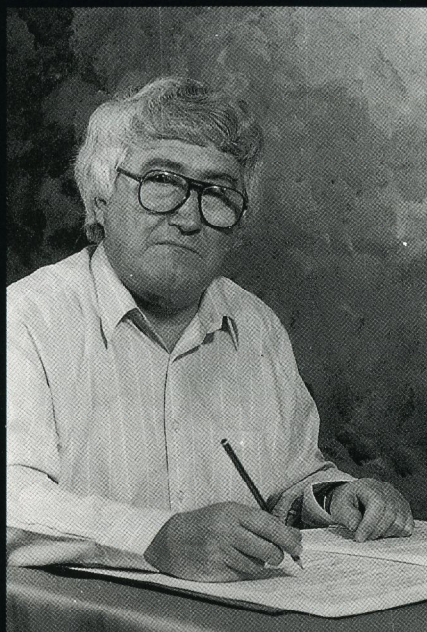


CHANDOS

CHAN 4533

CHANDOS

BRASS



The Spectrum of Brass

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF GORDON LANGFORD

John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band

CONDUCTED BY
Roy Newsome

WITH
Don Lusher
TROMBONE

CHANDOS RECORDS LTD.
Colchester · Essex · England

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The Spectrum of Brass

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- ADD TT = 49:42

DON LUSHER Trombone

JOHN FOSTER BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND
ROY NEWSOME Conductor

THE SPECTRUM OF BRASS

The items performed on this disc show the full spectrum of the brass band style of Gordon Langford, ranging from a full-scale original work to a 'straight' arrangement of an orchestral piece. Between these extremes are a number of pieces in the true Langford tradition, that is, a new look at well-known old tunes.

Sinfonietta, which was commissioned by the North West Brass Band Association, has three movements. The first movement (Allegro ma non troppo), though strongly rhythmical, has a beautifully lyrical middle section, introduced by a solo flugel horn and then taken up by cornets and euphoniums. After a brief develop-

ment and an even more brief reprise, the movement ends. The main idea of the second movement, a slow waltz, is introduced by cornets and glockenspiel quavers. Whilst the cornet quaver idea continues, the euphoniums take up the melody in sustained, cantabile style, and after a short, contrasting section, all the cornets take up the tune, in close harmony, with euphoniums playing a rich counter-melody. An exciting and predominantly rhythmical finale, which has to be taken at one beat in a bar, brings to an end a most unusual but highly successful work, in which the composer combines modern styles with traditional forms.

The *Rhapsody for Trombone and Brass Band* is a masterpiece in both construction and scoring. The superb trombone writing is matched by the colourful band score, and also by the skilful but discreet use of a wide range of percussion instruments. Amongst the many important features of this truly rhapsodic work are what Langford himself describes as 'the big tune' — adding the instructions 'molto cantabile e Luseroso' — and an improvisatory cadenza, with percussion backing. Needless to say, Don Lusher, for whom the work was written, tackles the intricacies with consummate ease.

The next composition, the *Prelude and Fugue*, brings a fresh look at what many may regard as a dangerously academic exercise for a band. Fugue, despite its lofty status in musical form, was treated with great freedom by its supreme master, Johann Sebastian Bach, and in this particular fugue, Gordon Langford strikes a very happy medium between convention and invention. The Prelude is built on two ideas, the first of which produces the kernel of the subject, and its subsequent 'real' answer.

Billy Boy is a Northumbrian Capstan Shanty, sung aboard the sailing ships which came in and out of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Langford does a thorough job of re-clothing this one, with a host of surprises, not the least of which is a touching waltz, no doubt danced by Billy and his 'charmin' Nancy Grey'.

Pavane was possibly the first music of Fauré to find its way into the brass band repertoire. Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924) was a prolific composer, and was on the whole most successful with miniatures, such as this exquisite Pavane. It was written in 1887 and was scored for a small orchestra with optional choir. The choir is

rarely used in performance, and the work is more familiar as an orchestral piece with solo flute.

Waltzing Matilda is a showy arrangement of what was once described as Australia's only folk song.

In the *Irish Washerwoman*, Don Lusher is joined by the three trombonists Frank Berry, Denis Essex and Allan Widdop in a very slick Langford arrangement of one of the most famous Irish Jigs.

Gordon Langford has a flair for the fantasy based on well-known tunes. In the fast-changing *Sullivan Fantasy* we are skilfully whisked through many G. & S. favourites. Such is the musical wizardry of this piece that perhaps it should have been called a 'Sullivan Fantastic'.

© Roy Newsome

Gordon Langford was born in Edgware in 1930, and showed an early interest in playing and writing music. He took piano lessons from the age of 5 giving his first concerto performance at a public concert (Mozart's K488) at the age of 11; his first composition was performed in public at the age of 9. Gordon Langford gained a Middlesex Scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where he also studied trombone. He served with the Royal Artillery Band, Woolwich, giving his first BBC broadcast as solo pianist, with the Band, in 1951. Varied jobs followed, including pianist with seaside orchestras, pianist at a school of ballet, trombone player with a touring opera company, restaurant pianist, vibraphone player with a jazz group, and ship's musician.

During the sixties Gordon Langford began to be featured as pianist/arranger/composer on countless BBC programmes including 'Music in the Air', 'Melody Around the World', 'Lines From My Grandfather's Forehead' (Ronnie Barker), 'Thanks For the Memory' (Hubert Gregg), 'Friday Night is Music Night', 'The Radio Orchestra Show', 'At the Piano', as well as in Light Music Festivals at the Royal Festival Hall.

