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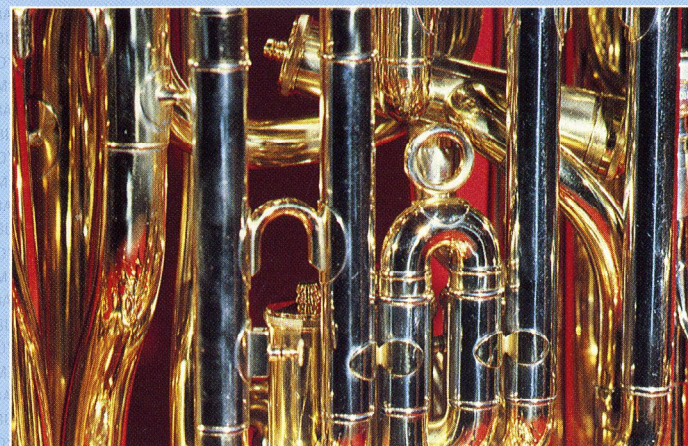
CHANDOS

BRASS



John Foster **Black Dyke Mills Band**

The Concert Sound
of the
John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band
featuring
The Judges of the Secret Court · Three Haworth Impressions



CHANDOS RECORDS LTD.
Coichester · Essex · England

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This is the first digital recording to be made by the famous **Black Dyke Mills Band**. Containing music from six countries it is a travel poster of melody. All aspects of the work of the brass band are shown. There are two original brass band works, a couple of solos, one fine arrangement by Frank Wright which is an established 'Test Piece' and two arrangements which were made especially for this recording.

Track One opens in Norway with music by **Johan Svendsen** (1840-1911). Throughout the greater part of his life Svendsen was driven by a strong desire to travel. Long periods were spent working abroad in places which included Leipzig, Paris, Rome and London. Despite this his music retained a strong national feeling.

The Norwegian Artists' Carnival is one of several orchestral works produced in a five year period from 1872. They are all based largely on Norwegian folk music. During this period Svendsen lived in his birth-place Christiania and often worked with Grieg. The music with its very strong rhythmic opening and broad flowing second tune, marked 'Italian popular song', is a real challenge to the stamina and musicianship of the players.

The Polish composer **Ludwick Grossman** (1835-1915) lived and worked in Warsaw for the whole of his life. He is known chiefly for two operas, *The Fisherman of Palermo* and *The Ghost of Voyvode*. The second of these was produced in Warsaw in 1873 and later had some success in Vienna and Russia. The opera was however outlived by the excerpt which is played here. The czardas *Der Geist des Woiwoden* became at the turn of the century a popular orchestral showpiece. The arrangement was made for this recording.

David Pogson is a native of the Yorkshire village of Slaithwaite. He has for many years been the flugel horn soloist with Black Dyke and has chosen to play *The Shadow of Your Smile*. This music is the love theme from the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer film *The Sandpiper*. Written by Paul Webster and Johnny Mandel, the brass band arrangement is by Dennis Wilby.

Next is **Gordon Langford's** *Three Haworth Impressions*. Set in the heart of the Pennines, on the very edge of industrial West Yorkshire, Haworth is a typical Yorkshire hill village. Like Queensbury, the home of John Foster and Sons Black Dyke Mills, Haworth developed as a result of the hand loom weaving industry. It would have remained just another Pennine village had it not been for the Brontë family. Their literary genius made the village a household name and it is now a busy tourist centre.

Some three miles from Haworth there is a ruined farmhouse. One of the outer walls bears a plaque which explains that the position of this house was probably the setting for Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

The first of these impressions, *Top Withens*, bears the name of this ruin; it is marked *lento misterioso*.

Each of the Brontë sisters used Bell as a pen-name. Anne was Acton Bell, Charlotte – Currer Bell and Emily – Ellis Bell. Gordon Langford has based his second impression, *Three Bells*, on these pen-names. The music is a wistful little waltz which is based on the Ab, Cb and Eb bells. (A musical flat is represented by b – b is for bell, Acton Bell becomes Ab.)

Haworth station is the headquarters of 'The Worth Valley Railway Preservation Society' which runs and maintains steam locomotives on a stretch of track between Keighley and Oxenhope. The railway is managed in the best traditional manner and has been used on many occasions by television and film companies for location work. *The Worth Valley Railway* is the last of these three impressions.

We continue on our journey with **George Allen's** fine contesting march *Knight Templar*. Ask any brass band player "are you going to Whit Friday" and he will know exactly what you mean. On that day for the past 90 odd years quick march contests have been held in many Pennine villages from Stalybridge to Mossley. The competitors range from the top champions to obscure but enthusiastic schools bands. The object of the exercise is to visit as many contests as possible and bands often play at six or seven villages in one evening. One or two have been known to win as many first prizes! Visit one of these contests any Whit Friday and you are quite likely to see 'The Dyke' ploughing its way through the parked coaches and hordes of motorists and the marvellous strains of *Knight Templar* will be filling every available space.

Vittorio Monti wrote his famous *Czardas No. 1* for the violin. He could hardly have imagined that in due course his music would be arranged for the solo cornet. It is played here by Phillip McCann, the band's principal cornettist.

After many years as a successful brass band conductor and trainer and some 25 years as a professional trumpet player **Allan Street** was appointed Senior Lecturer in Music at the Nottingham Training College – now the Trent Polytechnic. His suite *Nott'num Town* provides the band with its next challenge. The movement played is called *Goose Fair*.

The band ends its programme in traditional style with *Les Francs Juges*. This is all that remains of an uncompleted opera which **Berlioz** was writing whilst a student at the Paris Conservatoire. In 1961 Frank Wright was commissioned to arrange this Grand Overture as a test piece for that year's National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. The winners were Black Dyke Mills under the baton of Major George Willcocks.

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- Recording Producer: Brian Couzens
- Sound Engineer: Ralph Couzens
- Recorded in Huddersfield Town Hall on January 25, 1981
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- Front Cover Photograph: David Usill
- Sleeve Design: Gary Thorpe
- Art Direction: Ralph Couzens

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The Concert Sound *of the* John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band

- 1 **The Norwegian Artists' Carnival** (6:16)
JOHAN SVENDSEN arr. PETER PARKES
- 2 **Czardas, 'Der Geist des Woioden'** (6:22)
L. GROSSMAN
- 3 **The Shadow of Your Smile** (3:10)
P. WEBSTER & J. MANDEL arr. DENNIS WILBY
Flugelhorn solo: David Pogson
- Three Haworth Impressions** (12:33)
GORDON LANGFORD
 - 4 I Top Withens (5:42)
 - 5 II Three Bells (3:24)
 - 6 III The Worth Valley Railway (3:17)
- 7 **Knight Templar, March** (4:27)
GEORGE ALLEN
- 8 **Czardas No. I** (5:07)
VITTORIO MONTI
Cornet solo: Phillip McCann
- 9 **Goose Fair from Nott'num Town** (3:07)
ALLAN STREET
- 10 **Overture, 'Les Francs Juges'** (The Judges of the Secret Court) (10:58)
BERLIOZ arr. FRANK WRIGHT

conducted by **Major Peter Parkes** Tracks 1-6
and **David Loukes** Tracks 7-10

DDD TT = 52:48

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