

regionals 2013



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|---------|--|----------------|-------|
| 1. | Harmony Music © <i>Anglo Music</i>
Championship Section: Yorkshire Building Society Band, conducted by Prof. David King | Philip Sparke | 14.40 |
| 2 - 5. | Brass Triumphant © <i>Prima Vista Musikk</i>
First Section: Cory Band, conducted by Dr Robert Childs | Gareth Wood | 14.02 |
| | i. 1.55 | | |
| | ii. 3.23 | | |
| | iii. 5.48 | | |
| | iv. 3.35 | | |
| 6. | The Plantagenets © <i>R. Smith & Co.</i>
Second Section: Black Dyke Mills Band, conducted by James Watson | Edward Gregson | 12.13 |
| 7. | Hollywood © <i>Obrasso Verlag</i>
Third Section: Foden's Band, conducted by Dr Nicholas Childs | Goff Richards | 11.38 |
| 8 - 11. | A Devon Fantasy © <i>R. Smith & Co.</i>
Fourth Section: Black Dyke Band, conducted by Guest conductor Dr Robert Childs | Eric Ball | 9.58 |
| | i. Moorland Song 2.49 | | |
| | ii. The Fair 2.14 | | |
| | iii. Quiet Village 2.52 | | |
| | iv. Seafarers 2.02 | | |

Total Playing Time 63.39

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull
Producers: Nicholas Childs and Richard Scott
Engineer and Post Production: Richard Scott
Production Manager: Nicki Tonge
Project Coordinator: Alison Childs
Artwork and Design: GK Graphic Design
Programme Notes: John Maines

DOY CD302

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The Championship section bands have the music of Philip Sparke to tackle in one of his most demanding pieces. **Harmony Music** was commissioned in 1987 for the National Brass Band Championships at the Royal Albert Hall in London. On this disc it is played by the Yorkshire Building Society Band conducted by Professor David King, live from The European Championships in 1999.

The music is classic Sparke and should prove popular with both bands and audiences. After a quiet opening the piece becomes more aggressive leading to a series of cornet fanfares. These eventually subside to reveal a lyrical passage full of rich harmony which builds to a huge climax. After various solo lines an extended compound passage is played at a frantic pace. The slow central section has a hint of Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte* and after more solos the music quickens again and the piece ends in a furious and exciting manner.

Philip Sparke was born in London and studied composition, trumpet and piano at the Royal College of Music, where he gained an ARCM. It was at the College that his interest in bands arose. He played in the College wind orchestra and also formed a brass band among the students, writing several works for both ensembles.

At that time, his first published works appeared - *Concert Prelude* (brass band) and *Gaudium* (wind band). A growing interest in his music led to several commissions, his first major one being

for the Centennial Brass Band Championships in New Zealand - *The Land of the Long White Cloud*.

In September 2000 he was awarded the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his services to brass bands. In 2005 *Music of the Spheres* won the National Band Association/William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest. In 2011 he received the BUMA International Brass Award and the 4barsrest.com Special Award for his contribution to brass music.

His conducting and adjudicating activities have taken him to most European countries, Scandinavia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Canada and the USA. In May 2000, he took the major step of becoming a full-time composer by founding his own publishing company, Anglo Music Press.

First section bands have been asked to play **Brass Triumphant** by Welsh composer Gareth Wood. Described by the composer as a 'fun piece' it was written for the 125th Anniversary of the Cory Band and is played here by them conducted by Dr Robert Childs. The work is in four movements. The first is a celebratory fanfare marking the achievements of the Cory Band and has a strong melody played by the trombones which provides a thread that runs through the whole work. The second movement reflects on the early days of the band and is about struggle and endeavour. Once again the trombones feature in a strident theme. A beautiful slow melody subtitled *Mist in the Afan Forest* is the basis of the third movement

Dyke Mills Band (1990 & 91) and eight times with the Yorkshire Building Society Band (1996 - 97 and 99 to 2004).

In 2006 David King was appointed 'Conductor in Residence' to Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards Band, the first civilian musician to be appointed to this position within the Ministry of Defence. In 2007 he was also guest conductor of HM Royal Marines Band in the British premiere of Professor Peter Graham's composition for wind orchestra *Harrison's Dream*. In 2010 and 2011 Professor King led the Brighouse and Rastrick Band to victory in the National Championships of Great Britain.

