Planets**
- **Mars from the Planets**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEYrmYiHUw>
- **Hammersmith**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nc5P6U44KQ>
-

The first to “standardize” instrumentation for concert band.



**Gordon Jacob 1895 - 1984**

- **Original Suite for Military Band**
- **William Byrd Suite**
- **Music For A Festival**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11O81YFUFY8&list=RD11O81YFUFY8&start\\_radio=1&t=99](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11O81YFUFY8&list=RD11O81YFUFY8&start_radio=1&t=99)



**Percy Grainger 1882 - 1961**

**Lincolnshire Posy  
Country Gardens  
The Shepherds "Hey"**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t39GPkhY4y8>

**Revival of interest in British folk music, much of his work was experimental and unusual,**



**Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872 - 1958**

**English Folk Song Suite**

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&type=audio&productID=149401>

## Sea Songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00r8HoWtpxM>

## Toccata Marziale

## Revival of British Folk Music



**Frederick Fennell 1914 - 2004**

**also noted for Editing of Souza marches**

**Visualized the modern concert band**

In 1952 - devised a new symphonic band organization.

Scaled the typical concert band down to the wind section of a symphony orchestra.

Allowed for greater clarity and fewer intonation difficulties.

In 1952 he held the first rehearsal for the Eastman Wind Ensemble, and conducted the first concert at Eastman's Kilbourn Hall in February 1953. Desiring expanded repertoire, Fennell mailed letters to nearly 400 composers around the world requesting appropriate compositions for the new group.

The first composer to respond was Percy Grainger, followed by Vincent Persichetti and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

## Instrumentation

### Concert Band

A Concert Band numbering 60 members in size might have a balanced instrumentation of the following:

- **6 flutes and piccolos**
- **2 oboes**
- **2 bassoons**
- **12 B-flat clarinets**
- **1 alto clarinet**
- **2 bass clarinets**
- **4 alto saxophones**
- **2 tenor saxophones**
- **1 baritone saxophone**
- **8 trumpets**
- **6 horns**
- **5 trombones**
- **2 euphoniums**
- **3 B-flat tuba**
- **1 string bass**
- **3 percussion**

### Wind Ensemble

A Wind Ensemble usually will have between 40 and 45 musicians and the balanced instrumentation would look like the following:

- **3 flutes and piccolos**
- **2 oboes**
- **2 bassoons**
- **6 B-flat clarinets**
- **2 bass clarinets**
- **1 contrabass clarinet**
- **2 alto saxophones**
- **1 tenor saxophones**
- **1 baritone saxophone**
- **3 trumpets**
- **4 horns**
- **3 trombones**
- **2 euphoniums**
- **2 B-flat tubas**
- **1 string basses**
- **1 harp**
- **1 marimbas**
- **3 percussion**

## **Symphonic Band**

A Symphonic Band of between 100 and 120 musicians, might have the following instrumentation:

- **10 flutes and piccolos**
- **4 oboes**

- **2 English Horns**
- **4 bassoons 1 contra-bassoon**
- **24 B-flat clarinets**
- **3 alto clarinets**
- **5 bass clarinets**
- **1 contrabass clarinet**
- **4 alto saxophones**
- **3 tenor saxophones**
- **2 baritone saxophone**
- **2 fluegelhorns**
- **12 trumpets**
- **10 horns**
- **8 trombones**
- **4 euphoniums**
- **2 baritones**
- **5 B-flat tuba**
- **2 string basses**
- **1 harp**
- **2 marimbas**
- **5 percussion**

**The Concert Band Repertoire is changing!**