



DAILY HERALD

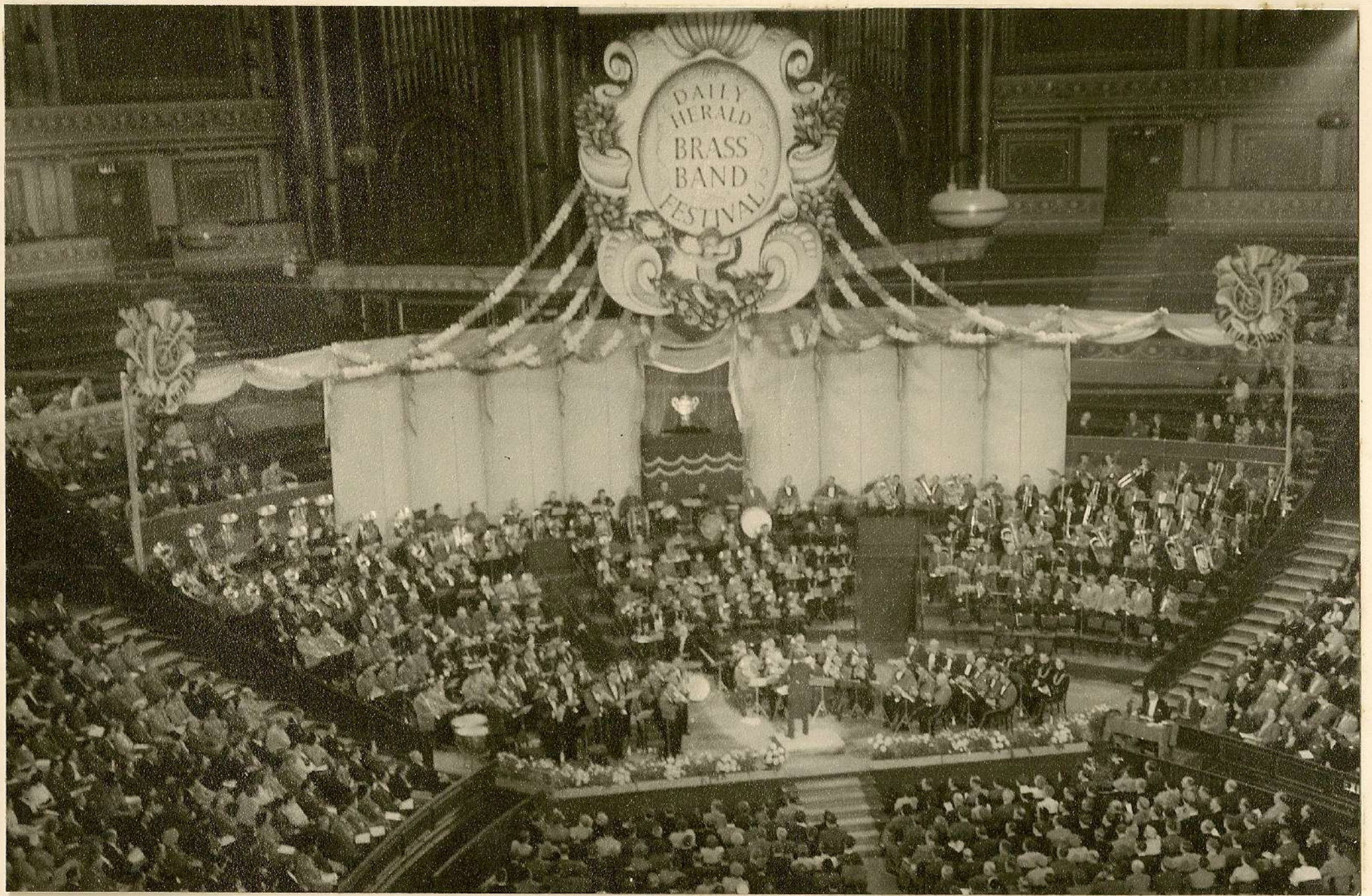
National Brass Band Championships
of Great Britain

Festival Contest and Concerts

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Saturday, October 16th

1954



Impressive in their Festival Concert setting, the nine massed champion brass bands create a blaze of colour and sound.

The Gathering of the Bands

AN air of family reunion, brought to London from 30 English, Scottish and Welsh counties by 60 competing bands and by 15,185 friends and supporters, pervaded the tenth-year celebrations of the *Daily Herald* National Brass Band Championship Festival on Saturday, October 16, 1954. For this was the first occasion that the National Finals of the Second, Third and Fourth sections—hitherto staged at Manchester—were held at the same time as the Championship class contest in London.

The three main events of this biggest National Festival day of brass band music since the war succeeded each other in the Royal Albert Hall, starting with the National Championship contest followed by two Festival Concerts, another innovation.

At 10.30 in the morning, the traditional ceremony surrounding the draw for the order of playing in the Royal Albert Hall was repeated in three other halls—in the Kensington Town Hall where 16 bands competed for the Second section Championship; in the Lime Grove Public Baths Hall, Shepherds Bush, where 15 bands vied for the Third section title; and in the H.A.A. Drill Hall, Iverna Gardens, Kensington, the proving ground of the musical ability



Stuart Bullas, 11-year-old cornetist, signs the signature form watched by other Linthwaite Silver Band members before competing in the National Fourth section contest. The Linthwaite Band won the second prize.

of the 15 contestants for the National Fourth section trophy. Knowledgeable and enthusiastic audiences thronged the four halls throughout the morning and mid-afternoon to follow the progress of the contests, each with its separate testpiece.

Among the 14 National Championship contenders in the Royal Albert Hall only the top six could be said to have established a firm grasp on what was acknowledged to be the most searching test for technique, set so far. For in the specially composed Symphonic Overture *Sovereign Heritage* by 54-year-old film music composer Jack Beaver, of Great Missenden, only technical mastery could release the full flow and unity implicit in the music. High levels of brass band performance were attained in coping with the new work.

