

GIGANTIC STEP FOR The Kenya Trust

POURING MORE 'INTO AFRICA'

This year, the annual **INTO AFRICA** concert at Staines, organised superbly as ever by Wes Maughan, raised over **£4,500**, adding to a total of over £250,000 which has been raised and invested on **Special Infrastructure & Building Projects** over the last 15 years by this worthy Trust.

As well as sponsoring, organising & staffing 11 Territorial Music Schools and 11 Music Leaders Training Seminars, **THE KENYA TRUST** has been in a position to donate miscellaneous items, including:- Christian literature & books, Bibles, education packs, paper, pencils, pens, classroom materials, clothes & toys for children, SA uniform shirts, trousers, blouses, skirts, ties & brooches, T-shirts, polo shirts (for TMS), knitted blankets & baby clothes.

Additionally, with the generous support of so many people, since October 1998 TKT has sent to Kenya:-

- 1,728 Brass Instruments plus percussion equipment
- 180 new guitars with gig bags
- 2 digital pianos with amplifiers
- 95 keyboards
- Over 250 tambourines
- Music for brass, keyboard & vocal
- Over 600 music stands
- Band tune books, batons, tutor books,
- Over 3,000 teaching ring binders & wallets of manuals & seminar notes

Wow, what an achievement!and all of this success was highlighted in the 'INTO AFRICA' concert, now well established in the TKT calendar as a highlight event of 'wholesome music making', with this year certainly being no exception!

Without announcement, the opening item, **Salvation Song** (William Gordon), comfortably conducted with panache and pulsating rhythm by Bandmaster Jonathan Corry, allowed the **Enfield Band** to introduce themselves and set the scene, indicating that we were in for a really exciting evening. By immediately following such a sparkling number, the **Staines Songsters** (Samantha Turner) maintained the impetus with a fine rendition of **How Excellent is Thy name**, followed by a very thought provoking arrangement of **Someone Cares**, allowing another 'shift' in mood to include Prayer.

It was at this stage that we were introduced to our Compere for the evening, **Cathy Le Feuvre**, whose enlightening & succinct comments certainly aided the flow of the evening and, with an enjoyable amount of humour, engaged the audience fully.

In sharing Len Ballantine's **Covenant Worship** and Morley Calvert's **Canadian Folk Song Suite**, the Enfield Band clearly demonstrated the breadth of its style and sensitive music-making. As ever, the Staines Songsters seem to "rise to the occasion" by embracing the meaningfulness of this unique annual event. Their contributions of **Sitting in Limbo** and **Create a Rhythm** personified the hard work they always put in to support this concert, and a sense of us actually 'being in Kenya' was certainly there!

The Compere was able to introduce the Special Guest Soloist for the evening, 14 year old **Isobel Daws** from Hendon. Particularly for one so young, her relaxed yet confident performance throughout the evening did nothing to hide her undoubted talent and the quality of her playing is something that we can all look forward to for many years to come. Her first contribution, Ray Steadman-Allen's **Fantasy for Trombone on Spirituals** was as exciting to listen to as it was played, with a mature display of technique and musicianship.

It was at this point the Staines Deputy Bandmaster, **Charley Brighton**, presented a series of surplus and refurbished instruments to The Kenya Trust, continuing the support that Wes Maughan, TKT Secretary, has engendered for many years.

Enfield Band's response with Bruce Broughton's Cornet Trio, **The Victors**, featuring Principal Cornet Maurice Patterson, Andrew Lofthouse and Paul Williams, ensured an up-beat end the first half of this Concert which attracted a substantial crowd. With the Band once again displaying the extent of its repertoire, the Appeal for contribution of further funding by the audience was sensitively accompanied by Les Condon's beautiful arrangement of Joy Webb's **I Can Think of Him**, leaving the audience with a feeling of just wanting to "sit back, relax, and take it all in".

The "buzz of excitement" during the interval was of conversation based around what we could anticipate for the second half of this 'Festival of Music'. It was clearly evident that we would not be let down, with Jonathan Corry's humorous Irish banter being the ideal prelude to the Band entertaining us to a "night at the cinema" with some well chosen film music.

Isabel Daws followed with her final contribution of the evening with Ray Steadman-Allen's arrangement of Guilman's **Concert Piece for Trombone**. Again, played so, so well, evidencing that Isabel is well on her way to achieving her ambition of "becoming a professional trombonist, ideally in Michael Buble's backing band ! Isabel has such a great future ahead of her, and let us all hope and pray that she in turn can be an encourager for so many other young musicians within The Salvation Army.

The Staines Songsters delighted us all with their final contrasting contributions of **How Sweet the Sound, Jesus came with Peace to Me and Higher and Higher**, leading to (or so we thought!) the Band's final item of the evening. This was, as well as enjoying their music and performance immensely throughout the evening, a case of "saving the best till last". A scintillating performance of 3 movements from Peter Graham's **Cry of the Celts** brought a sustained applause which could only be interrupted by the band's evergreen rendition of the March – **The Red Shield**.

A great evening of music-making and sharing, which left all in the audience keenly anticipating the next TKT **INTO AFRICA** event, and we look forward with anticipation to yet another series of superb guest musicians being featured by **The Kenya Trust** next year.