1. **SHOWCASE** © Christopher Bond Music
   Christopher Bond  4.12

2-4. **CONCERTO FOR CORNET** © Harper Music Publications
   i. Allegro Vivace  6.32
   ii. Andantino  7.07
   iii. Presto Volante  4.18

5. **ALAW** © Tom Davoren
   Tom Davoren  3.51

6. **ONCE IN NEVER** © Lucy Pankhurst
   Lucy Pankhurst  5.59

7. **CAVATINA FOR CORNET** © Anglo Music
   Philip Sparke  4.42

8-10. **A PUDDLE-DUCK SUITE**
   i. The Moody Mallard © Yewden Music  4.03
   ii. The Sultry Swan © Yewden Music  4.53
   iii. The Dirty Duck © Prima Vista Musik  4.23

11. **SONG OF THE NIGHT SKY** © Christopher Bond Music
    Christopher Bond  4.57

12. **FINALE FROM PIANO CONCERTO NO. 3** © De Haske Hal Leonard
    Rachmaninov arr. Philip Harper  7.18

0. **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER:** Trevor Caffull
   **PRODUCER:** Adam Goldsmith
   **ENGINEER:** Melissa Dee
   **POST-PRODUCTION:** Adam Goldsmith & Melissa Dee
   **PRODUCTION MANAGER:** Nichi Tonge
   **PRODUCTION DESIGN:** GK Graphic Design
   **ARTWORK & DESIGN:** GK Graphic Design
   **PROGRAMME NOTES:** Philip Harper
   **COVER PHOTO:** Chris Howley

**Recorded by World of Sound at Park Hall, Cwm Parc during 6 & 7 June and 11 & 12 July 2015**
IN PRINCIPAL – TOM HUTCHINSON

Musicians like Tom Hutchinson are rare in the world of brass bands. Passionately devoted to his art, I have seen at close quarters Tom’s development over the last three years into surely one of the best cornet players of his generation. With a classic and elegant ‘brass band’ sound and a technique seemingly knowing no limits, Tom also possesses that quality we recognise in all wonderful exponents of their craft – he makes it all look so easy! In short, he is the model Principal Cornet for any brass band, particularly Cory Band, and his debut solo CD In Principal charts the remarkable first stage in his ascent to the pantheon of great cornet players.

Philip Harper
Philip Harper became Musical Director of the world-famous Cory Band in 2012. Within 18 months he had steered the band back to the Number One World Rank by winning three of the four major titles in the brass band calendar, the National, the European and Brass in Concert (with a runner-up prize in the other, the British Open) as well as receiving media awards for the band’s CD recordings and plaudits for the concert tour of Australia.

Philip won the coveted Conductor of the Year Award for 2013, voted for by 10,000 readers of the website www.4barsrest.com. With previous bands, Tongwynlais Temperance Band and Flowers Band, he achieved unprecedented contest success, as well as winning acclaim for his entertaining concert performances.

A resident of Gloucester, Philip is also the Music Editor of the historic Wright and Round publishing company and in demand as a freelance conductor, educator and adjudicator with brass bands of all levels.

Philip is a prolific composer and his original works and arrangements are played all over the world. In 2012, he composed Journey for the 650 musicians of the Gloucester Music Service Massed Ensemble, conducting the first performance in a packed Royal Albert Hall at the Last Night of the Schools Proms. You can find out more detail and listen to audio excerpts of Philip’s music at www.philipharper.co.uk

En route to this point in his life, Philip 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 Sun Life Band in Bristol, as well as winning through to the Brass Final of 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 with whom he still keeps a close connection, visiting annually.

The disc opens with a brand new work, Showcase, composed by Cory Band’s ‘Composer in Association’ Christopher Bond, one of two new pieces for the CD. Cornishman Chris graduated in 2014 from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where Tom is Professor of Cornet, and this opening work not only showcases Tom’s virtuosity, but also Chris’s launch into the world of the professional musician.