The composer, and Frank Wright who had arranged the band score, refereed the National Championship contest. The two experienced adjudicators Harry Heyes (Birmingham) and Harold Moss (Leyland), who said they had been faced with the most difficult contest decision either had ever had to make, awarded the first prize to the Fairey Aviation Works Band, of Stockport. The Aviation Band had won twice before, in 1945 and 1952, and had also been runners-up in 1946 and 1947. For the second year in succession C.W.S. Manchester Band gained second place, and the 1953 Champions, Fodens Motor Works, of Elworth, Sandbach, came third this time. Harry Mortimer conducted both the first and third prizewinners, his younger brother Alex the runners-up.



Seven girls are in the front rank of Rhymney Youth Silver Band which, on its first National Championship appearance, did well to gain sixth place in its class.

The fourth prize went to the Brighouse and Rastrick Band, whose entire performance of the test piece was televised. During this transmission the results of the National Finals of the Second, Third and Fourth sections were broadcast before the prizewinners in the senior class were announced.

There has been a steady increase over the post-war years in the numbers of women who have taken up brass band instruments. Reflecting this trend, more than 30 bandswomen appeared among the National Championship competitors, the highest total so far.

Another audience filled the Royal Albert Hall for the first Festival Concert (from 4.30 p.m.) when Edric Cundell, C.B.E., the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, presented the prizes to the successful bands in the Second, Third and Fourth sections.

The third great surge of bandsmen and their supporters into the Royal Albert Hall for the second Festival Concert (from 8 p.m.) re-created the atmosphere of keen expectancy. But no longer partisan, the interest merged upon the colourful array of the 220 players in the nine massed champion bands. The unanimity and precision of the massed bands, and their splendid tone, won the acclaim of the packed audience. Simultaneous television and sound broadcasts brought millions at home in touch with this stirring climax to the competition year for Britain's 100,000 brass band players and million supporters. In all, there were two television transmissions and four sound broadcasts from the Festival.

Sir Adrian Boult, the principal guest conductor, had Harry Mortimer and Frank Wright as associate conductors. These three had directed the same programme given by the massed bands at the earlier Festival Concert.

Mr. W. Surrey Dane, chairman of the *Daily Herald*, presented the prizes to the winning bands in the Championship class.

The 1954 National Festival, the biggest organised in the ten years of the sponsorship of these brass band championships by the *Daily Herald*, showed how remarkably Britain's Brass Bands have advanced in performance, in prestige. It was the proudest day in a decade for Britain's worker-musicians.

The prizewinners in the four National Championship classes were:

Championship Section :

	<i>Points.</i>	
1, Fairey Aviation Works	192	Stockport
2, C.W.S. (Manchester)	190	Manchester
3, Fodens Motor Works	188	Sandbach, Cheshire
4, Brighouse and Rastrick	187	Yorkshire



Behind them lie many hours of careful study and practice. Now, as Fairey Aviation Works bandsmen play the test, all the rehearsed details flow out. Then, hopefully, they await the result. The big honour is theirs—their performance has won the National Championship.



When Whitburn Miners Welfare Band (West Lothian) won the Third Section Final, it became the first Scottish band to capture a Daily Herald National Championship. In the band play these five members of the Dewar family (from l. to r.) Robert junior, aged 11, Janet, James senior, James junior and Robert senior.



The smooth, mellow tone characteristic of Fodens Motor Works Band fills the Albert Hall as these reigning Champions defend their title against 13 opposing teams. But this time the challenge is too strong, and Fodens lose the title but gain the third prize.



Will the brilliant style and attack of C.W.S. Manchester Band, the runners-up the previous year, turn the tide this time? Just a few hesitant moments tell against them, victory is denied, and for another year the C.W.S. players have to be content with the second prize.

Second Section :

1, Wharnccliffe Silkstone Colliery	188	Barnsley, Yorks.
2, Marston Valley	180	Beds.
3, Farnworth Old	177	Bolton, Lancs.
4, Storeys of Lancaster	175	Lancaster

ADJUDICATORS: W. B. Hargreaves (*Deal*) and T. J. Powell (*Cardiff*)

Third Section :

1, Whitburn Miners Welfare	194	West Lothian
2, Barton Town	192	Lincs.
3, Scunthorpe Boro British Legion	188	Lincs.
4, Haltwhistle Old Silver	187	Northumberland

ADJUDICATOR : E. C. Buttress (*Manchester*)

Fourth Section :

1, Woodhorn Colliery	184	Ashington, Northumberland
2, Linthwaite Silver Prize	182	Huddersfield, Yorks.
3, Burbage Silver Prize (Buxton)	180	Derbyshire
4, Stanhope Silver	179	Co. Durham

