

# PATRONS' CHOICE III

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|---|--------------------------------|------|
| 1. <b>Imperial Echoes</b> ©Boosey & Hawkes Ltd.         | Arnold Safroni arr. Ord Hume   | 3.02 |
| 2. <b>The Merry Wives of Windsor</b> M/s                | Otto Nicolai arr. Cooper       | 8.53 |
| 3. <b>Tico Tico</b> M/s                                 | Zequinha Abreu arr. Iveson     | 4.20 |
| <i>Cornet Soloist Mark Wilkinson</i>                    |                                |      |
| 4. <b>Winter from 'The Four Seasons'</b> ©Rakeway Music | Vivaldi arr. Snell             | 3.21 |
| 5. <b>Rhythm and Blues</b> ©Studio Music                | Philip Sparke                  | 3.29 |
| 6. <b>Children of Sanchez</b> ©Gates Music              | Chuck Mangione arr. Gilje      | 5.55 |
| <i>Flugel Horn Soloist Helen Williams</i>               |                                |      |
| 7. <b>Capriccio Espagnol</b> ©Studio Music              | Rimsky-Korsakov arr. Wilkinson | 4.21 |
| 8. <b>Padstow Lifeboat</b> ©Henrees Music Ltd.          | Malcolm Arnold                 | 3.45 |
| 9. <b>Autumn Leaves</b> M/s                             | Joseph Kosma arr. Geldard      | 4.56 |
| <i>Trombone Soloist John Barber</i>                     |                                |      |
| 10. <b>Toccata in D Minor</b> ©Studio Music             | Bach arr. Farr                 | 3.33 |
| 11. <b>Romance from 'The Gadfly'</b> ©Studio Music      | Shostakovich arr. Broadbent    | 3.17 |
| 12. <b>Varied Mood</b> ©Obrasso Verlag AG               | Ray Woodfield                  | 4.59 |
| <i>Euphonium Soloist Glyn Williams</i>                  |                                |      |
| 13. <b>Rev. Archie Beaton</b> M/s                       | John Mason arr. Rydland        | 2.52 |
| <i>Euphonium Soloist Glyn Williams</i>                  |                                |      |
| 14. <b>Hittin' 'em Up</b> ©Premier Drum Co. Ltd.        | George Hackford arr. Wright    | 2.31 |
| <i>Xylophone Soloist Mark Landon</i>                    |                                |      |
| 15. <b>Polovtsian Dances</b> ©Rakeway Music             | Borodin arr. Snell             | 8.36 |

**Total CD Playing Time 69.14**

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SFZ 154

# PATRONS' CHOICE III



**FODEN'S BAND**  
CONDUCTED BY MICHAEL FOWLES

## Programme Notes

*Imperial Echoes* was the introductory title music to the BBC's Radio Newsreel programme which ran from 1940 to 1988 and was heard in many countries as it was broadcast on the BBC World Service. Arnold Safroni was the pseudonym for Kent born novelist, dramatist and composer A.S. Middleton.

*The Merry Wives of Windsor* is the overture from the opera by Otto Nicolai and is based on the play by William Shakespeare. It is a favourite of Foden's Band President Peter Fletcher and appears on this disc as his special request.

Foden's Band are very fortunate to have the services of one of the best principal cornet players in the business, Mark Wilkinson. Here, he shows off his talents in a florid arrangement of the Brazilian classic *Tico Tico*.

From Vivaldi's famous *The Four Seasons* this is *Winter*. It is beautifully arranged by a former Musical Director of the Foden's Band, Howard Snell, to feature the horn section of the band.

Philip Sparke is a prolific composer of music for brass band including many well-known competition test pieces. In *Rhythm and Blues* he is in lighter mood with an up tempo concert piece.

*Children of Sanchez* was written as the title music for the film of the same name by jazz flugel horn player Chuck Mangione and earned him a Grammy award. Foden's flugel soloist Helen Williams displays both control and excellent technique in this arrangement by Reid Gilje.

*Capriccio Espagnol* was written in 1887 and is based on Spanish folk melodies. It was famously used by Torvill & Dean as part of their gold medal winning programme of dances at the 1984 Winter Olympics.

## Foden's Band

Foden's Band was formed in 1900, originally under the name of Foden's Motor Works Band. It has been a prize winner at the British Open Brass Band Championships 32 times, winning nine times, and has also been a prize winner 37 times at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, 12 times as winner.

In July 1986 the band accepted sponsorship from Britannia Building Society, thereby maintaining its position as one of the country's leading bands, being crowned 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.

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

## Michael Fowles

Widely regarded as one of the leading conductors of his generation, Michael Fowles was born in Stoke-on-Trent and his early musical education came from the peripatetic service of North Staffordshire. Michael studied at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and graduated with an Honours Degree. It was around this time that he joined the trombone section of the Britannia Building Society (Foden's) Band.

As a conductor, Michael has worked with numerous bands including Point of Ayr, BT, Leyland, Ratby Co-operative, Tredegar and Co-operative Funeralcare. In 2009 he was delighted to return to Foden's in the role of Associate Conductor.

award in Guiding, with a further award, a bar to her Star of Merit, in December 2000. She received the Citizen of the Year award for her services to Guiding from the Rotary Club of Sandbach, and such was the esteem in which she was held by all that Congleton Borough Council presented her with the Local Heroes Award 2007.

