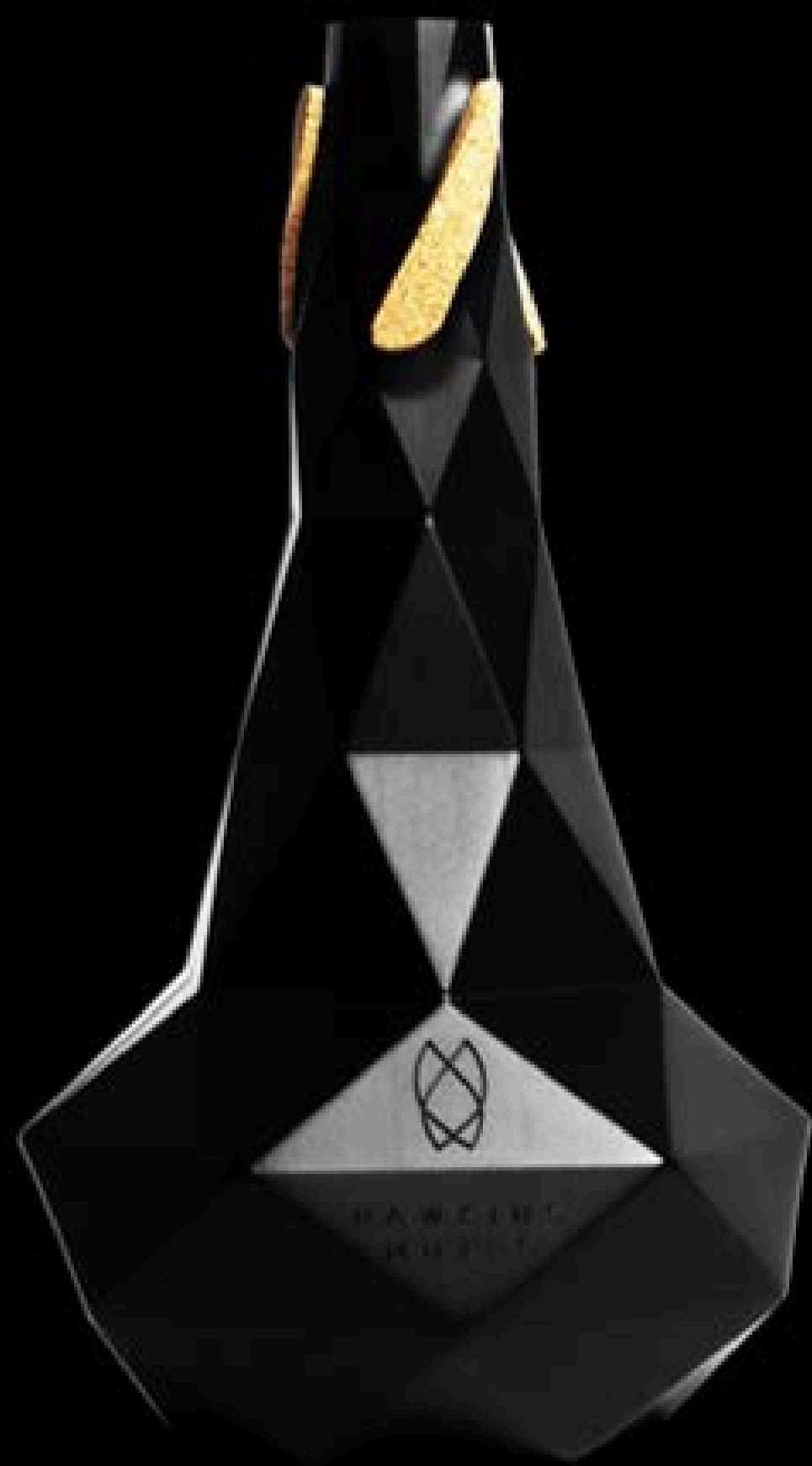


OCTOBER 24 - 25

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Welcome

On behalf of the British Trombone Society, it is my great pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 2026 British Trombone Festival here at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire (RBC).

The weekend has been carefully put together to offer a variety of performances, classes, workshops, and demonstrations from some of the most interesting people in the trombone world, which we hope will educate, inspire, and entertain you.

Saturday will include Christopher Augustine from *Wicked the Musical*, Lance Corporal Henry Newton and the Household Division Trombone Ensemble, Katy Jones's breathing workshops, young trombone prodigy Apollo Premadasa Bulbena (he was awarded Grade 8 distinction aged 8!), a trombone choir of leading young players, Rockschoool workshops, and Elliot Mason's workshop/masterclass. There will also be the Inter-Collegiate and Community Trombone Choir competitions, Andy Clennell's maintenance talk, drop in sessions for people to play together, and the usual warm up sessions and massed choir for everyone. The day concludes with a very special Jazz Night gig, featuring both Elliot Mason and Rory Ingham's Trombone Assembly.

Sunday will feature broadcasting legend John Suchet on Beethoven, accompanied by the period instruments of the Concert Trombone Quartette (CTQ), Steve Thompson's Wild Swans project, Sue Addison's C19th trombones and Dan West's Bass Trombone class. There's a lunchtime gig with Elliot Mason and the RBC Jazz Orchestra directed by Jeremy Price, CTQ playing Romantic trombones (there's an opportunity to try out these instruments too!) and Josh Cirtina's recital. There are also Quartet and Sackbut competitions to see, more warm ups and the massed choir to join in with too. The day will conclude with a Gala Concert featuring the RBC Trombone Choir, the RBC Brass Band conducted by Ian Porthouse with soloist Sophie Bright, and the RBC Jazz Orchestra joined once more by Elliot Mason. The grand finale will have you all on stage to play an arrangement of Dynamite by Korean pop group... BTS!



Look out for our Artist-in-Residence, Jess Bull Anderson, who will be across the festival taking inspiration from what she sees and producing some limited edition art work. Some of Jess's work will be available to purchase at the festival, including the 'Blue Note-inspired' Jazz Night poster, sales of which will go to support the BTS. Other works inspired by the festival will be able to be pre-ordered in time for Christmas!

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of our festival artists, our festival sponsors, and our welcoming hosts, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Ed Jones, RBC Head of Brass and Jeremy Price, RBC Head of Jazz.

There is a LOT on across the weekend, and it won't be possible to see every single thing, but please do feel free to dip in and out of the events (our artists expect that you may wish to come and go) and allow time to get to things that you really want to see and hear.

We hope that you will get to experience new things, be inspired, and make new friends along the way. It's going to be a real celebration of our wonderful trombone community, and a fitting tribute to our dear friend and great BTS supporter, Ben Bouzan, who passed away earlier this year, and to whom we are dedicating this festival.

