

regionals 2012



1. **The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea*** © Chester Music Derek Bourgeois 17.12
 Championship section: Williams Fairey Band conducted by Major Peter Parkes
2. **Mountain Views** © Obrasso Verlag Bertrand Moren 10.29
 First section: Black Dyke Band conducted by Dr Nicholas J. Childs
3. **Cross Patonce*** © Studio Music Goff Richards 12.18
 Second section: Leyland Band conducted by Richard Evans
4. **Olympus** © Harper Music Publications Philip Harper 11.25
 Third section: Cory Band conducted by Dr Robert Childs
- 5-7. **English Folk Song Suite** © Boosey & Hawkes Ralph Vaughan Williams 9.53
 5. *March – Seventeen Come Sunday* 3.10
 6. *Intermezzo – My Bonny Boy* 3.11
 7. *March – Folk Songs from Somerset* 3.32
 Fourth section: Black Dyke Band conducted by Dr Nicholas J. Childs

*Tracks 1 and 3 by kind permission of Polyphonic Recordings
 Tracks 2, 5, 6 and 7 recorded at Morley Town Hall, July 2011
 Track 4 recorded Urdd Hall, Cardiff July 2011

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Bands in the Championship section will have the challenge of Derek Bourgeois' music. *The Devil and the Deep Blue Sea* was originally written for the National Brass Band Championships held at the Royal Albert Hall, London on 16 October 1993. The winners were the Williams Fairey Band conducted by Major Peter Parkes and it is that performance we hear on this disc.

The composer said of the piece: "There is no specific programme to the music. It started life as a piece of absolute music, but when I reached the difficult fugue section in the *Prestissimo*, I was reminded of the fugue in Elgar's *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*, which Elgar himself described as 'a devil of a fugue'. The final section of my piece was composed in an idyllic cottage overlooking Lulworth Cove in Dorset. Remembering Elgar's 'devil' and with a spectacular view of the deep blue sea, as well as realising how difficult this piece was going to be for the competing bands, I soon found the title that had been eluding me."

Derek Bourgeois (b.1941)

Derek Bourgeois was born in Kingston on Thames in 1941. He graduated from Cambridge University with a first class honours degree in music and a subsequent doctorate. He spent two years at the Royal College of Music where he studied

composition with Herbert Howells and conducting with Sir Adrian Boult. He has composed six symphonies, eight concertos, several other extended orchestral works, five major works for chorus and orchestra and two operas. As well as a considerable quantity of chamber, vocal and instrumental music, he has composed nine extended works for brass band and two symphonies for symphonic wind orchestra. He has also written a large amount of music for television productions. From 1970 to 1984 he was a Lecturer in Music at Bristol University.

He was the conductor of the Sun Life Band from 1980 until 1983 and during the same period was Chairman of the Composers, Guild of Great Britain, and a member of the Music Advisory Panel of the Arts Council. In September 1984 he gave up his university post to become the Musical Director of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. In 1988 he founded the National Youth Chamber Orchestra of Great Britain, which held its first course in the Summer of 1989. He was also guest conductor of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain in 1994.

In 1990 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Bristol Philharmonic Orchestra. He left the National Youth Orchestra in August 1993 to become the Director of Music of St Paul's Girls' School in London.

and completed a hat-trick of European titles in 2010.

In 2002 the band was selected to play for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and have since performed in many of the world's finest concert venues including the Grieg Hall, Stravinsky Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham's Symphony Hall. In 2003 they performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Last Night of the Welsh Proms and were more recently featured during the opening celebrations of the new Welsh Millennium Centre.

The Cory Band are recognised as one of the Principality's finest and most innovative music ensembles. Their numerous CD recordings and live concert performances have received worldwide acclaim.

Leyland Band

Musical Director Richard Evans

The Leyland Band was established in 1946 in the heart of industrial Lancashire as the Leyland Motors Band, taking its name from the world famous truck and bus company. Now an independent group of 30 musicians, the band has retained its local connection and proudly bears the name of its home town.

The past 25 years of the band's existence has been the most consistently successful in its history. After a meteoric rise through

the various sections, the band has won prizes at all the major competitions in the brass band arena. Leyland Band won the 1994 British Open Championships, the All England Masters in 1989, 1992 and 2003 and the 2005 National Brass Band Championships. Leyland Band has also rightly earned its reputation as an unrivalled concert entertainer by producing dynamic and unique performances both at home and abroad. Leyland Band has always fostered a strong sense of originality.