James Watson

James Watson was one of Britain's leading trumpet players and brass band conductors. As artistic director and head of brass at the Royal Academy of Music, he was active also as a conductor and administrator, preparing students for the challenges of the profession with engaging enthusiasm and directness.



James became known from an early age for his prowess on the cornet. Not only did he become principal cornet of the Desford Colliery Band at the age of 11, but he also won both the junior and senior champion soloist of Great Britain titles in 1966, aged just 14. In fact he won the national championships of Great Britain on six occasions, as well as the British Open and European championship and five regional titles with four separate bands.

Watson went on to study the trumpet at the Royal Academy, after which, at the age of 22, he secured another first when he was chosen by Rudolf Kempe for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra as the youngest principal trumpet in the orchestra's history. He remained with the RPO until 1978, acting also in those years (1974-82) as principal trumpet for the London Sinfonietta, the Nash Ensemble and the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble.

Between 1992 and 2000 Watson was artistic director of the Black Dyke Mills Band (now the Black Dyke Band), a period during which the band flourished. The ensemble was the first British brass band to appear at Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1993, and was nominated for an Oscar for the score of *Babe: Pig in the City* (1998).

Appointed to head the brass department at the Royal Academy in 2001, Watson continued to play while also teaching and conducting. Watson was artistic director of the National Youth Brass Band of Wales for six years and vice-president of the National Youth Wind Orchestra of Great Britain. He was Guest Conductor of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain on two occasions. His trumpet playing led to much high-profile film and television work including credits on the first three *Star Wars* films, *Superman* (1978), *A Bridge Too Far* (1977), *Gladiator* (2000) and *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002).

With the Black Dyke Mills Band he was featured prominently in Jim Parker's score for the television garden makeover series *Ground Force*. He also recorded alongside Elton John, Paul McCartney and Peter Gabriel.

given master-classes throughout Europe's finest conservatoires and is now recognised as a leading education specialist within his field.

He is Director of Brass Band Studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Musical Director of the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and Chairman of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain for whom he has also performed as tutor, guest soloist and Guest Conductor.

Robert conducted and performed with the Black Dyke Band for almost 10 years and before that he played with Grimthorpe Colliery Band. In May 2000, Robert was delighted to accept an invitation to become the Professional Musical Director of the Cory Band from the Rhondda in South Wales, thus re-uniting him with Wales and associating him with the band he has held in such high esteem since he was a boy. In a short space of time Robert revitalised brass banding in Wales by steering his new band to win the British Open Championship, the National Championship and runner-up at the European Championship in a single season.

In December 2002, Robert was awarded a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Salford. He is also an Associate of the Royal College of Music, a Fellow of the London College of Music, and in 2007 his remarkable achievements were recognized by the Worshipful Company of Musicians when he was awarded the prestigious Iles Medal.

In 2008 Robert was given 'Freedom of the City of London' and later received the prestigious John

Edwards Memorial Award by the Welsh Music Guild for outstanding contribution to Welsh Music.

David King

Australian by birth, David King has an enviable record of musical accomplishments and successes both as an instrumentalist and conductor. He is at the forefront of music education and is Chair of Music Performance at the University of Salford.



David King studied Trumpet and Cornet at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and music education at Avondale College, NSW. In 1982 as Australian cornet champion he was awarded a scholarship to study music at Salford University College, Manchester, where he graduated with distinction in Performance in 1985. In Britain David King pursued a distinguished career as a cornet soloist winning the title North of England Solo Champion on three occasions (1983-85) and remained unbeaten on Bb Cornet at the British Open Solo Championships for five consecutive years (1987-91). He represented the United Kingdom in 1992 as British Open Solo Champion and won the prestigious title International Brass Musician of the Year in Auckland, New Zealand. As a conductor Professor David King holds a prominent position in Europe and is revered as one of the most successful conductors on the contest platform in the last decade. He has represented England in the European Brass Band Championships on 11 occasions as a conductor and has won the title 10 times, twice with Black

with the solo euphonium paying homage to the great Welsh folk melodies. The light-hearted finale stretches the band's technique to the limit. A heavily disguised hymn tune *O Jesu Mawr* is heard and reminds the listener that this is a very Welsh piece of music! *Brass Triumphant* will prove an enjoyable yet testing piece for the bands to work on.

