# Grand Jubilee Concert

held at the

## Kings Hall, Belle Vue

Manchester

SUNDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER 1948

*Souvenir Programme — One Shilling*

# "BRASS"

*By "Buckland"*
*(D. BUCKLAND SMITH)*
*Press and Publicity Chief of Belle Vue.*

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Feed that furnace ten times more, my hearties. Heat that metal until it glistens like golden butter. Pour it from the cauldron gently, carefully, steadily into the mould, for you are moulding "brass" my lad, whether it be fire-dogs for a millionaire's home, brass candlesticks for some chintz-curtained window nook, or an instrument that is destined to play its part in a thousand "fanfares" until, a Champion among Champions, it proclaims the lilting mightiness of a metal set apart from all others—"Sounding Brass".

Across immeasurable time "Brass", in some fashioning or another, has been used in the making of musical instruments, and although it is a very far cry from the Egyptian and Roman era to to-day the popularity of brass instruments has maintained its hold on the millions of everyday workers of the world, who progressed and educated themselves in matters musical and by so doing founded the nucleus of that great art of comradeship and musical expression—the "Brass Band Movement"

Here in Belle Vue's great "Showground of the World", now in its one hundred and twelfth year of success, the leading Brass Band Championships have been held. For fifty years of that time the name of John Henry Iles has been synonymous with all that makes up the very heart and soul of Brass Band achievements.

At the early age of twenty-eight "John Henry" came up from the Metropolis on business. With a few leisure hours on his hands he was advised to "go to Belle Vue and listen to the Brass Band September Contest". Those were the days when Brass Bands were almost entirely confined to the North of England, and other parts of the country had no knowledge of the ever-increasing value of this musical



# HARRY MORTIMER

**Brass and Military Bands Supervisor of the British Broadcasting Corporation. One of to-day's Guest Conductors.**

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It was "fifty" years ago that John Henry Iles walked into Belle Vue on that eventful day, sceptical, critical and slightly amused. On that day he was converted. He left, amazed and enthused by the brilliant playing of bands composed entirely of working-class organisations. He became fired with the resolution to devote himself to Brass Band interests, and determined to place the musical genius of these working men on the pinnacle of fame they justly merited.

Within two years from that day not only had he founded the great Crystal Palace Festival, but had persuaded the late Sir Arthur Sullivan to conduct Massed Brass Bands at one of the greatest of all

wartime Charity Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, London. From these grand foundations "John Henry" built on from strength to strength. He sounded the greatness of factory bands, miners' bands, mill bands and general dock and workers' bands throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, and then went one better and toured Champion Brass Bands throughout most of the leading Capitals of the World.

Fifty years of loving devotion to an ideal; fifty years of labour at a task that has been far from an easy one. That was this man's choice, and fifteen days ago he reaped the harvest of over-whelming success . . . . the acclaimations of hundreds of thousands of Brass Bandsmen and their respective managements throughout the world. It was "John Henry's Jubilee of 'Sounding Brass'".

The Press honoured John Henry Iles' Golden Jubilee by presenting him with an elaborately carved ivory baton. He was also the recipient of a handsome solid silver salver, presented by the Brass Band Club, in this famous Kings Hall, on the day of his Jubilee, September 4th, during the September "Blue Riband" of all Brass Band Annual Contests.

It was after that Contest that "John Henry" stood with me at the back of the Kings Hall, looking out at the Fireworks Display. Putting his hand on my shoulder he said . . . . "Buckland"—another fine day nearly over, old friend, but it does my heart good to see the same great spirit of happiness and enjoyment abounding here as it has done through a grand, glorious, fifty years past. You know, my friend", he continued, "nothing will ever break down the great traditions of this Belle Vue of ours. There's the great Bobs Coaster I brought back from America and built here during the years of my Chairmanship. There's the fine Stadium and Speedway built during those years, and this Kings Hall that I was instrumental in reconstructing, to hold the vast thousands it does to-day. It holds deep memories for me, my lad, on this night of all nights—my Golden Jubilee".

Yes, John, a Golden Jubilee. Mellowed with golden memories and friendships bound tightly with the bonds of love and esteem; welded deep in the hearts of millions of music lovers and enthusiasts; fashioned in achievement from the furnace of endeavour that will burn as bright as the stars and as long as they last. Liken it, John, to the Gold of Brass . . . "Sounding Brass".




FRANK PHILLIPS

Frank Phillips is perhaps the best-known of all B.B.C. Announcers. He has introduced many brass band Concerts and (to use his own words) "can now talk band language."

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# *Souvenir Programme*

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# GRAND
# JUBILEE CONCERT

Celebrating fifty years' work in
the Brass Band Movement of
JOHN HENRY ILES, O.B.E.

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## KINGS HALL, BELLE VUE
MANCHESTER

## Sunday, 19th September, 1948

# PROGR

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*Massed Bra*

BRIGHOUSE and RASTRICK

CRESSWELL

MUNN and FELTON'S

*Guest Conductors:* HARRY MORTIM

*Pianist:* IRE

*Trumpet:* JUNE BIRCH

*Anno*

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1. GRAND MARCH "Tannhauser" ... ... *Wagner*
2. OVERTURE ... "Poet and Peasant" ... ... *Suppe*
3. MINIATURE OVERTURE AND WALTZ
("Nutcracker" Suite) ... ... *Tchaikovsky*

MASSED BANDS

Conducted by HARRY MORTIMER

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4. TRUMPET VOLUNTARY ... ... ... *Jeremiah Clarke*

Usually attributed to Purcell

5. THE POST HORN GALOP ... ... ... ... *Koenig*

JUNE BIRCH

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6. FIRST MOVEMENT FROM "UNFINISHED" SYMPHONY

*Schubert*

MASSED BANDS

Conducted by HARRY MORTIMER

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7. FIRST MOVEMENT FROM PIANO CONCERTO

*Greig, arr. Denis Wright*

IRENE KOHLER

Accompanied by FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND

# RAMME

*ass Bands*

COLLIERY

FAIREY AVIATION WORKS

WINGATES TEMPERANCE

and JOHN HENRY ILES, O.B.E.

