



THE ARTANE BAND

HISTORY

1872

- The Artane Boys Band was founded in 1872 by Brother Alphonsus Hoope, Superior of the Artane Industrial School, which had been established three years earlier. They gave their first public performance on the grounds of the school for the Prince of Wales (Edward VII). Two years later, In 1884, the Band went on their first tour- to the great exhibition in London!



1886

- In 1886 the band accepted an invitation to play at the Whit Monday games of the fledgling Gaelic Athletic Association on June 14th at the North Circular Road grounds, and began an association which endures to the present day. Four years later, the Band were asked to perform for Queen Victoria on her visit to the Artane School in 1900 and for George V, eleven years later.



1947

- The band were invited to travel to New York, to accompany the Cavan and Kerry teams for the famous Polo Grounds match and to play further engagements in Boston.



1969

Two significant events occurred in 1969. In February the band hall was raised to the ground in a catastrophic fire destroying all of the uniforms, instruments and music. The band appeared on Irish television the following week, and offers of help flooded in from Ireland and abroad, allowing the band to continue.

Then in June that year, the Artane Industrial School closed, and membership of the band was opened up to boys who lived locally, ensuring a seamless transition from school band to a community band.



1970'S TO DATE

- The Band has toured the USA on seven occasions, as well as trips to Canada and Russia. They has also travelled extensively around both Ireland, and the UK. They have played for every President and Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland, as well as Presidents Kennedy, Nixon and Clinton of the USA.
- The Band were also honored to perform on the occasion of the state visit to Ireland by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh to Croke Park.



1970'S TO DATE



- Some of the Artane Boys with James Last

1970'S TO DATE

- They have also shared a stage with performers such as Perry Como, Neil Diamond, U2, and James Last, as well as the Boston Pops Orchestra. They have even featured on an album cover from Australian Rock Band INXS



1970'S TO DATE

- More recently, the Artane Band was asked to open the Oxegen Rock Festival with up and coming rock band, “The Brilliant Things”. But it is perhaps through their performances in Croke Park, the Home of Gaelic Games, that the band is best known, although this makes up less than half their public performances throughout the year

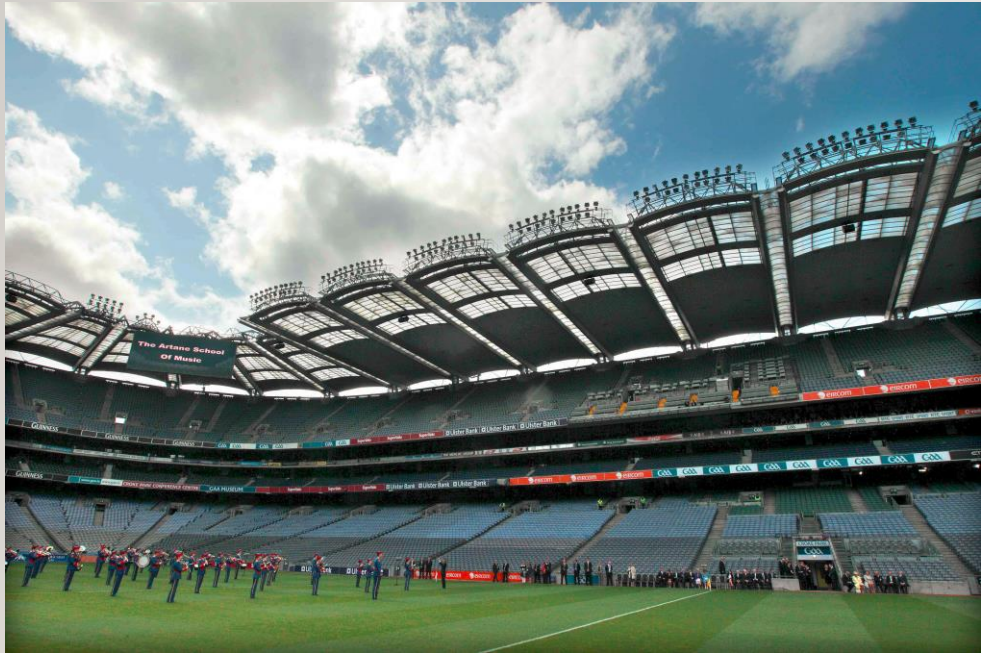


RECENT HISTORY

- Their unique blue and scarlet uniforms are considered to be an integral part of big match days and with the arrival of Soccer and Rugby international match days to Croke Park, the reputation of the Band has led to them being invited to join both the Army and Garda (Police) Bands as part of the formalities at these occasions.



RECENT HISTORY



- The Band were involved in the historic visit by Her Majesty the Queen of England- where it was noted that they had played for Edward the Seventh, George the Fifth and Queen Victoria

RECENT HISTORY

- Like all successful organisations the Artane Band has had to change with the times, the most far reaching being the formation jointly by the Christian Brothers and the GAA in 1998 of the Artane School of Music Trust. “Everyone involved certainly wanted it (The band) to survive,” noted legendary GAA commentator Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh in a recent interview with the Examiner newspaper.



RECENT HISTORY

- The key objective of the Trust was to ensure a sustainable future for the band, and key among these objectives was to broaden the reach to the community. It was noted at the time that there was a decline in boys seeking to join the band, and many felt that it was time to open the band to female musicians-

-as since its inception, in the early 1870s, the band comprised of male musicians only.



RECENT HISTORY



- Ó Muircheartaigh also said, “I suggested that it was time that ‘Boys’ be removed from the band title and it be renamed the Artane Band and I could see the day when girls would be there in Croke Park- but I got no seconder and was ruled out of order for the next few meetings.”

RECENT HISTORY- 2002

- Con Hogan, the recently appointed Chair of the Artane School of Music also tells us; that in 1998 when the Artane Boys Band expanded to become the Artane School of Music, it certainly increased the range of musical opportunities available to both boys and girls in the Artane area, and further afield.
- This year saw the first intake of girls into the band itself, and just two years later, on Sunday October 17th saw the first ever performance of the renamed Artane Band, including 19 girls at the International Rules Match in Croke Park. It might have taken 132 years to happen, but the band now has a nearly 50% female intake!



RECENT HISTORY 2014

Con Hogan, chairman of the Artane School of Music Board of management, believes that the band, through its long affiliation with the GAA, has not only woven its way into Irish society, but that it stands as an iconic branch of our culture and heritage.

Emigrants will tell you of their delight to find a pub on All-Ireland final Sunday, the sight of the Artane Band leading around the respective teams serving somewhat to fill the void for home. This was patently evident to all of the musicians and parents when the Band toured Boston in 2009.

The warmth of the reception given to the band was simply overwhelming, particularly when the band played at the GAA North American finals in Canton MA.



FINAL WORDS

The final words about this Band, a part of Ireland's vast musical history and heritage, can be left to Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the world famous Boston Pops Orchestra

On conducting the band, during a tour of Boston in 1974, remarked "*you cannot judge these children as children; you must judge them as musicians, and fine musicians they are*".

