

regionals 2015



- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| 1. | The Torchbearer © Gramercy Music
Championship Section: Black Dyke Band, conducted by Dr Nicholas Childs | Peter Graham | 14.29 |
| 2. | A London Overture © Studio Music
First Section: Britannia Building Society Band, conducted by Howard Snell | Philip Sparke | 12.34 |
| 3. | Variations on Maccabeus © SP&S
Second Section: The International Staff Band, conducted by Dr Stephen Cobb | Kevin Norbury | 12.52 |
| 4. | Evolution: Five States of Change* © Anglo Music Press
Third Section: Cory Band, conducted by Philip Harper | Philip Sparke | 11.09 |
| 5-8. | An English Pastoral** © Lake Music Publications
Fourth Section: Brass Band De Wäldsang, conducted by Rieks van der Velde | Dean Jones | |
| | i. <i>Heralding the Dawn/Autumn on the Plains</i> | | 2.55 |
| | ii. <i>Winter in the Dales</i> | | 3.10 |
| | iii. <i>Spring on the Lakes</i> | | 3.20 |
| | iv. <i>Summer on the Quays</i> | | 2.24 |

Total CD Playing Time 63.21

Tracks 1, 2 and 3 taken from SPS 250 CD,
DOY CD049 and SPS 107 CD respectively

*Track 4 by kind permission of De Haske

**Tracks 5-8 by kind permission of
Lake Music Publications

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

DOY CD338

regionals 2015



regionals 2015

Championship section bands have the music of Peter Graham to enjoy. *The Torchbearer* was commissioned for the 2009 National Championships held at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The music is Graham's tribute to the music of Eric Ball and is a set of variations on fragments of the trio section melody in Eric Ball's march *Torchbearers* with various references to certain other works of his.

The composer states on the score 'The work is dedicated to the memory of Eric Ball who knew how to write tunes and to Geoffrey Whitham who knew how to play them.'

Some of Ball's most memorable works are referenced throughout the piece such as *A Kensington Concerto*, *The Eternal Presence*, *Sinfonietta - The Wayfarer*, *High Peak*, *Song of Courage* and the masterpiece that is *Resurgam*. Peter Graham's masterful composition has all the hallmarks of a great test piece and a wonderful piece of music and is sure to please bands, conductors and audiences alike.

Always popular with bands and audiences is the music of Philip Sparke and this year two of the composer's

works have been chosen. The first is *A London Overture* which was originally commissioned by the Dutch Brass Band Championships in 1984. It was later used as the set test piece for the 1991 European Championships held in Rotterdam and at the 1992 first section National Championships of Great Britain and is now set for the first section regionals.

The piece will provide a good test, beginning in a grandiose fashion with a *molto maestoso* for an extended introduction before moving into a set of linked cadenzas for trombone, horn, cornet and euphonium making sure soloists are suitably tested. The music then moves into an *allegro vivo* with fast moving rhythmic passages and shifting time signatures before subsiding into a lovely lyrical interlude featuring Solo Cornet. After a return to the *allegro vivo* the piece ends with a reprise of the *molto maestoso* followed by an exciting *presto*.

The music of Kevin Norbury is a welcome addition to this year's regional selections.

For some of his compositional output Kevin Norbury has leaned towards works with a neoclassical style and has written variations on the music of Henry Purcell and JS Bach.

He has composed commissions for numerous bands internationally, and over 30 of his compositions are recorded, including performances by Philip Smith (trumpet), Joseph Alessi (trombone), both principal players with the New York Philharmonic and tubist Patrick Sheridan.

Kevin has adjudicated at numerous band competitions in North America and Europe. He is Director of Music at King's Christian Collegiate in Oakville.

Dean Jones

Graduating in 1998 from Kingston University with a BA Hons in Music, Dean Jones has been writing music for publishers ever since.

With now over 200 publications at present to his name and compositions on numerous CDs and DVDs, Dean has enjoyed a successful decade as a frequent contributor of both instrumental and vocal music for artists and publishing houses across the globe.



His piece for brass band entitled *Glorifico Aeternum* (2003) was performed at the Royal Albert Hall, London in July 2004 and since then, the piece has been performed in major concert halls around the world. *Supremacy* (2006) was the title track of the International Staff Band's CD recording in 2007 and pieces such as *Él es el Señor*, *Processional* and *Faithful God* have also proved popular in the brass band repertoire.

Two recent major works, *Validus Deus* and *Vista* were recently recorded by the North York Temple Salvation Army band and featured during their UK tour in May 2013.