E KOHLER

*nouncer*: FRANK PHILLIPS (B.B.C.)

8. MARCH ... "B.B. and C.F." ... ... *Ord Hume*
9. "SANDON"
10. "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" ... ... ... *Handel*

MASSED BANDS
Conducted by J. HENRY ILES, O.B.E.

*INTERVAL*

11. TONE POEM ... "Finlandia" ... ... *Sibelius*
12. SELECTION ... "The Mikado" ... ... *Sullivan*

MASSED BANDS
Conducted by HARRY MORTIMER

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13. SCHERZO ... (Concerto Symphonique) ... ... *Litolff*
*arr. Denis Wright*

IRENE KOHLER
Accompanied by FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND

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14. TONE POEM ... "Life Divine" ... *Cyril Jenkins*

MASSED BANDS
Conducted by HARRY MORTIMER

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15. CHANSON TRISTE ... ... ... ... *Tchaikovsky*
16. MARCH ... ... "William Tell" ... ... ... *Rossini*

MASSED BANDS
Conducted by J. HENRY ILES, O.B.E.

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*THE NATIONAL ANTHEM*

# Twenty Years of Fame

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The following are some interesting notes from the career of that famous pianist Miss Irene Kohler, appearing at to-day's Concert.

From 1928 to 1932 Miss Kohler studied at the Royal College of Music under Arthur Benjamin. She continued these studies in 1932 and 1933 in Vienna and in December 1933 broadcast Rachmaninoff No. 3 Concerto with Sir Dan Godfrey from Bournemouth.



IRENE KOHLER

Famous International Concert Pianist.

Made her debut in London in 1934 at the first Promenade Concert of Sir Henry Wood's Fortieth Season at the Queen's Hall, playing the Cesar Franck Variations.

In 1938 Miss Kohler made a Concert tour of Holland. In 1940 she was chosen by C.E.M.A. to be the pianist to play Tchaikovsky No. 1 Concerto in the M.O.I. film showing the work of the C.E.M.A. in factories.

During 1940 and 1941 Miss Kohler played in 119 concerts with L.P.O. giving 7 concertos weekly in "Theatre" weeks, one of which took place at the Opera House, Manchester.

In 1944 toured Belgium and France; gave 15 concerts and 3 broadcasts in 20 days in Brussels, Bruges, Antwerp, Lille and Paris. Later that year she was sent by E.N.S.A. to play to troops in India. Went as far as Rangoon but unfortunately her visit was curtailed owing to a serious plane crash.

She made a second Belgian tour in 1945 during which the Queen of the Belgians attended one of her concerts. Again in 1947 she toured Belgium and

also journeyed to Paris to give three special broadcasts of British music.

Had a big success recently (July 31st, 1948) when she played Rachmaninoff at one of this Season's Promenade Concerts—had six recalls.

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# Twelve Year Old Champion

June Birch, Trumpet Virtuoso in to-day's Concert comes from a famous family of brass instrumentalists, her father being late Sergeant and Solo Cornet in the Band of the Grenadier Guards. Her two sisters also, are well-known trumpeters in Ladies' Bands. June, although only twelve years old, has already played at many London Concerts, including Olympia, and has broadcast on several occasions.



**JUNE BIRCH**

**Twelve year old sister of a famous family of brass instrumentalists. Her young career already includes London and Olympia Concerts and several broadcasts.**

# "Tribute"

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This Souvenir Programme would not be complete if I did not, as Press and Publicity Chief of Belle Vue, pay tribute to Frank Parker, Brass Band Contests Manager.

He has been at Belle Vue for 35 years. His father John Parker, was here before him and the family's service with Belle Vue reaches back to Grandfather William, who was with the Company as far back as 1864.

Frank Parker's association with John Henry Iles in the official handling of Brass Band Contests at Belle Vue covers some 23 years, during which time the approximate money paid away in cash prizes amounts to £10,000. Altogether over 3,000 bands have played at Belle Vue during that time and the value of trophies presented reaches £45,000. At least 100,000 per-



**THE "DRAW"**

**John Henry Iles officiating at the "Draw" of the September Championship Brass Band Contest. The event signalled his "Golden Jubilee" Year.**



THE "PRESENTATION"

**Mr. Herbert Wood President of the National Brass Band Club, presenting to Mr. Henry Iles a Silver Salver, on behalf of the Club, in recognition of his fifty years' service to Brass Bands. The Presentation was made at the September "Blue Riband", Saturday, September 4th, 1948.**

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formers have challenged each other for the right and merit of the championships, and the numbers of people they have brought with them on Contests occasions cover many millions.

During Frank Parker's tenure of office the old Belle Vue Challenge Cup, which was under contest for 40 years, was won outright by Foden's Motor Works Band, the first Sunday Chronicle Challenge Trophy was won outright by Brighouse and Rastrick Band, and a Cup presented to celebrate "Peace"—the Belle Vue "Victory" Trophy—was won outright by Fairey Aviation Works Band.

I am certain that Frank Parker's many friends in the Brass Band world will look forward to the not too distant day when they can raise their glasses and drink a toast to his own "Silver Jubilee".

D.B-S.