

BY REQUEST GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND

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| 1. | Death or Glory © R. Smith & Co. | R. B. Hall | 3.27 |
| 2. | Concierto de Aranjuez <i>M/s</i>
<i>Flugel Horn Soloist Andy Holmes</i> | Joaquin Rodrigo arr. Bolton | 4.39 |
| 3. | Of Man River © Crabtree Music Publications | Jerome Kern arr. Freeh | 4.50 |
| 4. | A Fistful of Dollars <i>M/s</i> | Ennio Morricone arr. Dewhurst | 3.41 |
| 5. | Bravura © Gramercy Music
<i>Euphonium Soloist Michael Dodd</i> | Peter Graham | 4.40 |
| 6. | MacArthur Park <i>M/s</i> | Jimmy Webb arr. Catherall | 7.17 |
| 7. | Irish Tune from County Derry © Schott & Co. | Percy Grainger arr. Wright | 2.53 |
| 8. | Overture to Russlan and Ludmilla <i>M/s</i> | Mikhail Glinka arr. Hargreaves | 5.14 |
| 9. | Vilja © Faber Music
<i>Soprano Cornet Soloist Kevin Crockford</i> | Franz Lehar arr. Cook | 5.00 |
| 10. | Finale from William Tell © Boosey & Hawkes | Gioachino Rossini arr. Grant | 3.10 |
| 11. | March from Pines of Rome © Rakeway Music | Ottorino Respighi arr. Snell | 5.02 |
| 12. | Nimrod from Enigma Variations © Novello & Co. | Edward Elgar arr. Wright | 3.34 |
| 13. | Florentiner March © Bosworth & Co. | Julius Fučík arr. Barsotti | 4.19 |
| 14. | Misty © Warner Bros Ltd.
<i>Tenor Horn Soloist Scot Bennett</i> | Erroll Garner arr. Broadbent | 3.24 |
| 15. | Perpetuum Mobile © Rakeway Music | Johann Strauss II arr. Snell | 3.15 |
| 16. | Procession to the Minster © Rakeway Music | Richard Wagner arr. Snell | 6.30 |

Total CD Playing Time 71.03

GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND BY REQUEST

BRIAN GRANT
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

PROGRAMME

Death or Glory

Robert Browne Hall (30 June 1858 – 8 June 1907) was an American composer. His music though has travelled around the world. He is particularly popular in the United Kingdom, so much so that many lovers of brass band music mistakenly imagine that 'R.B. Hall' is an English composer. His celebrated march *Death or Glory* was written in 1895 and is dedicated to the Tenth Regiment Band in Albany, New York.

Concierto de Aranjuez *Flugel Horn Soloist Andy Holmes*

This famous guitar concerto was inspired by the gardens at Palacio Real de Aranjuez and Rodrigo, who was blind from the age of three, uses the music to depict the sounds of nature. The playing of the flugel horn soloist Andy Holmes captures the spirit of the Spanish guitar in this beautiful setting.

Ol' Man River

Ol' Man River is the most famous song from Jerome Kern's musical, *Showboat*. It was sung by Paul Robeson in the first London production of 1928. It is notable for being a bass solo - solos for baritone or tenor being more common. This 'Up Tempo' arrangement by the American Mark Freeh features John Watterson on drum kit.

A Fistful of Dollars

Ennio Morricone is probably the most famous film composer of the 20th Century. He is most identified with the 'Spaghetti Western' style of soundtracks. Featuring the whole cornet section, this atmospheric arrangement by Robin Dewhurst was part of the winning programme for the 2010 Brass in Concert Championships.

BAND PERSONNEL

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Brian Grant	FIRST BARITONE Michael Wells
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCTOR Garry Cutt	SECOND BARITONE Nick Young
SOPRANO CORNET Kevin Crockford	SOLO EUPHONIUM Michael Dodd
PRINCIPAL CORNET James Fountain	SECOND EUPHONIUM Brendan Wheeler
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CORNET Andrew Bannister	SOLO TROMBONE Gary MacPhee
SOLO CORNETS Dan Robson	SECOND TROMBONE Dean Jones
Mark Bowater	BASS TROMBONE Garrath Beckwith
REPIANO CORNET Jamie Cooper	E FLAT BASSES Ben Dixon
SECOND CORNETS Gareth Crane	Shaun Crowther
Mark Smedley	B FLAT BASSES Phil Blake-Convey
THIRD CORNETS Joey Williams	Paul Thomas
David Barraclough	PERCUSSION Carl Ryan
FLUGEL HORN Andrew Holmes	John Watterson
SOLO HORN Scot Bennett	Andrew Lockett
FIRST HORN James Fletcher	LIBRARIAN David Barraclough
SECOND HORN Murray Borthwick	BAND MANAGER Nigel Dixon



