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**CHANDOS**

**BRASS**

## MORNING CLOUD

John Foster  
**BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND**

**SIR EDWARD HEATH**  
Guest conductor

**ROY NEWSOME**  
Conductor





# Morning Cloud

- |   |  |
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## JOHN FOSTER BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND

**Guest Conductor:**  
**Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Heath\***

**Resident Conductor:**  
**Roy Newsome\***

Brass bands have been a prominent feature of British musical life, especially in the North of England, for a century and a half. They have provided generations of amateur musicians with a satisfying recreation and their audiences with a popular form of entertainment. Interest in this kind of music-making is now spreading across the rest of Europe. This recording contains a variety of pieces by European composers, and displays the technique and musicianship of one of Britain's finest bands whilst at the same time encouraging others amongst our European friends and neighbours to join us in these activities.

In Britain brass bands owe their success to the strong support they receive from industrial firms, as well as voluntary organizations, and to the impact of the competitive festivals held regularly at both regional and national levels. Visiting John Foster & Son's mill at Queensbury near Bradford I was shown with pride the championship trophies held by the Black Dyke Mills Band. Shortly afterwards I was invited to be its guest conductor for this disc. It was a stimulating experience. The rehearsal took place in the small band room in the village used for more than a century. Its walls seemed soaked in sound. The recording was made in Huddersfield Town Hall, a lofty resonant Victorian building. I was amazed at the technique of these players and at their responsiveness; it seemed impossible to demand too much of them. Their artistry was a delight to the ear and their precision a match for any other group of instruments.

The 'Polka' from Smetana's opera *The Bartered Bride* and Russalka's 'Song to the Moon' from Dvořák's opera *Russalka* are both by composers born in or near Prague. The latter arrangement was specially commissioned to feature the principal cornet, Phillip McCann. Rossini's overture to his opera *The Thieving Magpie* provides an exciting Italian contribution, and *The entry of the Huntresses* by the French composer Delibes, has been arranged for this recording by Roy Newsome, the former Principal Conductor. The 'Miniature Overture' from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* retains all its spontaneity and elegance in this transcription. The arrangement of Handel's *Siciliana and Giga* — we need not argue here whether Germany or England can claim credit for him — has been commissioned for this record to feature the principal horn.

Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* has also had to be arranged for brass band but loses nothing in the process.

The remaining two works are original compositions. The *Rhapsody on Sea Shanties* by Gordon Langford, one of the most prolific British composers and arrangers of music for brass band, is woven around half a dozen sea songs including 'Shenandoah', the 'Rio Grande', and 'Johnny, come down to Hilo', with a passing reference to 'What shall we do with a drunken sailor?'

*Morning Cloud*, written especially by Robert Farnon for this recording, is named after my ocean racing yacht and dedicated to its skipper. Through this piece runs the murmur of the sea, over it the screeching of the birds. After the first few bars a melody develops which is built up to provide a splendid climax to the work. For the sailor it brings vividly into his home the sea in all its moods. *Morning Cloud* is honoured by this composition and I am privileged to conduct its first performance.

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Brian Couzens and Edward Heath at the recording sessions

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 were prize winners at the first National Championships, gaining fourteen national titles since 1945, with hat-tricks in the years 1947-49 and 1975-79 and a total of eight 'firsts' in all. In 1978, the Band won the new title of European Champions, which they have retained eight times since. They 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.

*Previous releases featuring John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band*

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Arr. **LANGFORD:** Pavane (Fauré) • Waltzing Matilda • Irish Washerwoman  
A Sullivan Fantasy

*Lusher/Newsome*  
CHAN 4533 CD; BBTD 4533 Cassette

- A Chandos Recording
- Recording Producer: Brian Couzens
- Sound Engineer: Ralph Couzens
- Digital Remastering by Peter Reynolds
- Recorded at Huddersfield Town Hall
- Front Cover Photograph: *Morning Cloud V*, courtesy of Beken of Cowes
- Back Cover Photograph: John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band
- Sleeve Design: Jaquetta Sergeant • Art Direction: Steven John

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MORNING CLOUD - Black Dyke Mills Band/Newsome/Heath

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