

# Pill Festival Band

<https://www.pfb.org.uk>

## An introduction to P.F.B.

Pill Festival Band is a community based orchestral band, located in the village of Pill, North Somerset. It was set up in 2009 to allow players from the locality to perform at the Pill Music Festival. It has rehearsed and performed regularly since.

The aims of the band are declared in its constitution (extract, immediately below).

### 1 **AIMS**

The Band shall have charitable purposes only.

The Aims of The Band are:

- a. To provide a platform for local musicians of all ages to regularly practice and learn together in a sociable, relaxed, safe and supportive environment,
- b. To perform at fundraising events and concerts,
- c. To provide low cost opportunities for young people to develop musical and social skills
- d. To encourage the breaking down of any local social or financial barriers that may exist to the acquiring of music skills,
- e. To support local schools, groups and organisations in the promotion of interest in music and its performance.

P.F.B. is run as an inclusive organisation and encourages membership from a wide range of social backgrounds, and musical ability. Although based in Pill, the band also welcomes players from further afield.

The band is an orchestral band and the seating arrangement and instruments played are based around that expected in a formal orchestra. However as the band is oriented around its members, the makeup and numbers of instruments in each section of the band is dependent on the instruments being played by those members.

Rehearsals are held weekly during term time, on a week day evening (currently Monday) from 6pm until 9pm, at Pill Memorial Club. The Band is divided into three sections (Beginners, Training, and Performance) and it is primarily the members who self-select the section (or sections) that they attend. Subsequently the rehearsals are divided into three (approximately equal) periods, one for each section of the band.

## Band Divisions

The band is divided into three sections according to ability;

**Beginners** – The beginners section is aimed at beginners of all ages, but in reality is mainly school aged children who are embarking on their first experience of playing a musical instrument. The music is selected according to the abilities of the players, with an expectation of progress towards joining the 'Training Section' when confident to do so.

**Training** – Aimed at players who have played for one or more years and who demonstrate improved ability from the Beginners.

**Performance** – Adults and talented younger players who can play to Grade 4 or above, and who enjoy the challenge of regular new pieces of music.

In a survey conducted by the band the membership indicated that they enjoyed its diverse repertoire of music and challenged by pieces, they also enjoy the satisfaction of less challenging pieces being played proficiently. The highest scoring 'outcome' desired by the members was that of 'fun'.

### **Charitable Function**

In line with its purpose of encouraging music in the village, and to help villagers (especially children) to take up an instrument the under 18s (and those in full time education) are entitled to be members without payment of membership fee.

The band provides subsidises for music lessons for qualifying children in the local area. Currently there are none of these subsidies being granted, however the committee are looking into this.

The Band also provides concerts to raise funds, either directly by running its own concerts, or indirectly by supporting other events around the village and locality.

### **Other Considerations**

The band is community based and there is a network of relationships and connections to other local organisations, which help support the band, and also allow the band to participate in local events.

A recent survey of Band members, indicated that the members enjoy being challenged. They especially enjoy the success of learning music beyond anything previously achieved. Also the members enjoy playing less complex works which allows the whole band to play together, and also play with fewer errors. The survey also indicated that new pieces are welcome for the challenge they provide, but that a fairly static playlist should form the basis of our concerts (unless the concerts are themed for a particular style, e.g. Christmas or May Day).

Selection of Music is to be collaborative, with pieces selected to be approved by the members, committee and conductor.

The Band has a reasonable library of pieces which has been collected over a period of 10 years, however as the band develops in its character and make up new music will be purchased as required.