

Carl Smith - Fanfar de Corlay

Elaine: Carl, can you tell me something about this amazing band that I'm listening to- Fanfar de Corlay? Yes? When was it set up and how many are involved?

Carl: It was formed in about 1946 I think and certainly one or two....

Elaine: Ooh, you've worn well!

Carl: Haha, yes...one or two of the members have been playing man and boy for many, many, many years. Currently there's about 15 or 16 musicians and it's a split roughly half and half French and British musicians and we play lots of different things. We play ceremonials around the Monument for commemorations and that sort of thing. We play for private events occasionally and we play concerts, sometimes with a choir. We're rehearsing at the moment some songs that we play with a choir.

Elaine: Is that the choir from St Mayeux?

Carl: That's the choir from St Mayeux which I conduct as well so I've brought the two together really.

Elaine: Basically you've actually answered several of the questions I was going to ask you. Generally what type of music do you play- 'cos I've noticed quite a range..

Carl: Ceremonial music is usually the slightly more solemn, classical type of things. A lot of marches and then for the more lighthearted concerts and some of the private events then it's more jazzy items and latin, waltzes, polkas. A range really. Some modern things like the Beatles numbers and YMCA is another one that they like, that they quite like to do and so it's a range really

Elaine: And you said it's a fair balance from anglophones let's say to French?

Carl: Yeah, it's about half and half but musically wise we really could benefit with one or two more players. Particularly saxophone and woodwind, sort of clarinet, something like that – we don't have any clarinets at all- we have plenty of trumpets...

Elaine: I noticed that, yes..

Carl: But we don't have any clarinets and that would be quite nice to get some extra players if that's...

Elaine: So what experience is needed for people to join?

Carl: Well, they certainly need to be able to read music to a reasonable standard and to play to a reasonable standard but it's a very, very friendly group. Very welcoming. I know when I first came, about seven years ago, I was made extremely welcome. I've only been conducting for just over a year so I used to play base in the band before that. It's a very very friendly band. Everyone's very supportive of each other which is lovely.



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Elaine: I had that feeling so. Because sometimes people are nervous if they're joining something new and they mightn't feel that they're up to the standard, perhaps, and particularly you don't want to play the wrong note so it does seem to be a good atmosphere...

Carl: Well, people are very welcome to come along, have a try-out, have a listen, play along if they want to and see if it's for them or not and as I said they'd certainly be made very welcome.

Elaine: So you meet when?

Carl: It's every Wednesday at, in Corlay at the Salle ADMR and it's every Wednesday from five o'clock through to normally about quarter to seven, something like that.

Elaine: Thank you very much Carl. I will pass this message out and we'll see who can turn up- I think I'd only be any good with the triangle!