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2. Soli Deo Gloria	William Himes	4.11
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Euphonium Soloist Derick Kane		
5. Pursuing Horizons	Dudley Bright	12.19
6. A Celtic Blessing	Erik Silfverberg	3.09
7. They shall come from the East	Kevin Larsson	6.48
8. Soul-Full	Paul Sharman	5.35
Flugel Horn Soloist Richard Woodrow		
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10. Fire in the Blood	Paul Lovatt-Cooper	9.34

Total CD Playing Time 66.42

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull
 Producers: Brian Hillson & Adam Goldsmith
 Engineers: Adam Goldsmith & Melissa Dee
 Post-Production: Adam Goldsmith

Production Manager: Nicki Tonge
 Project Manager: Kevin J Coates MBE
 Design & Artwork: Andrew Wainwright
 Programme Notes: Martin Cordner

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SPS 310 CD

Fire in the Blood

The International Staff Band
 Staff Bandmaster Dr Stephen Cobb



Programme Notes

Temple 125

Kevin Larsson, a former member of the Bromley Temple Corps now serving the Army in the USA as the Southern California Divisional Music Director, wrote this Broadway-inspired march for the corps' 125th anniversary which features two tunes connected with the corps. Firstly, Hans Knutzen's song *Jesus is all I need*, originally featured by the Bill Booth Revival Machine, a rock group based at Bromley Temple in the 1970s, followed by *He came to give us life* from the musical *Jesus Folk*, (co-written by Kevin's father, General John Larsson Rtd., while he was serving as the corps officer) which was premièred by the corps.

Soli Deo Gloria

The title of this work translates *Glory to God alone* and William Himes has sensitively woven together phrases from J.S. Bach's chorale prelude, *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* and Naida

Hearn's praise chorus, *Jesus, name above all names*. In writing the piece, the composer was reminded that 'praise and worship' is no recent invention; it has in fact existed for hundreds of years, as demonstrated by these two timeless themes written centuries apart.

Life Ablaze

This exciting new work by Steven Ponsford celebrates life in Christ. With three contemporary songs it identifies essentials of the Christian life: to be cleansed through his blood – *The greatest day in history*, filled with his spirit – *The potter's hand* and strengthened by his word – *Strength will rise*.

Scottish Folk Variants

This imaginative work was written for the ISB's principal euphonium player Derick Kane and it features three well-known Scottish folk songs: *The Dashing White Sergeant*, *The Skye*

Band Personnel

Staff Bandmaster
Dr Stephen Cobb

Executive Officer
Major Noel Wright

Soprano Cornet
Gary Fountain

Principal Cornet
Kevin Ashman
Band Secretary

Solo Cornet
Carl Nielsen
Paul Sharman
Ian Wilson

1st Cornet
Martyn Bryant
Nicola Redhead
Kevin Coates
Band Manager

2nd Cornet
Nigel Hills
Darren Bull

Flugel Horn
Richard Woodrow

Solo Horn
David Winch
Andrew Dickinson

1st Horn
Stephen Hanover

2nd Horn
Gary Terrar

1st Baritone
Iain Parkhouse
Darren Willis

2nd Baritone
Anthony Smith

1st Trombone
Andrew Justice
Lyndon Moorby

2nd Trombone
Stuart Hall

Bass Trombone
Bradley Turnbull

Euphonium
Derick Kane
Deputy Bandmaster
Jonathan Evans

E♭ Bass
Michael Calland
Carl Woodman

B♭ Bass
Martin Tiplady
Trevor Caffull

Percussion
Robert Hayward
Ashley Durrant
Christopher House



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Boat Song and Bonnie Dundee. With this solo Stephen Bulla exhibits familiar skill and finesse and Derick demonstrates why, within the brass band fraternity, he is one of the foremost and respected euphonium players of today.

Pursuing Horizons

A number of the tracks on this recording were written for the ISB's 120th Anniversary celebrations in June 2011, arguably the most technically demanding of which comes from the pen of Dudley Bright. This major work has its roots in music composed for a London Symphony Orchestra Brass Academy workshop held at St Luke's Church, London – hence the choice of the tune *St Luke*.

At the request of Staff Bandmaster Dr Stephen Cobb, the music was reworked for eight staff bands to première at London's Royal Albert Hall. The performance utilised the spatial and antiphonal possibilities afforded by the auditorium, with the ISB featured as a central concertante group, the remaining bands seated behind and divided into two equal ensembles

and Dudley's LSO colleague, principal trumpet, Philip Cobb, designated to play the ethereal off-stage trumpet solo.

The intention of the piece could be found in words of St Paul: 'Now I long to know Christ and the power shown by his resurrection... Yet my brothers, I do not consider to have 'arrived'... But I keep going on... with hands out-stretched to whatever lies ahead I go straight for the goal.' *Philippians 3:10, 12-14* (J.B. Phillips).

While the music is by no means in narrative form, it serves to illustrate the changing scenes of a journey:

- a. setting out with energy and purpose
- b. a period of reflection
- c. mercurial progress
- d. contemplation of a magnificent vista
- e. mounting anticipation
- f. final attainment

A Celtic Blessing

Inspired by the singing of this song at an ecumenical service in his homeland, Danish

composer Erik Silverberg has written an arrangement of the tune associated with an Irish blessing:

*May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back;
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

They shall come from the East

Commissioned for the USA Southern Territorial Band, Kevin Larsson has penned this atmospheric re-imagining of the song *They shall come from the east* from the musical *The Blood of the Lamb*. The opening words quietly sung by the ISB are in Swahili and translate, 'Come from the East, come from the West, sit down and worship Him'. This piece builds steadily to a thrilling conclusion, celebrating the fact that one day the love of God will unite all nations and peoples.