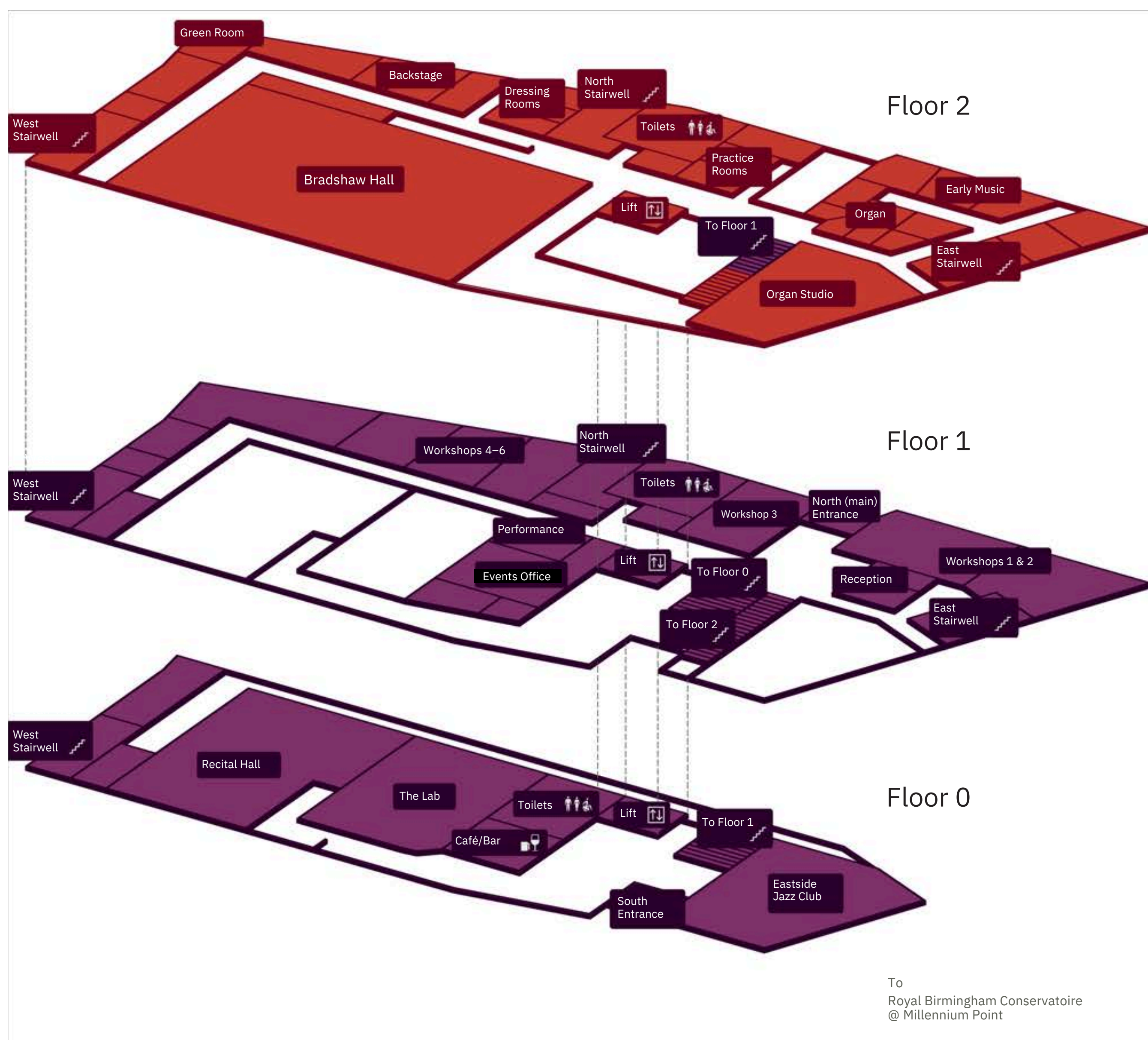
Tom Lees - BTS President



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INTERNAL MAP OF JENNENS ROAD BUILDING FLOORS 0, 1 AND 2





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Artist-in-Residence

Jess Bull Anderson



Jess Bull Anderson is a London-based artist and musician committed to creating meaningful work which inspires personal growth and deepens one's appreciation to their self and the surrounding world.

Jess is currently studying for her masters in tenor trombone and sackbut at the Royal College of Music (RCM) with Rupert Whitehead, Byron Fulcher, and Sue Addison, alongside Alexander Technique teacher training at LCATT. She recently completed her undergraduate studies at the RCM and was awarded the inaugural Richard Edwards Memorial Prize for the most versatile brass musician. Previously, she was a scholar of the Royal Academy of Music (DipHE) and a student at Chetham's School of Music, Manchester.

Jess's artwork and poetry has always been recognised alongside her musicianship, with projects over the last few years including co-devising the inclusive SISTERKIND event at Vortex Jazz Club, live painting with MOSAIC ensemble, designing fabric for Joel & Sons (which holds a Royal Warrant from HRH Queen Elizabeth II), performance of her painting NOTHING IS PERMANENT at Southbank's Queen Elizabeth Hall, and collaborations with composers through writing text, most recently with Thomas Shorthouse for serpentine.iii ensemble, and developing animations (Illyda Oguz for magpie duo).

Jess is a founding member of The Royal Sackbut Collective, emerging artists for Brighton Early Music Festival (2025/26) and supported by the Continuo Foundation, Robert Anderson Trust, and the British Trombone Society, and she was sponsored by Sir Rodger Vickers in the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. She has a wide array of performing experience across genres, including with Billy Bragg, Martin Carthy, Lisa Simone, Hermeto Pascoal, Steve Beresford, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, She's Got Brass, CNSMSP Ensemble Next, and Vache Baroque.

BTF26 Merchandise

Designed by Jess Bull Anderson



BRITISH TROMBONE FESTIVAL 2026 X JESS BULL ANDERSON T-SHIRT

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Exclusive design by Artist-in-Residence Jess Bull Anderson, created especially for the 2026 British Trombone Festival - the first year the BTS has had an Artist-in-Residence!

Order by 14 October to collect at the festival - please email jessicabullanderson@outlook.com to place an order.

Orders placed after 14 October are very welcome but will be posted after the festival, with an additional £4.00 P&P cost.



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A4 - £7.00, A3 - £12.00, A2 - £16.00 · 100% of profits go to supporting the British Trombone Society.

Choose between a 260gsm glossy or 235gsm matte print.

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BRITISH TROMBONE FESTIVAL JAZZ NIGHT '26 SIGNED POSTER

A3 - £15.00 · 100% of profits go to supporting the British Trombone Society.

235gsm matte print signed by performers such as Elliot Mason, Rory Ingham, Dennis Rollins, Trevor Mires, Andy Wood, & Daniel Higham.

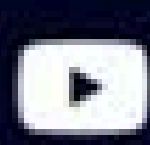
Poster design by Artist-in-Residence Jess Bull Anderson, inspired by the imagery of the legendary blue note label.

