‘Slate-Grey Rain and Polished Euphoniums’

Brass Bands, the Working Class and the North
c.1840-1914

Course Tutor: Dr Stephen Etheridge
A Short Course at Heritage Quay Archive Centre
University of Huddersfield
February 2016
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Contact Details

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Session Dates and Times

Wednesday 3 February 1830-2030
Wednesday 10 February 1830-2030
Wednesday 24 February 1830-2030

Social Media

Twitter:
@Heritage_Quay If you would like to mention the course on Twitter please use the hashtag: #SlateGreyRain

Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/HeritageQuay

Dr Stephen Etheridge’s research profile can be found at:
http://hud.academia.edu/StephenEtheridge
Course Outline

Brass Bands have become a clichéd representation of northern working-class culture. Hence, in 1974, Peter Hennessy described a band contest at the Albert Hall:

A roll call of the bands is like an evocation of industrial history. From Wingates Temperance and Black Dyke Mills to more modern conglomerates [...]. Grown men, old bandsmen say, have been known to cry at the beauty of it all [...]. Of all the manifestations of working-class culture, nothing is more certain than a brass band to bring on an attack of the George Orwells. Even the most hardened bourgeois cannot resist romanticizing the proletariat a little when faced with one.¹

¹ *The Times* (11 October, 1974).

This stereotype, which emerged in the nineteenth century, generated the following questions that can be explored through three adult-learning seminars at Heritage Quay: What musical and social elements in the performance of brass band music strengthened working-class cultural identity in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? How did bands, which thrived in large numbers in the Southern Pennines, especially around Huddersfield, emerge as a musical and cultural metonym of the industrial landscape?

This series of seminars therefore examines internal and external reporting of elements of brass musicianship in brass bands that constructed working class and northern identities. To do this the seminars will examine a number of archives held in the British Music Collection, and in local and national periodicals, newspapers and journals. From Slaithwaite Band’s archive the seminar participants will gain an understanding of why and how brass bands have become such a powerful metaphor for northern working-class identity. An outline of music-making in the north shows how the region supported bands’ development when they began to emerge from the 1830s. Brass musicianship and musical performance strengthened working-class cultural identity. Explorations of musical performances, leisure, rational recreation, social networks, gender and region, all combine to produce a fuller understanding of the northern working class between c.1840 and 1914. Such influences – of class, gender and region – contributed to brass bands producing primary examples of working-class identity.

Not only have brass bands been under-explored in the history of leisure, but they also add to the understanding of the origins of stereotypes about working-class culture and northern identity that emerged, and came under scrutiny, in this period. As such the seminar participants gain a secure foundation with which to explore the social networks that emerge from musical groups if they wish to pursue their own archival research.
Seminar 1. (2 hours)

Music-Making in the North of England: An Overview of the Creation of a Musical Region

Learning Outcomes:

An introduction to the archives and an understanding of why much of the material has been overlooked in the study of social history.

An outline of music-making in the north will show the participants that the north contained all classes and cultures, nevertheless, as industrialisation progressed, working-class musicianship began to gain ascendancy and become noticed as a cultural identity in the industrial north. The participants will gain knowledge of how this happened.

The participants will have an understanding of why brass instruments became popular instruments amongst the working class.
Seminar 2. (2 hours)

Working-Class Cultural Identity and Musical Performance: The Northern Brass Band and the Invention of Musical Traditions

Learning Outcomes:

The participants will gain an understanding of the significance of the Victorian ethos of ‘rational recreation.

The participants will gain an understanding of how musical techniques created a working-class cultural identity.

The participants will gain an understanding of how the brass band contest reinforced social networks and gendered identities in the late Victorian and early Edwardian era.
Seminar 3 (2 Hours)

‘Where the Brass Band is Beloved’: Representations of Brass Band Contests, Brass Bands and Bandsmen in the Press, 1859-1914

Learning Outcomes:

In this session the participants will draw together the previous themes and will understand how external and internal reporting of brass bands further grounded them as a northern phenomenon.

The participants will understand how to interpret newspaper and periodical reports. (Who wrote it, why was it written and in what context?)

The participants will understand that even though the brass band was a national movement it was chiefly external and middle-class commentators that created the northern cliché.

