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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Washington Grays ©Hawkes & Son | Claudio Grafulla | 4.12 |
| 2. | The Ruler of the Spirits M/s | Carl Maria von Weber arr. Gay | 6.12 |
| 3. | Waltz Song from <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
©Wright & Round | Charles Gounod arr. Rimmer | 3.52 |
| | Cornet Soloist Mark Wilkinson | | |
| 4. | Galop ©Rakeway Music | Dmitri Shostakovich arr. Snell | 1.47 |
| 5. | O Magnum Mysterium ©Faber Music | Morten Lauridsen arr. Littlemore | 6.13 |
| 6. | La Virgen de la Macarena M/s
Soprano Soloist Richard Poole | Rafael Mendez | 3.22 |
| 7. | Hunting Wabbits ©RADical Music
Featuring John Barber – Trombone | Gordon Goodwin arr. Dewhurst | 4.48 |
| 8. | Love Unknown ©The Music Company UK | John Ireland arr. Robson | 4.00 |
| 9. | Dundonnell from <i>Hymn of the Highlands</i> ©Anglo Music | Philip Sparke | 6.03 |
| 10. | To the Ancient Crosses ©Astute Music | Andy Scott | 3.44 |
| 11. | Postcard from Luthermuir
©North Music Holland | Kevin Birch | 5.41 |
| | Flugel Horn Soloist Helen Williams | | |
| 12. | Armenian Fire Dance! ©Obrasso Verlag | Goff Richards | 3.21 |
| 13. | Moon River ©Obrasso Verlag | Henry Mancini arr. Fernie | 3.15 |
| 14. | Weber's Last Waltz ©Wright & Round
Euphonium Soloist Glyn Williams | William Rimmer arr. Parry | 7.23 |
| 15. | A Little Prayer ©Faber Music
Marimba Soloist Mark Landon | Evelyn Glennie | 4.39 |
| 16. | Finale from <i>Symphony No.7</i>
©Rakeway Music | Ludwig van Beethoven arr. Snell | 6.31 |

Total CD Playing Time 76.18

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DOY CD291



PATRONS' CHOICE V

for Granville Jennings

FODEN'S BAND

CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL FOWLES

Programme Notes

Washington Grays *Claudio Grafulla*

No Foden's Band *Patrons' Choice* CD would be complete without a march to open. An American march in origin, **Washington Grays** was composed for the 8th Regiment, New York State Militia, based at the Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx by Claudio Grafulla. The 'grays' in the title refers to the colour of the regimental uniforms.

The Ruler of the Spirits *Carl Maria von Weber arr. Bram Gay*

Carl Maria von Weber wrote **The Ruler of the Spirits** as a concert overture in 1811, a revision of the overture to his unfinished opera, *Rübezahl*, of 1805. Arranged for brass band by Bram Gay, this overture is fiendishly difficult and displays the sweet soprano cornet sound of Richard Poole.

Waltz Song from *Romeo and Juliet* *Charles Gounod arr. Drake Rimmer* *Cornet Soloist Mark Wilkinson*

Taken from Charles Gounod's operatic version of Shakespeare's play, Juliet's *Waltz Song* (*Je veux vivre*) is a familiar soprano aria. Principal cornetist Mark Wilkinson gives a sparkling performance of Drake Rimmer's arrangement, by special request of Granville Jennings, to whom this CD is dedicated.

Galop *Dmitri Shostakovich arr. Howard Snell*

Foden's romp through this exciting galop from Howard Snell's arrangement of Dmitri Shostakovich's musical comedy *Moskva, Cheryomushki*. Blink and you'll miss it!

Personnel

Conductor
 Michael Fowles

Principal Cornet
 Mark Wilkinson

Solo Cornet
 Nick Jackson
 Paul McDonald
 Ian Raisbeck

Soprano
 Richard Poole

Repiano
 Melanie Whyte

2nd Cornet
 Andy Rolfe
 Fumika Kimura

3rd Cornet
 Nicky Lees
 Tim Hewitt

Flugel Horn
 Helen Williams

Solo Horn
 Lesley Howie

1st Horn
 Chris Haigh

2nd Horn
 Andrew Howard-Smith

Solo Euphonium
 Glyn Williams

2nd Euphonium
 Mark Bousie

Solo Baritone
 Natsumi Inaba

2nd Baritone
 Mike Warriner

Solo Trombone
 John Barber

2nd Trombone
 Ben Knowles

Bass Trombone
 Shaun Farrington

E♭ Bass
 Stewart Baglin
 Matthew Hindle

B♭ Bass
 Alan Hodgkinson
 Chris Reedy

Percussion
 Mark Landon
 Anthony Mann
 Jenny Moore
 Eve Mouldsdale

Granville Jennings



Granville Jennings was born in Wigan in 1930 and came from a banding family; his father played cornet in Abram Colliery Band (later to become Bickershaw Colliery Band) and his Uncle Stanley Jennings was MD of Bolsover Colliery Band.

Granville's first band was Wigan British Legion Band, then he moved to Coppull Band, working with Musical Director Harry Bentham. It was with this band that he was put on soprano cornet, eventually moving on Wingates Band in the early 1950s. Before his audition with Foden's in 1963, he also played for Haigh Band and Lower Ince Band.

