

MASSED BANDS

Organisation of the Massed Bands at the Timaru Contest will trial a new format aimed at improving the public spectacle and making for a neater event. The Massed Bands event will be coordinated with the Championship medal presentation for Juvenile, G4, G3 and G2 bands.

Championship Presentation

The four bands receiving medals as grade champions will assemble at the appointed time. Under the direction of the marshal they will play onto the contest area one at a time, halt in front of the trophy table and stop playing. Once all four bands are assembled the medal presentations will commence.

Band Assembly

As the last of the champion bands plays on the grade 1 bands will follow them, not playing, onto the contest area and form up behind the champion bands. These bands are the 'duty bands'.

At the same time all other bands will assemble at the entrance to the contest area in preparation for their march past.

March Past

Once the medal presentations have been completed the duty bands will commence, in turn, to play for the march past. Each duty band will play three four-parted 6/8 tunes in turn until all bands have completed the march past.

The champion bands will march around and form up behind the duty bands.

At the same time all other bands will come onto the ground, one at a time in street march order, not playing, and march past the trophy table where Officials or Guests will take their salute. Bands will march off to form up behind the duty and champion bands.

Marshals will direct the bands onto the field in turn and into their positions in the formation. Bands will remain in their band formation but will need to move close together to allow all bands to assemble on the field.

Where possible bands due to receive trophies in the presentations will be assembled as close as possible to the centre of the formation.

Playing

Once all bands are formed up they will play twice. Verbal commands will be given by an appointed official via the sound system so that all bands can hear the commands.

The Massed Bands will play "Amazing Grace" with a nominated G1 band playing through the tune once and all bands then join in, playing once through and stopping.

The Massed Bands will then play “100 Pipers” once through at the halt, commencing on the verbal command via the sound system.

Massed Bands will then be given the Command to “Stand at Ease” (but not easy) and the presentation ceremony then follows.

At the conclusion of the presentations D/Ms will take control of their bands and lead them from the park.

Kerry Marshall

National Contest Supervisor.

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