

# Trinity Concert Band Visit to Malta

Stephen Kerry

Trinity Concert Band went on tour in Malta at the end of May - this is the first tour by the band for quite a few years - and eagerly anticipated by all who were able to go.

The days were spent as 'normal' tourists, with the weather significantly warmer than at home. So we enjoyed harbour tours, visits to the sights of Valletta, and the surrounding country. The evenings were planned as concert times, either giving concerts or performing together with a local band. Trinity Concert Band was the guest at three band clubs, all with lovely settings and generous hospitality.

The first evening was at The Imperial Band Club at Mellieħa. Based in gorgeous premises with magnificent views over the coast and overlooking the Church plaza, the band were witness to the colourful procession for the local children's first mass before holding a concert in two halves in the spacious plaza area for a lovely audience. Trinity Concert Band performed in the first half, and in the second half were very privileged to join together with the Imperial Band. Both maestros Paul Speed (of Trinity) and Anthony Borg (Imperial Band) conducted the joint band for different pieces, including the newly written piece 'Malta'. This was written specially for the tour by our Bass Trombonist, Len Tyler, based on a cypher of note letters relating

to the name 'Malta'. The concert also included traditional marches (The Standard of St George, Holyrood), music from musicals and films (My Fair Lady, Somewhere, Les Miserables), and pieces with more local connections (Maltese Rhapsody, Bella Italia). An appreciative audience enjoyed the music as the sun went down in the warm evening. The band was presented with a beautiful plaque from Imperial Band to commemorate the occasion. Imperial band were presented with a Trinity Concert Band stand pennant and score and parts for 'Malta'.

The next evening concert was held at the St Gabriel Band Club in Balzan. Trinity played a concert to a large enthusiastic audience in their ancient courtyard. Again there was something for everyone, with music from traditional marches and selections, classical, west end musicals and original band music. The concert ended with impressive fireworks and generous hospitality.

Next day the band was treated to a coach tour of parts of Malta including the ancient city of Mdina and the Blue Grotto, by boat. The final concert was hosted by St. Elena Band Club in Birkirkara, in another quite different setting. As with the other two bands, we had a tour of their impressive tour of the band rooms, trophies and historical records. Lastly the extensive underground tunnels were shown,



*Trinity Concert Band playing in a joint performance with  
The Imperial Band Club at Mellieħa, Malta*



*Trinity Concert Band presented with a plaque  
by The Imperial Band Club at Mellieħa, Malta*

carefully hewn from the rocks beneath the club and surrounding area for protection in WW2. We enjoyed a very friendly audience in the square. The band later enjoyed wonderful hospitality, meeting the officers and members of the Maltese band.

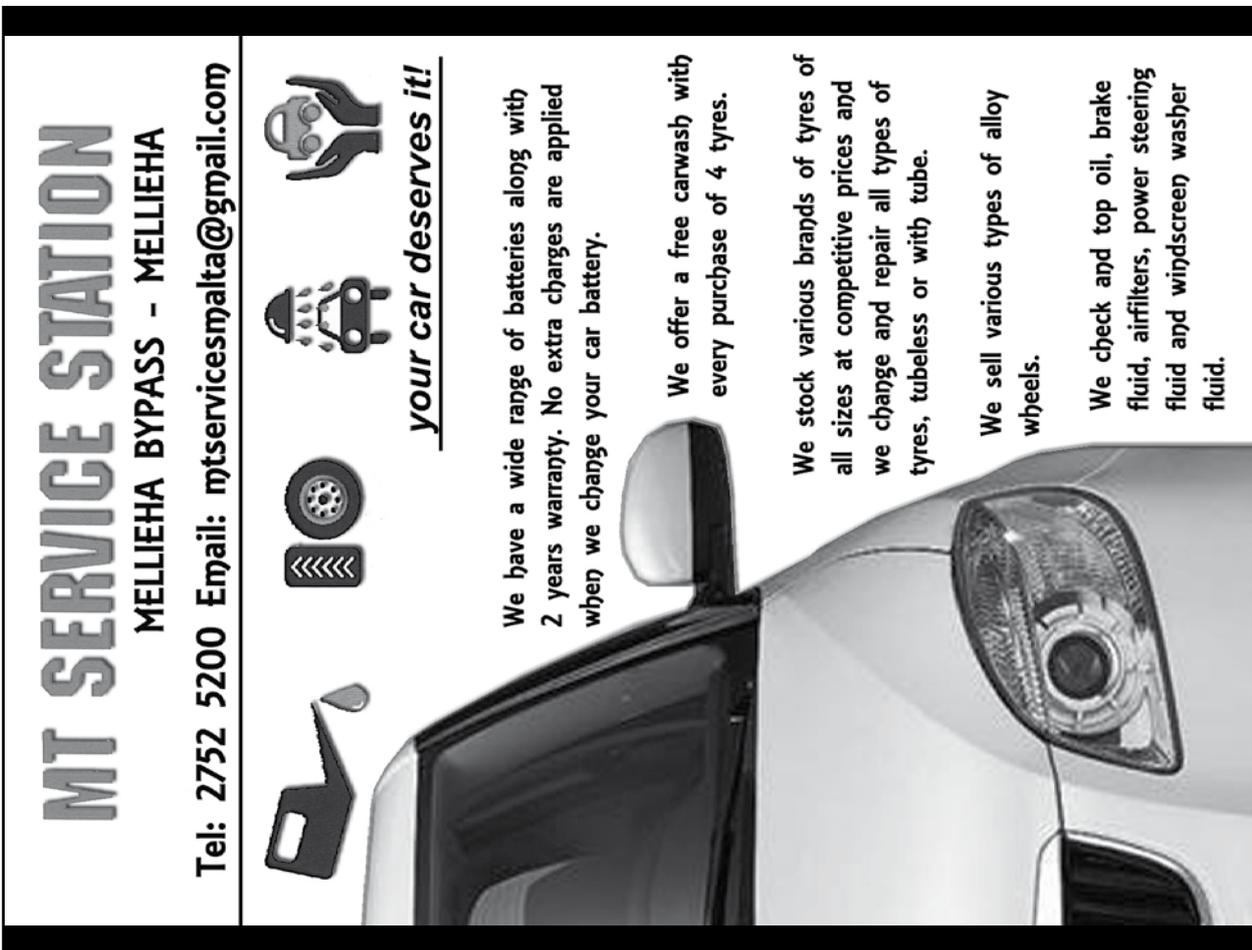
Every member of Trinity expressed their strong wish to return to Malta, and see more of the Islands. The highlight of the tour was meeting each of the Band Clubs, starting with Imperial, then St. Gabriel and St. Elena. It enabled us to have a Malta

Experience beyond the normal tourist visitor, and enjoy making music with friends, which joins us all together. We were most impressed with each band's club. The tour exceeded our expectations and was a great success.

Trinity Concert Band departed to a much cooler UK, all insisting that if nothing else, the band must return to Malta for another tour, having had such a wonderful time with generous musician hosts.



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