Granville joined Foden's on soprano and helped them win the 1964 British Open on *Lorenzo*, under the legendary conductor, Rex Mortimer. Staying with Foden's until 1974, he moved to the Royal Doulton Band, under the baton of Ted Gray (former principal cornet with Foden's) and was then enticed by a conducting position of his own at Berisford Band, where he remained from 1978 until 1990.

Granville then returned to his first love, Foden's Band, where he has worked alongside his pal, Jimmie Charles, with the music library ever since.

The last 12 years of Granville's working life, up to his retirement in 1995, were spent teaching brass in schools. He still plays soprano with Sandbach U3A Band and Winterley Methodist Band, and lives in Sandbach with his wife of 56 years, Evelyn.

O Magnum Mysterium *Morten Lauridsen arr. Phillip Littlemore*

O Magnum Mysterium is a responsorial chant from the Matins of Christmas Day and this version was reworked by Morten Lauridsen as a choral piece in 1994. This arrangement by Phillip Littlemore for brass band is beautiful, extremely emotional and displays Foden's Band's breadth and warmth of tone.

La Virgen de la Macarena *Rafael Mendez* *Soprano Cornet Soloist Richard Poole*

Richard Poole was appointed as Soprano Cornet with Foden's in 2010 after several years as a solo cornet player with the band. He is rapidly making a real name for himself within the banding movement, a fact that is more than demonstrated with his breathtaking technique in this classic Rafael Mendez solo.

Hunting Wabbits *Gordon Goodwin arr. Robin Dewhurst* *Featuring John Barber – Trombone*

Made famous by Gordon Goodwin's Big Phat Band, an 18-piece jazz ensemble based in California, **Hunting Wabbits** features the jazz improvisational skills of Foden's long-standing solo trombonist, John Barber, in Robin Dewhurst's arrangement.

Love Unknown *John Ireland arr. Steve Robson*

Hymn tune settings are always a favourite with the patrons of Foden's Band and this famous melody from the pen of John Ireland, arranged by Steve Robson, is no exception.

Dundonnell from *Hymn of the Highlands* Philip Sparke

Hymn of the Highlands is a seven-movement original work for brass band by Philip Sparke, which explores the descriptive characteristics of the geographical area of Scotland known as the 'Highlands'. Its finale is **Dundonnell**, a rousing portrait of a beautiful part of the country.

To the Ancient Crosses Andy Scott

Sandbach Town Council have been huge supporters of the Foden's Band for many years. In 2011, the Band commissioned Composer in Residence, Andy Scott, to compose a piece of music to celebrate this association. The title and inspiration for the music is taken from the large, elaborately carved Saxon stone crosses which can be found in the cobbled market square of Sandbach.

Postcard from Luthermuir Kevin Birch
Flugel Horn Soloist Helen Williams

Composed by Foden's patron and Sandbach resident Kevin Birch, this solo was written and dedicated to Helen Stewart when she was diagnosed with cancer. The piece was written at the request of her sister, Fiona Rolfe. Sadly, Helen lost her battle in early 2010. This first recording of **Postcard from Luthermuir** is performed sensitively on the flugel horn by Helen Williams, especially for the Rolfe family.

Armenian Fire Dance! Goff Richards

Goff Richards was a prolific composer and arranger of brass band music, many of his pieces having become established favourites across the banding world. His death in 2011 was a huge loss to the movement. Foden's Band spins through his **Armenian Fire Dance** as its tribute to his talents.

This highly successful start to his career led to him being much in demand with bands all over the country. Further relationships have seen him work with BT Band and Ratby Co-operative Band. As Professional Conductor he has worked with both Flowers Band and Tredegar and as Associate Conductor with Leyland Band. Indeed he has enjoyed contest success with every band he has worked with on a regular basis!

Michael also has a reputation for high quality entertaining concert programming and has worked with bands such as Fairey and Carlton Main Frickley Colliery.

Educational work also forms an important part of Michael's musical life. He has been Trombone Tutor to the Wessex Band Summer School since 1990 and a member of the conducting team since 1994. This culminated with him being appointed to the position of Musical Director in 2010. He has been a regular visitor to the ensembles of the Barnsley Performing Arts Department and has also delivered staff training on conducting for that service. He is also a regular guest conductor for school projects in both Staffordshire and Leicestershire and undertakes much training work with bands of all levels from championship section to youth.

Once described as 'One of the leading young interpreters of modern brass styles' (Brass Band World magazine) Michael has packed much experience into his career so far, having conducted at International Festivals, recorded for both BBC Radio 2 and 3, recorded many commercial CDs, directed premières and conducted concerto appearances of eminent soloists. His skills of accompaniment are held in high regard and in 2007 he conducted the Concerto Final of the Soloist Competition of the European Brass Band Championships to critical acclaim.

