

1. **DOUBLE TROUBLE** Barbara Thompson 7.23
- 2-4. **SALT OF THE EARTH** Andy Scott 14.44  
i. 5.34 ii. 4.39 iii. 4.31
5. **GOING DOWN** Andy Scott 9.41
- 6-8. **BITE THE BULLET** Andy Scott 10.32  
i. 3.43 ii. 2.46 iii. 4.03
- 9-11. **CONCERTO FOR TUBA AND BRASS BAND**  
**'LIVING IN THE FAST LANE'** Barbara Thompson arr. Fieldhouse 17.12  
i. 5.43 ii. 4.56 iii. 6.27

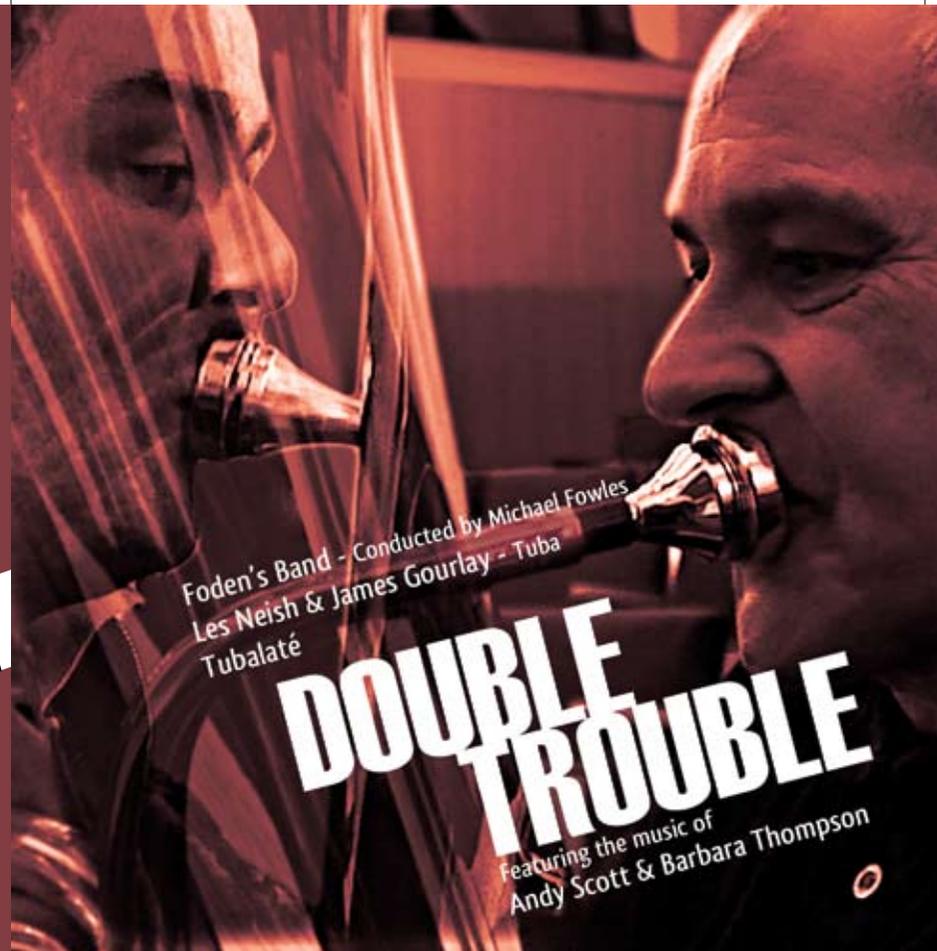
Total CD Playing Time 60.52

Track 1 James Gourlay & Les Neish with Foden's Band  
Tracks 2-4 Les Neish with Foden's Band  
Track 5 James Gourlay  
Tracks 6-8 Tubalaté & Ben Gray (drums)  
Tracks 9-11 James Gourlay with Foden's Band

# DOUBLE TROUBLE

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SFZ 152



The production of *Double Trouble* celebrates what can be achieved when true collaboration across musical genres, composers and performers is allowed to blossom and develop. The bringing together of Barbara Thompson, Andy Scott, James Gourlay, Les Neish, Tubalaté, Jim Fieldhouse and the Foden's Band has produced this quite unique recording.