GRIMETHORPE
COLLIERY BAND
WINNERS 2010
BRASS IN CONCERT



Bravura Euphonium Soloist Michael Dodd

Using the traditional 'fantasy variation' structure and incorporating folk songs from the four corners of Great Britain, this piece showcases the effortless virtuosity of Grimethorpe's multi-award winning principal euphonium player Michael Dodd.

MacArthur Park

Originally envisaged as part of an uncompleted cantata, the late Richard Harris was the first to record the song in 1968. Songwriter Jimmy Webb said that the lyrics were meant to be symbolic and referred to the end of a love affair. This piece is frequently requested at Grimethorpe concerts.

Irish Tune from County Derry

Percy Grainger was a colourful character; a concert pianist and composer, he had a special love of folk music and traditional melodies. We know the melody as *Danny Boy*, but Grainger decided to call it *Irish Tune from County Derry*. This is the setting he wrote for the Army Band at Governor's Island, New York in 1918.

Overture to Russlan and Ludmilla

The Opera *Russlan and Ludmilla* is based on a satirical fairy tale by Alexander Pushkin and its music is drawn largely from Russian folk music. The overture opens with two vigorous themes taken from the opera's final celebration scene and the overture remains an audience favourite with its brilliant writing and unrelenting rhythmic drive.

Vilja Soprano Cornet Soloist Kevin Crockford

This famous aria is taken from Lehar's most successful Operetta *The Merry Widow*. Sung by the female lead, Hanna, it tells the story of *Vilja*, a mountain nymph who beguiles a hunter with her ravishing beauty. It has been arranged especially for the band's internationally renowned soprano cornet player Kevin Crockford.

Finale from William Tell

The overture to Rossini's opera *William Tell* is arguably his most famous work. It paints a musical picture of the legend of William Tell. The exciting finale, with the trumpet calls representing the arrival of the Swiss army, depicts the moments when Tell escapes the clutches of his enemies.

March from Pines of Rome

Ottorino Respighi was a composer of flamboyant orchestral scores much copied by Hollywood. In this final movement of his four-movement symphonic poem we are taken back to the days of ancient Rome. It is dawn and far in the distance we hear the tramping feet of a battalion of Roman soldiers returning from yet another triumphant campaign. As they draw closer they lift enormous curved trumpets (buccina) in a blazing victorious fanfare.

Nimrod

This, the ninth and most famous of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*, was dedicated by the composer to his great friend, A.J. Jaeger, who had given Elgar much needed encouragement whilst he was struggling to secure a lasting reputation. The music allegedly captures a discussion between them on Beethoven's slow movements.

Florentiner March

Dubbed the 'Bohemian Sousa', the Czechoslovakian composer, Julius Fučík, spent most of his life as a leader of military bands. His worldwide reputation rests on his most famous work, *The Entry of the Gladiators*. *The Florentiner March* was composed for an opera that was never completed.

In January 2000 Brian was appointed Associate Conductor of the Williams Fairey Band, a position he held for a year. During this time he was also Musical Director of the Glossop Old Band, an association that resulted in the band being invited to the British Open Championships for the first time in its history. Thereafter, a period of freelancing has seen him as Professional Conductor for Wingates, Ever Ready, GUS, Carlton Main Frickley Colliery Band, Hepworth (Cookson Homes) Band and Musical Director for two extremely successful courses for the Cornwall Youth Brass Band.

Brian was appointed Musical Director of the Grimethorpe Colliery Band in 2010. In addition to his very busy schedule with Grimethorpe he is frequently engaged to lead conducting workshops all over the country.



BRIAN GRANT

Brian Grant was born in Coventry and began playing the cornet when he was 13 years old. He joined the Bedworth Silver Band and quickly progressed through the cornet ranks.

At the age of 16 Brian decided to follow a military career and joined the army as a junior bandsman. During his six years service he spent a year at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. At the end of this intensive year of study he won the coveted Frank Wright Cornet Prize and Cousens Parchment for excellence in performance.

An audition with Geoffrey Brand led to an invitation to become principal cornet with the world famous GUS Band, a position he held for 14 years. By the end of his playing career he had built an enviable reputation as a soloist and leader.

