

Wessex Brass Band Association

Winter Festival 17th November 2024

Adjudicator's remarks: Christopher Bond BMus

Draw Number

4

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A W Parker Drybrook

Viva Birkinshaw

A strong opening with a tremendous band sound - lovely. Super sop - really impactful. Cornet duet is stylish and classy, all with a greatly shaped accompaniment underneath it. Bass solo passage could be more together between basses and trombones, but the overall effect remains strong. Trio - take care of occasional lapses in cohesion and intonation. Don't rush repeated quavers (eg. four bars from the end). Overall, a strong performance with plenty of style and a super band sound - well done!

A Tale As Yet Untold

All the moving parts are presented well to open. Effective swells in the mid-lower band. I'd love more clarity in the cornet demi-semiquaver work. 28 - sop shines. Well done, trom at 32. 35 onwards is impactful - not all the clarity in semiquaver work is heard. 48 - well done, horns. 68 - this is tight - cornet and euph lines are secure (just!). 76 contrasts nicely. 101 - well managed, cornet - not completely blemish free. 128 - yes, sop! I just miss the total contrast and detail of dynamics required - often when the dynamic drops, we lose clarity - try to maintain both.

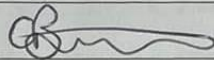
II - Not completely in tune to open, and could sounds be more blended overall here? It's all shaped very well and the music is all there. 11 - lovely euph sound here, but the accompaniment is too strong for p. Nice trom at 20. Could 23 be more impactful in cornets? Euph - well done! Take care of your A's (occasionally slightly under in pitch). 25 - lovely trom sound and balance. Well done, baritone. 30 - horn has a great sound / tone - not all blemish free, but great quality. 37 - nicely managed, cornet. 41 - I'd like just a little more unity in the quartet in regards to the overall blend, togetherness and style / shaping. 45 - good effort as a band to achieve the pp dynamic - it's rather successful! Stylish trombone to conclude the movement. Not completely in tune on the pause (1st / 2nd trom and Solo Horn).

III We lose clarity and cohesion in the initial cornet / euph lines. 17 is more settled but not without its slightly frantic square lines in cornets, euphs and baritones. 56 is good. 88 - good effort, xylophone! 104 onwards - the melodic lines work well and are always shaped appropriately. 192 - you play best in this bigger stuff where unity is greater and the band sound can really shine. 228 - good contrast. into 284 - good drive and momentum overall here. It begins to rush from 316 - take care of the control as it continues. 336 requires more clarity, sound and cohesion but it's a confident and impactful close.

Overall, a performance which had lots to commend - you've

chosen to perform a piece which will push the band which is brilliant for developing fundamental qualities. In doing this, we did miss some clarity and detail throughout which is required to fully achieve a work of this magnitude. Some brilliant solo contributions around the band (especially sop, cornet, horn) - moving forwards, consider really trying to deliver all of the detail and clarity in the music and occasional blend and intonation considerations. You're a great band with a great M.D!

Thankyou

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be 'Ben', written in black ink on a lined paper background.