Having originally written *Life in the Fast Lane* for James Gourlay and big-band, composer Barbara Thompson had the opportunity to hear Andy Scott's *Salt of the Earth* (commissioned for the 2008 Festival of Brass at the RNCM and performed by Les Neish) and was immediately taken with the thought of a re-scoring of her original work for brass band accompaniment. Principal Euphonium of the Hepworth Band and member of Andy Scott's award winning 'Sax Assault' group, Jim Fieldhouse, was approached and produced a fine arrangement of the work for Foden's – and the CD started to take shape.

Add to the mix the magnificent Tubalaté (with drummer Ben Gray) with Andy's *Bite the Bullet* and *Going Down*, written for Jim Gourlay with experimental tuba sampling, the only gap in the programme was a joint work that would highlight the immense technical and musical talents of these two great tuba virtuosi.

*Double Trouble* is exactly that vehicle. Framed at the start and the close by the Foden's Band, Barbara Thompson has penned a musical tour de force that would stretch and push even these two great exponents of the instrument.

In all, the recording serves as testament to what can be crafted, nurtured and enjoyed when the coming together of creative minds and fabulous musicianship is allowed to simply enjoy itself.

*John Barber  
Chairman  
Foden's Band*

2007 included victories at the North West Area Championship for a record breaking 14th time, being crowned the International Masters Champions and victory at the Tameside Whit Friday March Contests for a sixth consecutive year. Foden's were runners up at the National Finals, at Brass in Concert held at the Sage, Gateshead, as well as receiving 3rd prize at the British Open.

2008 proved another successful year with victories at the North West Area Contest, Tameside Whit Friday March Contest, the British Open Championship

and runners up at the National Finals at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

2009 saw victory at the North West Area Contest for a record breaking 16th time, victory at the International Masters as well as winning the Tameside Whit Friday March Contest for the eighth consecutive year and the Brass in Concert championships in Gateshead.

[www.fodensband.co.uk](http://www.fodensband.co.uk)

# INTRODUCTION



# FODEN'S BAND

The origins of the band go back to 1900 when the village of Elworth, near Sandbach in Cheshire, formed its own band having been let down by its attempt to secure the services of the nearby town band to feature in the celebrations marking the relief of Mafeking in the Boer War.

After a couple of years the village band was wound up but from that base local industrialist Edwin Foden formed the Foden's Motor Works Band. For a few years the new band had modest ambitions but in 1908 a fundamental reorganisation took place and, by the following year, it had achieved Championship Section status, a prestigious position that has been maintained ever since.

The band has been a prize winner at the coveted British Open Brass Band Championships 32 times, winning nine times, including a hat-trick in 1926, '27 and '28. The band has also been a prize winner 37 times at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, 12 times as winner, including an

unparalleled double hat-trick in 1932, '33, '34 and 1936, '37 and '38.

Under its former title, the band was ordered to play by Royal Command on three occasions: in 1913 for King George V and Queen Mary, in 1938 at Windsor Castle for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and most recently in 1983 where the band had the honour of playing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. In wartime, the band toured Europe for ENSA and in peacetime it toured Canada, South Africa and Israel.

In July 1986 the band accepted sponsorship from Britannia Building Society, thereby maintaining its position as one of the country's leading bands, becoming BBC Band of the Year in 1990 and 1992, and European Champions in 1992.

Becoming All England Masters Champions in 1990, '91, '94 and '95, the band emerged as the most consistent band in this field, and in 1993 it became the first British band to win the Swiss Open Championships. In March 2006, Foden's became the North West Area Champions and in July of that year made history by winning the inaugural English National Brass Band Championships.

## DOUBLE TROUBLE ©Temple Music

A duet for two tubas, with optional introduction and coda for brass band, composed by Barbara Thompson.

Barbara writes: 'Though written as a continuous piece, this composition has several clearly defined sections or moods and the performers can make more or less of the transitions. With a total range of four octaves and more (unmatched by most other instruments), the tuba has a lot to offer that hasn't yet been fully utilised.'

