



THE
ARBAN
COLLECTION
II

SFZ145

1. Variations sur le Carnaval de Venise	<i>arr. Marc Owen</i>	8.08
2. Souvenir de Kroll	<i>arr. John Durrant</i>	5.17
3. Vois tu la Neige qui Brille	<i>arr. Gary Westwood</i>	5.52
4. Cavatine et Variations	<i>arr. Gary Westwood</i>	6.53
5. Casino Polka	<i>arr. Gary Westwood</i>	2.11
6. Sur un Thème Favori (De Weber)	<i>arr. Gary Westwood</i>	6.26
7. Air Varie sur le petit Suisse	<i>arr. Gary Westwood</i>	8.38
8. Premier Solo	<i>arr. Gary Westwood</i>	6.39
9. Bonheur de se Revoir	<i>arr. Iain McKnight</i>	6.59
Total CD Running Time		57.56

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull

Producer: Brian A Hillson

Engineer: Adam Goldsmith & Richard Sutcliffe

Post-Production: Adam Goldsmith

Production Manager: Julian Bright

Project Manager: Kevin J Coates MBE

Cover Design & Artwork: GK Graphic Design

*Recorded by World of Sound on 6&7 October 2007
and 7&8 June 2008 at Chorley Town Hall.*

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RUSSELL GRAY PERFORMS
THE ARBAN CORNET SOLOS

ACCOMPANIED BY LEYLAND BAND
CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL FOWLES

RUSSELL GRAY

Russell Gray has been working as a freelance conductor since 1998. His career regularly takes him to most European countries, Japan and Australia.

In 2007 Russell was appointed Adjunct Professor at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in Australia. This appointment adds to his position of Cornet tutor at the University of Salford in Manchester England.

Russell was born in Scotland in 1968, and in his early years learned to play the cornet. By the time he was 12 years old he had already won the junior solo Championships of both Scotland and Great Britain.

During his University studies Russell was a member of the Black Dyke Mills Brass Band. Yamaha became aware of Russell's talents and soon a relationship was established with him as an internationally endorsed soloist. This appointment has helped Russell become one of the most sought after cornet soloists in the world today.

In 1998 Russell started his conducting career by moving to Norway, accepting the position of resident conductor with the Stavanger Brass Band. During this time Russell helped them further their reputation as one of the finest brass ensembles in the world by recording several CDs, and fusing links with other musical groups and composers, including the popular Scandinavian folk group Vamp, Stig Roar Wigestrang (Jazz Violin), and Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen. He also enhanced their name internationally touring Scotland, England and Latvia.

Since moving back to England in 2001 Russell has won many competitions, including the Norwegian, Japanese, Scottish, and British National Brass Band Championships.

Russell also enjoys working with many varied ensembles which include the National Youth Band of Switzerland, Queensland Youth Band, Australian Army Band (Brisbane), Regimental Band of Her Majesty's Coldstream Guards, Wrexham Symphony Orchestra,

JEAN BAPTISTE ARBAN (1825 – 1889)

Arban was called a dreamer in his day, but by his musical ideas and artistic practice he made the Cornet a solo instrument equal in popularity, even then, to the flute, clarinet, violin and the voice. Throughout his tours through France, Germany and England, he pleaded the cause of the Cornet and proved that his instrument could compete with the most popular instruments.



J.B. Arban

Arban was appointed Professor of the Cornet of the Paris Conservatory in 1857, and in 1864 his Method was first published. The directors of the conservatory made the following report regarding the adoption of his Cornet Method as the Standard Instructor:

"The Committee of Musical Studies in the Paris Conservatoire has examined the Method which has been submitted by Mr. Arban. This work of sensible development is founded on excellent principles, and omits no teaching essential to the making of a good cornetist. It is really a resume of the knowledge acquired by the author's long experience as a professor and executant, and also the exceptional results which have marked his artistic career. In this wealthy mine

of instruction, where all musical questions are treated, we can readily observe Mr. Arban's profound knowledge of the difficulties and his skill in overcoming them. The Committee desires to congratulate Mr. Arban, and will adopt his Method of instruction at the Paris Conservatoire."