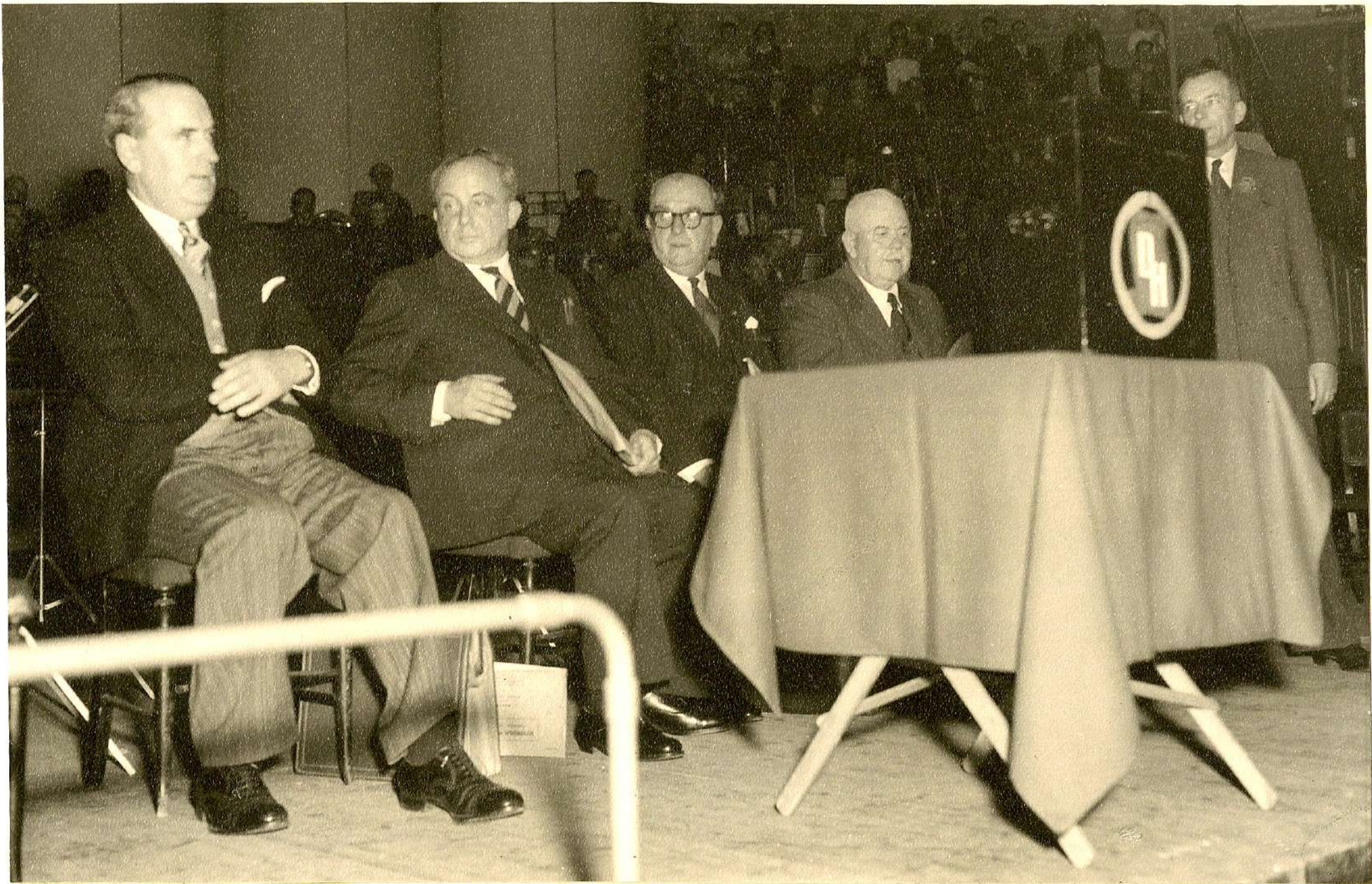
ADJUDICATOR: D. Aspinall (*Newark-on-Trent*)



Proud and pleased to have won the National Championship again, Fairey Aviation Works bandsmen surround Jack Beaver, composer of the testpiece Sovereign Heritage, as he congratulates Norman Ashcroft, the principal cornetist.



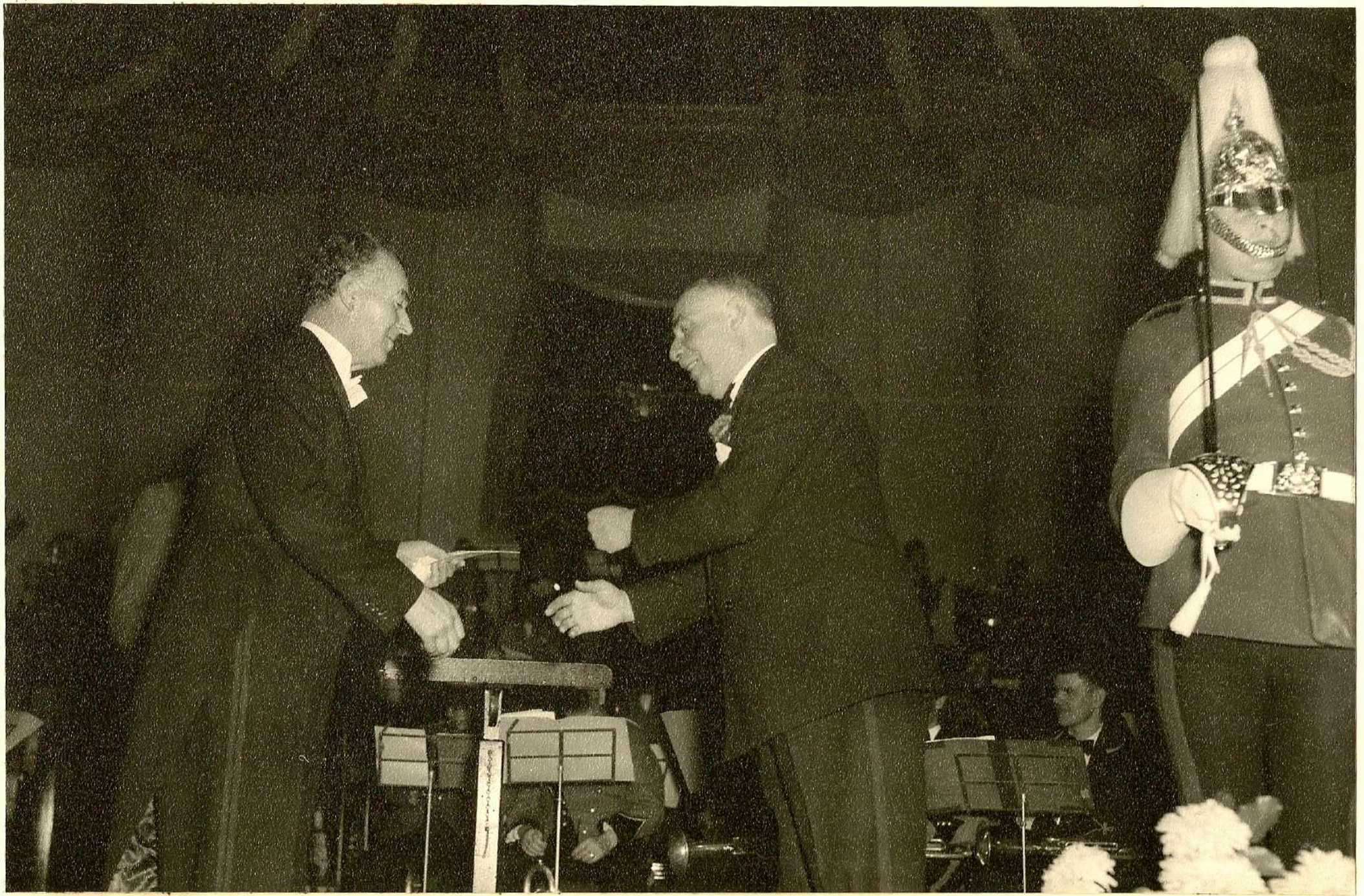
While the order of playing is being decided by ballot, the championship trophies gleam in the background.