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SATURDAY Schedule

	Foyer	Bradshaw Hall	Recital Hall	Eastside Jazz Club	Organ Studio	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3
09:00 - 10:00	09:00 - 10:00 Registration							
10:00 - 10:30		10:00 - 10:30 Welcome & Warm Up			10:00 - 10:30 Competitiion Warm Up Room		10:00 - 10:30 Competition Warm Up Room	
10:30 - 11:15		10:30 - 11:45 Inter-Collegiate Trombone Choir Competition	10:30 - 11:15 Christopher Augustine: <i>Wicked</i>					
11:15 - 11:30	Break		Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	
11:30 - 11:45			11:30 - 12:15 Introduction to Rockschool with Tom Green	11:30 - 12:15 Household Division Trombone Ensemble				11:15 - 12:15 Come & Play Quartets
11:45 - 12:15						11:45 - 12:15 Rockschool Break Out		
12:15 - 12:20	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
12:20 - 12:45			12:20 - 13:00 Youth Stars Ensemble Workshop					
12:45 - 13:00								
13:00 - 13:20	Lunch	Lunch	13:00 - 13:20 Apollo Premadasa Bulbena: Recital	Lunch	12:45 - 13:30 Katy Jones: Breathing for Teachers	Lunch	Lunch	13:00 - 13:40 Andy Clennell: Maintenance Workshop
13:20 - 13:30								
13:30 - 13:40								
13:40 - 14:00			13:40 - 14:40 Elliot Mason: Workshop / Masterclass / Interview			13:30 - 14:00 Competition Warm Up Room	13:30 - 14:00 Competition Warm Up Room	
14:00 - 14:40		14:00 - 15:15 Community Trombone Choir Competition						14:00 - 14:45 Come & Play Quartets
14:40 - 14:50								
14:50 - 15:00			14:50 - 15:35 Katy Jones: Breathing for All					
15:00 - 15:15							15:00 - 15:45 Rockschool Try Out	
15:15 - 15:45								
15:45 - 16:15		15:45 - 16:15 Massed Trombone Choir						
16:15 - 16:30	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
16:30 - 17:15		16:30 - 17:15 Panel Discussion: EVERYTHING Trombone	16:30 - 17:15 Henry Newton: Life as a British Army Musician				16:30 - 17:15 Rockschool Try Out	
17:15 - 19:00	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner
19:00 - 21:00		19:00 - 21:00 Jazz Night: Rory Ingham's Trombone Assembly & Elliot Mason						

SATURDAY *Details*



Saturday features sessions covering all manner of different styles, genres and interests, from the West End with Chris Augustine to the British Army with Lance Corporal Henry Newton and the Household Division Trombone Ensemble. Youth focused events include a workshop with Rockschoool, a Youth Stars Ensemble and a recital from rising star Apollo Premadasa Bulbena.

Either side of lunch, Katy Jones presents breathing workshops, and during the break Andy Clennell hosts a maintenance workshop. After lunch we welcome our special guest artist, Elliot Mason, for a workshop/masterclass before joining together for the traditional massed trombone ensemble.

The first day of the Festival culminates with the Jazz Night, always a much anticipated fixture of the weekend, this year featuring Elliot Mason, and Rory Ingham’s Trombone Assembly, fresh from the launch of their debut album.

	Event	Venue	Detail
09:00 - 10:00	Registration	Foyer	Tea/Coffee, meet and greet, collect your wristband.
10:00 - 10:30	Welcome & Warm Up	Bradshaw Hall	Start the day right with a warm up led by Emily White.
10:30 - 11:15	<i>Wicked</i>	Recital Hall	Christopher Augustine takes us into the world of the West End pit orchestra.
10:30 - 11:45	Trombone Choir Competition	Bradshaw Hall	A chance to hear some of the country’s up and coming musicians. GSMD, RAM, & RCM.
11:15 - 11:30	Break		
11:15 - 12:15	Come & Play Quartets	Workshop 3	Find some friends, old or new, and make music together.
11:30 - 11:45	Introduction to Rockschoool	Recital Hall	Try out this excellent resource and experience what it’s like to feature in a ‘horn section.’ Presented by Tom Green.
11:30 - 12:15	Household Division Trombone Ensemble	Eastside Jazz Club	Enjoy a presentation and workshop with some of the British Army’s finest trombonists.
12:15 - 12:20	Break		
12:20 - 13:00	Youth Stars Ensemble Workshop	Recital Hall	Hear an ensemble of leading young players from the country’s Specialist Music Schools, Conservatoire Junior Departments, and National ensembles, guided by Kevin Morgan.
12:45 - 13:30	Katy Jones: Breathing for Teachers	Organ Studio	Come and find out the basics of breathing anatomy, using correct terminology without fear, and understand some basic problems you may come across.
13:00 - 13:20	Apollo Premadasa Bulbena: Recital	Recital Hall	A short lunchtime recital by rising star Apollo Premadasa Bulbena.
13:00 - 13:40	Maintenance Workshop	Workshop 3	Join Andy Clennell for some tips and tricks to better look after your pride and joy.
13:00 - 13:40	Lunch		
13:40 - 14:40	Elliot Mason: Workshop / Masterclass / Interview	Recital Hall	Learn from one of the world’s finest jazz players.
14:00 - 15:15	Trombone Choir Competition	Bradshaw Hall	Community Trombone Choirs.
14:00 - 14:45	Come & Play Quartets	Workshop 3	Find some friends, old or new, and make music together.
14:50 - 15:35	Katy Jones: Breathing for All	Organ Studio	Come and learn some of the basic breathing anatomy and physiology and learn some exercises to make it as easy as possible for yourself to maximise your own capabilities. Safe for everybody and not strenuous!
15:00 - 15:45	Rockschoool Try Out	Workshop 2	Explore Rockschoool’s Horn Section material.
15:45 - 16:15	Massed Trombone Choir	Bradshaw Hall	For everyone!
16:15 - 16:30	Break		
16:30 - 17:15	Panel Discussion: EVERYTHING Trombone	Bradshaw Hall	Health, Career, Performing, Technical, Anxiety, Auditioning, Teaching, Studying.
16:30 - 17:15	Henry Newton: Life as a British Army Musician	Recital Hall	Join LCpl Henry Newton of the Band of the Household Cavalry to learn more about life as a musician in the British Army.
16:30 - 17:15	Rockschoool Try Out	Workshop 2	Explore Rockschoool’s Horn Section material.
17:15 - 19:00	Dinner		
19:00 - 21:00	Jazz Night	Bradshaw Hall	Elliot Mason, Rory Ingham’s Trombone Assembly, and RBC’s top rhythm section in a unique, never to repeated, concert.

Christopher Augustine



Christopher Augustine is currently Tenor/Bass Trombone chair holder on *Wicked the Musical* at Victoria Apollo Theatre, London. He has held chair positions on three other musicals, performing on Disney's *Hercules the Musical*, (tenor/bass trombones and cover conductor), *Burlesque the Musical* (tenor trombone), and Disney's *Frozen* (tenor/bass trombones and as a cover conductor). From 2018 to 2021, he served as Sub-Principal Trombone with Welsh National Opera.

Christopher freelances with leading London orchestras, including the London Symphony, Royal Philharmonic, Philharmonia, and Chineke!. He has also trialled for positions with the BBC Concert Orchestra (Principal), Royal Ballet Sinfonia (Sub-Principal), and BBC National Orchestra of Wales (Sub-Principal). In London's West End, his credits include work on *Wicked*, *Matilda*, *The Lion King*, and *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. Additionally, he was a member of the prestigious Foyle Future Firsts programme with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

Christopher holds a BMus degree from Goldsmiths College, an MMus degree from Trinity Laban Conservatoire, and completed a postgraduate year at the Royal Academy of Music. He currently tutors trombone at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has been named an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music.

British Army Music



The Household Division Trombone Ensemble

The Household Division Trombone Ensemble is formed of players drawn from the bands of the Household Division, who are among the most prestigious military musical ensembles in the world. Renowned for their ceremonial excellence, musical versatility, and rich heritage, they are comprised of the bands of the Foot Guards and the Household Cavalry.

The members play a central role in some of the nation's most significant ceremonial occasions, including Trooping the Colour and the National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. They also perform at royal ceremonies and public events both in the UK and abroad. With a tradition dating back centuries, the Bands of the Household Division represent the highest standards of military musicianship while serving as a symbol of British pageantry, precision, and national pride.