Bernard van Meurs

LEYLAND BAND

Leyland Band was established in 1946 in the heart of industrial Lancashire as the Leyland Motors Band, taking its name from the world famous truck and Bus Company. Now an independent group of some 30 musicians, the band has retained its local connection and now proudly bears the name of its home town.

The last 25 years of the band's existence has been the most consistently successful in its history and the band has witnessed scores of prize awards at all the major competitions in the brass band arena.

Leyland Band has also rightly earned its reputation as an unrivalled concert entertainer by producing dynamic and unique performances both at home and abroad. A flexible approach to programming is a hallmark of Leyland Band and its repertoire is as varied as the venues at which it performs.

In 1980, the ensemble was the first western brass band to tour Japan, a country it revisited along with South Korea in the 1990s. In the last decade, 4 coast to coast tours of the United States of America are testament to the band's far-reaching appeal. Numerous performances on continental Europe have been a feature of the band's work on the concert platform.

Away from its successes on the concert

platform, Leyland boasts a proud record in the competition arena. It is one of only a handful of British brass bands that has won several 'majors' in the brass band arena.

During the 1970s, the band made a meteoric rise through the sections, quickly achieving championship status and cementing its status as a leading player within the brass music community. The band made a remarkable impact in 1994, when it won the British Open Brass Band Championships at Manchester's Free Trade Hall.

The band has taken top honours at the North West Area Championships 8 times, as well as being crowned All England Masters Champion on three occasions. In 2005, the band was victorious at the National Championships of Great Britain in London's Royal Albert Hall.

Leyland Band has also held the title of BBC Band of the Year, as well as winning televised entertainment competitions.

However, it is at the Brass in Concert Championships where Leyland Band has made its most profound impact. Year after year, the band leads the field in entertainment and has consequently been awarded the Brass in Concert crown on four occasions.



Russell Gray

Cambrian Philharmonic Orchestra and Queensland Pops Orchestra.

In 2007 Russell attended the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to study for his Masters Degree in

Orchestral Conducting. During this time he worked extensively with the Royal Scottish Academy Symphony Orchestra, and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, graduating with Distinction in 2008.

ARBAN COLLECTION II

I began my musical education at the tender age of nine. My first teacher Mr Geoffrey Bolt, who was then a member of the Trumpet section of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, introduced me to the Arban tutor book. He said 'This book is the only book you will need to study from for the rest of your playing days'. He was right! I have of course used other books during my studies, but the Arban complete Method for Cornet has been my fall back every time I have need to work on my basic technique.

With this recording I have achieved a life, long ambition to record all 18 solos printed at the back of the Boosey & Hawkes edition of the book.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people, so if you have read this far thank-you! Please keep reading.

The recording would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of my friends at the Leyland Band,

Gary Westwood, Ian McKnight, Mark Owen, and my good friend John Durrant for their imaginative arrangements of the solos. The task I set them was to come up with interesting brass band accompaniments for the remaining nine solos not yet recorded. Most of the solos didn't even have a piano part to help, so a large proportion of the CD is original composition.

I would also like to thank Michael Fowles for directing the band through the recording, his sympathetic conducting and his efficiency in rehearsal made my job as performer much easier, and I hope you will enjoy the results.

Leyland Band and I have had a long history, and I was delighted to have my old band accompany me on this project. As the 2005 National Champions, they have re-established themselves as one of the finest brass bands in the world today, and they approached this project with real professionalism and enthusiasm.

My producer Brian Hillson is one of the world's leading producers in the field of classical recordings. I would like to thank him for not letting me get away with anything. He never gave up on me, even when we got to take 14!!!

The Arban Collection Volume 1 featured a Courtois, Arban model cornet from the 1870s owned by Mr Arban himself. The sound produced was very different from a modern cornet, so to highlight this I chose to record this CD on my new Yamaha Xeno Cornet. I would like to say thank-you to Yamaha for producing such a wonderful instrument and their continuing support.

To all brass players – I hope that this recording will inspire you to continue your efforts with the book and perhaps want to perform some of the lesser known solos themselves.

Russell Gray