Out on the Royal Albert Hall stage after five critical listening hours in their special box, the judging quartet have arrived at their decision. They are (l. to r.) — the two referees, Frank Wright, who arranged the testpiece and Jack Beaver the composer, with the two adjudicators Harry Heyes and Harold Moss.



Yorkshire challenger Brighouse and Rastrick, the last of the 14 competing bands, plays its test. As many in the Royal Albert Hall audience look down at the music score, countless television viewers look in. This televised performance won the fourth prize.



Mr. W. Surrey Dane, C.B.E., M.C., Chairman of the Daily Herald, presents the first prize to Harry Mortimer who conducted the winning band Fairey Aviation Works.



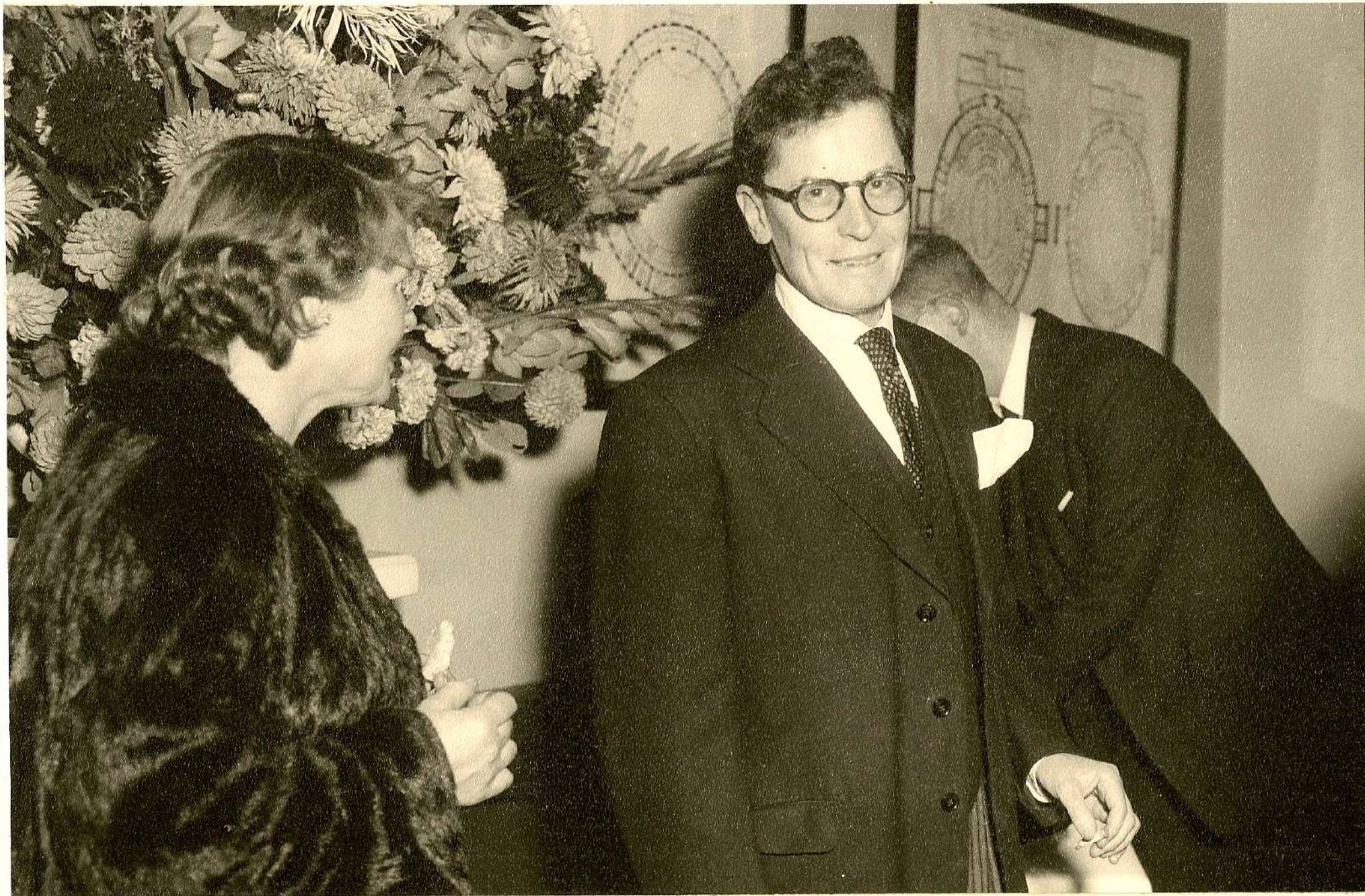
Sir Adrian Boult, guest conductor at the Festival Concerts, directing the massed bands.



Star trumpeter Kenny Baker, whose career began in a brass band, caught during one of his solo contributions to the concert programme.



Typical of the fresh charm bandgirls are bringing into brass bands is 17-year-old cornetist Merial Howells, of the Llansaint Silver Band (Carms.) which competed in the Third Section Final.