The participants will understand that the themes of class, culture, community and gender are hidden within the scores and archives of all musical groups and can be used to help understand the social and working lives of people from the past.
Indicative Archival Sources

Where primary sources and books cannot be found in the British Library collections I have listed the locations using the following key:

Accrington Local Studies Library (ALS)
Bacup Local Studies Library (BLS)
Bolton Archive Service (BOAS)
Bradford Local Studies Library (BRLS)
Burnley Local Studies Library (BULS)
Bury Archive Service (BAS)
Halifax Local Studies Library (HXLS)
Haworth Brass Band (HB)
Huddersfield Local Studies Library (HLS)
Lancashire Record Office, Preston (LRO)
Leeds Local Studies Library (LLS)
National Brass Band Archive, Wigan (BBA)
Rawtenstall Local Studies Library (RLS)
Salford Local Studies Library (SLS)
Todmorden Community Brass Band (TCBB)
West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford (WYASBR)
West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale (WYASCD) 334

Newspapers:

Accrington Free Press
Accrington Gazette
Accrington Times
Bacup and Rossendale News
Bacup Times
Bolton Chronicle
Bradford Daily Argus
Bradford Daily Telegraph
Bradford Observer
Bury Times
Daily Mail
Daily Telegraph
Derbyshire Evening Telegraph
Eccles and Patricroft Journal
Halifax Daily Guardian (Canada) (WYASBR)
Halifax Evening Courier
Haslingden Chronicle and Ramsbottom Times
Haslingden Gazette
Haslingden Guardian
Hebden Bridge Evening News
Huddersfield Chronicle and West Yorkshire Advertiser
Huddersfield Daily Chronicle
Huddersfield Daily Examiner
Huddersfield Weekly Examiner
Huddersfield Weekly News
Leeds Mercury
Liverpool Mercury
Manchester Guardian
Manchester Times
Middleton Guardian
Rossendale Free Press
Observer
Slaithwaite Guardian and Colne Valley News
The Times
Todmorden and District News

Brass Band Journals:

Brass Band News
British Bandsman
Cornet

Music Journals:

British Minstrel and Musical and Literary Miscellany
Magazine of Music
Minim: A Musical Magazine for Everybody
Monthly Musical Record
Musical Herald
Musical Opinion and Trade Review
Musical Standard
Musical World
Tonic Sol-Fa Reporter
Yorkshire Musician

Journals and Magazines:

All Year Round
City Jackdaw: A Humorous and Satirical Journal
Gardener’s Magazine
Good Words
Household Words
John Bull and Britannia
Leisure Hour
Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction
North of England Magazine and Bradshaw’s Journal of Politics, Literature, Science and Art
Outlook
Pearson’s Weekly
Spectator
The Nineteenth Century: A Monthly Review
Yorkshireman

Archival Records:

Brass Band History Booklets:

Anon, *Irwell Springs (Bacup) Band* (Bacup, 1914) (RLS)
Anon, *Slaithwaite Band: Golden Jubilee Year Souvenir* (Huddersfield, 1975) (HLS)
Anon, *Stalybridge Old Band, 1814-1914* (Stalybridge, n.d.) (BBA)
Bythell, D. *Banding in the Dales: A Centenary History of Muker Silver Band* (Muker, 1997)
Hampson, J. N. *The Origin, History and Achievements of Besses o’ th’ Barn Band* (Northampton, 1893) (ALS)
Hesling White, J. E., *Our Village Band* (Bramley, 1905) (LLS)
Lord, S., *The History and Some Personal Recollections of the Whitworth Vale and Healy Band* (Rochdale, 2005) (RLS)

**Architectural Plans:**

*Clifton Subscription Brass Band-Plan of Proposed Band Room, Clifton* (11 May, 1898) (WYASCD), catalogue ref CMT6/MU: 24/42

**Brass Band Minute Books:**

*Haworth Brass Band Minute Books, 1900-1904* (HB)
*Minute Book of The Christian Brethren Brass Band, Cleckheaton, 1886-1899* (WYASCD), catalogue ref, K131
*Heap Bridge Brass Band Minute Books, 1898-1914* (BAS), catalogue ref, RHB/1/1
*Helmshore Brass Band Minute Books, 1889-1922* (ALS) 339
Brass Band Tutor Books and Instrumental Methods:

Arban, J. B. *Grande Méthode Complète de Cornet à Pistons et de Saxhorn* (Paris, 1864) (BBA)
Wright and Round’s *Amateur Band Teacher’s Guide and Bandsman’s Adviser* (Liverpool, 1889) (BBA)

Concert Programmes:
*Music in Greenhead Park Concert Programmes* (1901-1922) (HLS)