Soul-Full

ISB Flugel Horn soloist Richard Woodrow demonstrates dexterity and lyrical playing in this creative solo by Paul Sharman. John W. Peterson's gospel song *Heaven came down and glory filled my soul* is the main subject of the two outer sections, whilst the relaxed middle section is based on the Gowans and Larsson song *When the glory gets into your soul*, from the musical *Glory*.

Flow Gently, Sweet Afton

The Scottish tune *Flow Gently, Sweet Afton* was written by Jonathan Spilman in 1837 and is associated with William Featherstone's hymn:

*My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine;
For thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Saviour art thou;
If ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.*

Paul Sharman, a member of the ISB solo cornet section, provides this well-crafted and soothing arrangement.

musical fellowship. Recordings, concerts and international tours with both ensembles received the highest critical praise and affirmation. He has recently taken up the baton again as conductor of Hendon Band.

In addition to the recent ISB 120 celebrations, The International Staff Band continues to be involved in major brass banding events, including Brass in Concert, gala concerts following the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain and other concert and recording projects with high profile groups which have been both rewarding and stimulating. Two recordings by Stephen and The International Staff Band have received notable acclaim, the double-CD *Origins and St Magnus - The Music of Kenneth Downie*.

Stephen Cobb's initial reputation was secured as a cornet soloist, both at Hendon and within The International Staff Band, having come from a family of talented bandmasters and soloists. He and his wife, Elaine, are members of the corps at Hendon along with their youngest son Philip, who is himself a renowned cornet and trumpet player.



Staff Bandmaster Dr Stephen Cobb



Dr Stephen Cobb, Territorial Music Director for the United Kingdom Territory, oversees all aspects of The Salvation Army's music and arts ministries. In addition to that major responsibility he has, since 1994, directed the premier brass band of the denomination, The International Staff Band. In both positions he has ably followed some of The Salvation Army's most famous music leaders and conductors.

Stephen has led The International Staff Band through an exciting period of innovation that has

seen the band's profile in the wider brass band movement significantly raised. His innovative leadership in SA music has brought about a renewed vigour to that great musical tradition, marked symbolically by the establishment of the Territorial Youth Band (directed by Dr Cobb), a group made up of the finest young players in the Territory, and its sister group, the Territorial Youth Choir. In 2010 Dr Cobb received the Illes Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his contributions to brass bands and their music.

A music educator by profession and training (his initial degrees the BA (Hons), Cert-Ed and MA), in July 2006 Dr Cobb completed the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts, in instrumental conducting, at Salford University.

As Bandmaster of The International Staff Band, and formerly Bandmaster of Hendon Salvation Army Band (29 years' service), Stephen achieved the highest standards of musicianship and musical ministry, providing outstanding models for the worldwide Salvation Army

Fire in the Blood

In recent years, Paul Lovatt-Cooper has acquired a reputation as a talented and exciting brass band composer. In the title work of this album, he reflects on music from his Salvationist upbringing. The piece opens with a pulsating and energetic presentation of Richard Phillips' setting of Psalm 95, *Sing for Joy!* The listener is then transported into a meditative section that includes reflections on Howard Davies' *Lord,*

you know that we love you and Laurie Klein's *I love you, Lord*. Finally, an exhilarating finale restates two key themes from the central section: *I love you Lord, and I lift my voice and Lord, you know that we love you*. This provides a dynamic and thrilling conclusion to this recording and an opportune reminder that, as it celebrates over 120 years of service, the ISB continues to fulfil its calling in playing to the glory of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



The International Staff Band

The Salvation Army's early history makes mention of several 'staff bands' dating back as far as 1880, but it was on 7 October 1891 that the 'International Headquarters Staff Band' was officially brought into being. The present-day ISB acknowledges this date as the beginning of its existence.

Staff Captain Fred Fry was appointed Bandmaster and, under his direction, daily rehearsals commenced in the basement of the old headquarters building at 101 Queen Victoria Street. There were also one or two weeknight rehearsals, which were occasionally followed by outdoor marching practice on Queen Victoria Street!

In those days all the members of the band were either officers or employees of The Salvation Army and attendance at band rehearsals and engagements took precedence over work! Fred Fry was a patient teacher and worked hard with the limited talent at his disposal. However,

the motivation for their work was underpinned by a firm belief that their efforts were blessed by God and that they would be used to bring listeners into a knowledge of God's love.

From those beginnings, the present-day ISB has evolved. Throughout its history the band has maintained the highest musical and spiritual standards and has been proud to be associated with many notable Salvation Army musicians, with Eric Ball, Bernard Adams, Ray Bowes and Robert Redhead among its former Bandmasters. Currently led by Dr Stephen Cobb, the ISB's first non-officer Bandmaster, the band still works to achieve the very highest standards in its music-making and in its communication of the Christian message.

The band meets every Wednesday evening for rehearsal and travels the length and breadth of the country, visiting Salvation Army centres to present concerts and lead worship. It is regularly featured at major Salvation Army

events and has also taken part in several significant concerts in the wider world of non-Salvation Army brass banding, building and strengthening healthy links between these two strands of the brass band movement.

The ISB makes frequent visits abroad, including Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the USA in its long list of countries visited. In addition to performing live, the band makes regular recordings on the SP&S label.

Currently, about one third of the band are employed by The Salvation Army while the rest work in a wide and varied range of professions. All are active members of their local Salvation Army corps, many holding leadership positions. They give their time and talents to service with The International Staff Band because they, like their early day counterparts, believe that God uses the band's ministry as a means of spreading the message of the Christian Gospel.