Lance Corporal Henry Newton

Lance Corporal Henry Newton began learning the trombone with Leicestershire Schools Music Service, before successfully auditioning for the Royal Birmingham Junior Conservatoire in 2014. In 2018 he commenced undergraduate studies at the Royal College of Music, studying jazz trombone under Richard Edwards, and classical trombone under Rob Holliday, Lindsay Shilling, and Byron Fulcher. Highlights of his studies include many big band projects as lead trombone, directed by Pete Long, which included performances with Benny Grebb and Georgina Jackson.

LCpl Newton was fortunate to have his final year at the RCM supported by the Royal Corps of Army Music (RCAM) Bursary, joining RCAM upon graduation. LCpl Newton's first assignment was to The Band of the Household Cavalry to support the Mounted Band for His Majesty's Coronation in 2023. Highlights since include Festivals of Remembrance, Scarlett and Gold, and in 2025 his first mounted engagements: VE80 and HM The King's Birthday Parade. In 2025 LCpl Newton won the Household Division Musician of the Year competition, becoming the first Household Cavalry Band Musician to receive the prestigious honour.

Apollo Premadasa Bulbena



Apollo is a twelve-year-old musician, trombonist, conductor, composer, and cellist. He studies trombone with Michael Buchanan, Enzo Turriziani (Principal Trombone of the Vienna Philharmonic), and James Buckle; conducting with Sian Edwards; and cello with Mariona Camats. He is also a student of the Royal Academy of Music, where he participates in ensemble training. He has won prizes in national and international competitions as a trombonist, cellist and composer. He has been invited to perform in Germany, Singapore, Malta, Italy, Canada and the United States, including Carnegie Hall in New York and the Beethoven-Haus in Bonn. He passed his Grade 8 trombone examination with Distinction at the age of eight.

Since 2024, Apollo has been selected for three consecutive years as Principal Trombonist of the Vienna Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Opera Project, performing each summer at the Salzburg Festival.

Apollo's trombone training has included regular individual tuition with Joseph Alessi (Principal Trombone of the New York Philharmonic and Professor at The Juilliard School), with whom he had monthly lessons for a period, and weekly lessons with Peter Steiner. He has also had individual lessons with Ian Bousfield. In addition, he has attended masterclasses and specialist courses with trombonists from across Europe.

In 2022, Apollo was selected as one of six active participants in the Joseph Alessi Masterclass organised by Opera North in Leeds. He conducted the trombone ensemble and performed as a soloist with ensemble accompaniment at the Alessi Seminar in Fossano, Italy. In November 2024, he won the Ian Bousfield Masterclass Competition, organised by the British Trombone Society.

Apollo is a trombonist with the Orquestra del Segle XXI, an orchestra of young professionals based in Barcelona, with which he tours annually. He is also a member of the Bruckner Akademie Orchester, based in Munich, and tours and performs with the orchestra at the Herkulessaal.

As a conductor, Apollo works with the London Concert Sinfonia, with which he performs monthly, and is also one of its composers-in-residence. He has conducted ensembles, chamber orchestras and symphony orchestras in concerts across the UK, Spain, Italy and Finland. In December 2024, he conducted the professional Orquestra Simfònica de Sant Cugat in six concerts during its tour of Catalonia.

As a composer, Apollo's *First Symphony 'War Child,'* dedicated to children living through war and displacement, was premiered in London in January 2023. His chamber, choral, symphonic, and solo works have been performed in the UK, Spain, Italy and the USA. His *Second Symphony* was premiered in London in January 2025. His string quartet *Pandemia* (2020), dedicated to the heroes and victims of the pandemic, was premiered by the NHS Quartet at the Great Hall of St Bartholomew the Great and subsequently featured by the BBC. The work was also premiered in the United States by the Carya Quartet.

Apollo sees the trombone as a melodic instrument and is always exploring how to find and express its own voice.

Katy Jones



Katy has been Principal Trombone with the Hallé Orchestra since 2012, having previously been Co-Principal Trombone with the London Symphony Orchestra. As well as performing at concert halls worldwide, she can be heard on numerous film and videogame soundtracks, including *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*, the *Marvels*, and the *Harry Potter* film series. She has been a guest at many orchestras in the UK, and with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, and is also a member of Fine Arts Brass, with whom she has toured widely and made a number of recordings.

Katy is on the faculty of the OAcademy, where she works with students across the world online; in the UK she works regularly as a brass coach for the National Youth Orchestra and is Senior Tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. As a soloist she has appeared at many brass festivals, including the Arctic Trombone Festival, Dublin Brass Week, and several International Trombone Festivals. With the Hallé she has given a world premiere of the concerto *The Madonna of Silence* by John Casken, which was also heard on BBC Radio 3. Plans for summer 2026 include visits to the Cimvo Brass Festival, Spain, and Gravissimo, in Portugal. She is also a member of the Jury for the Aeolus competition 2026.

As a young student, Katy won the Don Lusher Prize in the BBC Big Band Competition, the Brass Prize in the BBC Young Musician of the Year, and was a finalist in the Shell/LSO competition. She was also a member of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester. Over recent years she has received a number of awards from her peers; 'The Sheila Tracy Award,' 'Teacher of the Year,' and 'Player of the Year' from the British Trombone Society, and in 2026 she was the recipient of the International Trombone Association Award, which is given for an elite level of creative and artistic input.

Katy gained her Masters Degree in Pharmacy, and has maintained an active interest in health education and injury prevention throughout her career. Continually pursuing her extensive research into breathing, and the impact it has on our anatomy and physiology. She is fully qualified to teach the Buteyko Method and has presented successful lectures and workshops for many students and professionals of all instruments. Her continuing CPD, and regular contact with specialist respiratory physiotherapists means she stays at the forefront of research in this area.

Katy is a regular supporter of the British Trombone Society and winner of the BTS Player of the Year Award 2023, an organisation which inspired her as a very young player coming from the rural Yorkshire Dales, and allowed her to meet and hear influential former recipients of this award, such as Ian Bousfield and Don Lusher.

Tom Green



Winner of the Dankworth Prize for Jazz Composition and Eddie Harvey Arranger's Award, Tom Green is described as 'a poised and nuanced improviser' by John Fordham (The Guardian).

He has performed at major UK venues including Ronnie Scott's, the Vortex and 606 club, and at festivals including Glastonbury, Love Supreme, and the North Sea Jazz Festival.

Tom has released two albums of original compositions with his Septet, described as 'a kaleidoscope of harmony that is not only phenomenally skilful, but absorbing and endlessly entertaining, too' (the Observer).

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Elliot Mason



‘Elliot’s unbelievable as a trombonist, there’s unworldly facility, virtuosity and clarity in his playing, he can sing a melody out from the trombone; it’s like a human voice the way he plays it’ – Wynton Marsalis

Elliot Mason is an internationally acclaimed trombonist, composer, educator, and bass trumpet specialist. For more than two decades, he has been a member of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra under the direction of Wynton Marsalis and performs regularly with the Wynton Marsalis Septet.

Alongside his work with Jazz at Lincoln Center, Mason leads his own Quintet, co-leads the Mason Brothers Quintet with his brother, Brad Mason, and performs with the Sofijazz Quintet.

An accomplished educator, Mason has served on the jazz faculty at The Juilliard School since 2016, as their Jazz Trombone Instructor, Studio Class Resident Artist, and Brass Mentor.

Born in England, Mason began studying trumpet with his father at the age of four before discovering the trombone at seven, a moment that would define his musical path. By the age of eleven, he was performing professionally in dance halls, theatres, clubs, and pubs, developing remarkable versatility across musical styles while focusing on jazz and improvisation. At fifteen, he received the Daily Telegraph Young Jazz Soloist Award.

