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Phillip McCann with the Boosey & Hawkes  
Sovereign large bore cornet, Model 928.

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Chandos  
DIGITAL

# *The World's Most Beautiful Melodies*

PHILLIP McCANN

Principal Cornet, Black Dyke Mills Band

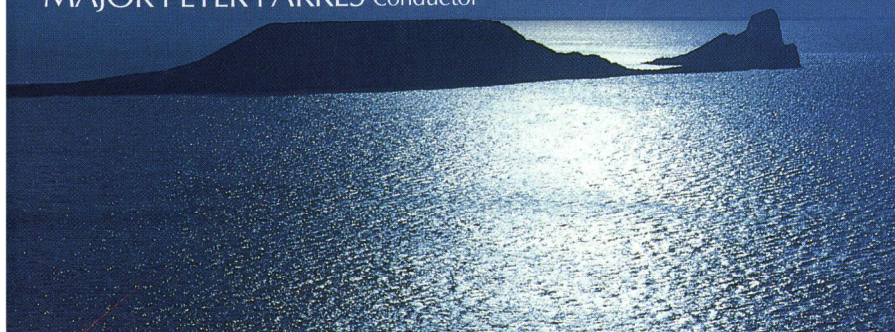
with

BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND

(John Foster & Son PLC)

and Iain Robertson at the organ of  
St. Anne's Cathedral, Leeds

MAJOR PETER PARKES Conductor



What a superb example of lyrical playing *par excellence*! There are no fireworks as such in this collection of cornet solos played by Phillip McCann, but his naturally pure quality of tone lends itself so well to this varied choice of melodic music, both classical and traditional.

Quite apart from the simple joy of listening to such beautiful sounds, in my opinion this album is also an impressive object lesson to all aspiring instrumental soloists—not necessarily cornetists, but any player concerned with breath control, phrasing, style, quality of tone and expression. It is also a splendid example of sympathetic accompaniment and here the Black Dyke Mills Band and their conductor, Major Peter Parkes, make a valuable contribution. Having enjoyed the great privilege myself as a young player fifty years ago accompanied at that time by my father's Band, the legendary Foden's of the 1930s, perhaps I appreciate more than most the importance to the soloist of a sympathetic backing, here displayed to such telling effect by the Band, and in some numbers, by the sound of the organ played by Iain Robertson.

Nevertheless, I also feel that this is not just an album for bandsmen, but rather of interest to *all* lovers of tuneful music. It is truly "The Voice of the Cornet", and with the great progress that has been made in recording techniques in recent years, I would be proud to have this sound with my name on it. There are many clichés about hundreds of records and it is easy to say "This is a 'must'", but this album is more than that—it's for the Archives as well!

HARRY MORTIMER May, 1985

**Phillip McCann** was born in Bo'Ness, West Lothian in Scotland and began his career as a cornet player with the well-known Kinneil Colliery Band. While still a child of eight he won his first solo contest and by the time he was eleven he held the twin titles of Junior and Senior Champion of East Scotland, a success he achieved on two further occasions. During this period he became a member of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, where he held the position of principal cornet for five years.

Gradually the news of his talents became known to enthusiasts in the heart of the Brass Band world, Yorkshire, and Phillip decided to seek work in the Yorkshire area. A friend of the McCann family, Andy Owenson, also a Scot, had already established himself as bandmaster of the Yorkshire Imperial Metal Works Band and he undertook to find work and accommodation for Phillip if he would agree to play for the band. Thus began the career of one of the finest cornet players the Brass Band movement has ever known. Phillip joined the Yorkshire Imperial in 1963 and was immediately plunged into the world of top class competitions. He continued to collect first prizes in the solo contests he entered and soon graduated to principal cornet with the Yorkshire Band and inspired every musician who heard him play.



In 1967 the famous Fairey Band persuaded Phillip to join their ranks as principal cornet and in the following year he was awarded the most coveted prize of any young player: he was named Solo Champion of Great Britain. At only 20 years of age he became the youngest player ever to attain this honour. His time with the Fairey Band gave Phillip the chance to impress the "Man of Music" himself, Mr. Harry Mortimer, who was the Band's Musical Director. Harry has had a major influence on Phillip's career; indeed, he has been a central figure in his life.

At this time, enthusiastic reviews were pouring in from local newspapers and brass band magazines, from people impressed by Phillip's confidence, style and technique. A great deal of his time was occupied with major concerts and competitions, but he also found time to become involved in the amalgamation of the now famous "Men O' Brass" Band, under the direction of Harry Mortimer. This band was made up of the Fairey, Foden and BMC Bands, and Phillip once again was principal cornet player.