After moving to Nottinghamshire, Brian decided to concentrate on his flourishing conducting career. In 1996 he was appointed Musical Director of the Newark based Ransome Band. This proved to be a winning combination with notable contest results and successful tours of both Japan and America.



Misty Tenor Horn Soloist Scot Bennett

Erroll Garner was self taught and remained an 'ear player' all his life – he never learned to read music. Made famous by the American singer Johnny Mathis, *Misty* remains a jazz standard and is given a beautiful, lyrical treatment by soloist Scot Bennett.

Perpetuum Mobile

Known as 'The Waltz King', Johann Strauss II composed over 500 waltzes, polkas, quadrilles and several operas. His music is still enjoyed by millions and *Perpetuum Mobile* remains one of his most popular pieces.

Procession to the Minster

Wagner's opera *Lohengrin* was completed in 1848 and is based on a mediaeval legend. The second act ends with a stately procession to Antwerp minster where the heroine Elsa will marry Lohengrin. The procession begins softly as the pair move towards the great cathedral. Trumpets blaze out as they enter the mighty edifice and the curtain falls.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Early Days

Grimethorpe Colliery Band was formed in 1917 as a leisure activity for the workmen at the colliery. It was initially financed by the colliery, a sister company, and a welfare fund set up by the miners themselves. The musicians, most of whom worked at the colliery full-time, perfected their skills through competition. From 1932 to 1945 the band entered 42 such competitions, winning 19 and never coming lower than fifth!

The Turning Point

The turning point in Grimethorpe's history, however, was the appointment of Elgar Howarth as professional conductor and music adviser in 1972. An outsider to the brass band world (although he did play as a boy in a Manchester band conducted by his father) Howarth's association with Grimethorpe was the inspiration behind the commissioning of new works by leading avant-garde composers. For example, the band has commissioned works from such composers as Hans Werner Henze and Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

More Recent Developments

In 1992, shock waves reverberated around the mining community in Great Britain when the government announced its programme of pit closures. It soon became apparent that Grimethorpe was on the list of mines to be shut. Even as recently as 1992, 17 members of the band were employed at Grimethorpe Colliery. All these players were soon made redundant and the future looked bleak. The pit closures were announced just five days before the band was due to contest the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall, London. Needless to say, the pressure was immense, the world's media seized on the band as a 'new angle' for their stories but, as in all the best fairy tales, the band triumphed to become the Champion Band of Great Britain. Soon after the victory at the Nationals a board of trustees was formed to manage the finances of the band through this difficult period.

Brassed Off

Greater international fame came to the band with the making of the 1995 film *Brassed Off!* The film told the story of the fictional South Yorkshire village of Grimley, and how the local colliery's band won a national competition only a few days after the closure of the colliery was announced. The film, starring Ewan McGregor, Pete Postlethwaite and Tara Fitzgerald, was a far bigger hit than anyone could have imagined. For the band, which provided the soundtrack music and the extras for the on-screen band, the spin-offs have been vast. Since the release of the film (whose soundtrack was nominated for a BAFTA award), the

band has toured extensively in Europe, including a film festival in Norway, The World Cup in Paris and the Eurovision Song Contest to an estimated television audience of 50 million! Perhaps the best bonuses from *Brassed Off!*, however, were the recent tours of Japan and Australia, New Zealand & Hong Kong. The band has also recently become the first ever brass band to become an ensemble-in-residence at the Royal College of Music in London.

Brass in Concert

Grimethorpe Colliery underlined its reputation as the UK's leader in brass band entertainment at The Sage in Gateshead on Sunday 21 November 2010 as, led by Allan Withington, they claimed the Brass in Concert title for a record 15th time.

For Band Manager Terry Webster it was a win built on the traditional Grimethorpe values of hard work and musical inspiration. "We dug deep for this," he said. "It's one of the most important contests for Grimethorpe as people regard us as the leading entertainment band in the world. Allan brought his usual selection of great music and our resident conductor Brian Grant and the boys worked hard on it in preparation."

The result was also a personal triumph for Terry, as he retired from the Band Manager post at the end of the year. "It's a great way to go out. I love this contest and to win it again makes 14 great years at Grimethorpe all worthwhile."

Grimethorpe's exciting musical approach won the overall prize for 'Quality of Performance' and saw them select a programme from Monteverdi, Verdi and Vivaldi to Bert Bacharach and Ennio Morricone. With an enhanced sense of style and a touch of Grimethorpe 'player revolt' humour, victory was theirs.