There are two major works on the disc. The first is Concerto for Cornet, composed as part of my Masters Degree at the University of Bristol in 1996. 20 years ago, composers didn’t have access to the kind of notation software which technology has since enabled, and so my handwritten 106-page manuscript lay dormant and unplayed since then. During discussions with Tom about the content of the CD the existence of the concerto came up and I gave him a solo part to have a look at. We had the whole piece digitised, and when the files arrived I heard the concerto for the first time since I composed it, albeit only performed by a computer. I made a couple of revisions, but particularly wanted not to tinker too much, keen to preserve the compositional voice of my 23-year old self. Meanwhile, Tom had thoroughly practiced the solo part and we began to rehearse it up with the band. I was bowled over with Tom’s prowess in what I knew to be fiendishly difficult lines and he played with such authority from the very first rehearsal. After 19 years, the concerto has finally had a first performance on disc and I’m delighted that it was Tom Hutchinson who performed it.

As to the music itself, there are three movements. The first is marked Allegro Vivace and is a traditional sonata form, although anticipates themes from elsewhere in the concerto. The second movement is Andante and as well as an expansive lyrical theme, there is a more quirky dance-like central section. The third movement is marked Presto Volante and is a breathless rondo with a culminating cadenza.
Although Tom has his roots in Yorkshire, another hotbed of banding, since moving to South Wales to join Cory Band in 2009 he has very much now established himself in the Principality – another reference in the title of this CD. Welsh composer Tom Davoren has provided the next track on the disc, which aims to feature the lyrical singing qualities of the cornet, the closest sound, it is said, to the human voice. Entitled *Alaw* (Welsh for melody), this piece receives an exquisite performance here.

Lucy Pankhurst has deservedly gained much recognition in the world of brass bands and beyond, including in 2011 a British Composer Award for her piece *In Pitch Black*. Her compositional voice is distinctive and original, with grittiness and lyricism coexisting and rhythms infectious. She composed *Once in Never* especially for this CD and its bipartite structure is representative of her striking creative identity – the brooding melancholy of its first section contrasting with the driving martial thrust of the finale.

Philip Sparke has been composing for bands for many decades across all parts of the globe. His *Cavatina for Cornet* was composed in 2009 for the 18th birthday of Pernille, the daughter of Norwegian banding luminary Morten E. Hansen. Tom strikes the perfect balance between the cantabile lines and the more florid decorations which characterise this charming music.

When I first became Musical Director of Cory Band in 2012, Tom was performing a solo called *The Dirty Duck* by composer Dan Price. It had immediate appeal and was a real hit with concert audiences, not least because of Tom’s outstanding performance of it. The music was in a jazzy, Latin-infused style with which Tom felt very comfortable. A few years later, Dan Price has completed a full suite of character pieces within which *The Dirty Duck* takes its place. Taking their inspiration from names of pubs close to Dan’s home, three movements form what he has called *A Puddle-Duck Suite*. The collection begins with *The Moody Mallard* which is a medium-paced rhumba with a passionate and seductive middle section. Next comes *The Sultry Swan* which has an easygoing ‘Sunday afternoon’ feel to it and a relaxed close, albeit after some
International Festival. The Symphony was broadcast live on Radio 3, and lasting over an hour in duration, it is currently the largest scale original work in the repertory.

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; John McCabe, Judith Bingham, Elgar Howarth, Edward Gregson, Alan Hoddinott, Karl Jenkins, David Bedford, as well as John Pickard to name but a few. The band's current ‘Composer in Association’ is Christopher Bond.

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, Birmingham’s Symphony Hall, the Parc & Dare Hall and Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw.

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. In 2013, the band enjoyed its own Welsh Prom in St David's Hall, Cardiff.

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

In May 2012, the band announced the beginning of a new era with the appointment of Philip Harper as its new Musical Director. Since then it has won the European Championships, the Nationals, Brass in Concert and the Welsh Regional contest twice, and TV channel S4C’s Band Cymru. It was also nominated for a prestigious St David Award in 2014.