He won the Ivor Novello award in 1971, and has twice won the European Broadcasting Union's competition for new music for brass: he has composed much original music for brass band, orchestra, and various chamber groups as well as working as orchestrator for several West End musical shows and many American movies including 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' and 'Superman II'. Gordon Langford now lives in East Devon, mostly composing but occasionally recording and giving concert or broadcast performances.



Don Lusher was born in Peterborough, and started playing the trombone in the Salvation Army when he was six years old. Having served in the Royal Artillery during the war, after being demobbed he entered the music profession, playing with many bands and eventually joining Ted Heath. He was lead trombone with the Heath band for nine years and did several coast-to-coast tours of the USA. While he was in the States, he heard Tommy Dorsey and took tuition from Dick Nash and the late Will Bradley.

Don now works in the studios as a freelance musician, performing with many famous conductors including Bob Farnon, Ronnie Hazlehurst and Michel Legrand. He appears as a guest soloist with Brass Bands, Wind Bands, Jazz Groups and Big Bands. He also has his own band, The Don Lusher Big Band, and fronts the re-formed Ted Heath Band. He is a member of The Best of British jazz group featuring Kenny Baker, Jack Parnell and himself and also leads the Don Lusher Quintet featuring Jack Parnell, Bill Le

Sage, Angela Christian and Dave Green. In addition to giving the first performance of Gordon Langford's *Rhapsody for Trombone* in 1975, he has also given first performances of *Dance Sequence* by Gareth Wood (also at the Royal Albert Hall), *Concerto for Trombone* by Gordon Carr at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and *Concertina for Trombone, Strings and Percussion* by Scott Stroman at Lichfield Cathedral.

In 1976 he was voted Musician of the Year by the BBC Jazz Society and eleven years later was awarded The Gold Badge of Merit for Services to British Music by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. Don is a professor at the Royal College of Music, where he teaches the college Big Band, and was made an Honorary Member of the College in 1992. He was made a Freeman of the City of London in February 1993. Previous recordings with Chandos feature the Don Lusher Big Band (CHAN 4512) and Don Lusher and his Trombone Ensemble (Chan 6561).

In the tiny village of Queenshead — situated between Bradford and Halifax — a band was formed in 1837. One of its members, a French horn player called John Foster, owned the Black Dyke Mills in Queenshead, or Queensbury as it was later called. It was John Foster's financial support which enabled a set of brass instruments to be purchased for the **Black Dyke Mills Band**, which still receives the support of John Foster & Son plc, Britain's leading mohair cloth manufacturer and exporter of fine cloths.

In the sphere of competition, Black Dyke first became British Open Champions in 1862 and since then they have won the title twenty-six times, with hat tricks in the years 1879-81 and 1972-74. In 1985 they achieved the first-ever 'Grand Slam' — European, National and British Open Champions. The Band has performed throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the USA. Over the last ten years they have toured Spain, Australia and Japan (twice). The Band has made over 50 recordings and given more than 500 radio broadcasts.



Roy Newsome is well known throughout the brass band world as conductor, adjudicator, teacher and composer, and as presenter of BBC Radio Two's popular weekly programme 'Listen to the Band'.

Mr Newsome is Principal Conductor of the Bristol-based Sun Life Band, following long associations with many of the country's leading bands, including Black Dyke, Fairey's and Besses o' th' Barn. He is also Music Director of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, looking after the musical interests of many of the brass band stars of tomorrow. Mr Newsome has about fifty published compositions and arrangements and his Concerto for Piano and Brass Band received its first performance at the Royal Albert Hall.

Director of many courses, Roy Newsome was for many years Head of Band Studies on the Graduate Diploma and Bachelor of Arts courses in Band Musicianship at Salford College of Technology, and in 1989 was the recipient of the college's Honorary Graduate Diploma in Band Musicianship 'in recognition of his outstanding contribution to band music throughout the world'. In 1976 he was awarded the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians 'for services to brass bands'.

Previous releases featuring John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band

VOLCANO

**SIMPSON: Volcano • HÜBER: Symphonic Music • VINTER: John O' Gaunt
CALVERT: Introduction, Elegy & Caprice • GREGSON: Connotations for Brass Band**

Parkes

CHAN 4522 CD; BBTD 4522 Cassette

CONCERTO

**HOROVITZ: Euphonium Concerto • SPARKE: Concerto Grosso
RIMSKY-KORSAKOV: Trombone Concerto arr. Langford • WRIGHT: Trio-concerto**

WOOD: Concertino

Webster/Shaw/Smith/Childs/Parkes

CHAN 4523 CD; BBTD 4523 Cassette

THE GREAT BRITISH TRADITION

including Sally in our Alley • Carmen Fantasy • Carnival of the Animals Suite

Parkes/Walmsley

CHAN 4524 CD; BBTD 4524 Cassette

THE LION & THE EAGLE

including The Yeomen of the Guard Overture • Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4

The Stars and Stripes Forever • A Stephen Foster Fantasy

Newsome

CHAN 4528 CD; BBTD 4528 Cassette

MORNING CLOUD

including Polka from The Bartered Bride • Overture: The Thieving Magpie

Russalka's Song to the Moon • Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1

Heath/Newsome

CHAN 4534 CD; BBTD 4534 Cassette

- A Chandos Recording
- Recording Producer & Sound Engineer: Brian Couzens
- Digital Remastering by Peter Reynolds
- Recorded at Huddersfield Town Hall
- Front Cover Photograph courtesy of Comstock
- Back Cover Photograph: Gordon Langford
- Sleeve Design: Jaquetta Sergeant • Art Direction: Steven John

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