In 1980, the ensemble was the first western brass band to tour Japan, a country it revisited during a tour that also included South Korea in the 1990s. In the last decade, four coast to coast tours of the United States of America are testament to the band's far-reaching appeal. Numerous performances in continental Europe have been a feature of the band's work on the concert platform. It has also had great success at the Brass in Concert Championships, having been awarded the Brass in Concert crown on four occasions.

Leyland Band has appeared in numerous television and radio broadcasts, specifically for the Granada Band of the Year, BBC Radio 3 and Listen to the Band. It has an impressive discography and has recorded over 40 commercial CDs.

National Championships and regained the title in 2011.

From its earliest days Black Dyke Band has always encouraged young people to enjoy music at the highest level; in 2006 under the guidance of Dr Nicholas Childs and with the support of Leeds Metropolitan University the band formed the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. The purpose behind the creation of the YYBB is to inspire young people aged 11-18 who have already achieved Grade 4, using the umbrella of members of Black Dyke Band and facilities of the band's partners, Leeds Metropolitan University.

The band logo of the stag's head and Latin quotation are taken from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster, founder of the band. The quotation translates to:
ACT JUSTLY AND FEAR NOTHING

**Cory Band
Musical Director Dr Robert Childs**

The Cory Band hails from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. They were formed in 1884 and originally bore the name 'Ton Temperance'. In 1895 Sir Clifford Cory, Chairman of Cory Brothers, heard the band and offered to provide financial assistance for them resulting in the band's change of name to 'Cory'.

In 1920 the band gained championship

status and three years later achieved the distinction of performing what is believed to have been the first radio broadcast by a brass band. A significant honour was bestowed on the band in 1976 when they were chosen to represent Wales and the brass band movement on a tour of the USA as part of their bicentennial celebrations.

In 1998 Just Rentals, a locally based company, agreed to support the band, resulting in it being known as the 'Just Rentals' Cory Band. Just Rentals changed their name to Buy As You View to reflect developments in their business and with this the band became known as the 'Buy As You View' Cory Band. In 2007, the band once again became known as The Cory Band. In 1980 the band became European Champions and in 1984, their centenary year, they won the third in a hat-trick of National titles at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

Further contest successes came in 2000 following the appointment of Dr Robert Childs as their Musical Director. During that millennium year they won both the British Open and the National Championships and made history in taking the British Open Shield home to Wales for the first time in the contest's 148-year history. This triumph was repeated in 2002 and again in 2007 when the band won their third British Open title. In 2008, the band won the European Brass Band Championships in Stavanger, Norway

Bourgeois' major works for brass band in addition to the piece on this disc include *Blitz* and *Diversions for Brass Band*, all three used as test pieces for the National Brass Band Championships at Royal Albert Hall, London.



The music of Swiss composer Bertrand Moren is the challenge for the First section bands with *Mountain Views*, played here by Black Dyke Band conducted by Dr Nicholas Childs.

This piece is a musical representation of the impressions that mountains give us. Although it is not exactly programme music, it does carry some quite precise allusions. A very soft and slow introduction tends to conjure up a picture of mountains at dawn, with their true majesty and glory still hidden in the dark of night. Chords gradually rising in a big crescendo open our eyes to a full panoramic view, revealing the main theme of the work in a *fortissimo*. Now the mountains glitter in the glory of the sunlight. As the introduction reaches its conclusion, the character of the music changes as frightening sounds herald the approach of danger or a thunderstorm.

The second main passage of the piece is an *allegro furioso*, which demonstrates just how terrifying a menacing mountain can be, with

major dissonance and violent percussion blows creating the sound of lightning strikes and treacherous landslides.

Then the music gradually calms down leading into an *andante doloroso* reminiscent of a funeral song dedicated to all those who lost their lives climbing mountains.

The final main passage of the piece is a furious *allegro* reassembling all the constituent themes that have contributed, through various parts well-entwined and marked by distinct nuances, building towards a glorious finale. We may be reminded through this passage of the journey of a mountain climber, the effort involved as well as the doubts and hazards faced along the way. Upon the successful completion of the ascent comes the final reward – the revelation of a magnificent view of the mountain landscape.

