

1.	<b>A Foggy Day (in London Town)</b> <i>MIs</i>	George & Ira Gershwin arr. Harrelson	2.35
2.	<b>Excerpts from 'The Little Russian'</b> ©SP&S	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky arr. Gordon	5.37
3.	<b>Over the Rainbow</b> ©Ray Farr Editions <i>Flugel Horn Soloist Matthew Vangiel</i>	Harold Arlen arr. Farr	4.31
4.	<b>Variations on Laudate Dominum</b> ©SP&S	Edward Gregson	14.45
5.	<b>A Little Prayer</b> ©Faber Music Ltd. <i>Baritone Soloist Helen Tyler</i>	Evelyn Glennie arr. Childs	2.55
6.	<b>The Gael</b> ©Crabtree Music Publications	Dougie MacLean & Trevor Jones arr. Duncan	4.14
7.	<b>Prelude - 49th Parallel</b> ©Oxford University Press	Ralph Vaughan Williams arr. Douglas	3.11
8.	<b>Hora Staccato</b> ©Studio Music	Grigoras Dinicu & Jascha Heifetz arr. Richards	2.18
9.	<b>The Piper O' Dundee</b> ©Kantatamusik <i>Tenor Horn Soloist TJ Menges</i>	Kenneth Downie	4.48
10.	<b>'Mid all the Traffic</b> ©SP&S	Traditional arr. Ballantine	3.37
11.	<b>Xylophonia</b> ©Kirklees Music <i>Xylophone Soloist Theodore Musick</i>	Joe Green arr. Snell	3.38
12.	<b>Malagueña</b> ©Sierra Music <i>Trumpet Soloist Tim Thomas</i> <i>Trombone Soloist Karen Zawacki</i>	Ernesto Lecuona arr. Harrelson	7.18

**Total CD Playing Time 60.46**

Track 8 recorded live at Brass in Concert Championship 2009, The Sage Gateshead  
Track 10 conducted by Mark Norman

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SFZ 153

over  
the rainbow

Fountain City Brass Band  
Conducted by Dr Joseph Parisi

## PROGRAMME NOTES

*'...and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.'*

The line from the classic Harold Arlen tune, *Over the Rainbow*, has indeed proven to be true for the Fountain City Brass Band. After winning both the North American Brass Band Association Championships and the U.S. Open Brass Band Championships three years in a row, the FCBB was fortunate enough to launch a tour that would go down in banding history.

As winners of the 2008 U.S. Open, the band was invited to compete in the following year's Brass in Concert Championship, as well as to give numerous concerts and youth workshops throughout the United Kingdom, record its second album and be the first American band to compete in the Scottish Open Championship. It was a lengthy trip that saw the band overseas during the American holiday of Thanksgiving which, being away from their homes and families, was spent as comfortably as possible in a castle-turned resort.

A few days after this, the band's dreams really did come true when the FCBB became the first American band to win a top level brass band competition in the UK with its victory at the Scottish Open. Aptly enough, their choice for this performance was Bertrand Moren's thrilling composition *Dreams* that also garnered the best soloist prize on the day for one of the founding members of the band, trombonist William Hess.

Given this remarkable success, that the future seems brighter than ever and that the band itself hails from Kansas, the Fountain City Brass Band has titled this recording *Over the Rainbow*.

*A Foggy Day (in London Town)*, originally from the 1937 film *A Damsel in Distress*, was written by George and Ira Gershwin. It was one of the last tunes George Gershwin wrote, and he died unexpectedly from a brain tumour while the film

performed with such prestigious ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, St Louis Symphony, Kansas City Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, Empire Brass, United States Army Band 'Pershing's Own', Mr. Jack Daniel's Silver Cornet Band, Black Dyke Band, Foden's Band, YBS Band, Halle Orchestra, Lieksa Symphony and numerous New York City Broadway productions including *Les Misérables*

and *The Phantom of the Opera*. They have also taught on the faculties of such schools as the University of Kansas, University of Missouri, University of Missouri – Kansas City, University of Central Missouri, Kansas State University, University of Colorado, Missouri Western State University, Washburn University and the University of Southern Mississippi.

### Executive Producer

Trevor Caffull

### Producer

Adam Goldsmith

### Engineer

Richard Scott

### Post-Production

Adam Goldsmith & Jonathan Corry

### Project Manager

Kevin J Coates MBE

### Programme Notes

TJ Menges

### Design & Artwork

Andrew Wainwright

Cover Image courtesy of  
dreamstime.com

Recorded by World of Sound on 18 & 19 November 2009 at Morley Town Hall, Leeds.

## FOUNTAIN CITY BRASS BAND

**Fountain City Brass Band (FCBB)**, founded in 2002, is a volunteer musical ensemble based in the greater Kansas City area. The band is committed to a mission of cultural enrichment through the presentation of concerts that are both entertaining and educational. Performing a wide variety of music including opera, jazz, Broadway and modern compositions written especially for brass band, FCBB seeks to bridge the gap between popular and classical music. Offering casual, audience friendly concerts, the band also actively seeks to initiate cultural revitalisation and arts awareness in the local community. Fountain City Brass Band is the reigning North American and U.S. Open Brass Band Champion, having won an unprecedented six consecutive national titles. In November 2009 Fountain City Brass Band became the first American band and the first non-UK band in over 50 years, to win a major brass band competition on UK soil at the Scottish Open Brass Band Championships.

