

# New cornet gig bags from Tom and Will

Those of us of a certain vintage who can vividly recall carrying a brass instrument to school or on the bus to band practice will be more inclined to remember the fonder aspects of the great musical adventure we were embarking upon than the heavy wooden box we had to lug around; the one that was sure to give us bulging muscles whether we wanted them or not, but it is a sad fact that cases like this were also responsible for quite a number of young players simply giving up. Yes, being a young brass player in the 1970s was character-building and, 40 years later, some of us still have the callouses on our hands and fingers to prove it!

Then along came the gig bag. As we approach Christmas, there will no doubt be young musicians everywhere who look longingly at the myriad instrument cases that his or her friends use, hopeful that mum and dad (or just as likely these days granny and grandpa) will drop one under the tree for them in the next few weeks. Well they could go a long way to find better and more effective value than the new 26 Series Cornet Gig Bag from Tom and Will, a brand that first appeared in the autumn of 2006, filling a gap in the market for good quality instrument carrying solutions that are both effective and within everyone's price range. According to the company's website ([www.tomandwill.com](http://www.tomandwill.com)) 'it is vitally important to us that a tomandwill.com gig bag should be of superb quality, reasonably priced but also look good in order to appeal to the modern musician! Over the last few years, the company's innovative range has expanded to include over 100 gig bags for a huge range of instruments with new lines being designed and introduced continually.

This bag is available in three different designs - black with olive trim, black with burgundy

trim and purple with black trim - and given that it provides total protection (within reason) for any standard design of cornet, it is clearly excellent value at £61.00 (inc. VAT). The case internals are surprisingly robust for a product that looks and feels so flexible and comfortable on the outside, and a moveable foam spacer with a Velcro fitting and mouthpiece pocket are supplied to make sure that there is no movement once the user's particular instrument is inside. Externally, there is a robust carrying handle, and should you choose to use the bag 'rucksack-style', the straps (which can be tucked away if desired) have more than enough padding to protect the shoulders. There are two external pockets, neither of which are big enough to carry A4 music parts, but the company does also have a dedicated music folder in its catalogue. The lack of mute carrying space may be a drawback for some, but given the selection of mutes that many cornet players use these days it would be unreasonable to expect a case of this size to be able to accommodate them all in any event. All-in-all this is an excellent piece of kit, more than suitable for the vast majority of cornet players playing in brass bands today and ever so much more appealing than what some of us were brought up with!

**Kenneth Crookston**



## Win the latest cornet gig bag from Tom and Will

Readers of British Bandsman and followers of our Twitter feed on @bb1887 have a fantastic opportunity to win one of the latest 26 Series Cornet Gig Bags from Tom and Will.

To enter, simply follow @tomandwillbags and retweet any of the Tom and Will related messages we will be sending out during the

next week. The closing date for entries is Monday 15 December and the winner will be chosen at random from all of those who enter and announced on Thursday 18 December. Normal British Bandsman competition rules apply and the Editor's decision is final. Good luck!