Contest Entry Forms:
*Contest Entry Forms for the Belle Vue Contest, Manchester, from 1901-1904* (BBA)

Contest Results:
*Database of Contest Results from 1900-Present* (BBA)

Correspondence and Reports:
*Correspondence re Bury Recreation Grounds, 1895-1905* (BAS), catalogue ref,
ABU2/3/7/1
*Park Superintendents Reports on Bands, 1812-1913* (BOAS), catalogue ref, AF/6/125/2

Ephemera:
Newspaper Cuttings With Regard to John Foster and Sons, and Local Events in Bradford and Queensbury (WYASBR) catalogue ref, 6195/9/1/1
Peacock M. R. Haworth Public Prize Band Poem (September, 1912) (HB)

Financial Records, Personnel Records and Receipts:

Bradford Brass Band Account Book, 1854-1858 (WYASBR), catalogue ref, DB16/C31
Bradford Borough Council, Town Clerk, Papers Regarding Peel Park, Including Financial Agreements, Correspondence, Minutes, Plans, Reports and Subscriptions, 1851-1864 (WYASBR) catalogue ref, 1D82
John Foster and Sons, Director's Minute Book, 1891-1920 (WYASBR) catalogue ref, 61D9521/1
Documents Relating to Oats Royds Mill Brass Band, 1864-1897 (WYASCD) catalogue ref, JM857:
Engraving receipt 253a, 31 December, 1869, receipt, 254a, 31 December 1870
Estimate for band clothing
Instrument and band membership lists, 1864-1884
Settled Accounts in the Winding up of Oats Royd Mill Brass Band (11 November, 1890)
Helmshore Brass Band Leger Books, 1901-1914 (ALS)
Heap Bridge Brass Band Trust Deed for Instruments and Other Property, 21 December, 1885 (BAS), catalogue ref, RHB 2/1
Register of Staff Absences, With Time Off, and Cause, to Playing in Black Dyke Band, 1864-1880 (WYASBR), ref 61D95/ 8 box 1/ 4
Watson and Son and Smith, Solicitors, Bradford, Records (Idle and Thackley Brass Band Papers, 1898-1943 (WYASBR), catalogue ref, GB202
Todmorden Old Brass Band Ledger Books, 1900-1910 (TCBB) 341
Pamphlets:
Anon, *Recreation for the Working Classes on Temperance Principles* (Dublin, 1857)

Parliamentary Acts:
*Uniforms Act 1894*, Office of Public Sector Information,

Trade Directories:
*Kelly’s Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1897* (London, 1897) (HXLS)

Trust Deeds, Rules and Regulations:
*Clifton Brass Band, Declaration of Trust, 1882* (WYASCD), catalogue ref, KMA: 1850
*Cliviger Prize Band Rules and By-Laws, 1908* (BULS), catalogue ref, LT641
*Haworth Public Band Agreement* (6 December, 1876) (WYASBR) catalogue ref, 80D/92
*Idle and Thackley Public Brass Band, Rules and Regulations* (30 July, 1898) (WYASBR)
catalogue ref, 540D/1/5
*The Shipley Brass Band Trust Deed* (7 March, 1894) (WYASBR), catalogue ref,
41D/84/49

Unpublished Manuscripts, Diaries and Reflections:
James Law Cropper, *Memories*, typewritten transcription of interviews (n.d.) (RLS)
Moses Heap, *An Old Man’s Memories* n.d. (typescript, 1970) (RLS)
*Moses Heap of Rossendale, My Life and Times (1824-1913)* (transcribed by John Elliot,
1961) (RLS) 342
Secondary Sources:

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Bainbridge, C. Brass Triumphant (London, 1980)
Bamford, S. Walks in South Lancashire, On its Borders with Letters, Descriptions Narratives and Observations, Current and Incidental (Manchester, 1844) (RLS)
Bailey, P. 'Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday: Comic Art in the 1880s', History Workshop, 16 (1993), pp. 4-31
Baines, A. C. and Myers, A. The Cornet, Grove Music Online (Oxford University Press) <www.oxfordmusiconline.com/subscriber/article/grovemusic/06509 >
Beaven, B. Leisure, Citizenship and Working-Class Men in Britain, 1850-1945 (Manchester, 2004)

Benas, B. B. 'Merseyside Orchestras: An Introduction to the History of Local Instrumental Music', *Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, 95 (1945), pp. 95-117 (BBA)


Boon, B. *Play the Music, Play! The Story of Salvation Army Bands* (St Albans, 1966)