In 1972 Phillip went to Canada as a member of the Fairey Band to take part in the Brass Band Festival. They gave their own concerts as well as competing in the Festival, and Phillip was their star attraction, playing many solo works and thus establishing himself as an artist with an international reputation.

In 1973 his career took a significant turn, when he became principal cornet of the world famous Black Dyke Mills Band. He took over from Jim Shepherd who had occupied the top cornet spot for over ten years and had quite a considerable reputation himself. However, at the age of 25, Phillip was by then regarded as the best cornet player in the world and he has brought much luck and success to Black Dyke, for they won the British Open Championship in 1972, 1973 and 1974, completing a hat-trick never before achieved. Then in 1975 they became the National Champions and went on to win both the British Open and the National Championships in 1976. In 1979 they won not only the National, but also the European Championships for the second year in succession. The Nationals were theirs again in 1981 and in 1985 they won the European Championships again in Copenhagen.

Phillip McCann and Black Dyke Mills have made many recordings, including an album conducted by Edward Heath, and worked closely with Paul McCartney and Wings on the making of "Black Dyke Plays Wings" (Chandos BBR 1001). They played at the Royal Silver Jubilee celebration concert at the Royal Albert Hall in 1977, and they have been given the freedom of the City of Bradford in recognition of the band's musical achievements. Black Dyke is also the only brass band ever to appear at the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts. In 1984 they made a 2-week tour of Japan and played to capacity audiences.

During the continued success of Black Dyke Mills, Phillip had a busy concert schedule and also made an impact on television, when he was invited to appear on the Michael Parkinson Show with the band, and to make a special programme with André Previn. He was also invited to take part in a TV tribute to Harry Mortimer to celebrate his 80th birthday, when he played several solo works that had been performed by Harry and he recently played the theme music for the BBC 2 drama series "Anna of the Five Towns."

As well as all his other activities, Phillip became interested in teaching and many young musicians are benefiting from the experience and quality of his knowledge and style by winning major competitions under his tuition. His reputation has spread widely over Europe in particular and many solo contests have invited him to adjudicate for them. He is on the council of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and was involved in the formation of the National Youth Brass Band of Switzerland.

Very recently he has been writing articles on the art of cornet playing and he has been invited by the manufacturers Boosey & Hawkes to demonstrate their new range of brass instruments, which has taken him all over the world.

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## THE WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL MELODIES

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|--|--|
| <p>[1] <b>SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME</b> (2:02)<br/>Dvorak arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[2] * <b>AVE MARIA</b> (3:03)<br/>Bach-Gounod arr. Phillip McCann</p> <p>[3] * <b>LULLABY</b> (2:18)<br/>Brahms arr. Phillip McCann</p> <p>[4] * <b>PASSING BY</b> (1:34)<br/>Edward Purcell arr. Phillip McCann</p> <p>[5] <b>ONE FINE DAY (Un bel di) from</b><br/><b>MADAMA BUTTERFLY</b> (3:51)<br/>Puccini arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[6] <b>NONE BUT THE LONELY HEART</b> (3:23)<br/>Tchaikovsky arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[7] <b>RUSALKA'S SONG TO THE MOON</b> (5:07)<br/>Dvorak arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[8] <b>NESSUN DORMA (None shall sleep)</b><br/><b>from TURANDOT</b> (2:52)<br/>Puccini arr. Peter Parkes</p> | <p>[9] <b>MAIDS OF CADIZ</b> (3:33)<br/>Delibes arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[10] <b>MY LOVE IS LIKE A RED, RED, ROSE</b> (4:20)<br/>Traditional arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[11] * <b>DU BIST DIE RUH'</b> (4:24)<br/>Schubert arr. Phillip McCann</p> <p>[12] <b>THE GIRL WITH THE FLAXEN HAIR</b> (2:22)<br/><b>(Preludes: Book I, No. 8)</b><br/>Debussy arr. Peter Parkes</p> <p>[13] <b>O, MY BELOVED FATHER (O mio babbino caro)</b><br/><b>from GIANNI SCHICCHI</b> (2:22)<br/>Puccini arr. Gordon Langford</p> <p>[14] <b>NON SO PIÙ from THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO</b><br/>Mozart arr. Peter Parkes (2:27)</p> <p>[15] * <b>THE LOST CHORD</b> (5:07)<br/>Sullivan arr. Phillip McCann</p> |
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TT = 50:00

DDD

**PHILLIP McCANN** cornet  
**\*Iain Robertson** at the organ of  
**St. Anne's Cathedral, Leeds**  
**BLACK DYKE MILLS BAND**  
 (John Foster & Son PLC)  
**Major Peter Parkes** conductor

Recording Producer: Brian Couzens.  
 Sound Engineer: Ralph Couzens.  
 Assistant Engineer: Bill Todd.  
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