Bertrand Moren (b.1976)

Bertrand Moren was born on 26 June 1976 and began playing the piano when he was aged six. He studied the theory of music, harmony and keyboard harmony, musical analysis and the history of the music at Sion Conservatoire (Switzerland). He received his first trombone lesson from his father, Geo-Pierre Moren, when he was eight and later with other teachers - Dany Bonvin, Branimir Slokar and Roland Schnohr. He won numerous soloist contests, notably during the Swiss Championship of Brass

solo contest and the Swiss Entertainment Contest. Bertrand obtained his certificate of Advanced studies of the trombone at the Conservatoire of Geneva in June 1999.

He has composed about 30 works for different brass formations and especially for brass band. In 1998, he won the first prize of the juror as well as the prize of the public in the European Brass Band Association Composer's Composition. He also received the Ernst Graf Brass Award for composition.

His musical activities find him composing, directing a brass band, and teaching students the trombone, piano and composition. He also dedicates himself to accompanying principally, brass instrumentalists.



June 2011 saw the passing of Goff Richards after a long illness. He was a multi-talented musician who composed and arranged for all genres of music including brass band, wind band, jazz, light orchestra and vocal music. He was undoubtedly one of the brass band movement's finest composers and arrangers and so it is fitting that a tribute should be made as a celebration of both the quality of his music and the prolific nature of his contribution to the repertoire.

The three-movement suite **Cross Patonce**, chosen as the test piece for the Second section and played here by the Leyland Band under Richard Evans, was originally composed for the 1990 Pilkington Northern Open Championships in St Helens, Merseyside. The historic Pilkington family, who were the sponsors of the competition, still have connections with the glass-making industry and the heraldic **Cross Patonce** appears on the family crest.

Goff Richards (1944-2011)

Godfrey Richards was born in St Minver, Cornwall in 1944. He studied at the Royal College of Music and Reading University. He is best known as an arranger and composer for brass band. Between 1976 and 1989 he taught arranging at Salford College of Technology (currently University College, Salford) and directed the College Jazz Orchestra. He has composed and arranged for many artists and ensembles including The King's Singers, Evelyn Glennie, Phillip McCann, Boston Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Northern Orchestra, Huddersfield Choral Society and Benjamin Luxon.

Goff's many arrangements are now an integral part of band libraries worldwide. His most popular pieces include, *Puttin' On The Ritz*, *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *I'll Walk With God*, *Breezin' Down Broadway*, *That's A Plenty* and *Disney Fantasy*. Amongst his well-known original compositions are

John Foster, apart from being the founder of Black Dyke Mills, played French Horn in this band. It has been said on many occasions that Black Dyke was formed from it; however, this is not strictly true, as "Peter Wharton's band went out of existence through loss of members".

In 1833 a new band was formed named 'Queenshead Band', which may well have contained players from the former band. It is reported that this band reached their zenith from 1838 to 1843, at which time it consisted of 18 musicians. However, it is recorded in the Halifax Courier of the 15 September 1855 that: *"Queenshead Band formed early in the century by residents came into difficulties. John Foster & Son, having lately become acquainted with the depressed state of the band determined to make an effort themselves to raise it up again. Accordingly they have purchased from that eminent maker, Mr. Joseph Higham, of Manchester, a new set of instruments which have this week been delivered to the band, which in future is to be denominated Black Dyke Mills Band. A new and talented leader, as well as several performers, have been added to the band which now comprises 18 musicians. Messrs. Fosters have provided for them a comfortable room in which they will meet for practising"*

In recognition of its continued success, services to music in general and the region in particular, the band was awarded the Honorary

Freedom of the City by the City of Bradford in 1976. This honour was reaffirmed in 2008.

In April 2005 they became European Champions for the eleventh time and in September 2005 the band was awarded first prize at the British Open Championship held in Symphony Hall, Birmingham. In December 2005 a unique partnership was formed when Black Dyke Band and Leeds Metropolitan University joined together, building upon the success of the university's cultural links with Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre, Harrogate International Festival and the West Yorkshire Playhouse. This partnership will form a strategy for long-term support.

In 2006 they won all three prizes at the 'British Open', Joseph Cook (Eb Tuba) was awarded Best Soloist, Peter Roberts, Best Soprano Cornet and the band was placed first. Although they have not entered the competition every year this was the 29th time that they had been declared 'British Open Champions'. In August 2007 the band was invited to take part in the BBC Promenade Concerts held in the Royal Albert Hall, London. At the National Championship of Great Britain contest in October 2009, Black Dyke Band retained the title and although the band have not entered the competition every year, this was the 22nd occasion that they have won the title. In June 2009 the band became Champion Band at the English

Williams Fairey Band

Conducted by Major Peter Parkes

Founded in 1937 by a group of employees at the Fairey Aviation Works in Stockport, the band achieved many musical successes under the brilliant direction of Harry Mortimer, their Musical Director for over 30 years. Since those early days, the band has been 16 times British Open Champions and National Champions of Great Britain on nine occasions. Winners of the BBC 'Best of Brass' and Granada 'Band of the Year' titles add further touches of distinction to this famous Band.