In addition to his work with Ratby Co-operative Band, 2009 saw Michael delighted to accept two major appointments. Firstly, following a win at the 2008 Scottish Open as guest conductor, to become Professional Musical Director of the Co-operative Funeralcare Band, a relationship that has already enjoyed further success by becoming the 2010 All England International Masters Champions and secondly, in somewhat of a musical full circle, to become Associate Conductor of Foden's Band.

Michael Fowles



Widely regarded as one of the leading conductors of his generation, Michael's earliest musical education came from the peripatetic services of North Staffordshire. This led to honours degree studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, during which time he undertook a post graduate course studying conducting with Howard Snell and was a member of the trombone section of Britannia Building Society (Foden's) Band.

Upon completion of his studies Michael was invited to work at the RNCM as a conductor and administrator, working with the brass band, brass ensembles and within the Opera Department excerpt programme, which he did for five years.

Whilst working at the RNCM, Michael's conducting career took flight with the Point of Ayr Band from North Wales. During his five-year tenure the band enjoyed what is arguably its most successful period, winning the Welsh Regional Championships twice, many entertainment contest victories and in 1998 representing Wales at the European Championships, gaining third prize.

Moon River *Henry Mancini arr. Alan Fernie*

Moon River was composed in 1961, with words by Johnny Mercer and music famously by Henry Mancini, and won the Academy Award the same year for Best Original Song. Written originally for Audrey Hepburn to sing in the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, it has been covered by many artistes and works equally as well in this arrangement for brass band by Alan Fernie. A classic.

Weber's Last Waltz *William Rimmer arr. Hugh Parry* *Euphonium Soloist Glyn Williams*

Glyn Williams has recorded many euphonium solos with Foden's Band, both new and old. After the success of his 2011 solo CD, featuring many contemporary works, he now returns to an old 'war horse' – the classic William Rimmer solo, **Weber's Last Waltz**, in which he displays stunning technique.

A Little Prayer *Evelyn Glennie* *Marimba Soloist Mark Landon*

Unaccompanied by the band, Mark Landon displays calming emotion and tenderness with his performance of Evelyn Glennie's famous marimba solo.

Finale from **Symphony No.7** *Ludwig van Beethoven arr. Howard Snell*

Ludwig van Beethoven's **Symphony No. 7 in A Major** was composed in 1811. In his *Essays in Musical Analysis*, Donald Tovey described the *Finale* as 'a triumph of Bacchic fury', extremely energetic with prominent rhythmic patterns. This new brass band arrangement has renewed links between Foden's Band and former Musical Director Howard Snell and demonstrates his mastery of the art of arranging orchestral music for the genre as well as demonstrating Foden's recognisable power, stamina, technique and musicianship.

Foden's Band

The origins of the band go back to 1900 when the village of Elworth, near Sandbach in Cheshire, formed its own band, having been let down by its attempt to secure the services of the nearby town band to feature in the celebrations marking the relief of Mafeking in the Boer War.

After a couple of years, the village band was wound up, but from that base local industrialist Edwin Foden formed the Foden's Motor Works Band. For a few years the new band had modest ambitions, but in 1908 a fundamental reorganisation took place and, by the following year, it had achieved Championship Section status, a prestigious position that has been maintained ever since.

The band has been a prize winner at the coveted British Open Championships 32 times, winning nine times outright, including a hat-trick in 1926, '27 and '28. The band has also been a prize winner 37 times at the National Championships of Great Britain, 12 times as winner, including an unparalleled double hat-trick in 1932, '33 and '34 and 1936, '37 and '38.

Under its former title, the band was ordered to play by Royal Command on three occasions: in 1913 for King George V and Queen Mary, in 1938 at Windsor Castle for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and, most recently, in 1983 when the band had the honour of playing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In wartime, the band toured Europe for ENSA and in peacetime it has toured Canada, South Africa and Israel.

In July 1986, the band accepted sponsorship from the Britannia Building Society and maintained its position as one of the country's leading bands, becoming BBC Band of the Year in 1990 and 1992, European Champion in 1992 and French Open Champion in 1998.

Becoming All England Masters Champion in 1990, 1991, 1994 and 1995, the band emerged as the most consistent band in this field, and in 1993 it became the first British band to win the Swiss Open Championships.

In 1997 the band accepted new sponsorship from the French instrument manufacturer, Antoine Courtois, that also allowed the band to go back to its original name of Foden's. With this fresh impetus, the band again experienced major Championship success, winning the coveted title 'Champion Band of Great Britain' in October 1999.

Foden's became the North West Area Champions in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002 and 2003, as well as a double hat-trick from 2006 to 2011. Also International Masters Champion in 2002, 2006 and 2008, USA Open Champion in 2003, English National Champion in 2006, British Open Champion in 2004 and 2008, Tameside Whit Friday Champion from 2002 to 2009 and 2011, National Finals runner-up in 2007, 2008, 2009, the band was Brass in Concert Champion in 2009.

As well as being extremely successful on the contest field, Foden's is in great demand for concerts in the UK and abroad due to its diversity and entertaining choice of programmes. Recent tours abroad have included Italy, Switzerland, America, Ireland, France, Norway and Israel.

Foden's regularly records CDs and is pleased to have won the 'British Bandsman CD of the Year' in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

For further information visit www.fodensband.co.uk