Gareth Wood was born in Cilfynydd, Wales in 1950. He studied composition and the double bass at The Royal Academy of Music and joined the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) in 1972. He has played for many of the world's greatest conductors, such as Stokowski, Kempe, Böhm, Haitink, Solti, and has performed the 'Ring' cycle at English National Opera with Reginald Goodall. He became Chairman of the RPO in 1991, a post he held for three years.

As a composer, he first came to the attention of the public in 1975 when his overture *Tombstone, Arizona* was performed at the Royal Albert Hall during the National Brass Band Festival. Many works for band followed and included test pieces for the 1977 Butlins Youth Band Contest, the 1980 New Zealand Brass Band Championships and the 1992 European Championships.

He was commissioned to write a fanfare overture for the launch of the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation and was recorded for EMI by the Welsh Opera Orchestra, conducted by Carlo Rizzi. An extremely popular composition is his *Fantasy on Welsh Song*, which is performed every year at the last night of the Welsh Proms in Cardiff.

Second section bands will be required to work on the first major test piece from the pen of Edward Gregson, *The Plantagenets*. It was written for the 1973 National Brass Band Championships and is played here by the Black Dyke Mills Band conducted by the late James Watson.

This descriptive music plots the era of kings and queens through one of England's most turbulent times. However, Gregson is at pains to emphasise that *The Plantagenets* is not programme music. As he says in his notes on the work: *The Plantagenets* attempts to portray the mood and feelings of an age, that of the House of Plantagenet which lasted from the middle of the 12th century to the end of the 14th. To many it conjures up an age of chivalry and this is represented by fanfare motifs which occur throughout the work in varied form.

The music is accessible and should provide plenty to think about in rehearsal for both conductor and band.

Edward Gregson was born in 1945 and is a composer of international standing whose music has been performed, broadcast and commercially recorded worldwide. He studied composition with Alan Bush and piano at the Royal Academy of Music from 1963 - 1967 winning five prizes for composition. Since then he has worked solely to commission and has written orchestral, chamber, instrumental and choral music, as well as music for the theatre, film and television.

His commissions have included orchestral music for the English Chamber Orchestra, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the Royal

Liverpool Philharmonic, the BBC Philharmonic, and the Hallé, with performances by many other orchestras and ensembles around the world. Gregson is also internationally renowned for his contributions to the wind and brass repertoire.

The test piece chosen for the Third section is by Goff Richards who sadly passed away in 2011. **Hollywood** is played by the Fodens (Courtois) Band conducted by Dr Nicholas Childs. The piece was originally composed for the Regional Championships in 1996 and is indicative of music from 'tinsel town' with more than a passing reference to all types of film genre. This is Goff Richards at his best producing music that will be both challenging and enjoyable to play. In this piece the composer demonstrated his superb knowledge of brass band scoring in the lighter idiom.

Goff Richards was born in 1944 in Cornwall and studied at the Royal College of Music and Reading University. Between 1976 and 1989, he lectured in arranging at Salford College of Technology, later renamed University of Salford. He was the musical director of the Chetham's Big Band for many years. In 1976, he was made a Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd. He received a Doctorate from Salford University in 1990 after a career that had seen him lead the University Jazz Orchestra to the BBC Big Band of the Year title in 1989.

He was well known for his original brass compositions such as *The Aeronauts* and *Cross Patonce*. Goff won a European Broadcasting Union Award in 1984 for his *Continental Caprice*.

He was also a prolific arranger for brass bands and his arrangements included *Hymns of Praise*, *Shepherd's Song*, *I'll Walk with God* and *That's a Plenty*. He also arranged and composed light orchestral and choral works and his music has been performed by the King's Singers, Huddersfield Choral Society, London Brass, Evelyn Glennie and various BBC orchestras. He died on June 25, 2011 in Cheshire, following a long illness, at the age of 66.

The Fourth section has the opportunity to play the music of the iconic Eric Ball. It appears from some of the composer's other works he had a love for the West Country with titles such as *Cornish Festival*, *St Michael's Mount*, *Fowey River Suite* and *Peniel* along with the choice for this section, *A Devon Fantasy*. For this recording Black Dyke Band is directed by guest conductor Dr Robert Childs.

This delightful piece is in four movements portraying aspects of life in the county of Devon; *Moorland Song*, conjuring up visions of the vast reaches of Dartmoor, the bustling music of *The Fair*, perhaps inspired by the famous Widdicombe fair, *Quiet Village*, portraying a place of peace nestling in the rolling hills of the lovely Devon countryside and *Seafarers* reminding us of the county's association with the sea from pirates and merchants to modern day oil tankers and warships.