Barbara has written an accessible and challenging work which while it extends the perimeters of technique, never loses its sense of direction - a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

## SALT OF THE EARTH ©Astute Music

A blues-tinged tuba cadenza opens *Salt of the Earth* before moving into a Bulgarian-like folk theme which alternates with a heavier funk feel. The two multiphonics that frame the movement are inspired by a cadenza that the late great saxophonist Michael Brecker played on the album *Some Skunk Funk*. The slower second movement is gospel-influenced, the seven-bar melody being passed around different soloists whilst the solo tuba weaves in and out of the melody in an almost improvisatory way. The third and final movement of *Salt of the Earth* is an explosion of big band latin-jazz, led from the front by the solo tuba!

Composed by Andy Scott for Les with funds made available from the BBC Fame Academy Education Bursary and the Worshipful Company of Musicians, in recognition of the composer's success in winning the award in the Wind Band & Brass Band section of the 2006 British Composer Awards. The world premiere performance was given by Les Neish and Foden's Band, conducted by Garry Cutt, on Sunday 27 January 2008 at the Royal Northern College of Music Festival of Brass, Manchester.

## GOING DOWN ©Temple Music

*Going Down* was commissioned by the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester (Wind & Percussion Department) for international tuba virtuoso James Gourlay. Premiered by him at the 'RNCM International Tuba and Euphonium Festival' on Saturday 15 November 2003.

Andy writes, 'Scored for solo tuba and accompanying CD, all the sounds on the CD originated from the tuba. *Going Down* divides into three sections; the four phrases of the introduction are accompanied by 'breathing noises' on the CD before the second section is introduced by 'key clicks' and various other tuba-generated percussive effects. Within the second section are three sub-sections; an angular jazz-influenced melody that harmonically expands with the introduction of tubas on the CD, a quieter second section that uses two and three-part harmony alongside effects such as slap

tonguing and manipulated inhaling sounds on the CD, before building to the third sub-section where the influence of latin and jazz-funk rhythm and harmony is more to the fore. A solo cadenza links the second and third main sections. The third and final section is reflective and calm. Up to this point I generally avoided writing in the lowest octave of the tuba, now is the time to 'go down'. The CD comprises a wash of sampled tuba sounds, the solo tuba part has a series of notes that gradually descend to a low C, played with a rhythmic freedom that allows the implied harmonies to be different with each performance.'

Special thanks to James Gourlay and Steve Williams (studio engineer/producer), both of whom gave so much energy and expertise to help make this piece a reality.

James Gourlay was born in Scotland where, at the age of ten, he was 'volunteered' to play in his school brass band. Being tallest in class, he was serendipitously given the tuba, an instrument he loves and continues to promote all over the world.

After much success as a solo champion, James entered the Royal College of Music but left after a short time to become, at age 18, the Principal Tuba of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Four years later, he took up the same position with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, with which he worked for ten years. He then performed for a further ten years with the Orchestra of the Zürich Opera.

James's career as a chamber musician and soloist continues to flourish. He has been a member of the Philip Jones and English Brass Ensembles with which he has toured the world and as a soloist, continues to perform extensively. He has recorded five solo CDs, the latest, *British Tuba Concertos*, recorded for the Naxos label, with the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, received international critical acclaim.

Gourlay's work within the brass band movement forms a vital component of his creative output. After early success with the Brass Band

Berneroblerland, he became Music Director of Williams Fairey Band with which he won the English Masters and British Open Contests. James has also been Professional Conductor of the Grimethorpe Colliery and the Brighthouse and Rastrick bands and is currently guest conductor of the Brass Band Treize Etoiles, with which he has won the Swiss National Championships, the Swiss Open Championships, second place at the European Brass Band Championships, as well as the World Brass Band Championships.

