



Eynsford Concert Band - Malta Tour 2014

On 24th May 2014, the musicians of the Eynsford Concert Band flew to Malta, performing the first of four concerts that very same night.

The band, led by Musical Director Mike Smith, had the honour of being the first overseas band to perform in the delightful village of Ghaxaq. Sharing the stage with us was the St Joseph Band Club, conducted by Mro. Raymond Fenech. The programme featured film music, popular songs, and well-known classics. The Eynsford Concert Band performed items such as Farandole, a lively dance taken from Bizet's L'Arlesienne suite no. 2, a selection from James Bond, and a medley of Beatles hits. The St. Joseph Band complimented this with their resounding medley of songs by iconic British rock band, Queen.

Using the Panorama Hotel in Mellieħa Bay as a base, the Eynsford Concert Band went on to perform a further three outdoor concerts in a variety of settings. On the island of Gozo, as guests of the Prekursur Band Club of Xewkija, we were treated to a series of solo performances. First, an operatic item: Dvorjak's Song to the Moon, beautifully sung by Julie Thomas.

Talented saxophonist Matt McKay then offered a virtuosic rendition of Phil Collins' Against All Odds. And it will be hard to forget our star trumpeters, Dave Walker and Steve Drury, with their uproarious interpretation of Post Horn Gallop.

Next, as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations, we were privileged to play at a reception for the British Residents Association in the garden of the



British High Commissioner. The audience enjoyed items such as Nessun Dorma, Puccini's climactic aria, and Elgar's rousing Pomp and Circumstance Marches.

The Eynsford Concert Band shared the last stage with the Imperial Band Club, who looked after us so well. As part of the Mellieħa International Music Festival, both bands performed a public concert in Mellieħa square, in the presence of the village's beautiful parish church. Eric Coates' theme from The Dam Busters film and a tribute to Ron Goodwin, Battle for the Skies, formed part of the programme. The Band was joined by the Imperial Ladies Choir to perform It-Talba 1919 from the Maltese Rock Opera ĠENSNA.



The evening provided a special opportunity for both Bands to play as a massed Band performing a medley of Maltese Folk Tunes and Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance March no. 1 under the direction of Mro Tony Borg and Mro Michael Smith respectively. Our association with Mro. Tony Borg and the Imperial Band Club goes back a long way. This was our fifth playing in Mellieħa, and we would like to offer our sincerest thanks to Tony. Without his help this tour would not have been possible.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Joe Deguara from the Panorama Hotel. Joe, who has been a longtime friend of the band, helped arrange the tour and is tireless in his efforts to promote the village of Mellieħa.