Eric Ball was born in 1903 in Bristol to a Salvation Army family. He became an accomplished pianist and organist. Largely self taught as a composer he is quoted as saying: "My music

The Conductors:

Dr Nicholas Childs

Heralded as a leading figure in the worldwide brass community, Dr Nicholas Childs (DMA-Conducting, University of Salford) has rightfully achieved the highest international reputation as a performer, teacher-clinician, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music and producer of pacesetting recordings.



Initial success came as a euphonium soloist and partner with his talented brother, Robert, who together toured the world as The Childs Brothers, performing in many of the world's most famous concert halls with the most prestigious bands and orchestras.

His current tenure as Principal Conductor and Music Director of the famous Black Dyke Band has been marked with five National Championships of Great Britain: 2001, 2004, 2008 and 2009. He also guided the Fodens's Courtois Band to its National title in 1999. With Black Dyke he also won the coveted British Open in 2005 and 2006, and the European Championship, 2005 and 2012. He won his first English National Championship with Black Dyke in June 2009, and again in 2011 and 2012. Further conducting success in the contest field has come with National Championship wins in Sweden, France, Scotland (four times), Wales (three times), and Norway (five).

Further honours have come with his appointment as Artistic Director of the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain and Founder and Artistic Director of

the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. In 2006 Dr Childs received an honorary doctorate and in 2008 he accepted a Professorship from Leeds Metropolitan University. In 2007 Nicholas Childs received the Iles Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians in recognition to his outstanding contribution for the brass band movement. A year later (2008) he was awarded the Freeman of the City of London.

With his roots in the British brass band tradition, having first been trained in the Tredegar (Wales) Youth Band, Dr Childs continues to give important emphasis to the development of the brass band movement. This comes through his commitment to the training of outstanding young musicians both at the collegiate level and within the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He has taken his teaching and conducting skills to a variety of outstanding brass bands outside the UK.

Nicholas Childs is the current Artistic Director and founder of the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band and Music Director for the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain. He has served as the director of The National Youth Brass Band of Denmark and Associate Conductor of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, and has gained national championships in England, Wales, Scotland, France, Sweden and Norway.

Dr Robert Childs

Dr Robert Childs is a leading figure in the world of brass music. For over 30 years he has performed at the highest level giving solo performances in many of the world's most prestigious venues. He has



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.

Tours abroad include Italy, Switzerland, America, Ireland, France, Norway and Israel.

Yorkshire Building Society Band

The band was originally named the Hammonds Sauce Works Band but due to sponsorship changes was renamed the Yorkshire Building Society Band.

The British Open Championships, formerly held at Belle Vue but now established in Birmingham's modern, lush, Symphony Hall, is the oldest brass band contest in the world, being established in 1853. To be in the winning band at these Championships is every young bandsman's dream in this country. In its short existence, YBS won four times - in 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2003 - almost uncannily winning in alternate years.

Another contest in which YBS did unusually well was that held in Cambridge each May, formerly called the All England Masters Championships. The band picked off the title there three times - in 1999, 2000 and 2004.

But the event which the band has virtually made its own is the European Brass Band Championships, founded in London in 1978 and moving around the European countries that are rich in brass bands. Aided in no small measure by the contributions made by YBS, the European has grown in stature as an international musical event. With eight wins in nine years - 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 - YBS holds a record unequalled in the history of the Championships.

During these 'European' years, the band also contributed significantly to the success of the Gala Concerts associated with the event, with innovative and artistic concert programming. Programmes have included the award-winning *Cry of the Celts* (1997), *Windows of the World* (2000), *Hymn of the Highlands* (2002) and *Celtic Fusion* (2004) - all commissioned by the band and performed as European Gala premieres.

Since the ending of the sponsorship with Yorkshire Building Society in December 2004 the band had kept its old sponsor's initials as its name (YBS). However, in 2009 the band reverted back to its original name, Hammonds, with the addition of the word *Saltaire* as a reminder of the band's history.

is a bit old fashioned, back in the romantic era." His main influences were Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and especially Elgar. In the 1930s and 1940s he worked as a full time Salvation Army officer and made numerous recordings with the S.P. & S. Band.