Mason later earned a full-tuition scholarship to Berklee College of Music, where he studied with renowned educators Hal Crook and Phil Wilson. During his time at Berklee, he received several of jazz's most prestigious honors, including the Frank Rosolino Award for Outstanding Trombone Performance, the International Trombone Workshop Under-29 Jazz Trombone Competition, and the Slide Hampton Award for Outstanding Performance.

Following graduation, Mason relocated to New York City, where he quickly established himself as one of the most sought-after trombonists and bass trumpet artists in contemporary music.

Throughout his career, he has performed with many of jazz's most celebrated ensembles, including the Count Basie Orchestra, the Mingus Big Band, the Maria Schneider Orchestra, Maynard Ferguson's Big Bop Nouveau, and the Toshiko Akiyoshi Orchestra.

As a featured performer and collaborator, Mason has shared the stage with an extraordinary range of artists, including Paul Simon, Wayne Shorter, Branford Marsalis, Chick Corea, Kenny Garrett, Bobby Hutcherson, Ahmad Jamal, Chucho Valdés, Chano Domínguez, Randy Brecker, Joe Lovano, Carl Fontana, and Bill Watrous.

His distinctive musical voice, technical mastery, and fearless innovative improvisation have made him one of the most influential jazz trombonists of his generation.

Mason is an endorsed artist with B.A.C. Musical Instruments and performs on the Elliot Mason Signature Series trombone, developed in collaboration with the company.

Rory Ingham's Trombone Assembly



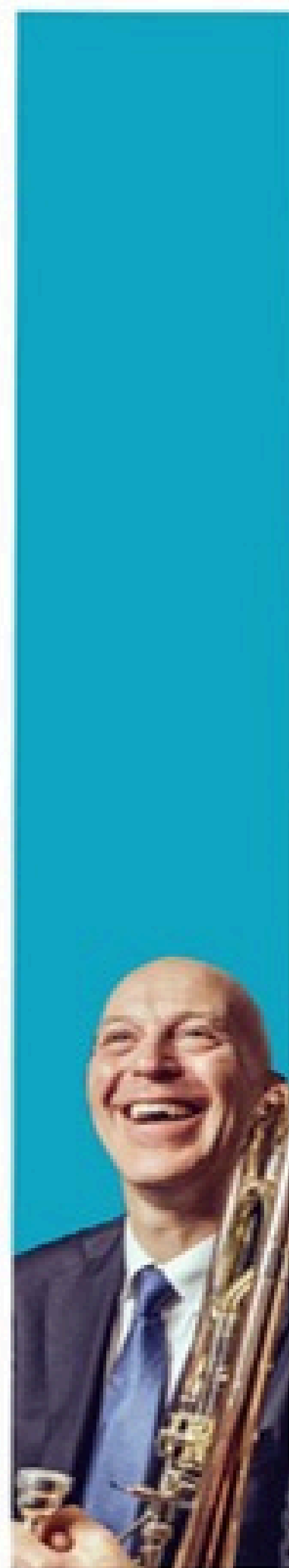
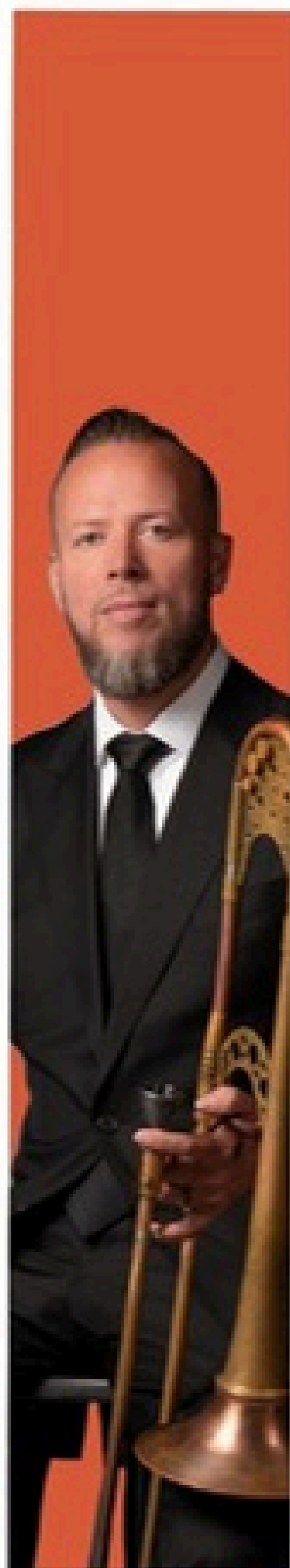
Rory Ingham brings his all-star band 'Trombone Assembly' to Birmingham to celebrate their long-awaited debut album. Showcasing five of the UK's finest trombonists alongside Birmingham Conservatoire's finest rhythm section, the ensemble reimagines classics like Stardust and Cherokee alongside original works inspired by jazz greats.

Expect velvet tones, swinging grooves, and 'effortlessly virtuosic' (Jazzwise) trombone playing throughout. Trombone Assembly is the band that pushes the instrument away from the sidelines and into the limelight.

Defying the reputation of the trombone, this ensemble is a voyage into many soundscapes: a velvety choir, a swinging big band, and the engaging interplay of small-combo jazz. In a dazzling display of the trombone's diversity, you'll experience bespoke arrangements of beloved standards from early jazz to bebop and beyond, original works that showcase the trombone's range and texture, and a musical intensity that leaves you beaming from head to toe.

BRITISH TROMBONE FESTIVAL

JAZZ NIGHT '26 !!



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Carol Jarvis, Rath Artist



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HORN SECTION

GRADE 1-8



CELEBRATE THE HORN SECTION WITH ROCKSCHOOL!



From Jazz to Motown classics, and from Pop hits to Latin grooves, the horn section has left a big impression on popular music. Learn how to play as a professional horn section with three new Rockschool syllabuses.

For the first time, RSL is celebrating the horn section as a unit. Students learning Saxophone, Trumpet, and Trombone, can play together from their very first note. Six specially arranged pieces in each grade cover a wide range of genres, building the skills and experience to become a great horn section player.



SUNDAY Schedule

	Foyer	Bradshaw Hall	Recital Hall	Eastside Jazz Club	Organ Studio	Workshop 1
09:00 - 10:00	09:00 - 10:00 Registration					
09:30 - 10:00						
10:00 - 10:20		10:00 - 10:20 Welcome & Warm Up			09:30 -10:30 Sackbut Competition Warm Up	10:00 - 10:20 Quartet Competition Warm Up
10:20 - 10:30			10:20 - 11:20 John Suchet: Beethoven with the Concert Trombone Quartette			
10:30 - 11:15		10:30 - 11:15 Quartet Competition				
11:15 - 11:20						
11:20 - 11:30	11:20 - 11:30 John Suchet: Book Signing					
11:30 -11:40				11:30 - 12:15 Steve Thompson's <i>Wild Swans</i> narrated by John Suchet		
11:40 - 12:15					11:30 - 12:30 Sackbut Competition	11:40 - 12:20 Sue Addison: The C19th English and French Trombone
12:15 - 12:20						
12:20 - 12:30						
12:30 - 13:00		12:30 - 13:00 Massed Trombone Choir				
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:30 - 14:30			13:30 - 14:30 Elliot Mason and the RBC Jazz Orchestra			
14:30 - 14:45	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
14:45 - 15:30		14:45 - 15:30 Josh Cirtina: <i>Songs for Last Trombone</i>				
15:30 - 15:15	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
15:45 - 16:30			15:45 - 16:30 The Concert Trombone Quartette		15:45 - 16:30 Dan West: Bass Trombone Workshop	
16:30 -17:00	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
17:00 - 18:15		17:00 - 18:15 Gala Concert				

SUNDAY *Details*

Sunday’s programme includes another opportunity to experience the extraordinary Elliot Mason as he performs a set with the RBC Jazz Orchestra.