Bourke, J. *Working-Class Cultures in Britain, Gender, Ethnicity and Class* (London, 1994)

Borsay, P. *A History of Leisure: The British Experience Since 1500* (Basingstoke, 2006)


Brierley, B. *Home Memories and Recollections* (Manchester, 1862) (RLS)


Bowden, K. F. (Ed.), *A Bacup Miscellany* (Bacup, 1972) (RLS)

Brand, V. and Brand, G. *Brass Bands in the 20th Century* (Letchworth, 1979)

Burke, P. *History and Social Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 1992)


Clay, J. H. *Black Dyke, An Inside Story* (Stockport, 2005) (BLS)
Cooper, T. L. *Brass Bands of Yorkshire* (Clapham, Yorks, 1974)
Crow, G. and Graham, A. *Community Life An Introduction to Local Social Relations* (Hemel Hempstead, 1994)
Cudworth, W. *Music in Bradford* (Bradford, 1885) (BRLS)


Davies, A. Leisure, Gender and Poverty: Working-Class Culture in Salford and Manchester, 1900-1939 (Buckingham, 1992)


Dentith, S. Society and Cultural Forms in Nineteenth-Century England (Basingstoke, 1998)


Durrell, L. The Spirit of Place (New York, 1969)


Elbourne, R. P. Music and Tradition in Early Industrial Lancashire (Woodbridge, 1980)

Elbourne, R. P. “Singing Away to the Click of the Shuttle”: Musical Life in the Handloom Weaving Communities of Lancashire’, Local Historian, 12 (1976), pp. 13-17
Engel, C. An Introduction to the Study of National Music, Comprising Researches into Popular Songs, Traditions and Customs (London, 1866)
Galloway, W. M. Musical England (New York, 1910)
Goldby, D. J. Instrumental Teaching in Nineteenth Century Britain (Abingdon, 2004)


Helme, C. *What Brass Bands Did For Me* (Stroud, 2009)

Herbert, T. (Ed.), *Bands: The Brass Band Movement in the 19th and 20th Centuries* (Buckingham, 1991)


Hind, H. *The Brass Band* (London, 1934)
Hogarth, G. *Musical History, Biography and Criticism* (London, 1835) 349
Hoggart, R. *The Uses of Literacy: Aspects of Working-Class Life With Special Reference to Publications and Entertainments* (Harmondsworth, 1958)
Lancaster, B. Newton, D. and Vall, N. (Eds.), *An Agenda for Regional History* (Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, 2007)


Lockwood, E. *Colne Valley Folk, the Romance and Enterprise of a Textile Stronghold* (Heath Canton, 1936) (HLS)


Macfarlane, A. ‘History, Anthropology and the Study of Communities’, *Social History* (May, 1977), pp. 17-23


Mangan, J. A. and Walvin L. (Eds.), *Manliness and Morality, Middle-Class Masculinity in Britain and America, 1800-1940* (Manchester, 1987)

Millington, W. *Sketches of Local Musicians and Musical Societies* (Pendlebury, 1884) (SLS)


Marshall, J. M. *Rambles around Rossendale* (Darwen, 1844, this edition, Darwen, 1850) (RLS)

Moore, C. The Industrial Age: Economy and Society in Britain, 1750-1995 (London, 1997)
Mumford, L. The City in History (New York, 1961)
Myers, A. Brass Instruments: Their History and Development (London, 1976, this edition, 1980)
Newby, H. ‘The Deferential Dialectic’, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Number 2 (April, 1975), pp. 139-164
Newsome, R. Brass Roots: A Hundred Years of Brass Bands and Their Music, 1836-1936 (Sutton, 1998)
Newsome, R. 150 Golden Years: The History of Black Dyke Band (London, 2005)

Patrikis, P.C. *Piano Roles: Three Hundred Years of Life With the Piano* (Yale, 1999)

Peel, A. *Crawshawbooth and District* (Rawtenstall, 1960) (RLS)


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Taruskin, R. ‘The Symphony Goes (Inter)National’, *The Oxford History of Western Music* (Online Edition)
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Vickers, P. *Let’s All Have a Real Good Time: Popular Entertainment in Longridge, 1840-1920* (Preston, 2001) (LRO)
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Walker, P. J. *Pulling the Devil’s Kingdom Down: The Salvation Army in Victorian Britain* (Berkeley, 2001)
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Wrigley, F. *Brass Bands, Stalybridge and Me* (Manchester, 2000)