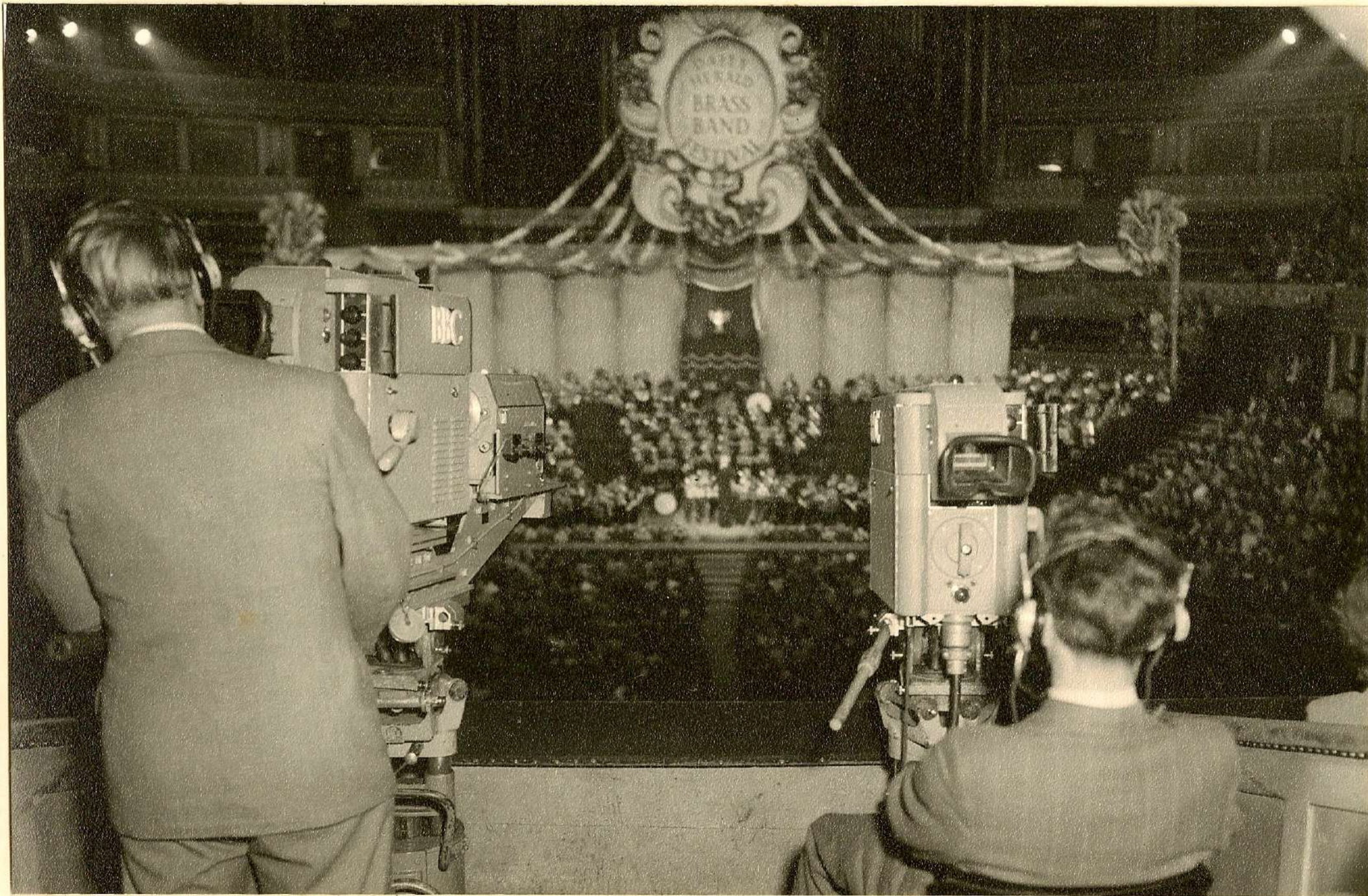
Mr. Sydney Elliott (Editor of the Daily Herald), accompanied by his wife, photographed during the Festival Concert interval.



Mr. W. Surrey Dane, (on left) with Sir Lincoln Evans, C.B.E., (second on right) and (on right) Mr. Tom Williamson, C.B.E., J.P., secretary National Union of General and Municipal Workers.



Mr. G. L. McLellan (Executive Director, Odhams Press) and Mrs. McLellan with (centre) Lady Boulton, wife of Sir Adrian Boulton.



BBC cameras sweep over the massed bands array at the evening concert, during the second television transmission from the National Championship Festival in the Royal Albert Hall.



DAILY HERALD

*National Brass Band
Championship of
Great Britain*

FESTIVAL
CONTEST

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

(Manager C. R. Hopper)

Saturday, 16th October, 1954



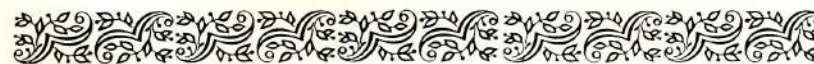
THIS is celebration day for Britain's big family of brass bands and supporters. From thirty English, Scottish and Welsh counties the Area Champion bands and runners-up have surged into the capital, after their long and joyful trek, to share in the greatest national festival of brass-band music since before the war.

Today's climax to the tenth year of the *Daily Herald* National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain—with four National Championship classes being decided in London the same day, followed by twin Festival Concerts in the Royal Albert Hall—sees Britain's brass bands united in fellowship with each other and with the *Daily Herald* as never before.

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Throughout the decade, the bonds of friendship and understanding forged during Area Contests have been strengthened and widened at the National Festivals. Today, the different, yet equally cherished, patterns of Area contesting have been knit together for this triumphant peak to the decade of advancement. Today has brought the finest hours yet of the people's music.