He conducted many of the top bands of his day winning the British Open Championships three times with CWS (Manchester) Band and with Ransome & Marles on his own piece *The Conquerors* in 1951. In 1946 he steered Brighouse & Rastrick to victory in the National Championships in the Royal Albert Hall. At the same contest in 1950 he conducted all three bands into 3rd, 4th and 5th places. Surprisingly, at least to brass band musicians, is the fact that he wrote more anthems and songs than brass band pieces.

Eric Ball died in Dorset on October 1, 1989.

Black Dyke Band

In 1816 Peter Wharton founded a brass and reed band in the Yorkshire village of Queenshead - later to become Queensbury. 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 its zenith from 1838 to 1843, at which time it consisted of 18 musicians. However, it is recorded in the Halifax

Courier of September 15, 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"

On September 15, 2005 the band was proud to celebrate its 150th anniversary. Two of the new highlights were the publication of *150 Golden Years*, a book by Dr Roy Newsome, describing the history and the progress of Black Dyke Band from 1855 to 2005. Also a unique triple CD was released covering the recorded musical history of the band from the early days of 1903 to the present day.

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 September 2006 at Symphony Hall Birmingham Black Dyke Band was declared British Open Champions for the second year running. Although



the band has not entered the contest every year, this was the 29th time the band were declared 'British Open Champions'. The band has also been National Champions on 21 occasions, most recently in October 2008. In May 2012 Black Dyke became European Champions for the 12th time.

Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world with over 300 recordings and growing every year.

In August 2007 the Band was invited to take part in the BBC Promenade Concerts, at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

In 2006 as part of its initiative to sponsor the work of young people, Black Dyke Band, under the guidance of Dr Nicholas Childs assisted by qualified members, formed the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. The purpose is to inspire and motivate young people aged 11 to 18 years to achieve their full potential as musicians, composers and citizens.

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

Cory Band hails from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. The band was 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, 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 it was 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 its name to Buy As You View 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, its centenary year, the band won the third in a hat-trick of National titles at the Royal Albert Hall, London. In 2000 Dr Robert Childs was appointed as Musical Director. During that millennium year the band won both the British Open and the National Championships and made history by 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 its third British Open title. In 2008, the band won the European Brass Band Championships in Stavanger, Norway, retained the title at Oostende in 2009 and completed a magnificent hat-trick of titles in May 2010 at the Brucknerhaus in Linz, Austria.

Cory Band has also developed musically outside of the contest field. In 2001, together with the

BBC National Orchestra of Wales it was appointed resident ensemble to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and in the same year the band appointed Dr John Pickard as 'Composer in Residence'. John Pickard's tenure with the band ended in July 2005 when the band gave the première performance of his *Gaia Symphony* at the prestigious Cheltenham International Festival. The Symphony was broadcast live on Radio 3 and with a duration exceeding an hour is the longest original work in the brass band repertoire.

The band is dedicated to new music, raising the profile of the brass band genre and keeping music alive in Wales. It has an active commissioning policy and has performed works by many of Britain's leading composers, including John McCabe, Judith Bingham, Elgar Howarth, Edward Gregson, Alun Hoddinott, Karl Jenkins, Gareth Wood and David Bedford. The band's current 'Composer in Residence' is Welshman Gareth Wood.

In 2002 the band was selected to play for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and has 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 it performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Last Night of the Welsh Proms and was more recently featured during the opening celebrations of the new Welsh Millennium Centre.

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

Foden's Band

The origins of the Foden's Band go back to 1900 when the village of Elworth near Sandbach formed its own band to feature in the relief of Mafeking during the Boer War.

After a couple of years the band was wound up, but from that base Edwin Foden formed the Foden's Motor Work Band.

Thirty-two times the band has been a prize winner at the British Open, winning nine times, including a hat-trick in 1926-27-28. Even better, the band has been a prize winner on 37 occasions at the National Championships of Great Britain, 12 times as winner, including an unparalleled double hat-trick in 1932-33-34 and 1936-37-38.

Since then Foden's has maintained its position as one of the world's leading brass bands. Recent contest victories have seen Foden's become 'International Masters' Champions in 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 2002, 2006 and 2008, North West Area Champions in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 as well as a double hat-trick from 2006-2011.

In addition, the band won the European Championships in 1992, became Swiss Open Champions in 1993, French Open Champions in 1998 and the US Open Champions in 2003. At home, the band became English National Champions in 2006, British Open Champions in 2004 and 2008, Tameside Whit Friday Champions 2002-2009, 2011, National Finals Champions in 1999 (runners up in 2007, 2008, 2009) and Brass in Concert Champions 2009.