

**For immediate release**



## **TOP BANDS JOIN FORCES**

**Kew Wind Orchestra and XBY Concert Band to perform together at prestigious London venue St. John's, Smith Square  
Sunday 21 June 5.30pm**

Following their hugely successful concert together in 2006, two of the UK's leading symphonic wind ensembles have joined forces once again to stage a remarkable joint performance at the prestigious St John's concert venue in London's Smith Square.

The two bands - the Kew Wind Orchestra (KWO) and the XBY Concert Band - will each showcase their superb musical talent that has resulted in critical acclaim and numerous awards. Both groups have won Gold Awards at recent National Concert Band Festivals and were award winners at the prestigious World Music Competition in Kerkrade, Holland, held in summer 2005.

Their *Summer Solstice* concert, on Sunday 21 June at 5.30pm, will offer a captivating afternoon of music with the programme for this special concert featuring original and arranged works for wind band in a variety of styles, from classical to contemporary to jazz. Highlights include Shostakovich's Festive Overture, Philip Wilby's Paganini Variations and Bernstein's Symphonic Dances from *West Side Story*.

### **Concert details**

Sunday 21 June 5.30pm  
St. John's, Smith Square, London SW1 3HA  
Tickets £12 (£10 concs, £6 U16s & students)  
Box Office 020 7222 1061 / [www.sjss.org.uk](http://www.sjss.org.uk)  
Booking now open

### **Links**

[www.kewwindorchestra.org.uk](http://www.kewwindorchestra.org.uk)  
[www.xbyconcertband.co.uk](http://www.xbyconcertband.co.uk)  
[www.sjss.org.uk](http://www.sjss.org.uk)

### **Press enquiries**

Tim Oldershaw 07788 641787  
Kew Wind Orchestra

## **For immediate release**

### **Notes to editors**

#### Kew Wind Orchestra

The award winning Kew Wind Orchestra ranks as one of Britain's top amateur wind ensembles. Formed in 1984, the group is a self-supporting community band renowned for its popular and challenging repertoire of jazz, classical and symphonic music. Featuring around 40 musicians from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, KWO has played in top concert venues around the country - including The Sage Gateshead and Westminster's St John's, Smith Square - and has performed in a number of major European capital cities.

In recent years, the band is proud to have won a succession of awards at the National Concert Band Festival finals, commissioned a number of world premieres and performed with some of the UK's leading musicians. In April 2009, KWO became the only wind orchestra in Britain to win gold for four years in a row in the open class of the NCBF finals and in 2005, the orchestra also won a silver award for its first performance at the highly-competitive World Music Competition in Kerkrade, Holland. The orchestra has been honoured to commission and perform world premieres of works by acclaimed composers Derek Bourgeois, Michael Omer and Eddie Harvey, and guest soloists include clarinetist Linda Merrick, London Philharmonic Orchestra trombonist Mark Templeton and singers Louise Marshall and Melanie Marshall.

Spencer Down has been musical director of KWO since 2001. He is also Musical Director of the Docklands Sinfonia, Associate Conductor of the Junior Guildhall Symphony Orchestra and has taught conducting at the Royal Academy of Music summer school. Currently working at Junior Guildhall, he is brass co-ordinator, professor of euphonium and conductor. Spencer is passionate about his educational work and he has conducted numerous County and Music Centre orchestras and bands. Spencer gained an honours degree from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, where he studied euphonium and trombone and specialised in conducting.

#### XBY Concert Band

XBY Concert Band has established a reputation as one of the foremost symphonic wind bands in the United Kingdom. Its success has emerged through repeated achievements at the National Concert Band Festival Finals by gaining two silver and five gold awards. The Band has also achieved acclaim for winning a first prize in 2005 & 2001 at the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland and a second prize in 1997. A group of past members of the Bromley Youth Concert Band formed XBY Concert Band in 1989. The name XBY is derived from ex-Bromley Youth to represent this association between the players.

XBY Concert Band's repertoire is extensive, ranging from film, light and standard military band music through to symphonic works by modern composers. The Band has premiered several modern works by British composers such as Malcolm Binney and Bruce Fraser at events such as the British Association of Symphonic Bands and Wind Ensembles' Conference.

Since 1989, the Band has secured a valuable relationship with Musical Director Dennis Mycroft. Dennis studied trombone and conducting at Trinity College, gaining an advanced conducting scholarship in 1977. In addition to some part-time teaching and working in the theatre, his freelance orchestral career included performing with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Richard Hickox Orchestra and National Youth Jazz Orchestra. He then turned his attention more towards teaching and conducting as full time career. Dennis is Head of Brass Teaching for the Bromley Youth Music Trust, being actively involved in the training of young musicians and conducting XBY.