Ahead in the series of *Daily Herald* Brass Band Championships which never stop lies the beckoning goal of still greater perfection. Within the fair-for-all framework of Area and National competition, the countless friends of Britain's brass bands are confident they will take up that challenge with spirit and with success. For behind them all stands that enduring tower—a decade of progress.



Today's adjudicators



THE composer of today's Test Piece, 54-year-old London born Mr. J. Beaver, lives in Great Missenden (Bucks). After studying the piano and composition at the Royal Academy of Music, played the pit piano in silent cinema orchestras for 12 years. On the introduction of talking pictures, he turned to composing and arranging for films, and has since written to a considerable extent for features and documentaries. From 1949, he has specialised in children's films. Has contributed incidental music for B.B.C. programmes. *Sovereign Heritage*, his first big-scale work for the brass band, was inspired by the brilliant performances given by the competing bands at the National Championship last year.

ACKNOWLEDGED among the foremost adjudicators of band competitions, Australian-born Mr. Frank Wright has fulfilled major judging roles throughout Britain, on the Continent and in the Dominions. He is the musical director (Parks Department) of the London County Council, a professor at the Guildhall School of Music, and has composed a number of brass-band works. For the third successive year, has arranged the brass-band score of the National Championship Test Piece. He has been one of the judges at the *Daily Herald* National Championships four times, has refereed on three other occasions.



FIRST a violinist, then a tenor horn player and, at 16, among the solo cornets in Wingates Temperance Band tells the early musical background of Lancashire-born Mr. Harry Heyes, whose home is in Birmingham. As conductor and trainer, had many Welsh bands under his direction before establishing his long association with Midland bands, including Metropolitan Works (1931-1940), City of Coventry (1941-1945), Fisher and Ludlow Works, and currently with Revo Works (Tipton). His many judging appointments include the *Daily Herald* National Championships of 1951 and 1952.

ONE of the leading brass-band personalities, Mr. Harold Moss of Leyland, began his career at 16, originally playing the baritone then switching to trombone. A brilliant soloist and band teacher, he was connected with Wingates Temperance Band—as player, bandmaster and musical director—for 27 years. Before taking up his present post as musical director of Leyland Motors Band, was with Creswell Colliery Band (1936-1948). Mr. Moss gained the A.R.C.M. Bandmastership diploma in 1930, added the L.R.A.M. diploma four years later. A talented composer and arranger of brass-band music, he has judged contests throughout the country. Today's appointment is his third at the *Daily Herald* National Championships



The Competing Bands

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND

FROM Brighouse, Yorkshire. Was originally formed by local musicians in 1881. Has the unique distinction of being the only band to compete at every *Daily Herald* National Championship contest, in London, since 1945. Besides winning the National Championship title in 1946, has been a prizewinner on four other occasions.

CAMBORNE TOWN BAND

FROM Camborne, Cornwall. Has a history extending over a century. Undefeated West of England Area Champion since 1945, scoring the first Area double-hat-trick with wins in 1948-49-50, and again in 1952-53-54. Has been a competitor at every National Championship contest in London, since 1946, twice finishing sixth.

CRESWELL COLLIERY WELFARE BAND

FROM Creswell, Derbyshire. Founded in 1899. Won the Midland Area Championship for the third time this year, and has been the Area runner-up on four occasions. Followed its fourth prize at the 1952 National Championship contest with the third prize last year.

CROOKHALL COLLIERY BAND

FROM Consett, Co. Durham. Was established by colliery workmen in 1924. After winning the Northern Area Championship three years running 1950-51-52, had a bye to last year's National Championship. On returning to the Area Championship contest this May, won again, qualifying for the first year in succession.

C.W.S. MANCHESTER BAND

FROM Lancashire. Started early this century as the Tobacco Factory Band, adopted its present title some 17 years ago. Is contesting the *Daily Herald* National Championship in London for the fifth time. After winning third prize in 1950, then finishing fifth the next year, the band became the National Championship runner-up last year.

FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND

FROM Heaton Chapel, Stockport. Following its 1937 beginning, soon made its way into the top-class ranks. Was the first winner of the *Daily Herald* National Championship in 1945, and took the title again two years ago. Has also been the National Championship runner-up twice (1946-47), and the fourth prizewinner at the 1951 event.

FERODO WORKS BAND

FROM Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire. Was formed three years ago. By becoming the Midland Area Championship runner-up this year, has qualified for the National Championship for the first time.

FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND

FROM Elworth, Cheshire. Today's defending National Champion Band has consistently won major contest honours during its fifty years' career. Since gaining third prize on its first appearance at the *Daily Herald* National Championship in 1947, the band has been second (1949), first (1950), second (1951 and 1952) and winner again (1953).

GOVAN BURGH BAND

FROM Glasgow. Derived from a brass and reed band in 1899. Represents Scotland for the third year running at the National Championship contest. Last year, became the first band to be televised whilst competing for the National title. It was placed seventh in the contest.

HOO SILVER BAND

FROM Rochester, Kent. Founded more than 60 years ago. In a successful post-war contesting career, gained senior class status by winning the *Daily Herald* National Second section title in 1950. Made its National Championship debut in 1952, as the London and Southern Counties Area Champion, which title it won again this year.

MORRIS MOTORS BAND

FROM Cowley, Oxford. Created by musically minded employees in 1924. Won the London and Southern Counties Area Championship in 1948, 1949 and 1951, and has been Area runner-up 1952-53-54. Was placed fifth at the 1952 National Championship.

PARK AND DARE WORKMEN'S BAND

FROM Treorchy, Rhondda. Dates from 1894. Did the hat-trick at the Welsh Area Championships 1946-7-8, won again in 1951-53-54. Area runner-up in 1945, the year the band won the third prize at the National Championship, where it finished fifth two years later.

SCOTTISH C.W.S. BAND

FROM Glasgow. Instituted in 1918, entered the top rank of Scottish bands some six years later. Has won the Scottish Championship several times, and other important awards. First represented Scotland at the *Daily Herald* National Championship in 1945, competed again in 1948, and puts in its third National title bid today.