In the morning, Steve Thompson brings his reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's *Wild Swans*, narrated by broadcaster and trombonist, John Suchet, OBE. John will also present a session exploring his lifelong passion for Ludwig van Beethoven, with examples illustrated on period instruments by the Concert Trombone Quartette (CTQ). Later in the day CTQ will be giving a lecture recital featuring original French and German instruments from the C19th, with an opportunity for participants to experience playing examples for themselves, while Sue Addison and trombonists from RBC explore the C19th ‘peashooter’ trombone, including the chance to take part in a performance of Elgar’s *Nimrod*.

In the afternoon Josh Cirtina gives a recital launching his debut album *Songs for Last Trombone*, featuring newly commissioned music from female composers for bass trombone. Dan West, Bass Trombone Tutor at RBC leads a bass trombone workshop.

The Festival concludes with a Gala Concert featuring the RBC Trombone Choir, Sophie Bright performing Leidzén’s *Concertino* with the RBC Brass Band conducted by Ian Porthouse, Elliot Mason with the RBC Jazz Orchestra under Jeremy Price, and a rousing finale from the massed community trombone choir, performing on stage with Elliot, a specially commissioned arrangement for the BTS, of *Dynamite* by world famous K-Pop band BTS.

	Event	Venue	Detail
09:00 - 10:00	Registration	Foyer	Tea/Coffee, meet and greet, collect your wristband.
10:00 - 10:20	Welcome & Warm Up	Bradshaw Hall	Blow the Sunday morning cobwebs away!
10:20 - 11:20	John Suchet: Beethoven with the Concert Trombone Quartette	Recital Hall	John Suchet explores his lifelong fascination with Beethoven, and their shared passion for the trombone.
10:30 - 11:15	Quartet Competition	Bradshaw Hall	Finalists: Bonevoyage & Trinity Laban Trombone Quartet.
11:20 - 11:30	John Suchet: Book Signing	Foyer	Purchase one of John Suchet’s books, and have it signed by the author.
11:30 - 12:15	<i>Wild Swans</i>	Eastside Jazz Club	Steve Thompson's reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen’s <i>Wild Swans</i> narrated by John Suchet, featuring the music of Elena Kats-Chernin.
11:30 - 12:30	Sackbut Competition	Organ Studio	Finalists: Morgan Bland, Jess Bull Anderson, & William Illingworth.
11:40 - 12:20	The C19th French and English Trombone	Workshop 1	Explore the sound world of the C19th ‘peashooter’ with Sue Addison and the RBC Trombones. Join in a performance of Elgar’s <i>Nimrod</i> .
12:30 - 13:00	Massed Trombone Choir	Bradshaw Hall	Preparing repertoire to perform as the finale of the Gala Concert.
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch		
13:30 - 14:30	Elliot Mason and the RBC Jazz Orchestra	Recital Hall	Another chance to hear special guest artist Elliot Mason in action.
14:30 - 14:40	Break		
14:45 - 15:30	Recital: <i>Songs for Last Trombone</i>	Bradshaw Hall	Josh Cirtina launches his debut album featuring new compositions for bass trombone from female composers.
15:30 - 15:45	Break		
15:45 - 16:30	The Concert Trombone Quartette	Recital Hall	Lecture recital performing on original C19th instruments, with the opportunity for participants to join in and try the instruments for themselves.
15:45 - 16:30	Dan West: Bass Trombone Workshop	Organ Studio	Dan West shares the variety of musical styles that make up his busy portfolio career.
16:30 - 17:00	Break		
17:00 - 18:15	Gala Concert	Bradshaw Hall	RBC Trombone Choir, Sophie Bright and the RBC Brass Band, Elliot Mason with the RBC Jazz Orchestra, Massed Trombone Choir. Presentation of BTS Annual Awards and Competition Prizes.

John Suchet OBE



John Suchet's 40-year career as a television reporter and newscaster for iTN brought him into millions of living rooms across the country every day. Following his retirement from TV news he was able to indulge his passion for classical music as daily flagship presenter on Classic FM. John is a recognised authority on the life and music of Beethoven.

In his latest book on Beethoven (his eighth!) he reveals their joint passion for the trombone. John will reveal all in a special talk, accompanied by the Concert Trombone Quartette.

Steve Thompson



Steve Thompson is a professional trombonist, composer, arranger, producer, and educator whose career has taken him from concert halls and recording studios to theatre stages and the London 2012 Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

As a performer, he has worked with artists including Nigel Kennedy, Jamie Cullum, Alison Moyet, Lisa Stansfield, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, Tony Hadley, Eric Idle, Professor Brian Cox, and Robert Smith of The Cure, as well as performing with ensembles including the Glenn Miller Orchestra, Hackney Colliery Band and London Concert Orchestra.

His work as a composer, arranger, and producer has been equally varied. He has written music for the BBC, Channel 4, Discovery, and composed for 20th Century Fox on projects celebrating the studio's extraordinary back catalogue as part of its first venture into pure audio. His music has been broadcast on Classic FM, BBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 4, while his debut album, Hello World, was featured on the Jazz FM playlist for four weeks.

Along the way, Steve has sent music to the Moon, recorded with astronauts, performed a trombone underwater and played the instrument at -196°C, while working alongside an unusually diverse cast of musicians, actors, scientists, magicians, engineers and explorers.

Alongside his performing and composing career, Steve has spent more than three decades teaching and mentoring young musicians and is currently Head of Brass at Eltham College.

Concert Trombone Quartette



The Concert Trombone Quartette is the UK's only period instrument trombone quartet specialising in historically informed performance practice. Its remit is to perform music originally written for trombone spanning over 400 years from the Baroque, Classical & Romantic periods - through to the early 20th century on instruments from the time of the compositions.

CTQ takes its name from a prominent trombone quartet in London from 1892 - 1896; original players being members of the Queen's Hall Orchestra which played in the first ever Proms Concerts Series (1895). Henry Wood who directed that evening also accompanied CTQ on the organ at the same venue.

In recreating this quartet we trace the evolution and sound world of this long-standing idiom performing music by Schütz, Beethoven, Bruckner, and Bozza, including works for voices & trombones in sacred motets and secular instrumental works outlining the trombone's history and versatility.

CTQ has enjoyed some memorable performances and recitals including collaborations with choirs throughout the UK including The Newcastle Bach Choir, Ex Cathedra Symphony Hall, Birmingham, (5-star review, Midlands Music Review). A collaborative recital in The Purbeck Arts Week Festival (PAW) collaboratively with Studio 5 trombone quartet entitled The Evolution of the Trombone Quartet which was repeated in the Islington Festival of Music & Art.

2024 saw three collaborative performances to mark the 200th anniversary of Bruckner's birth with The Choir of St Mary the Virgin, Nottingham, Leicestershire Chorale & Leicester Cathedral Choir on original trombones from 19th century Austria.

Future plans include CTQ's debut CD and further unique performances.

