

## BHMY RECEIVES STANDING OVATION AT 2018 CONCERT

The Burgess Hill Marching Youth performed to an audience of over 200 people at the 'Step Through Time' concert on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Members of BHMY took to the stage at Burgess Hill Girls to showcase the band's impressive repertoire of music, performing a huge selection of music from pop to movie themes, renaissance and classical to jazz and traditional snare drumming. There was something for everyone.

Months of work went into preparing for the concert; old, familiar pieces were fine-tuned and new pieces were selected and taught. Each section was challenged to step out of their comfort zone to learn and play pieces of music as small ensembles. The overall variety of music was spectacular.

Drum Major Jake Turner learnt to conduct in order to lead the music and he did a splendid job with confidence and pride. Compare for the evening was drummer/bugler Leanna Codd who has little experience with public speaking and was nervous but fantastic. Newcomer Nick Williams joined the band on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March and due to his experience, was welcomed into the band very quickly, with him participating in the concert after two short rehearsals!

The band has gone from strength to strength in the last few years, growing to almost 70 members in total and putting out a substantial band of just over 40 for the evening of entertainment. Mayor Landriani and Burgess Hill District Lions Club President John Carter were both in attendance and were very complementary about the standard at which the members performed and behaved throughout the evening.

Parents, family and friends took to social media after the event and posted photos and video clips of the evening. Rebecca Noone, a local primary school teacher said the concert was "slick, organised and fabulous entertainment." One parent said "it exceeded my expectations by a long way," showing just how much progress the band has made in recent months. The members themselves were incredibly well disciplined throughout the performance and put everything they had into the show.

Official photographer for the event and band parent Archie Tipple said his son Connor was "buzzing when he got home. I can't tell you how much it's meant to have Connor part of it." Newer parents that have not seen the band perform that much, and certainly not in concert, were blown away, stating they were "so incredibly proud" and "I can't wait till the next band adventure."

Bandmasters Claire and Paul Stacey put a huge amount of organisation and time into the event and it certainly paid off! BHMY is an Adopted Youth Club of Burgess Hill District Lions. The Lions have given financial support for previous band events such as the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tattoo held at The Triangle in 2016. 'Step Through Time' however, was funded solely by BHMY and took a whopping £1500 in ticket sales, £257 on the raffle and £100 on the programme sales. The programmes were printed by local company Prismatic who went above and beyond to ensure that the programmes could be collected in time for the concert.

Profits from this concert will be ploughed straight back into the band to help provide more new instruments, music and uniforms so that BHMY remains inclusive for all at just £2.50 per member per week.

We have an open door policy and new members are welcome at any time. No experience necessary with instruments and uniform provided. For more information on joining the band contact [bandmaster@bhmy.org](mailto:bandmaster@bhmy.org).