For more information, to purchase any recordings or to join the Cory Band Fan Club please visit www.coryband.com or check out our latest news at www.facebook.com/coryband

high scream-lead playing from the soloist. The Dirty Duck is the finale of the suite and is in an up-tempo big band style, with use of harmon mutes to simulate some indignant quacking! It all adds up to a vibrant and tailor-made suite for Tom, also receiving its first performance on this disc.

For Christopher Bond’s second offering on this disc, we have Song of the Night Sky. The music takes its inspiration from the well-known tale of Orpheus and Eurydice. Having entered the Underworld to try and bring Eurydice back from the dead, Orpheus fails at the last hurdle, being unable to resist turning around when he hears Eurydice approaching. As the composer quotes on his score: ‘His songs were no more joyful but extremely sad. His only comfort was to lay on a huge rock and feel the caress of the breeze, his only vision was the open skies.’

As the last item on the disc, Tom has chosen to play my arrangement of Finale from Piano Concerto No. 3 by Rachmaninov. I originally made this version for the Cory Band to play at the 2013 Brass in Concert competition, but Tom insisted that it would make a fine cornet solo. After a while I gave in to his requests and made a few tweaks – he was right! Its flamboyance and flair, not to mention sheer audacity, make what we hope is an apt finale to the CD.
Tom began learning the cornet at the age of nine and joined his local brass band, Stannington. In his early teens, he joined Barnsley Building Society Band and quickly ascended to the position of Principal Cornet. Tom’s first taste of playing ‘top man’ in a championship section band happened a few years later, aged 15, when he joined the Rothwell Temperance Band.

During these formative years Tom also played solo cornet with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain including two courses as Leader. It was the Band’s Associate Conductor, Dr Nicholas Childs, who noticed his talent and later invited him to join the world famous Black Dyke Band.

Tom played for ‘Dyke’ on Repiano Cornet and, at the age of 18, was promoted to tutti solo cornet. He played with Black Dyke for four years, contributing to many contest successes, including the British Open, English Nationals and National Championship of Great Britain titles. During his time with ‘Dyke’ he also toured extensively across Europe and Australia.

After his graduation, Tom was invited to join the mighty Cory Band as Principal Cornet. The lure of sitting on the ‘end chair’ with a band that was holding the titles for British Open, European and World Champion Band was too great an opportunity to turn down. After leading the band in his first year to its hat-trick winning European title in 2010 and Welsh regional title in 2011, he has since led Cory to a British Open title in 2011 whilst claiming the Best Soloist prize, further Welsh regional titles in 2012, 2014 and 2015 (also claiming the Best Soloist prize), Brass in Concert Championship wins in 2012 and 2013, the European title once again in 2013 and a National Finals win later that year. A particular highlight for Tom during his time with the band was receiving the Cory Band’s Player of the Year award, voted by the other members of Cory in 2012.

After touring Australia once more in 2013 with the Cory Band, Tom was invited by Besson to undertake a series of workshops, master classes and concerts across New Zealand, and in early 2015 travelled again to Australia and New Zealand to perform recitals and workshops. He continues to represent the instrument manufacturer globally and is proud to play its Prestige BE2028 cornet.

As well as playing Principal Cornet with Cory Band, he is a Professor of Cornet at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cornet tutor for the National Youth Brass Band of Wales, Cornet tutor for the National Children’s Brass Band of Great Britain and Project Manager of the Cory Academy.

Cory Band hails from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. It 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 for it 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.

Cory Band has developed musically outside of the contest field. In 2001, together with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales the band was appointed as resident ensemble to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and in the same year appointed Dr John Pickard as its ‘Composer in Residence’. John Pickard’s tenure with the band ended in July 2005 when the band made history giving the premiere performance of his Gaia Symphony at the prestigious Cheltenham