At the end of 19th century, there were over 18,000 brass bands in the United States. These bands were a central part of the cultural life of America at a time before the advent of radio and other forms of mass media. Mindful of its responsibility towards this rich but now endangered historical tradition, FCBB strives to keep alive a vital part of early American heritage. Also aware of its responsibilities to future generations, the band is committed to education, offering a wide array of outreach programmes designed specifically for schools and the community. Additionally, FCBB also offers a variety of chamber ensembles, as well as individual band members who are available for performances and clinics in the local community.

Fountain City Brass Band has been the host of a number of internationally renowned brass soloists and clinicians, including Patrick Sheridan, Steven Mead, Roger Oyster, Stephen Bulla and Helen Tyler. Members of the 30-piece ensemble have

was in production. First sung by Fred Astaire, the song's popularity has greatly outlasted the film itself and is now considered a standard in the Great American Songbook.

Though Tchaikovsky is not generally considered to be one of the great composers of Russian Nationalist music, many of his most popular works are just that, and his *Symphony No. 2 – The Little Russian* is a prime example. Composed in 1872, it was immediately successful. However, Tchaikovsky was unhappy with the work and made an extensive revision, the version that is usually performed today.

The *Finale* from this symphony is a theme and variations on the Russian folksong *The Crane*. After a brief opening fanfare, the theme is stated in a grandiose fashion by the full ensemble. This is followed by a set of increasingly intricate variations with a second theme providing a short lyrical interlude. The variations then continue until the work's triumphant conclusion.

One of the most popular songs of the 20th Century, ***Over the Rainbow***, was written for the classic 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*. It was sung in that film by Judy Garland and has since been associated with her more than any other artist. Though only the chorus was used in the film, this arrangement by Ray Farr begins with the introductory verse, which is commonly used in theatrical productions. The song is performed here by FCBB's Matthew Vangjel, who was winner of the 2009 Brass in Concert Best Flugel Horn Award.

Edward Gregson's ***Variations on Laudate Dominum*** was originally composed in 1976 for the London Citadel Band (Ontario), which at the time was conducted by his brother, Bramwell Gregson. The main theme, heard only in its complete form at the end of the work, is Sir Hubert Parry's hymn *O Worship the King*. The work has become a favourite not only within the brass band tradition of The Salvation Army, but with brass bands throughout the world. In addition to several minor changes, this revised version also contains two additional,

central variations that are both rhythmically and tonally exciting.

Written by Scottish percussion virtuoso Dame Evelyn Glennie, *A Little Prayer* is part of a set titled *Three Chorales* for solo marimba. Later arranged as a euphonium solo by Robert Childs for his son David, it is here performed by Fountain City Brass Band's Solo Baritone, Helen Tyler.

Originally composed by Dougie MacLean for his album *The Search*, *The Gael* is most famous perhaps, as the main theme from the film *The Last of the Mohicans*, for which it was adapted by Trevor Jones. Set in North America during the Seven Years' War, both the film and its brilliant score have become modern American classics.

The film *49th Parallel* was released in 1941 in an attempt to sway American public opinion toward entering the Second World War and was the first of a number of film scores composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The story is of a foraging squad from a German U-boat, stranded in Hudson Bay when their ship has been sunk, trying to reach the

still neutral United States. As they journey, they encounter the various groups of people who have found a peaceful and abundant existence in their Canadian homeland with all of the settings having an easily drawn American equivalent. Vaughan Williams' lush score for the opening credits shows the Canadian Rocky Mountains followed by a map of North America with the 49th parallel highlighted. The narration that follows sums up the entire film: 'I see a long, straight line athwart a continent. No chain of forts, or deep flowing river, or mountain range, but a line drawn by men upon a map, nearly a century ago, accepted with a handshake, and kept ever since. A boundary which divides two nations, yet marks their friendly meeting ground. The 49th parallel: the only undefended frontier in the world.'

Written in 1906 for his graduation from the Bucharest Conservatory, Grigoras Dinicu's *Hora Staccato* is probably most often associated with the violinist Jascha Heifetz who made his own arrangement of the work in 1932. The work has since become a popular showpiece for violinists and for many trumpet players as well. This

work has been published in various professional journals and books including the *International Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Jazz Education Journal*, the *College Band Directors Journal*, *GIA Publications: Teaching Music Through Performance in Jazz* and the *Missouri Journal of Research in Music Education* where he currently serves as the editor.