The early to mid 1990s was probably the most successful period in the band's history, winning both the British Open and National titles in 1993, before going on to complete a unique 'treble' when they were crowned European Champions in 1994. The band is also extremely proud of its successes at the annual Whit Friday marches – most notably in 1997 when they achieved 10 first prizes, two second prizes and a third prize of the 13 contests that they attended! All this and more makes up the pedigree of what is, undoubtedly, one of the world's leading brass bands.

Since its formation the band has seen an illustrious line-up of conductors including Harry Mortimer, Leonard Lamb, Kenneth Dennison, Richard Evans, Walter Hargreaves, Geoffrey Brand, Major Peter

Parkes, Roy Newsome, James Gourlay, Howard Snell, Bryan Hurdley and Allan Withington. The band is in constant demand for concerts, both at home and abroad. Overseas tours have included performances in Canada, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. In recent years, the band has enjoyed further recognition outside the confines of the brass band movement, with its involvement in the 'Acid Brass' project. Under this banner, the band has been able to display its flexibility in adapting to a totally different musical concept and consequently, has performed in rock/pop festivals in the UK and overseas.

After several lean contesting years 2010 saw a remarkable resurgence in the band's fortunes, with overall victory in the Tameside Whit Friday March competitions and an invitation to the 2011 European Brass Band Championship in Montreux courtesy of their victory at the English National Championships. Further success followed with runner-up spots at the 'British Open' and 'Brass in Concert' Championships and a third placing at the National Championships of Great Britain.

Black Dyke Band

Music Director Dr Nicholas J. Childs

In 1816 Peter Wharton founded a brass and reed band in the Yorkshire village of Queenshead, later to become Queensbury.

The Aeronauts, Oceans, Hollywood, Voyage of Discovery and Taylor Made, which was dedicated to the former principal cornet player of the Fairey Band, Brian Taylor and was used as the signature tune for BBC GMR Brass, the weekly brass programme from Manchester.



Third section bands have to get to grips with a brand new piece by Philip Harper, *Olympus*, played on this CD by the Cory Band under Dr Robert Childs. It begins with the exciting *Opening Ceremony* where fanfares and sudden swells add to the cosmopolitan flag-waving clamour. Without a break the music leads to *The Chariot Race*, a fast compound-time gallop with thundering hooves in the basses and percussion and a heroic melody introduced by the tenor horns. Chariot racing was the main equestrian event in the Ancient Greek Games, which were founded in memory of King Oenomaus. In the Greek legend he suffered defeat in a chariot race with his prospective son-in-law, and Zeus' grandson, Pelops, but much of the music is bitter-sweet to symbolise the fact that Pelops had to cheat to win – drawing parallels with some of the issues faced in modern times.

A slow, mystical section follows, describing *The Temple of Zeus at Olympia*. The statue of Zeus, who was honoured throughout

the Ancient Games' history, was housed inside the temple and was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The next section is called *The Olympic Flame* and a broad and lyrical anthem-like melody develops slowly in the euphoniums, which gradually ascends until the horns can take it over before passing upwards again to the cornets (*Higher*). The music bursts into life at the lighting of the flame and the regular rhythmic pattern which has been established is given an *accelerando* (*Faster*).

The final section is called *The Olympic Truce* and aims to capture the co-operative spirit of the ancient practice of ending wars for the duration of the games. The anthem-like melody makes a return (*Stronger*) and the work ends as it began – with a blaze of colour and a real sense of optimism and global celebration.

Throughout, the motto '*Citius, Altius, Fortius*' (Faster, Higher, Stronger) is brought to musical life.

