

CLASSIC MUSIC WITHINGTON ZUBICKY

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Since its start in 2009 the school has gone from strength to strength. Students from all over Europe have benefited from Allan`s expertise and experience and the team of Allan, Anja Abma and Robin Dewhurst worked close together for the first five years with dedicated help of course, from the host Band , Soli Brass. All five of the courses, up to now, have taken place in Leeuwarden Holland.

2014 saw a major change in location as Allan Withington decided to take the summer school on tour. The 2014 edition of the school was held in Sandbach Cheshire and used Foden`s as the host band. We also welcomed Danish Media expert Mette Højen whose lectures, concentrated on the role of the conductor in leadership and the psychology of musical communication. The final concert was held at Sandbach Boys` School.

Interview with Allan Withington in `Brass Band World` world after the 2010 course.

“I’ve reached a stage in my life when I almost feel morally obliged to pass on some of the experiences that I’ve had for the benefit of others. I know that now I’ve achieved certain things in the banding world, I’m in a position where I have skills, techniques and experience that I’d like to be able to share.”

Questioning him about the secret of this success, especially in relation to conducting the winning band at the Royal Albert Hall (which he’s done six times with three different bands), he replied: “Well if you check the history books, you’ll see we had

a good draw every time!” The luck of the draw? There must be more to it than that, I pressed, to which he retorted: “Good band conducting is about problem-solving. It’s also about the communication of your thoughts directly and economically. That’s what I hope the students on the Summer School have picked up this week.”

As the students returned to their various homes to reflect on an intense and, for some, revelatory week, I wondered how many of them might go on to be the Allan Withingtons of the future. Thanks to this latest project, there is certainly

a chance that, in years to come, the sight of conductors struggling with their art at brass band contests may well become rarer and rarer - bravo, Allan Philip Harper – July 2010.



From the 4 BarsRest article after the 2011 course.

4BR Editor Iwan Fox reports from Allan Withington's highly enjoyable Conducting Course in Holland, where brass band innovation met high fashion invention.

If there is one conductor in the banding world who really understands what it means to be innovative, it is surely Allan Withington.

His latest conducting course held in the elegant provincial Dutch city of Leeuwarden proved that beyond doubt.

The unwritten ethos of the course was to 'think outside the box' (the official title was Ready, Steady, Design) -to take those extra, little personal risks that Allan and Robin believed would bring long term improvements to all aspects of their conducting styles and attitudes – something this course, now in its third year, has gained a reputation for providing in spades.



Student tries his skills on Soli Brass. The band never seem to tire. Hour after hour giving their best to the students.

Their symbiotic approach to working on both technique as well as the psychology of directing a fine Championship Section outfit in Soli Brass, ensured that each conductor's needs and aspirations were fully catered for. By the time of the concert on Thursday evening, the students had undergone a metamorphosis – something they all recognised.

Rob Prew who directs Stamford Brass and came to the course with over 35 of conducting experience called it 'inspirational'. "I've learnt more about my conducting in the past week than in the last 20 years," he said.

Huw Thomas, who has directed many leading top section bands in the UK also felt his conducting had benefited greatly.

"I came with an open mind and Allan and Robin have filled it with new ideas and approaches that I know I can use when I get home. It's been a great experience for me."



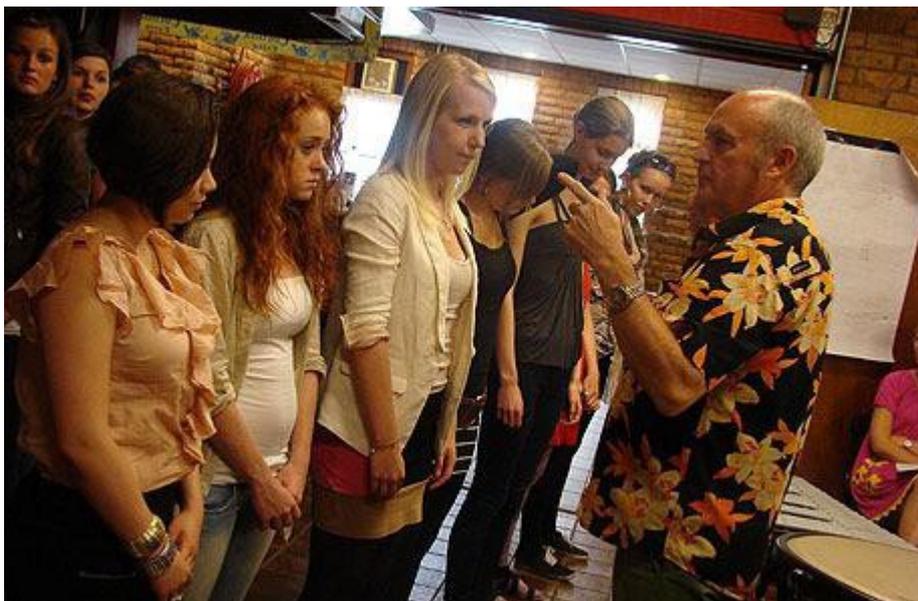
Ready for the big night: The conductors team photo...

The final concert was a great success. Fashion students and models from Leeuwarden joined together with Soli Brass and the students to exhibit the result of their weeks work. The geographical spread of the students ensured it was a truly international event.

Each student was open to the informed critical analysis of their peers, an aspect encouraged by Allan and Robin.

As a result each of them told 4BR that they left the course, invigorated by the experience, keen to carry on their own personal conducting development.

Iwan Fox July 2011.



Not just a pretty face: Allan Withington makes sure the models know what to do...

Conductor Summer School 2014

Allan Withington's Conductors' Summer School 2014
June 28th - July 3rd - Sandbach, Cheshire, England

Poms



at the School



Tuesday July 1st at 12 p.m.

`Cobbles Concert`

outside `The Crown` pub in Sandbach town centre

Featuring

Brass ensemble from Robert's Bakery band

Thursday July 3rd at 7.00 p.m.

Final Gala Concert

Sandbach boy's school

Featuring Foden's Band

Both concerts to be conducted by students of the summer school