As part of his Christian commitment, Dean leads the innovative brass group Salvation Brass who recently recorded their debut CD, *Delight!* with World of Sound. Dean works in the Music Ministries Unit of The Salvation Army's Territorial Headquarters in London

John Maines

Philip Sparke

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*. As well as New Zealand he has written for brass band championships in Switzerland, Holland, Australia and the UK, including three times for the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall.

In September 2000 he was awarded the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his services to brass bands and in 2011 he received the BUMA International Brass 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.

Kevin Norbury

Kevin Norbury studied at Royal Holloway College, University of London and the Institute of Education, University of London, studying organ with John Porter from the Chapel Royal, Windsor and Alistair Ross from the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra.

Kevin became widely known as a composer of brass band music, and worked as a Staff Arranger and Composer-in-Residence for The Salvation Army in London, New York and Toronto. His composition *Odyssey* was selected as the test piece for the European Brass Band Championships, held in Munich in 1999.

In 2005 he was commissioned by the North American Brass Band Association to compose the test piece for the Honours section of their Championships. In 2009 he was commissioned by the Peel District School Board to compose an overture for the Peel Honours Band.



His *Variations on Maccabeus* is inspired by Handel's 1747 oratorio about the Jewish hero Judas Maccabeus who overthrew the hated oppressors of Jerusalem. One of the most famous choruses in the oratorio is *See the Conquering Hero Comes* which in turn became the tune most associated with Edmond Budry's Easter hymn *Thine is the Glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er death has won*.

Kevin Norbury uses fragments of the famous tune, with the theme forming the basis of the four variations: *Scherzo, Chorale, Waltz* and *Fughetta*. The music portrays well the glory of Christ's life, death and resurrection.

For the third section contenders the second of Philip Sparke's pieces is ***Evolution: Five States of Change***.

Evolution was commissioned for the 4th section of the Dutch National Brass Band Championships in 2011.

The idea for the piece came when the composer was reading an article about a branch of Chinese philosophy which is abbreviated as Wu Xing, there is no exact translation but can mean, for example, five elements, five phases or five states of change. It is central to all elements of Chinese thought and in simple terms tries to create various

cycles of relationships between five elements in all walks of life.

In Philip Sparke's case it was the cycle of emotions that interested him: Meditation - Sorrow - Fear - Anger - Joy - (Meditation) etc. and he thought this cycle would provide an effective emotional journey for a piece of music. So ***Evolution*** has five equal sections which loosely characterise this emotional cycle. The composer has made the music grow with minimal repetition, and each movement evolves from the musical elements at the end of the previous one, with the opening material appearing, transformed, at the end of the piece to complete the cycle.

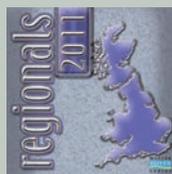
Another highly delightful and accessible piece has been set for the fourth section, Dean Jones' ***An English Pastoral***.

With this work the composer realises a long-time ambition to write a descriptive piece in a pastorate style. The piece is in four movements, *Heralding the Dawn* providing us with a dignified introductory theme moving naturally into the first movement, *Autumn on the Plains*. This movement uses a 12/8 rhythm to set out a light, joyful scene.

Winter in the Dales is a much darker depiction however, with its minor key presenting a more mysterious picture. Hope of warmer days is

provided by means of a beautiful major chord to end as the music then moves to *Spring on the Lakes*, a flowing, scenic movement with moments to sense the warmth of the sun along with the patterns of the water.

The final movement, *Summer on the Quays*, features some exciting fanfare-like figures first from cornets and trombones followed by full band. The music drives on to a dynamic and resounding conclusion towards the final, triumphant chord.



The Composers

Peter Graham

Peter Graham was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, where he was taught brass and piano by his parents. He read music at Edinburgh University, graduating in 1980. During this period he came into contact with Ray Steadman-Allen and Edward Gregson, both of whom encouraged his early efforts at composition.



He later undertook postgraduate compositional studies with Edward Gregson at Goldsmiths College, University of London and holds a PhD in Composition.

From 1983 until 1986 he was resident in New York City, where he worked as a freelance composer and as a publications editor with the S.A. Music Bureau.

Since his return to the U.K. he has worked regularly as an arranger for BBC Television and Radio and has specialised in composition for brass band.

Since the publication of *Dimensions* in 1983, he has become a leading figure as arranger and composer for brass and wind band. His many original compositions include *The Essence of Time*, *Montage*, *On Alderley Edge*, *Harrison's Dream* and of course, *The Torchbearer*.

Peter Graham was Professor of Composition at the University of Salford, and has held various posts with some of the UK's finest bands including Music Associate with the famous Black Dyke Band from 1997 to 2004 and the first civilian Composer-in-Residence with Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards Band from 2003 to 2005.