Philip Harper (b.1973)

Philip Harper was born on the 26 April 1973 in Oxford, England. He graduated from the University of Bristol in 1994 before going on to take a Masters Degree in Composition and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education. He had a successful performing career and was the principal tenor horn of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain

and the Sun Life Band in Bristol, as well as winning through to the Brass Final of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in 1991. Between 1996 and 1998 he lived in Japan and was a guest soloist with most of the 'British-style' brass bands during this time. Philip began his conducting career in 1998 and by 2001 had become the Musical Director of the Flowers Band in Gloucester, a position he held for nearly eight years. During this time Philip guided the band to victory at the West of England Area, the Grand Shield, Butlins National Championships and four times at the Yeovil Entertainment Contest.

Philip is now in demand as a guest conductor and works with bands of all abilities, from non-contesting bands to the Grimethorpe Colliery Band. He is particularly popular as a Youth Band conductor and has had many repeat bookings with both the Gwent Youth Band and the Cornwall Youth Band.

Philip is a prolific composer, having won the Huntley Cup for Composition and the Prize for Best New Composition at Brass in Concert twice. His music is now played all over the world and he has been commissioned by many bands, including the Black Dyke Band and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. His website gives more detail and a chance to listen to excerpts of his music. Philip is the Music Editor of the famous Wright & Round publishing company.

Amongst his major works are *Willow Pattern, Kingdom of Dragons, Magee's Patrol, Lionheart, Hebridean Lullaby, Diamond Salute, Beyond the Tamar, A Gallimaufry Suite, Queen Isobel's Prayer, A Celtic Promise, The Legend of Sangeet, Sword, Jewel and Mirror* and *Denis Wright Variations*.



Black Dyke Band, conducted by Dr Nicholas Childs, play the piece chosen for the Fourth section, *English Folk Song Suite* by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

Written in 1923 for military band, the *English Folk Song Suite* is one of Vaughan Williams' most famous works. In 1924 the piece was arranged for full orchestra and also brass band by Vaughan Williams' student, Gordon Jacob. The suite consists of three movements: March, Intermezzo and another March, all of which are subtitled with English folk song names. The first march is based upon the folk song *Seventeen Come Sunday*, This melody is followed by *Pretty Caroline* as a quiet interlude. A third tune, *Dives and Lazarus* is then heard. The Intermezzo is based on the folk song *My Bonny Boy*. Halfway through the movement, a *Poco allegro* begins on *Green Bushes*, a typically English waltz.

The final movement is entitled Folk Songs from Somerset and features the folk song *Blow Away the Morning Dew* or *The Baffled Knight*. This melody is then shared around the band before finishing with a *fortissimo* reprise. A second melody (*High Germany*) then takes over. As this second melody dies away the original melody is heard once again with the tutti reprise. This then leads into the time change (6/8) and the trio. The trio introduces a more delicate melody, *Whistle, Daughter, Whistle* and continues until the time signature changes back to the original 2/4. Along with this time change comes a final heavy melody, *John Barleycorn*.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Ralph Vaughan Williams was born in Down Ampney, Gloucestershire on 12 October 1872 and became the founder of the nationalist movement in English music. Vaughan Williams studied at Trinity College, Cambridge and at the Royal College of Music under two major figures of the late 19th-century renaissance of English music, Sir Charles Stanford and Sir Hubert Parry. In 1897-98 he studied in Berlin under the noted composer Max Bruch and in 1909 in Paris under Maurice Ravel. About 1903 he began to collect folk songs and in 1904-06 he was musical editor of The English Hymnal, for which he wrote his celebrated *Sine Nomine* (For All the Saints). After artillery service in World War I he became professor of composition at the Royal College of Music.

His studies of English folk song and his interest in English music of the Tudor period enabled him to incorporate folk songs, medieval scales and rhythmic freedom into a musical style at once highly personal and deeply English.

Vaughan Williams' compositions include orchestral, stage, chamber, and vocal works. His three Norfolk Rhapsodies (numbers 2 and 3 were later withdrawn), notably the first in E minor (first performed in 1906), were the first works to demonstrate his integration of folk song contours into a distinctive melodic and harmonic style. His nine symphonies cover a vast expressive range. Especially popular are the second, *A London Symphony*, and the seventh, *Sinfonia Antartica* (1953), an adaptation of his music for the film *Scott of the Antarctic* (1949). He also wrote many part-songs as well as hymn and folk-song settings.

Although his predecessors in English music, Sir Edward Elgar, Sir Hubert Parry and Sir Charles Stanford remained within the continental tradition, Vaughan Williams, like such nationalist composers as the Russian Modest Mussorgsky, the Czech Bedrich Smetana and the Spanish Manuel de Falla, turned to folk song as a wellspring of native musical style.

John Maines 2011