Louise was a supporter of Foden's Band for many years, attending her first concert in May 1961 at Trentham Gardens; Jimmie had joined the band five months before this. In 1983 the band became Foden OTS and Jimmie became librarian, a post he still holds today. Over the years of change, with the band's name changing a few times, she helped Jimmie with the library, bringing in a new system.

The Patrons Association was formed in the late 1980s and is still going strong. In 2003 Louise became involved with the running of the Patrons, keeping the books and taking subscriptions. This she really enjoyed as it was a great pleasure for her to meet so many people and friends at the annual Patrons' Concert at the boys school. I know that most of the work she did for the band was behind the scenes and always with love.

When I first took a major role in the running of the band she wrote letters and edited articles for me when things were busy. Over the years her health deteriorated, but even so she still maintained an interest in the band, attending her last concert on 17 April 2009. This was the annual Transport Festival Concert and all seemed well. Over the last 14 years she had been in hospital many times and undergone much surgery, but in spite of her disabilities she never seemed to change in any way, always smiling. On 15 June 2009 she passed away in the Royal Infirmary, Stoke-on-Trent - it was three days after her 65th birthday. Louise will be missed by all who knew her.

Mark Wilkinson

Sir Malcolm Arnold lived for many years in Cornwall and was much involved in the cultural and musical life of the county. He composed *Padstow Lifeboat* for the inauguration of the Padstow Lifeboat Station in 1968 when it was performed by the St Dennis Band.

Foden's solo trombone player John Barber gives a superb performance of the classic *Autumn Leaves* which is sensitively arranged by trombonist Bill Geldard.

*Toccata in D Minor* is based on the pop group Sky's version of this JS Bach classic. Ray Farr's clever arrangement is a firm audience favourite on Foden's programmes.

In 1955 Dmitri Shostakovich composed the musical score to the film *The Gadfly* and subsequently arranged a suite based on the original score, entitled *Gadfly Suite*. The *Romance* is very popular and was used in the 1980s on television as the theme to *Reilly, Ace of Spies*.

*Varied Mood* was written for David Moore (one of the founder members of James Shepherd Versatile Brass) and the title is an anagram of his name. After winning the Best Instrumentalist Award for the second consecutive year at the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, Glyn Williams demonstrates his acclaimed talent.

*Rev. Archie Beaton* is a special dedication with much love, from Foden's Band and featured soloist Glyn Williams, to the memory of Louise Charles.

Principal percussionist Mark Landon's xylophone solos always wow Foden's Band concert audiences and *Hittin' 'em Up* is no exception.

*Polovtsian Dances* is another arrangement by former Musical Director Howard Snell of the famous music by Borodin. Beginning with the recognisable theme which has become better known as *Stranger in Paradise*, the music moves through several of the energetic dances.

## Ivor Stevenson

One of Ivor Stevenson's first musical encounters was in the mid 1950s when he recalls being sent to the triangular room in No. 24 Abbey Street for being naughty. On that sunny summer's evening and as he sat on the bed, he could hear 'new sound' which he was later informed was the Old Boys Silver Band practicing! By 1956 he was out marching with the band, photographs in the band hall will verify. 1958 saw Bob (Ivor's father) promoted to conductor and Ivor was handed a cornet upon which he was quickly able to buzz and play one octave of the scale of C major. However due to a lack of practice Ivor's father took the cornet away!



In the early 60s the band had moved to the Mall Presbyterian Church and Ivor took up the baritone. In 1963 a reconditioned Besson baritone was purchased for £56 and from there he quickly began to make good headway (due to lots of practice). In 1965 Ivor moved to euphonium sitting 2nd to Bobby Villiers. Bob Stevenson arrived punctually twice a week and waited patiently for sufficient numbers to arrive. In 1970 Bob had done all he could so he retired.

1970-71 were difficult years for the band. Then Harry Prentice reluctantly took charge for three months, which stretched out into over 30 years! Throughout these years the band made wonderful progress. Harry made practices hop and had everyone on their toes, insisting on developing good sight-reading skills. During this period, the band members developed a very strong sense of community, sharing in each other's joys and sorrows. Ivor recalls they learned a lot from each other!

After Harry's first retirement, Derek Orr took the band for a short spell of four years. During this period the band worked hard at developing a good sound. The recent arrival of Wesley Thompson brought the band into more settled times. Persistent

labouring at sound, rhythmic accuracy and technical development are the order of the day.

Ivor Stevenson has dedicated much of his life to The Old Boys Band and has forged unbreakable links with Foden's Band who view their annual trips to Armagh as being amongst the best in the band's calendar. He is very much supported and loved by his wife Heather and children Julie-Anne, Robert, Sarah-Jane and Stewart who all actively support the band by playing and helping out.

Let's finish with Ivor's words - 'where have all the years gone - didn't practice enough! Begged plenty, built and maintained our assets quite a bit, played a few solos, socialised lots and made many friends far and near. A great hobby for boys and girls!'

THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC IVOR.

## Louise Charles

I first met Louise in 1992, soon after I had joined Foden's Band. The first thing that I remember about her was her pleasant manner and beaming smile. I have taken some details of her past from the article that Jimmie wrote in a winter edition of 'Foden's Fanfare', a magazine for patrons of Foden's Band.



Louise was born in Coventry in 1944. She married Jimmie in 1966 and came to live in Wheelock. She loved Cheshire and the place where she lived. She was a Guider most of her life and also worked at Monks Coppenhall School with children who had special needs. Her achievements were many. In 1998 she was awarded the prestigious Star of Merit, the highest