YEWCO WORKS BAND

FROM Idle, Bradford. Formed in 1951 from the nucleus of the once-famous St. Hilda's Band. As this year's North Eastern Area runner-up, makes its first appearance at the *Daily Herald* National Championship.



"Daily Herald" National Brass Band Championship of Great Britain FESTIVAL CONTEST 1954



NAME OF BAND	CONDUCTOR	Order of Play	Result	Points
1. BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND	Eric Ball			
2. CAMBORNE TOWN BAND	F. J. Roberts			
3. CRESWELL COLLIERY WELFARE BAND	George Hespe			
4. CROOKHALL COLLIERY BAND	J. J. Stobbs			
5. C.W.S. (MANCHESTER) BAND	Alex Mortimer			
6. FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND	Harry Mortimer			
7. FERODO WORKS BAND	George Hespe			

The Red numbers displayed on the platform represent the numbers shown on programme.

The Black numbers shown on the platform represent the Order of Play as decided by ballot.



The audience is requested not to applaud when a Band takes the platform or during the performance of a Band, but kindly to reserve applause until the band has completed the Test Piece. It is also important that the audience shall refrain from mentioning names or number of Bands. Admission to the Hall is not permitted during a Band's performance.

Cast in an unconventional mould, "Sovereign Heritage" follows no regular overture pattern. Its impressive unity is largely achieved not so much by its form as by the high quality of invention shown by the composer in the treatment of a single musical idea set to a strongly rhythmic figure. (The first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and the slow movement of his Seventh provide prodigious examples of what can be done with a simple recurring phrase and a simple rhythm.)

The opening ceremonial fanfare serves as a brief introduction—a preliminary, statesman-like announcement, as it were—which is to prove important in shaping the overture's course. Out of the quiet bass notes which quickly follow is to blossom the fine, folk-song-like melody—but not before a second "announcement," and more thematic forecasts—which is the principal theme of the whole work.

The main rhythmic idea behind the music will have sprung to the listener's mind before the principal tune, played as a cornet solo, *Allegretto tranquillo*, is reached. From this point onward, and particularly in the following, closely-wrought development section, this theme is never far distant.

After a contrasting and exhilarating march-like *Allegro giocoso*, which also reflects the theme, we arrive at the *Drammatico* where the complexity of the rhythms and some audacious harmonic touches—and, not least, the trilling, three-part trebles—add to the dramatic power. A *tranquillo* heralds in the unique quartet cadenza which grows out of this part of the music. The euphonium is the first to speak, then the trombone, followed by the horn.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

FIRST PRIZE

The "Daily Herald"
National Championship
Challenge Trophy
and 200 Guineas

SECOND PRIZE

150 Guineas

THIRD PRIZE

75 Guineas

FOURTH PRIZE

50 Guineas

THE TEST PIECE

"SOVEREIGN HERITAGE"

(J. Beaver arr. Frank Wright)

NAME OF BAND	CONDUCTOR	Order of Play	Result	Points
8. FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND	Harry Mortimer			
9. GOVAN BURGH BAND	Gregor J. Grant			
10. HOO SILVER BAND	Eric Ball			
11. MORRIS MOTORS BAND	Harry Mortimer			
12. PARK & DARE WORKMEN'S BAND	W. A. Scholes			
13. SCOTTISH C.W.S. BAND	Enoch Jackson			
14. YEWCO WORKS BAND	George Hespe			

short *Maestoso* twelve-eight, leading to the *Grandioso*.

This exultant climax sees the clash of two strong, opposing rhythms. The "Coda," *Allegro vivo*, a nimble two-four with florid ornamentation—the affinity between this and the preceding section will be noted—leads to the final "announcement," bringing the work to a resplendent close.

The nature of this overture set an enthralling problem for the composer. Clearly the work had to be of considerable difficulty and virtuosity to meet the requirements of bands competing in the Finals of a DAILY HERALD National Championship, although these two qualities are not in themselves enough. Scope has also to be provided for imaginative treatment on the part of the conductor. That "Sovereign Heritage," the product of a mature mind, abundantly meets these demands, there can surely be no two opinions.

Last to enter is the cornet, with the horn doubling his initial phrase. Players and audience alike will be enchanted by the grace and elegance of this novelty.

The cornet solo, *Moderato poco maestoso*, may be described as a sentimental extract from the main theme and its devotional mood will be apparent. When this tune is transferred to the lower section of the band with an added soaring soprano cornet obligato, the cumulative effect of the horn and baritone accompaniment is to mark separately all nine quavers in each bar.

In the second *Allegro giocoso* the music takes wing and its lucidity and eloquence at once capture the interest. We hear again the march-tune, and some triplet figuration brings us to a

CHAMPIONSHIP ADJUDICATORS

H. Heyes, Esq.
H. Moss, Esq.

JOINT REFEREES:

J. Beaver Esq.
Frank Wright, Esq.

Announcer:

Frank Phillips



DAILY HERALD

*National Brass Band
Championships of
Great Britain*

FESTIVAL CONCERT

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

(Manager C. R. Hopper)

