

THE NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS OF GREAT BRITAIN 2006

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| | <i>Winners - Championship Section, Royal Albert Hall 2006</i> | | |
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| | <i>Kibworth Band, conductor John Berryman</i> | | |
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| 3. | Gothic Dances ©Obrasso-Verlag AG | Alan Fernie | 12.13 |
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| | <i>Long Eaton Silver Prize Band, conductor Sharon Stansfield</i> | | |
| | <i>Winners - 3rd Section, Harrogate International Centre 2006</i> | | |
| 5. | Valerius Variations ©Anglo Music Press | Philip Sparke | 9.07 |
| | <i>Dodworth Colliery M. W. Band, conductor Eliot Darwin</i> | | |
| | <i>Winners - 4th Section, Harrogate International Centre 2006</i> | | |
| | Total CD Playing Time | | 54.43 |

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THE NATIONAL BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS OF GREAT BRITAIN 2006



**FIVE WINNING
PERFORMANCES**

MASTER
DOYEN
SERIES

The 2006 National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain provided a real mix of old and new brass band repertoire for audiences, from brand new commissions to gems of the past, all of which are captured, for the first time ever, on one superb recording.

The Championship Section event proved to be a musical reminiscence for its return to the test-piece of 45 years ago in the form of Frank Wright's transcription of Hector Berlioz's overture, *Les Francs Juges (Judges of the Secret Court)*.

Although not universally regarded as the most accomplished brass band arrangement of an old piece, it nevertheless sifted the top graded bands and proved still to be a musical tightrope walk, even for the skilled players of a modern-day brass band. *Les Francs Juges* also proved popular with the audience, which was the largest attending the Championship Section event for many a year. Together, the piece and the audience conspired to recreate the atmosphere of a bygone era, as thousands formed queues on Kensington High Street outside the Royal Albert Hall in the early morning to savour the thrill of the 'National'.

Further up country in Harrogate's

International Centre, the bands of Sections 1 – 4 battled it out on a selection of new and old test-pieces. Sections 1 and 3 contended respectively on *The Perfect Fool* (written in 1922 by Gustav Holst, later arranged by Peter Parkes) and *Sinfonietta for Brass Band* (composed by Gordon Langford in 1975).

Meanwhile, Sections 2 and 4 competed on newer compositions, respectively *Gothic Dances* (penned in 2005 by Alan Fernie) and *Valerius Variations* (composed by Philip Sparke in 2006).

The winners of each of the five Sections Championship Section - Grimethorpe Colliery (UK Coal) Band, Section 1 – Kibworth Band, Section 2 – St Dennis Band, Section 3 – Long Eaton Silver Prize Band and Section 4 – Dodworth Colliery M.W. Band fully deserved their 'Champion' status. Competition was keen, particularly in Sections 1 and 2, where single points separated the top five bands in the winning frames.

This recording provides a unique opportunity for listeners to savour the winning performances of the 2006 'Finals' and to soak up the atmosphere of what is, undoubtedly, the biggest brass band competition on earth. Enjoy!

© Nicola Bland

DODWORTH COLLIERY M.W. BAND

The Dodworth Colliery M.W. Brass Band is one the oldest Bands on record being formed in 1836. Since its formation, the Band has had several name changes, including Dodworth Silver Prize Band, Dodworth M.W. Brass Band and Dodworth Colliery Brass Band. Following the closure of the local colliery the Band received much needed support and sponsorship from British Steel and became the British Steel Stainless Dodworth Brass Band. This sponsorship enabled the Band to move forward and the ensuing few years were the most successful in the Band's history; the Band rose from the 2nd Section to become 1st Section National Champions in 1990 and were promoted to the Championship Section.

The Band's successes at this time included contests held in Rochdale, Milton Keynes, Grimsby, Cleethorpes, Hardraw Scar and the Isle of Man. The Band made its first overseas tour in 1981, appearing in Belgium and later they also toured Austria and Germany. The Band also competed in and won the Radio Sheffield Bold as Brass Competition and appeared twice on the BBC's *Last of the Summer Wine*. Unfortunately the Band fell on hard times after losing its sponsorship and it folded in the mid 1990s. It was

reformed in 1997 and for a number of years was content just to entertain at local events.

In 2004 with the appointment of a new young Musical Director Eliot Darwin, the Band decided to enter the contest arena again after an absence of almost 10 years. Already the Band under Eliot's Leadership, is making other bands sit up and take notice and in 2006 became Yorkshire Area 4th Section Champions, Tameside Open Champions and in September National Champions of Great Britain.

The Band today continues to go from strength to strength but doesn't want to lose fact that it is still a village band and still performs for local events around the calendar including carol services village fetes and Remembrance Day parades.

More recently the Band recorded an arrangement of the *Ash Grove* for use as incidental music on the Channel 4 series *River Cottage* featuring Hugh Fearnly-Whittingstall, and will shortly be recording a Christmas broadcast for BBC Radio Sheffield.

LONG EATON SILVER PRIZE BAND

Long Eaton Silver Prize Band was founded in 1906 when its former band resigned from the Temperance Society. The Band soon engaged Harry Evetts, one of the leading conductors of the day, under whom the Band enjoyed unprecedented success in the numerous local contests of the time; the accumulated prize money (over £700) being used in 1929 to found the Silver Prize Band Club, where the Band continues to rehearse to this day.

The highlight of this period was winning the Cassell's Saturday Journal Shield as 2nd Section Champions at Crystal Palace in 1927.

