

Brass Band League NI

34 Fulmar Crescent
Lisburn
County Antrim
BT28 3HT

25th June 2018

Festival of Brass 2018

Dear Secretary,

I am delighted to inform you that our popular Festival of Brass will once again return this year in association with Queen's University Belfast and will take place in the university's fantastic Whitla Hall on **Saturday 24th November 2018**.

Entertainment Contest

It is expected that the event will start at 10:30am on the day although final timings, including playing times and running order will be announced once entries are known.

Our adjudicators on the day will be Jim Davies (Music) and Beverly Coomber (Entertainment).

As with previous contests, North of Ireland Bands Association contest rules will apply. With regards to Youth Bands, adults may assist in youth band performances by pointing out notes etc. however they must not participate in the performance.

I have enclosed an entry form for the contest at the end of this letter. **The closing date for entries is Saturday 1st September 2018**. This is to allow the event to be better promoted. Please note, entries will only be accepted once the completed form and the corresponding payment have been received.

The contest draw will be made at the BBL Meeting on Saturday 3rd November.

Warm-up facilities will be provided by Queen's University and a room allocation schedule will be notified to competing bands nearer the time. Ample car & coach parking is available to the rear of the university, at the top of Botanic Avenue.

Permitted playing times for each section are **provisionally** as follows:

Section	Min Playing Time (mins)	Max Playing Time (mins)
Championship	20	25
Grade 2	15	20
Grade 3	15	20
Grade 4	No minimum	15
Grade 5 / Unaffiliated Bands	No minimum	15
Youth Bands	No minimum	15

Brass Band League N

The following percussion will be provided on the day:

4 Timpani
Xylophone
Vibraphone

Glockenspiel
Marimba
Tam Tam

Concert Bass Drum
Tubular Bells
Drum Kit

Due to space restrictions at the venue and in order to speed transition between bands on the day, with exception of a snare drum and a glockenspiel, bands will not be permitted to use any of their own percussion that is included on the above list.

Performance Opportunity for Non-Competing Bands

We are pleased to announce that, as part of festival proceedings, we will be offering performance time to bands and smaller brass groups who would not normally compete in band contests.

This is to give such groups an opportunity to increase public awareness and expand their own potential audiences through performing to an appreciative festival audience. Such performances will not be adjudicated.

Due to time constraints, there are limited performance slots available. Please let me know if your band would be interested in taking part.

General Information

With a view to growing the festival as a whole, it would be good to schedule other events and we are looking for ideas from our bands. We would also like to see the festival better promoted and once again, are seeking ideas on how this might be achieved. Please get in touch if you or someone in your band can help.

For bands travelling from further afield, Belfast is a great city to spend the weekend. There are lots of sights to be seen, along with buzzing night life and a fantastic selection of eateries covering every possible taste. On the weekend of the Festival of Brass, the ever popular Belfast Christmas Market will also be in town. In fact, some bands have taken to the streets following the contest in previous years for a spot of carolling & fundraising. If you need any help with finding accommodation, please let me know and I will do what I can to help.

That's all for now. I will be in touch with competing bands with more details in due course. If you have any queries regarding our Festival, please contact me at the earliest opportunity.

I look forward to seeing you in Belfast.

Paul Kirk
Secretary

Email: secretary@brassbandleague.org

Mob: 07867 831327

Web: www.brassbandleague.org

Brass Band League N

Festival of Brass Contest
Saturday 24th November 2018
Whitla Hall, Belfast

ENTRY FORM

Band name: _____ (PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

Section (please tick)	Championship <input type="checkbox"/>	4th Grade <input type="checkbox"/>	5th Grade / Unaffiliated <input type="checkbox"/>
	2nd Grade <input type="checkbox"/>	3rd Grade <input type="checkbox"/>	Youth Band <input type="checkbox"/>

Entry Fee:	Championship & 2 nd Grade	£50.00
	All other sections	£40.00

Entry fee enclosed for the amount: £ _____

Electronic Payments to:	Account Name:	BRASS BAND LEAGUE
	Sort Code:	09-01-29
	Account Number:	20861074

Updated Band Contact Details (only if details have changed)

Secretary's Name _____

Secretary's Address _____

Contact Phone Number(s) _____
(mobile preferred)

Email Address _____