Saturday, 16th October, 1954

1/-

SOVEREIGN HERITAGE

J. BEAVER

Programme Note by Frank Wright

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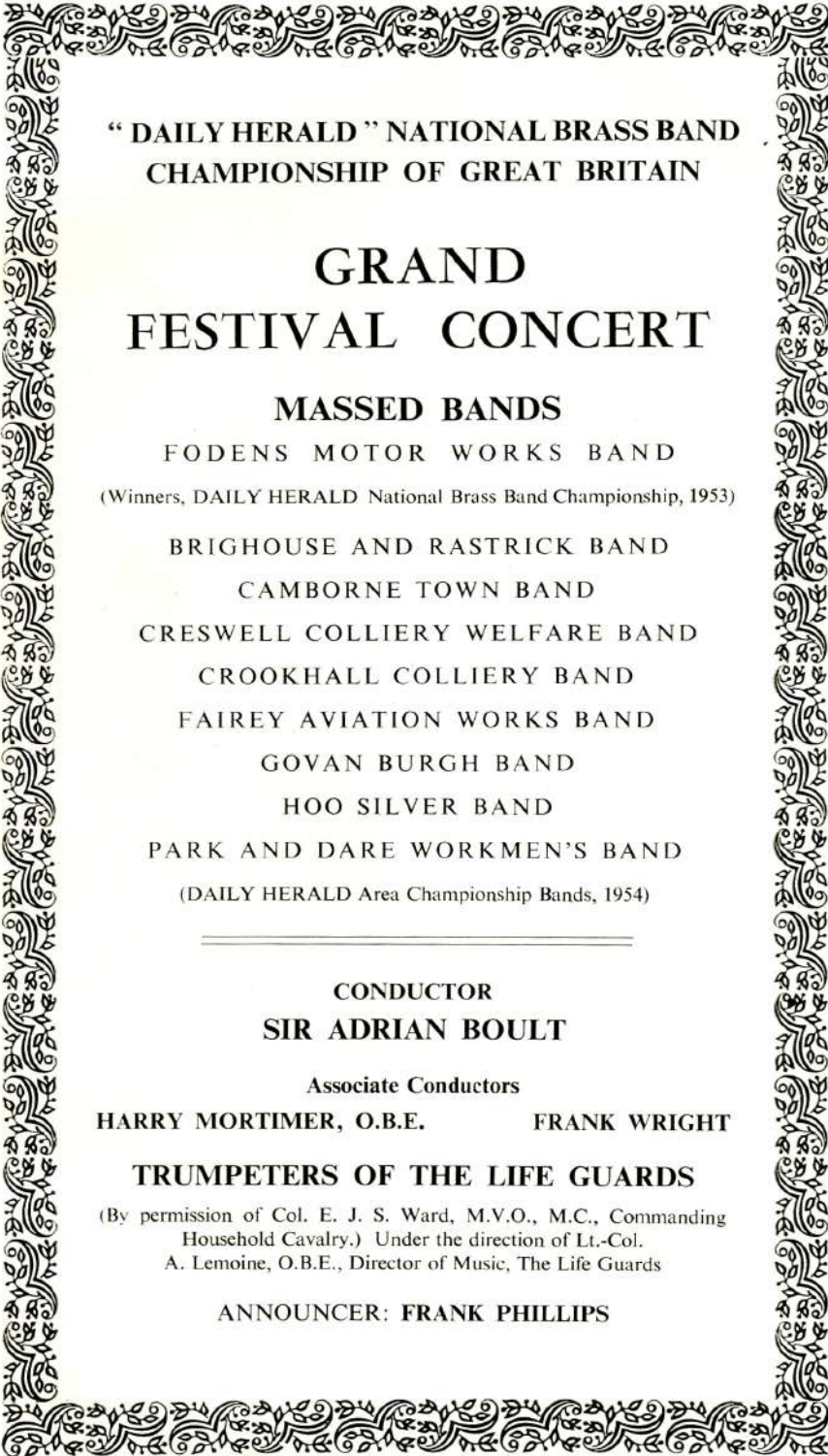
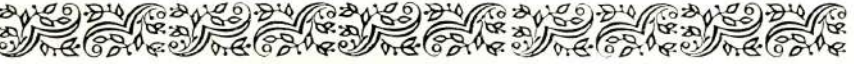
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**“ DAILY HERALD ” NATIONAL BRASS BAND
CHAMPIONSHIP OF GREAT BRITAIN**

**GRAND
FESTIVAL CONCERT**

MASSED BANDS

FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND

(Winners, DAILY HERALD National Brass Band Championship, 1953)

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND

CAMBORNE TOWN BAND

CRESWELL COLLIERY WELFARE BAND

CROOKHALL COLLIERY BAND

FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND

GOVAN BURGH BAND

HOO SILVER BAND

PARK AND DARE WORKMEN'S BAND

(DAILY HERALD Area Championship Bands, 1954)

CONDUCTOR

SIR ADRIAN BOULT

Associate Conductors

HARRY MORTIMER, O.B.E.

FRANK WRIGHT

TRUMPETERS OF THE LIFE GUARDS

(By permission of Col. E. J. S. Ward, M.V.O., M.C., Commanding Household Cavalry.) Under the direction of Lt.-Col. A. Lemoine, O.B.E., Director of Music, The Life Guards

ANNOUNCER: FRANK PHILLIPS

Programme

FANFARE BY THE TRUMPETERS OF THE LIFE GUARDS
THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Massed Bands and Audience

March, Youth of Britain *Eric Coates arr. Denis Wright*
(*The Three Elizabeths Suite*)

Suite, The Water Music *Handel/Harty arr. S. Holt*

Featuring Trombones, Panis Angelicus *Cesar Franck*

Finale—Overture, Orpheus in the Underworld *Offenbach*

Overture, A French Comedy *Keler-Bela arr. Frank Wright*
(*First Concert performance for Brass Band*)

Cornet Carillon *Ronald Binge*
(*First Concert performance*)

BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK BAND
CRESWELL COLLIERY WELFARE BAND
FAIREY AVIATION WORKS BAND
FODENS MOTOR WORKS BAND

Pilgrims March from Symphony No. 4. *Mendelssohn*

Scena, Miserere (Il Trovatore) *Verdi*

Pomp and Circumstance No. 4 *Elgar*

INTERVAL

March of the Peers (Iolanthe) *Sullivan arr. Drake Rimmer*

Sovereign Heritage *J. Beaver arr. Frank Wright*
(*First Concert performance*)

KENNY BAKER

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PRESENTATION

of the
DAILY HERALD
National Brass Band Championship Trophy
and Cash Awards.

EDRIC CUNDELL, ESQ., C.B.E.,
PRINCIPAL, GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

Minuet from Samson *Handel*

Hallelujah Chorus *Handel*