Parisi is also the conductor of Kansas City's Fountain City Brass Band. Previously the group's Principal Cornetist, Parisi was invited to become the Musical Director and Conductor of the group in the autumn of 2006. Since that time, the group has been recognised as one of the world's top brass bands with consecutive wins at the North American Brass Band Championships in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and at the U.S. Open Brass Band Championship in 2007, 2008 and 2009. Fountain City also became the first American band to be invited to the prestigious All England Masters International Brass Band Championships in 2007, being the highest finishing band in US history among bands from England, Scotland, Belgium and Holland. As a result of Parisi's work within

the brass band world, he was nominated for the 'Conductor of the Year' Award in 2007, 2008 and 2009. In November 2009 Dr Parisi led Fountain City Brass Band to its historic win at the Scottish Open Brass Band Championships.

Parisi received a bachelor's degree in music education from the State University of New York at Potsdam (Crane School of Music); a masters degree in trumpet performance from the Florida State University and a PhD in Instrumental Conducting / Music Education from the Florida State University. Dr Parisi is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, the College Band Directors National Association, Music Educators National Conference, Missouri Music Educators Association, International Trumpet Guild, Phi Mu Alpha, Kappa Kappa Psi and currently serves as the Conservatory's CMENC chapter advisor. While at the Conservatory, Parisi has been nominated for the Kauffman Excellence in Teaching Award, Research Award and received the Kauffman Excellence in Teaching Award in 2009 and the Outstanding Service Award in 2005.

## DR JOSEPH PARISI



Joseph Parisi is an assistant professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance where he serves as chair of music education and associate director of bands. His teaching opportunities include the Conservatory Wind Ensemble, undergraduate conducting and methods, technology for teaching music, and improvisation methods for the music curriculum. Prior to his appointment at UMKC, he taught

middle and high school band in the public school system of Georgia for over ten years. He has international experience as a conductor, performer and adjudicator while also maintaining a profile as a presenter and researcher at state, regional, national and international meetings of groups such as Music Educators National Conference, College Band Directors National Association, and the International Association for Jazz Education. His

arrangement, by Goff Richards, features the entire cornet section of Fountain City Brass Band.

Though there is considerable historical debate over the identity of the actual man, the political beliefs of *The Piper O' Dundee* are quite clear. The original Scottish folk song comes from the time of the Glorious Revolution, when the Jacobite sentiment swept through much of the British Isles. This setting of the tune, by Kenneth Downie was composed for Sheona White and is played here by the Principal Tenor Horn of Fountain City Brass Band, TJ Menges.

*'Mid all the Traffic* is a song very well-known in both the United Kingdom and the United States, but perhaps more so by one of its alternate titles - *Shenandoah* or *Across the Wide Missouri*. The song originated as a sea shanty, but quickly became a popular song during the settlement of the American West. The song tells of the love felt by a pioneer for a Native American man's daughter, with his promise that though he must journey away from her now, he will one day return for her. This particular song is also the state song of

Missouri, the home state of many of the members of Fountain City Brass Band.

Brass band literature is filled with solo pieces written by virtuoso performers with themselves in mind. The same can be said of *Xylophonia*, which was written by Joseph Green, who, like Herbert L. Clark and Arthur Pryor, was at one time a member of the Sousa Band. It is performed here by FCBB's principal percussionist, Theodore Musick, who was winner of the Best Soloist Competition at the 2009 U.S. Open Brass Band Championships.

Originally composed for the piano as the sixth movement of *Suite Andaluía*, *Malagueña* by Ernesto Lecuona is a song that has the same vibrancy and passion no matter what its setting. The song has been wildly popular since its composition in 1927 and has been featured by many musicians from Morton Gould to Doc Severinsen. This version, arranged by Lee Harrelson, captures both the serenity of night time in Andalusia from the original version as well as the scorching showmanship of the ever-popular arrangement by Bill Holman for the Stan Kenton Orchestra.



Fountain City Brass Band at the Brass in Concert Championship 2009  
The Sage Gateshead, England

## PERSONNEL

**Music Director**  
Dr Joseph Parisi

**Artistic Director**  
Dr Lee Harrelson

**Soprano Cornet**  
Ryan Sharp\*

**Principal Cornet**  
Chris Larios

**Assistant Principal Cornet**  
Stan Smith

**Solo Cornet**  
Peter Pirotte  
Tim Thomas\*

**Repiano Cornet**  
Michael Averett

**2nd Cornet**  
Ron Stinson\*  
Paul Bessetti

**3rd Cornet**  
Kenny DeCoursey\*  
Raquel Rodriguez\*

**Flugel Horn**  
Matthew Vangiel

**Solo Horn**  
TJ Menges

**1st Horn**  
Sarah Tarrant

**2nd Horn**  
Jennifer Akhtar

**Solo Baritone**  
Helen Tyler

**2nd Baritone**  
Benjamin McMillan

**Solo Trombone**  
Karen Zawacki

**2nd Trombone**  
William Hess

**Bass Trombone**  
Andrew Schwartz

**Solo Euphonium**  
Lee Harrelson

**2nd Euphonium**  
Nate Gay

**E♭ Bass**  
Charles Page  
Mark Norman

**B♭ Bass**  
Scott Watson  
Brent Harvey

**Percussion**  
Jason Degenhardt  
Calvin Dugan  
Chris Howard  
Theodore Musick, *Principal*

*\*trumpet on Malaguena*