

Classic Brass

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|---|--|-------|----|---|----------|
| 1 | Overture to 'Die Fledermaus'
Johann Strauss II, arranged by Winter | 7:56 | 7 | Marche joyeuse*
Emanuel Chabrier, arranged by Gordon Langford | 3:18 |
| 2 | Marche militaire*
Franz Schubert, arranged by Gordon Langford | 3:48 | 8 | Overture to 'La Fille du régiment'*
Gaetano Donizetti, arranged by Gordon Langford | 6:22 |
| 3 | The Plantagenets*
Symphonic Study
Edward Gregson | 11:52 | 9 | Barcarolle from 'Les Contes d'Hoffmann'*
Jacques Offenbach, arranged by Gordon Langford | 2:24 |
| 4 | Cossack Patrol†
Lev Knipper, arranged by Gordon Langford | 3:07 | 10 | España*
Emanuel Chabrier, arranged by Gordon Langford | 5:25 |
| 5 | Concorde†
Roy Newsome
Phillip McCann solo cornet | 5:04 | | | TT 58:47 |
| 6 | Rhapsody on Negro Spirituals No. 2†
Eric Ball | 8:47 | | John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band
Geoffrey Brand*
Roy Newsome† | |

Classic Brass

The brass band's repertoire has for long been enriched by the use of music transcribed from other media – opera, music for piano or organ, and of course from the vast world of orchestral music. A great deal of it comes under that much-used heading 'Light Classics'.

This CD bears witness to the success of many of these transcriptions, with seven of its tracks coming from that field. The remaining three, of music composed specially for band, have almost become 'classics' of the band repertoire in their own right.

Die Fledermaus (The Bat) by Johann Strauss II, that most successful of all the Waltz King's stage works, is brim full of good tunes. Many of them are included, in the manner of a potpourri, in the **Overture**. The operetta was first performed in Vienna in 1874, since when it has appeared regularly in opera houses the world over.

Marche militaire, actually one of three 'military marches', was composed by Franz Schubert as a piano duet in 1821, but in alternative versions has also achieved immense popularity with orchestras, and with bands of all types.

The **Plantagenets** was composed by Edward Gregson in 1971, when he was in

his mid-twenties. It was one of a group of early pieces which helped establish him as one of the most important composers of music for band. Described as a Symphonic Study, the piece sets out to portray the mood and feelings of the Age of the House of Plantagenet, which lasted from the middle of the twelfth century to the end of the fourteenth. This Age of Chivalry is suggested musically by fanfare motifs which occur throughout the work.

The **Cossack Patrol** is a characteristic arrangement by Gordon Langford of a traditional Russian tune, popularised in the post-war years by Lev Knipper, and here given the form of a patrol, depicting a band heard first in the far distance, gradually moving closer, passing by and then disappearing from sight and sound.

Concorde was composed in 1973 and (for no particular reason) named after the famous supersonic aeroplane which was being developed at the time. Though far removed from the traditional type of 'Air and Variations', it is nevertheless a set of variations on an original melody.

The **Rhapsody on Negro Spirituals** which appears on this disc is the second of three

rhapsodies written by Eric Ball, that most prolific composer of band music, who died in 1989. Ball was very fond of the Negro Spiritual and acutely aware of the atmosphere in which the genre arose. The Spirituals used in this rhapsody are *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, *Little David*, *Deep River* and *Joshua Fight de Battle of Jericho*.

Marche joyeuse (Joyous March) is a brilliant expression of joy from Emmanuel Chabrier, a composer who in later life suffered from bouts of deep depression.

La Fille du régiment (The Daughter of the Regiment), one of more than sixty operas composed by the Italian Gaetano Donizetti, is introduced by another popular **Overture**. In the opera the heroine, who has been brought up as the regimental 'mascot', turns out to be of noble – albeit illegitimate – parentage. The opera dates from 1840.

Barcarolle is the name given to a kind of boating song closely associated with Venetian gondoliers. The most famous is the **Barcarolle from Les Contes d'Hoffmann** (The Tales of Hoffmann) by Jacques Offenbach, an opera based on the writings of E.T.A. Hoffmann and first produced in Paris in 1881, a year after the composer's death. It is interesting to note that Offenbach encouraged Johann Strauss II to write operetta, and thus we have a link with the first track on this CD.

España, the second piece by Chabrier in this programme, further demonstrates the musical exuberance of this French composer. Based on Spanish tunes, the rhapsody was written soon after the composer visited Spain in 1882.

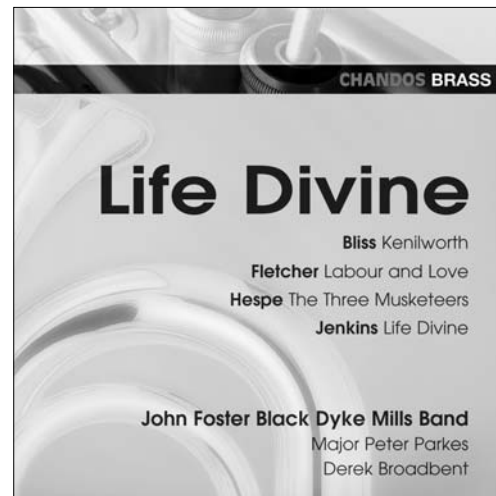
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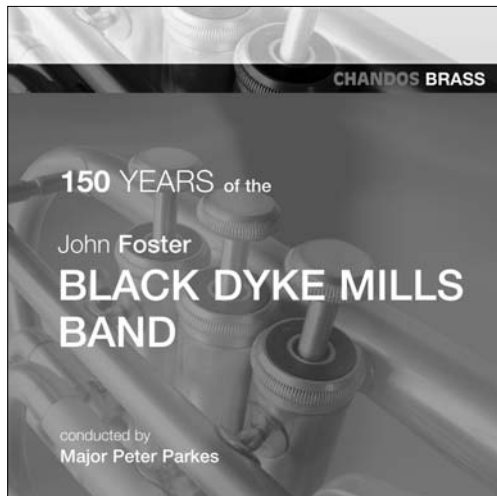
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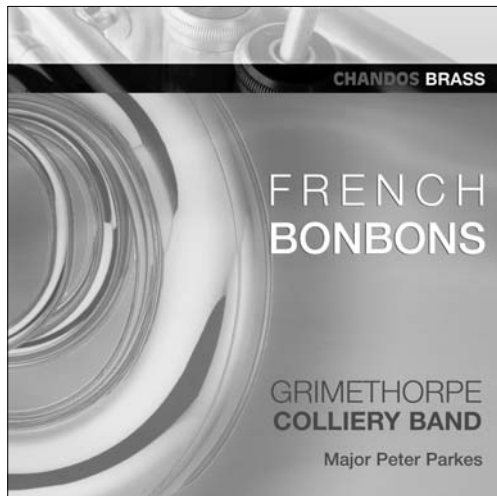
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