Sue Addison



Sue Addison is recognised as one of the world's leading exponents of historic trombones.

She currently plays principal trombone with the Academy of Ancient Music, The Sixteen, Gabrieli Consort and Players, and the Hanover Band.

Her experience ranges from being a full-time member of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under the directorship of Sir Simon Rattle to recording for the BBC Comedy *The Two Ronnies*. Former principal and founder member of The Age of Enlightenment, The Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century, Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra, and The London Classical Players.

She is also a founder member and continues to be involved in some ground breaking projects with His Majesties Sagbutts and Cornetts, The Queen Victoria Consort, and The Concert Trombone Quartette. She is currently professor of the Baroque trombone at the Royal College of Music, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and The Royal Northern College of Music.

She has given masterclasses at The Hague Conservatoire, Mannes College of Music New York and the Sydney Conservatoire of Music.

Dan West



Over the past two decades bass trombonist Dan West has established himself as one of London's busiest and most versatile musicians. He frequently performs with top London orchestras and records for film, television and computer games. From 2015 to 2020 he was the trombonist in the West End production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*, and has since deputised in various West End musicals including *Les Misérables* and *The Lion King*.

As a founding member of Septura, the acclaimed London-based brass chamber ensemble, Dan has been recorded on all of their acclaimed *Music for Brass Septet* albums for Naxos and tours internationally, performing in countries as far afield as Colombia, New Zealand and Japan. He is a founding member and regular performer with the South London-based brass band Old Dirty Brasstards, known for their unique brass arrangements of popular hits, entertaining audiences at major festivals like Glastonbury and various venues across the UK.

Originally from Canada, Dan earned his bachelor's degree at the University of North Texas before completing his post graduate studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, where he studied primarily with Bob Hughes and enjoyed lessons with Ian Bousfield, Denis Wick and Keith McNichol. As a Conn-Selmer performing artist, he exclusively plays Conn bass trombones. In 2021 Dan was appointed bass trombone tutor at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire.

Sophie Bright



Sophie Bright is a Swiss-British trombonist known for her warm, expressive tone, stylistic and technical fluency, and remarkable ability for interpretation across genres. Her growing international profile now includes being named an official artist of the 2026 International Trombone Festival in Riga, Latvia, where she presented a solo recital and perform a concerto for two trombones at the opening concert with the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra (the oldest in the Baltic states) under the baton of legendary Christian Lindberg.

Born in France and raised in Switzerland, Sophie began her musical journey at age six. Early experiences with the big band Dai Kimoto & Swing Kids provided international performance opportunities, particularly at the 2014 Iguazu Music Festival, which inspired her to pursue classical training. By age 12, she won a solo performance with the St. Gallen Chamber Orchestra.

Sophie has established herself as a versatile artist, winning numerous awards in both classical and jazz, including multiple grand prix at the final of the Swiss Youth Music Competition (FINALE SJMW 2015-2021), the United Classics Golden Key Trophy 2019, the Beringer Jazz Award 2019, the JAZZ SJMW 2019 Solo Act Winner, and the EMCY 2021 Prize. Most prominently, Sophie's international accomplishments include the first prize at the Lions International Music Competition Thomas Kuti 2023 in Austria and successes at the renowned international competition for wind soloists AEOLUS, where at age 18 she became one of the youngest trombone finalists and also won the Prize for Best Interpretation of a Contemporary Piece across all categories. In 2026 she became a finalist in the Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) Music Competition in the Wind, Brass and Percussion category, where she was also awarded the Phillip Jones Memorial Prize for Outstanding Brass Player.

Sophie's radio appearances include Swiss Radio SRF2 as both a classical and jazz young talent, and recently BBC3. Sophie's concert highlights include her interpretation of Nathaniel Shilkret's jazz-inspired *Trombone Concerto* with the Mittelsächsische Philharmonie in Germany, as well as Brahms' *Clarinet Sonata in F minor* in her own arrangement, and notably, the premiere of a quadruplet concerto commissioned from Daniel Schnyder at the Swiss Youth Music Competition's 50th anniversary celebrations in Zurich's Tonhalle. Her solo recital at the Films Classical Music Festival received praise for her 'mature musicality' and 'effortless stylistic versatility.'

Sophie holds a bachelors degree with distinction from the Hochschule der Künste Bern, where she studied with Ian Bousfield.

She is now pursuing a masters programme at the Royal Academy of Music in London under Peter Moore and Matthew Gee, supported by the prestigious ABRSM Scholarship, alongside competitive awards from Switzerland's Lyra Stiftung and Fritz-Gerber Stiftung.

Josh Cirtina



Josh Cirtina is Principal Bass Trombone of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, trombonist & artistic director of the Slide Action quartet, Professor of Bass Trombone at the Royal College of Music and an Associate of both the Royal Northern College of Music and Royal Academy of Music.

A member of the RPO since 2019, Josh has performed with most UK orchestras including the London Symphony, Sinfonia of London, London Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, Royal Opera House, Philharmonia, Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Aurora, BBC Philharmonic, Hallé, Opera North & Ulster Orchestras.

Further afield, Josh has also worked with orchestras across Europe and was a member of the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester from 2017 - 2019. He records regularly for film and TV and can be heard on soundtracks including *The Matrix: Resurrections*, *Bugonia*, *The Flash*, *Black Mirror*, *Aquaman 2*, *Spiderman: Across the Spider Verse*, and more.

In 2023 Josh was extremely fortunate to be chosen as the trombonist in the Coronation Orchestra for the Coronation of King Charles III. As a soloist, in 2014 Josh won both the British Trombone Society 'Bob Hughes' and International Trombone Association 'George Roberts' competitions. He was also awarded the 'Don Lusher' award for best trombone at the 2014 Brass in Concert championships. Following this he performed Elgar Howarth's concerto *Spooks* at the 2016 RNCM Wind & Brass Festival and in 2022 performed the premiere of Robin Haigh's concerto for 4 trombones 'THE DREAMERS' alongside Slide Action. In 2024 he was a featured artist at the British Trombone Festival.

At BTF26 Josh will release his debut solo album *Songs for last trombone*, exploring what the bass trombone is capable of and shining a light on music from underrepresented composers.

Josh was delighted to be appointed Professor of Bass Trombone at the Royal College of Music in Spring 2025, joining a world class brass department at the forefront of higher education. In addition to working with the bass trombones, he also directs the low brass programmes and coaches chamber music. Outside of the RCM Josh regularly gives masterclasses at institutions at home and abroad including the RNCM, RAM, Guildhall, and Hochschule für Musik Trossingen.

Having begun playing in brass bands, Josh was a member of the Fairey Band from 2013 - 16 and has performed with most of the UK's top brass bands including Cory, Black Dyke, and Grimethorpe. Josh studied at the RNCM and RAM with Adrian Morris, Bob Hughes, Keith McNicoll, Christian Jones, and Ian Bousfield. Away from the trombone, Josh is a prolific arranger and a director of the publishing house Resonata Music and on the Board of Directors at the RPO.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

OF PETER GANE



"Please help us celebrate Peter's life by recording a short video using your smart phone - around one minute - sharing your favourite memory, story or anecdote. Your clip will become part of short social-media episodes and a special commemorative film."

- Pat Gane

**EVERY STORY MATTERS.
LET'S MAKE SURE THEY AREN'T LOST.**

We invite you to upload your clip here

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/6wsylku088ctqqkt7q1r>

Click the link above to send us your video.

