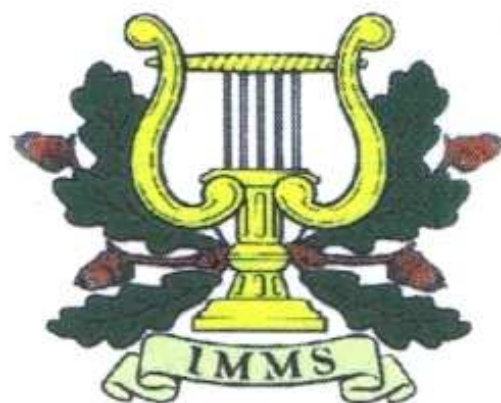


Band International

The Journal of Military Music World-Wide



**The Band of the Royal Irish Regiment (TA)
Director of Music: Captain Mike Smith**

formed up outside the main building at Kneller Hall, July 2008.

August 2009

Polish Branch of the IMMS by Lieutenant Colonel (ret'd) Zbigniew Kus

I had my first encounters with the International Military Music Society in Breda (Holland) during the Taptoo, when we performed, within the area of the Military Academy, a special concert of the Concert Wind Band of the Polish Armed Forces. A few years later (2004), Colonel Krzysztof Kalinski, Polish Army, and I made a decision simultaneously to join the Organisation. The number of members increased as a result of our talks with individuals. We offered membership to those familiar with the subject matter. Consequently, in the Polish Branch of the International Military Music Society, musicians, conductors, composers, and educators (including two holders of the doctoral degree), constitute an overwhelming majority - all of them are professionally engaged in military music.



Band of the Voluntary Fire Brigade of Nadarzyn at the Krynica Zdroj

created the Website www.imms.pl, issued an attractive folder and, through individual talks succeeded in forming the National Branch. At the end of the meeting, Mr John Kroes suggested that such events (meeting, concert, and meal), should be held annually; however, each time with a different band in a different place and declared that he would attend such events personally. We fully accepted the idea and included it as a permanent element of our activities. The Chairman also presented the souvenirs to the conductor and Ms Jasmina Strzelecka - the announcer of the concert.

The concert of the Band of the Voluntary Fire Brigade of Nadarzyn (www.orkiestra.nadarzyn.pl) was warmly received both by the young audience, music fans, and experts who arrived at the place from all over Poland. The repertoire of the band included not only Polish film music and folk tunes but also military music and world standards. They are the first ensemble in the world which joined the IMMS under the special formula of collective membership of the young performers. Last year, the band celebrated its tenth anniversary; and, they have already won several awards including the Gold Medal at the Bands' Contest at Ratstede, Germany (see photo). They also participated in numerous concerts - both at home and abroad (Italy, Ukraine, the Czech Republic).

During the reception, which was held in a friendly atmosphere, Mr. John Kroes exchanged with the participants his experience connected with his work for



Lt Col (ret'd) Zbigniew Kus and Mr John Kroes

On 19 April 2009, we were honoured to receive Mr John Kroes, Chairman of the IMMS, who attended the meeting of the Polish Branch of the IMMS. Right after the performance of the Band of the Voluntary Fire Brigade of Nadarzyn conducted by Mirosław Chilmanowicz, Mr John Kroes expressed his warmest congratulations to all members and the Board of the Polish Branch of the IMMS, on their work, as they



The Radom Youth Wind Band

the IMMS; and, Lt Col Zbigniew Kus (retd.) presented the plan of activities for the forthcoming years. The most important of these are as follows:

- 1 Preparing the Polish edition of *Band International*, which was issued in Poland in the inter-war period;
- 2 Help in the publication of the book "Polish Military Bands in the Years 1914-1939" authored by Zygmunt Chlopek.
- 3 Permanent work in order to increase the number of members including collective membership of the youth.

However, the first step is the formal registration of the Polish Branch of the IMMS at the National Registry Court, as legal entity will allow the organisation to be supported by sponsors.

While this article was being prepared, I received information on another two individual members and one of the best youth bands in Poland i.e. the Radom Youth Wind Band. They also decided to join the IMMS. The Radom Band (www.orkiestra.bloog.pl) is

an ensemble with a thirty-year history and excellent artistic achievements. Besides numerous concerts given in Poland, the band performed in Germany, France, Italy, the Czech Republic, Russia, and Latvia. We give them a warm welcome in our organisation and wish them a further success.

Between 5 and 13 May 2009, the Voluntary Fire Brigade Band of Nadarzyn gave a number of performances in China. The concerts were held within the framework of 9th *Meet in Beijing* International Arts Festival; and the bandsmen performed on the stands of the Tiangiao Theatre, Guang Hua, the Academy of Music, and the University of Chemistry. The Beijing audience responded spontaneously to the performance of the Polish ensemble and gave them a standing ovation requesting more music to be played.

On 5 and 6 of June during the finals of the 20th National Festival of Voluntary Fire Brigade Bands at Krynica Zdrój (Małopolska Region), the band from Nadarzyn won the first prize in the obligatory contest programme and the band marchpast. The finals of the Festival were attended by 25 bands from nine regions.

Salute to Bagpipe Legend

Legendary piper Bill Millin yesterday returned to Normandy - and was reunited with the bagpipes he played to lift morale on D-Day. Brave Bill, 86, piped stirring tunes as he landed on Sword Beach under heavy fire in 1944. He had looked set to miss the commemoration when the Government refused to meet travel costs - but The Sun (UK newspaper) stepped in and paid for him.

Yesterday he was handed his old bagpipes, which are kept in a museum at Pegasus Bridge. The widower, from Dawlish, Devon, also led a parade by a French bagpipe band which struck up Scotland the Brave in his honour. He was given a celebration dinner and a bagpipe concert and besieged for his autograph. Modest Bill said: "I feel very honoured - the welcome has been wonderful. It's good to see how many people still remember what we did."