Arthur Marshall succeeded Harry Evetts as conductor in 1950 and was to lead the Band to further success, winning the 3rd Section Midland Area Championships in 1951 and 1966, with qualifications for the National Finals also in 1963 and 1965.

The departure of a number of long-standing players in 1974-75, together with the

resignation of Arthur Marshall as Musical Director, led to the forced amalgamation of the junior section with the main band, and a regrading from the 2nd to the 4th Section.

The Band was to struggle for the remainder of the century until the return of its former principal cornet player, Sharon Stansfield, in 2000. Since then, the Band has grown from 17 to 81 members including a thriving training band, and is enjoying its longest period of sustained contesting success since the 1920s. This includes three National qualifications in five years, including second place in the 4th Section at Dundee, and following a number of second and third prizes, its first contest wins since 1966 at this year's 3rd Section Midland Area and National Championships, which confirm the band's promotion back to the 2nd Section for the first time in 31 years.

To celebrate its centenary, the Band has recently issued its first CD and has published a book on its history.

GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY (UK COAL) BAND

The Grimethorpe Colliery Band was formed in 1917 by members of the previously disbanded Cudworth Colliery Band. From the bands first competition at Belle Vue, Manchester in 1918 the bands history is littered with success.

The 1950s saw George Thompson take up the baton as Musical Director and in 1972 Elgar Howarth was appointed as the bands Professional Conductor and Musical Director. This was a defining moment in the bands history with Howarth's own unique compositions being regularly performed by the band along with repertoire by other leading composers such as Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

1984 saw much of Britain in the grip of the coal miner's strike which had a crippling effect on colliery towns and villages. After the strike the mining industry continued to suffer from recession and closures. On Tuesday 13th October 1992 came the sad announcement that British Coal was to close Grimethorpe Colliery with immediate effect. Four days later the band competed in the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall. In an extraordinary performance

the band won the title with a near perfect score of 99 out of a possible 100. The now unemployed players of the band vowed to carry on and keep alive the banding name of Grimethorpe.

In 1996 the band featured in the soundtrack of the film *Brassed Off*. The film, although fictional, reflected the bands struggle through the pit closure and its extraordinary journey to win the National Championship title. Since the release of the film the band has travelled extensively throughout the world, with trips to Northern Europe, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and the United States of America.

2003 saw the band travel to New York to perform in the world famous Carnegie Hall where the band received five standing ovations. In the same year the band also performed at the Proms in the Park Concert held yearly in Hyde Park, London.

The band is in great demand at music festivals both home and abroad, and they continue to thrill audiences worldwide.

KIBWORTH BAND

The Kibworth Band was formed in 1905 and takes its name from the village of its origin. In those early days the players came from Kibworth and the surrounding villages in South Leicestershire. Today they come from much farther afield and travel from parts of Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire.

The Band has kept its home in Kibworth and still identifies strongly with its roots in the local community and as part of their centenary celebrations in 2005 formed a new youth group to encourage future generations to follow their tradition and maintain the heritage of the brass band.

Like many bands it has had its triumphs and disappointments. Taken by the late Bill Scholes and Walter Hargreaves it rose through the sections in the early 1960s gaining a place in the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall in five consecutive years and the Open in 1971.

More recently the Band has achieved renewed success and has hovered between the Championship and First Sections winning the Midlands area on three occasions and attending the First Section National finals in 1989, 1991, 1995, 2001 and 2003. Other contest successes include a 4th place in the Grand Shield in 2004.

In 1999 they were fortunate to secure the services of John Berryman ALCM, LTCL as their Musical Director. John is a respected adjudicator and conductor and his contribution to the brass band movement was recognized in 1987 when he became the 34th recipient of the Iles Medal and in 2004 when he was awarded the Masters Dedicated Service Award.

Apart from a three year period in the early 90s the Band has remained unsponsored and funds itself from its own efforts. They are delighted with their success in Harrogate and are looking forward to the challenges of the Championship Section in 2007.

ST DENNIS BAND

St Dennis Band is extremely proud of its heritage with early records traced to the mid 19th Century, believed to have been formed in 1836 as part of the festivities in connection with the Coronation of Queen Victoria it has continued to function by voluntary contributions up to the present time.

Contest successes include 2nd Section National Champions at Crystal Palace and Alexander Palace in 1928 and 1938. In the Championship Section they have been eleven times The West of England Champions, and gained sixth place in the Royal Albert Hall at the 1978 National Brass Band Finals.

During the sixties the Band played at the British Open Contest at Belle Vue on

three occasions. At The West of England Bandsmens Festival (Bugle) they have been the Royal Trophy winners on 29 occasions including five hat-tricks.

The Band has experienced highs and lows during its existence and following a decline in the mid 1990s showed the determination that has always been present, concentrating their efforts on Youth which paid dividends, progressing from a group of young inexperienced players to the mature Band of the present day.

The Band has qualified for the National finals five times in the last six years rapidly moving up through the sections, and has been promoted to the 1st section as from January 2007. The Band remain unbeaten at contests in 2006



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MCPs



Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull
Producer: Keith Farrington
Sound Engineer: Richard Scott
Assistant Engineer: Shaun Trotter - 1st - 4th Sections
Additional Assistants: Daniel Lock & Phil Hardisty - Championship Section
Digital Editing & Mastering: R.E. Editing
Project Manager: Kevin J Coates MBE
Artwork & Design: GK Graphic Design

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on 28 October 2006 - Championship Section
The International Conference Centre, Harrogate
on 23 & 24 September 2006 - 1st - 4th Sections



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