A special launch celebration is being planned in Peter's memory. More details to follow.
We also hope to establish a British Trombone Society Bursary in Peter's name.

Please share this invitation with anyone who has a story to tell.

Ben Bouzan

1975 - 2026



Benjamin (Ben) Bouzan, a cherished friend, bass trombonist, dedicated music educator, and central figure in the British Trombone Society for many years, passed away on 5 July at the age of 50 following a battle with liver cancer.

Born in Northampton and raised in Melbourn, Hertfordshire, Ben survived childhood kidney cancer at age four, revealing early on two lifelong traits: resilience and an enduring love for food, demanding ketchup on his post-surgery meal.

Told as a child his arms were too short for trombone, he was temporarily assigned the recorder, much to his annoyance, before taking his first trombone lesson in January 1984. He progressed rapidly, earning scholarships to the Junior Royal Academy and Oundle School, before completing a degree in bass trombone at the Royal College of Music. His early performance credentials included the National Children's Orchestra, National Youth Orchestra, and National Youth Jazz Orchestra. As a professional player he performed at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Ronnie Scott's, and the Royal Opera House; he even sang for Queen Elizabeth II's 60th birthday.

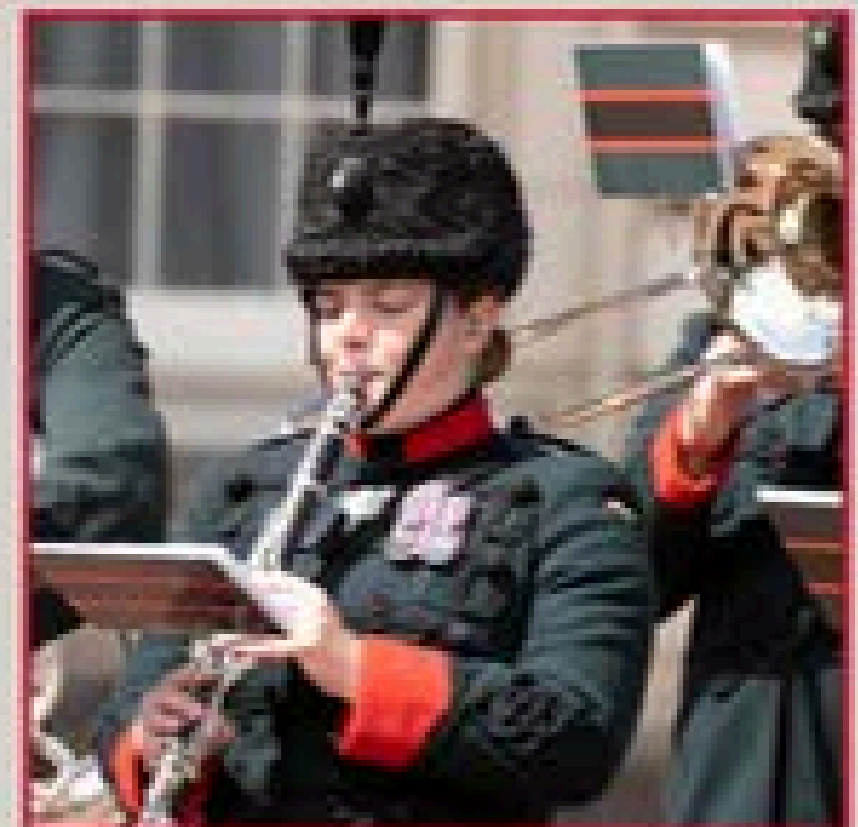
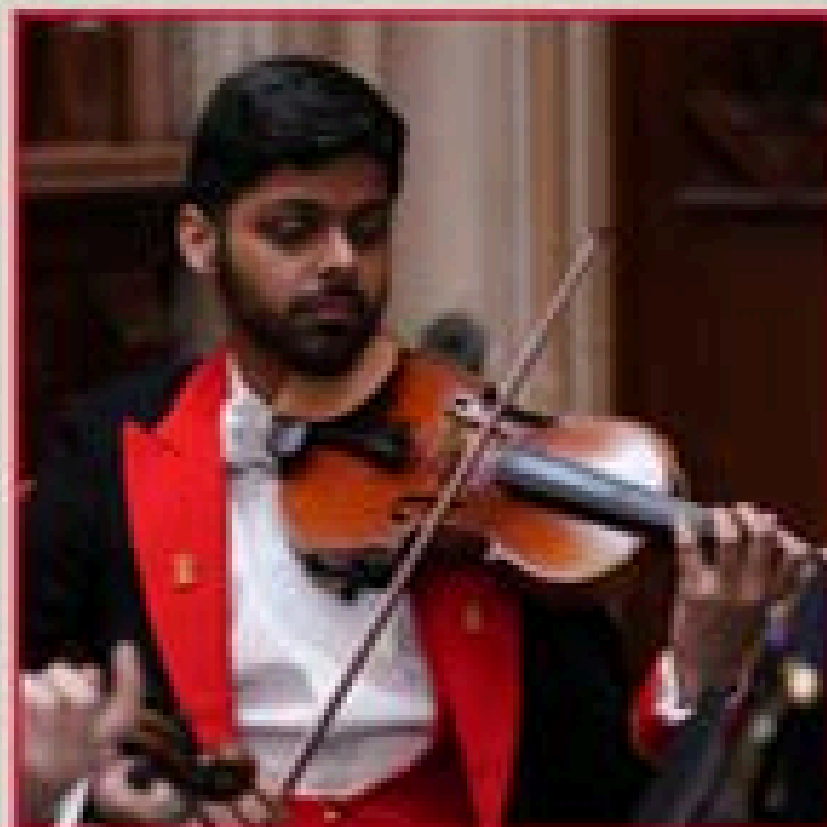
In 2001, Ben discovered his true calling in education, while covering a friend's teaching work. He was a natural teacher, whether giving one-to-one lessons, mentoring sectionals and ensembles, or acting as brass tutor for the Hitchin Light Orchestra, where he was famed for enjoying the annual music course water fights. Within the BTS, he served as East Anglia Representative for many years and organised numerous events hosted at Oundle School.

Diagnosed with aggressive liver cancer in October 2024, Ben faced 16 rounds of chemotherapy with unwavering optimism. To safeguard his sense of taste, he established 'Chemo Eve,' a pre-treatment ritual of T-bone steak and red wine. In June 2026, after a dream flight in a P-51 Mustang at Duxford, he entered hospice care, enjoying Calippo ice lollies and a surprise concert performed by ten trombonists, and a rogue flugelhorn player.

Ben's Celebration of Life on 30 July featured a large trombone ensemble of friends, colleagues and students performing arrangements of *Repton*, *Jerusalem*, *Amazing Grace*, *Nimrod*, and *Abendlied*, alongside the *Mr Benn* theme tune, a moment of levity which Ben would have loved.

Ben's legacy lives on: the British Trombone Festival 2026 is dedicated in his memory, Saffron Walden County High School has renamed its Brass Ensemble after him and created a lower brass scholarship in his name, and the National Children's Concert Band has inaugurated the annual Ben Bouzan Award, honoring determination, team spirit, and fun.

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THANK YOU!

**We hope you have enjoyed attending the
British Trombone Festival 2026**

**The Festival will return in 2028 but in the
meantime, keep an eye on the British Trombone
Society website for details of our 2027 events
taking place across the country**

www.britishtrombonesociety.org

**We're looking forward to seeing you
at our next event!**

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