James Gourlay's commitment to music education is a continuing passion. He has been Head of Wind and Percussion at the Royal Northern College of Music and Deputy Principal and Music Director at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from Salford University, a Masters Degree from Leeds University, a Fellowship of the Royal Northern College of Music, a Fellowship of the London College of Music and is also a recipient of the Henry Iles Medal, presented by the Worshipful Company of Musicians for services to the brass band movement. Currently, James is Vice President of the International Tuba and Euphonium Association and Director of Music of the world famous Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

[web.mac.com/jamesgourlay1956](http://web.mac.com/jamesgourlay1956)

# JAMES GOURLAY

*'If ever there was a convincing advocate of the tuba, it's Les. His playing reaches out from the stage, picks you up by the scruff of the neck and says listen to me.'*

Stephanie Hughes (BBC Radio)

*'The player who most reminds me of John Fletcher today is Les Neish.'*

Bramwell Tovey (International Conductor)

## LES NEISH

Les Neish has become one of the leading tuba players of his generation. His endeavours as a tuba player have gained him recognition as a soloist, chamber musician and educator throughout the world. His career has been extremely diverse with highlights including a performance at Millennium Park, Chicago and even performing on an album with pop star Sting.

He gained a First Class Honours degree, a Professional Performance Diploma and a Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction from the Royal Northern College of Music Manchester and after graduating was taken onto the staff as a chamber music coach and tuba tutor at the RNCM Junior School. As a past student of the RNCM and Junior RNCM, he really is delighted to take up these positions.

Les has really pushed the boundaries of tuba, being the first ever tuba player to be awarded the Worshipful Company of Dyers Award for Wind and Brass at the Royal Overseas League Competition and the first player to perform a solo tuba recital at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester.

His recent debut solo CD *Salt of the Earth* has received great critical acclaim, winning both Brass Band World and British Bandsman magazines' Solo CD of the Year Awards and receiving airtime on BBC Radio 3.

Away from solo performance, Les is a member of Foden's Band and is also privileged to be part of the tuba section of the world famous, American based, Brass Band of Battle Creek. His busy playing schedule sees performances in France, Germany, Belgium, Michigan, Virginia, Arizona and Chicago in 2010.

As a chamber musician, Les has performed with the UK's leading ensembles, including Fine Arts Brass, ONYX Brass, Tubalaté, NEMO and Polyphonic Brass.

Les is dedicated to raising the profile of an instrument that is sometimes forgotten at the back of an orchestra. He really is proving that the tuba has so much more to offer!

[www.tuba-artist.com](http://www.tuba-artist.com)

## BITE THE BULLET ©Astute Music

A three movement work that is scored for two euphoniums, two tubas and drum kit. Written for Tubalaté and commissioned by Richard Phillips and Stratford on Avon Music Festival, the world premiere was given by Tubalaté and Ben Gray on 20 October 2004 as part of the Stratford on Avon Music Festival.

*Bite the Bullet* is influenced by the music of New Orleans, jazz and funk. Often punchy and direct, with a no messing attitude, the character of the piece is influenced by groups such as Young Blood Brass Band.

## CONCERTO FOR TUBA AND BRASS BAND

### 'LIVING IN THE FAST LANE' ©Temple Music

*Concerto for Tuba and Brass Band - 'Living in the Fast Lane'* in three movements, composed by Barbara Thompson, arranged for brass band by Jim Fieldhouse.

Originally conceived as a concerto for tuba and jazz big-band, it was originally performed this way with James Gourlay as soloist. Subsequently Barbara decided to feature it on her 2005 *Paraphernalia* album, *Never Say Goodbye* augmenting her band with a brass line-up and using the members of Paraphernalia as the soloists. Barbara says: 'The tuba has been neglected as a solo instrument and its possibilities ignored in the past, and the general public as well as fellow brass players will be amazed when they hear what is possible.' At the recent album recording of this version with brass band, James Gourlay, the world renowned tuba soloist, said in a filmed interview: 'Barbara has written one of the most difficult pieces for tuba – it's wonderful music and a real challenge – and challenges must always be met head on!'

# ANDY SCOTT

Saxophonist and composer Andy Scott is dedicated to performing, composing, recording and commissioning new music. He is respected as a creative musician who instigates projects, ensembles and collaborations.

