

DOYCD312

**CD2**

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|---|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1. <b>Perihelion</b> ©Anglo Music Press<br><i>Cory Band Conductor Philip Harper</i>                                       | Philip Sparke                  | 19.08 |
| 2. <b>Cavaquinho</b> ©Rakeway Music<br><i>European Youth Brass Band Conductor Irene Anda</i>                              | Ernesto Nazareth arr. Snell    | 2.34  |
| 3. <b>Andantino</b> M/s<br><i>Aura Brass Band Conductor Pekka Lyytinen</i>  | Jean Sibelius arr. Laaksonen   | 3.36  |
| 4. <b>Symphony in two movements</b> ©Novello & Co. Ltd.<br><i>Black Dyke Band Conductor Dr Nicholas J. Childs</i>         | Edward Gregson                 | 18.53 |
| 5. <b>Relaxation from Salute to Youth</b> ©Josef Weinberger Ltd.<br><i>European Youth Brass Band Conductor Irene Anda</i> | Gilbert Vinter                 | 4.52  |
| 6. <b>Finale from Organ Symphony</b> ©Kirklees Music<br><i>Massed Bands Conductor Dr Nicholas J. Childs</i>               | Camille Saint-Saëns arr. Wilby | 5.23  |
| 7. <b>Spiriti</b> ©Mitropa<br><i>Eikanger-Bjørsvik Musikklag Conductor David King</i>                                     | Thomas Doss                    | 16.35 |

**CD2 Total Playing Time 71.16**

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Post-Production: Adam Goldsmith  
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Artwork and Design: GK Graphic Design  
Recorded at Oslo Konserthus, Norway

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EUROPEAN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013**

**2013**



**EUROPEAN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS 2013**

**Live from Oslo Konserthus, Norway**



### Highlights from the European Brass Band Championships 2013

The European Brass Band Championships have come a long way since they were first held at the Royal Albert Hall in 1978. Those fledgling years until 1982 saw it exist mainly as a sideshow to the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, but the decision to leave London and take the event around the Continent in 1983 was a major turning point, not only for the Championships themselves, but for the brass band culture throughout Europe, which has grown, both in size and quality, beyond all recognition in the following three decades.

Austria, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland have all now hosted the European Championships, in addition to occasional visits to the four UK nations, with the format evolving to now become a week-long festival of brass music featuring high-profile performances by the annually-formed European Youth Brass Band, in addition to competitions for composers, conductors and soloists.

2013 saw the Championships make a fifth visit to Norway, which previously hosted the event in 1989, 1996, 2003 (Bergen) and 2008 (Stavanger). This time the capital city was chosen as the venue for the Continent's leading brass bands to pit their wits against each other, and the first weekend in May saw bands from Austria, Belgium, England, Denmark, France, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales, as well as the home nation's representative, the outstanding Eikanger-Bjørsvik Musikklag, gather in the Oslo Concert Hall.

This 'Highlights' recording provides a taste of a memorable weekend in the history of the European Brass Band Championships and it opens in apposite style with a performance of the test-piece by the new Champion - Cory Band from Wales. The subject matter of **Myth Forest** by Norwegian composer Stig Nordhagen may appear modest - a pond near the composer's home called Hestefallstjønn - but it followed in a

### CD1

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|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Myth Forest</b> ©Norsk Noteservice as<br>Cory Band Conductor Philip Harper   | Stig Nordhagen 18.19            |
| 2. <b>In Perfect Peace</b> ©SP&S<br>Norwegian National Brass Band Conductor Bjørn Sagstad                                  | Kenneth Downie 4.27             |
| 3. <b>Mikkell</b> M/s<br>Trumpet Soloist Ole Edvard Antonsen with Norwegian National Brass Band<br>Conductor Bjørn Sagstad | Ole Edvard Antonsen 4.24        |
| 4. <b>Morning</b> ©Obrasso Verlag<br>Black Dyke Band Conductor Robert Childs   | Edvard Grieg arr. Lorriman 4.00 |
| 5. <b>In the Hall of the Mountain King</b> ©Obrasso Verlag<br>Black Dyke Band Conductor Robert Childs                      | Edvard Grieg arr. Lorriman 2.10 |
| 6. <b>Seabird Mob, Fly On! (3rd Movement)</b> ©Norsk Noteservice as<br>European Youth Brass Band Conductor Irene Anda      | Idar Torskangerpoll 2.57        |
| 7. <b>One Voice</b> ©EMI Music Publishing Ltd.<br>European Youth Brass Band Conductor Irene Anda                           | Barry Manilow arr. Farr 3.42    |
| 8. <b>Fragile Oasis</b> ©Peter Meechan Music<br>Leyland Band Conductor Michael Bach  | Peter Meechan 15.48             |
| 9. <b>When Thunder Calls</b> ©PLC Music<br>Black Dyke Band Conductor Robert Childs   | Paul Lovatt-Cooper 4.52         |

**CD1 Total Playing Time 60.55**

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The finale to the European Championships Gala Concert is usually a monumental affair, and 2013's was no exception. Turn the speakers up and close your eyes as you picture Black Dyke, the European Youth Brass Band and the Norwegian National Band perform the mighty *Finale* from Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony*.

