

Play



Jack Musgrove, Debbie Tasker, Andrew Van Gemert and Lawrence Coop get in tune for the Manningham Concert Band's Autumn Favourites performance.

Picture: MICHELLEKELCEY N99DT208

Let's strike up the band

Manningham musicians of all ages will entertain with old favourites at Sunday concert

Music | Shaun Turton

IT HAS 45 players, with ages ranging between 16 and 86, and plays in venues across Manningham - but it's not a sporting team.

It is the Manningham Concert Band and it accomplishes what many sporting clubs cannot, says musical director Andrew van

Gemert. "It's one of those few groups in which you do get that age and gender mix you don't often get in sporting associations," van Gemert said.

The band, which will hold its Autumn Favourites concert on Sunday, has been bridging gender and generational gaps since it first began performing in the mid-'70s. Van Gemert said the band's wide

appeal, for audiences and musicians, was born out of the broad spectrum of music it could play.

"It ranges from traditional tunes and old jazz to more popular types of music such as the melody from the *Lion King*," van Gemert said.

Incorporating piccolos, flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets,

trombones, french horns, tubas and a large range of percussion instruments, the band's main aim was to give all types of musicians a change to perform.

"I think that community music plays a big role in keeping people playing throughout life," van Gemert said.

"Many people give up their instrument after high school, so

we try to provide that opportunity for people to keep learning."

► **The Manningham Concert Band's Autumn Favourites concert is on Sunday, March 28, 2.30pm, at the Pines Learning and Activity Centre, 520 Blackburn Rd, Doncaster East. Tickets: \$8/free for children under 12. Details: home.vicnet.net.au/~mannband/ or 9846 4527.**