Andy recently performed *Concerto for Stan Getz* by Sir Richard Rodney Bennett with the BBC Concert Orchestra at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, broadcast live by BBC Radio 3. Andy's commitment to expanding the repertoire for tenor saxophone has resulted in the recent release of the CD *My Mountain Top*, featuring world premiere recordings. In 2004 Andy formed the Worldwide Tenor Saxophone.

Andy Scott's SaxAssault undertook a UK Tour to promote its 'Sax of Gold' CD. Featuring new works by Andy, the CD also includes special guests Gwilym Simcock and Bob Mintzer. SaxAssault performed by invitation at the 14th World Saxophone Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Percussionist Dave Hassell and Andy have worked as an experimental and daring duo since 1996, performing in Europe and the USA, recording for

Quartz, and touring and recording in 2010 with Mexican percussionist Evaristo Aguilar.

Since its formation in 1985 Andy has played tenor saxophone in the internationally-acclaimed Apollo Saxophone Quartet, touring Europe and Asia, recording for Decca/Argo, Black Box, Quartz and broadcasting many times for BBC Radio. The ASQ has commissioned over 100 works to date.

Andy's compositions embrace elements of classical, jazz and world music, creating a distinctive individual style. His *Concerto for Two Saxophones, Dark Rain*, was awarded First Prize in the British Composer Awards 2006 (Wind Band and Brass Band Category).

He is Composer in Residence with Foden's Band, and autumn 2010 sees the release of *A World Within*, a CD recording comprising Andy's latest works for Foden's.

Andy is Tutor of Saxophone at the Royal Northern College of Music, and is Co-Artistic Director with Rob Buckland of the annual RNCM Saxophone Day. He is an endorsee of Selmer Paris Saxophones, is published by Astute Music and is co-Vice President of the International Saxophone Committee.

[www.andyscott.org.uk](http://www.andyscott.org.uk)



For almost 20 years Tubalaté has been one of the UK's leading professional brass ensembles. Being the first ever tuba-euphonium ensemble to graduate and be awarded the prestigious Professional Performance Diploma from the Royal Northern College of Music, Tubalaté has been at the forefront of instrumental and repertory development.

Their wide range of styles and flexibility of performance has gained them an international reputation for promoting the dynamic development of brass chamber music, regularly presenting familiar music contrasted with exciting new commissions and generating a repertoire that is innovative and unique.

Tubalaté travel worldwide, playing to audiences in Russia, Latvia and the USA, as well as throughout Europe. The ensemble has also performed at many of the UK's leading venues, including the South Bank, the Barbican, the Waterfront Hall (Belfast), the Bridgewater Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall and made several appearances on radio and television. In 1998 Tubalaté received a Royal

accolade performing at Buckingham Palace for Prince Charles's 50th birthday celebrations, hosted by the Queen.

The four members are Paul Walton and John Powell (euphoniums), Ryan Breen and Les Neish (tubas). Their vision has brought Tubalaté to the forefront of brass playing, with innovation and musical intelligence.

2011 will see Tubalaté celebrating twenty years of music making. The ensemble plan performances encompassing the wide range of repertoire they have built alongside a new exciting multi-media project with composer Michael Szpakowski.

[www.tubalate.com](http://www.tubalate.com)

**TUBALATÉ**

# BARBARA THOMPSON

Barbara Thompson studied clarinet, flute and composition at the Royal College of Music but, inspired by a memorable night at a Duke Ellington concert, she quickly established a name for herself in the Jazz clubs. For 25 years she toured the world with her band Paraphernalia, recording more than 20 albums, becoming one of the few British Jazz saxophonists well known internationally. Alongside her playing career, she developed herself as a composer, writing for many different sized ensembles, from symphony orchestra to saxophone quartets, trios and duos. Millions heard her haunting saxophone on the title theme to David Jason's series *A Touch of Frost*, which she wrote with her husband, drummer and producer Jon Hiseman.

In 1996, Barbara was awarded an MBE for services to music. In 1997, she was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease but with the help of medication has continued touring and composing.

[www.barbara-thompson.co.uk](http://www.barbara-thompson.co.uk)

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