Thomas Doss's *Spiriti*, written as the test-piece for the 2010 European Championships, held in Linz, Austria, has

since cemented its position as one of the most challenging but popular works in the contemporary repertoire. We hear it played by Eikanger-Bjørnsvik Musikklag under its conductor David King, in a performance that won the own-choice section of the Championships and secured second place overall for the Norwegian home favourite - a memorable conclusion to this set of highlights from the Continent's greatest festival of brass music.

Kenneth Crookston



The winning band

growing list of 'European' test-pieces that have succeeded in challenging some of the finest brass bands in the world. Cory's performance under Philip Harper left no one in any doubt that the four-time former European Champion had entered its 'new era' in as fine a shape as ever.

The Norwegian National Brass Band was formed specially to perform at the Gala Concert of the 2013 European Brass Band Championships under the cultured baton of Bjørn Sagstad. Its performance of *In Perfect Peace* by Kenneth Downie was one of the more reflective moments of an event that almost raised the roof of the Oslo Concert Hall.

Ole Edvard Antonsen is revered in Norway as one of the world's finest and most versatile trumpeters, and his performance at the Gala Concert was an undoubted highlight of the weekend. *Mikkel* is one of the soloist's own compositions.

Black Dyke Band has more European titles to its name than any other band, and it appeared in the Gala Concert as the

defending champion from the 2012 event in Rotterdam. Its tribute to the host nation came from the pen of its greatest composer, Edvard Grieg, in the shape of *Morning* and *In the Hall of the Mountain King* from his *Peer Gynt Suite*.

*Seabird Mob, Fly On!* was written by Idar Torskangerpoll for the European Youth Brass Band, and the title is an anagram the listener is encouraged to solve! Here we hear the band perform the final part of this three-movement suite.

The European Youth Brass Band's contribution to the week under its first female conductor Irene Anda will live long in the memory, and its performance of the Barry Manilow classic *One Voice* featured the mature euphonium sounds of Scott Kerr.

A feature of the European Championships that has become ever more prevalent is the bespoke own-choice work, with which many bands have had success in recent years. English representative Leyland Band and its Swiss conductor Michael Bach

commissioned Peter Meechan to write a piece for the 2013 Championships and the result was ***Fragile Oasis***, a work based on observations from the International Space Station by American astronaut Ron Garan.

CD 1 closes with Black Dyke on characteristically spectacular form in Paul Lovatt-Cooper's ***When Thunder Calls***.

***Perihelion*** is the title of Philip Sparke's work performed by Cory Band in the own-choice section, thus named for no other reason than the composer started writing it on the day the earth was closest in its annual orbit to the sun! A work of extreme virtuosity and requiring remarkable technique, ***Perihelion*** saw Cory placed second in the own-choice section, which was just enough to see the Welsh band over the finishing line to secure a fifth European crown since 1980.

Adding a touch of Latin colour to proceedings, Irene Anda and the European Youth Brass Band let their collective hair down in Howard Snell's timeless arrangement of Ernesto Nazareth's



Cory Band



European Youth Brass Band



Norwegian National Brass Band with Ole Edvard Antonsen

***Cavaquinho***. As you will hear, the young musicians clearly know how to enjoy their music-making!

As there was no 'B' Section at the 2013 European Championships, Aura Brass Band was given a performance to 'warm-up' the audience for the main event on Saturday morning. ***Andantino*** by Jean Sibelius was a suitable choice to showcase the fine qualities of this improving band from Finland.

Any new work by Edward Gregson will be hotly anticipated in brass band circles, and none more so than his ***Symphony in two movements***, first played by the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain and performed in Oslo by Black Dyke Band and Nicholas Childs as their own-choice test-piece.

The final contribution from the European Youth Brass Band is a 'classic' from the 1960s brass band repertoire by Gilbert Vinter. As you will hear, ***Relaxation***, the final movement from the composer's first work for brass band, ***Salute to Youth***, is a bit of a misnomer!