

Doncaster International Concert Band Malta Tour 2015

Karen Latimer

Doncaster International Concert Band arrived in Malta on the evening of Saturday 23 May 2015. The band (DICB) is made up of members from Doncaster Concert Band, Eynsford Concert Band and Music All de Limonest from Lyon, France. Having arrived safely in Mellieħa, we were taken to the Panorama Hotel by kind members and friends from the Imperial Band Club, and thus started a memorable week.

We enjoyed our first morning in Mellieħa in the band room, which had been prepared for us to run a rehearsal prior to our afternoon concert in Gozo. As always, our welcome to the Band Club was very warm and friendly. Those who had visited before enjoyed reuniting with old friends and those new to the experience met new friends and enjoyed the spirit of the Band Club for the first of many occasions!

We left the Hotel at 1pm and travelled over to Gozo on the ferry for the Sunday concert in Xewkija. After being treated to refreshments, we enjoyed an early evening concert outdoors near the Prekursur Band Club. A highlight of the Concert was the performance of a Maltese Medley specially composed for us by Maestri Alfred Farrugia and Anthony Borg; this allowed us to perform something with the real musical flavour of Malta. Our thanks

go to the two conductors for arranging this for us.

In the days that followed we relaxed and enjoyed the hospitality of the Panorama Hotel, the Maltese sunshine and several Cisks in the Imperial Bar. We joined together for a massed rehearsal with Imperial Band Club on Tuesday evening and the joint bands produced a mighty sound. It was an enjoyable musical and social occasion, and helped us to all enjoy excellent international relations!

Wednesday was our special tour dinner and we were extremely well looked after by the Imperial Band Club and the catering team. The food was excellent and gave our guests a sample of traditional Maltese fare. DICB were joined by members of the Imperial Band, and their families, and international relations were strengthened once again in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

On Thursday we travelled to Żurrieq to play a concert at the Queen Victoria Band Club where we were once again welcomed most warmly and enjoyed wonderful hospitality in the Band Club. We were also able to play the Maltese Medley again!

The highlight of our tour was the joint concert at the Mellieħa International Music Festival on Friday evening. DICB shared the stage with the Imperial Band Club and we played a programme which



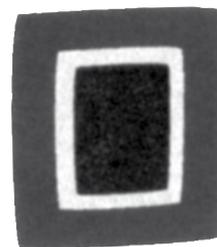
IL-MELLIEĦA

shared our love and choice of music with the kind people of Mellieħa. We were warmly welcomed by Mellieħa Local Council and the square looked spectacular with the grand stage and decorative lights and banners. The audience could not have been more appreciative and we received many compliments on our programme of music and the high standard of playing. DICB were honoured to be invited to enjoy post-concert refreshments and to sign the Imperial Band Club book as a record of our visit.

All members of the band complimented the arrangements and hospitality of the Imperial Band

Club, remarking particularly on the high standards and the generosity extended to us. We could not have asked for more support and a kinder welcome to Malta. Members of Music'All de Limonest were very impressed and I am sure that they will return again very soon. You have been warned! We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Imperial Band Club for all of the kindness in organising our tour. A special thanks go to Josef Borg, Anthony Borg, Geoff and Julie Thomas, Joe Deguara and Jamie Cini for their extraordinary efforts in helping to make our week so enjoyable. We look forward to returning in 2016!

Greystone Bar & Restaurant Mellieħa



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Take Away Pizza
also available

Alex Briffa – Chef
Alfred Xuereb – Manager

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