



DAVID CHILDS
CELTIC CHARM
THE CORY BAND

INTRODUCTION

From a young age I've always been a fan of Irish music, or as I used to call it, 'diddly-diddly' music! I remember my sister and I going on holiday to Ireland with my aunt and uncle when we were both very young and being taken to a *Dubliners* concert - at the time I don't think our 'chaperones' realised *Dubliners* songs didn't always feature the cleanest of lyrics; suffice to say we were only allowed to stay for the first set, but during that time (when my aunt's hands weren't covering my ears!) I got hooked on the sound and energy of the Irish band. In more recent years I've also enjoyed being introduced to traditional Welsh music, so it wasn't long before I came up with the concept of a new album featuring both Irish and Welsh music under the banner ***Celtic Charm***.

Celtic Charm is intended to be an album of music I hope others will enjoy listening to as much as I enjoyed recording. There is a delightful balance between warm lulling melodies, frenetic jigs and extended works made possible by combining four existing favourites with eight exciting new arrangements and six completely original additions to the euphonium repertoire.

This album has given me a great deal of pleasure to create and I sincerely hope the music featured will resonate as deeply with you as it does with me. Enjoy!

David Childs

CELTIC CHARM

1. 'Neath the Dublin Skies ©Prima Vista Musikk	Paul Lovatt-Cooper	6.21
2. Ar Lan y Môr ©Prima Vista Musikk	arr. Leigh Baker	3.55
3. The Irish Washerwoman ©Prima Vista Musikk	arr. Rodney Newton	2.24
4. Y Deryn Pur ©Obrasso Verlag	arr. Alan Fernie	5.17
5. Amidst a Celtic Dream ©Prima Vista Musikk	Benjamin Tubb	5.31
6. Donegal Bay ©Wright & Round	Paul Lovatt-Cooper	4.43
7. Riverdance ©McGuinness/Whelan Music Publishing	Bill Whelan	3.49
8. The Sally Gardens ©Kantaramusik	arr. Kenneth Downie	4.15
9. Carrickfergus ©Tanglewind Music	arr. Stephen Roberts	3.44
10. Twm Siôn Cati ©Prima Vista Musikk	Rodney Newton	4.12
11. Tros Y Gareg ©Prima Vista Musikk	arr. Tony Small	5.26
12. A Minstrel Boy ©Gramercy Music	arr. Peter Graham	4.44
13. A Celtic Charm ©Prima Vista Musikk	Philip Wilby	3.12
14. Caelidh ©Prima Vista Musikk	Rodney Newton	3.46
15. Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn ©Prima Vista Musikk	arr. Gareth Wood	4.07
16. Reels & Jigs ©Prima Vista Musikk	Darrol Barry	3.59
17. Danny Boy ©Prima Vista Musikk	arr. David Childs	2.22
18. A Final Fling ©Anglo Music	Philip Sparke	5.18
	Total CD Playing Time	74.57

David Childs performs exclusively on Schreiber-Keilwerth's York range of euphoniums and used an Eminence 4052 model throughout this recording.

york
Brass at its best.



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Brass at its best.

Special Thanks

Darrol Barry, Leigh Baker, Graham Boylan, Robert Childs, Nicholas Childs, Kenneth Downie, Keith Farrington, Alan Fernie, Peter Graham, Christian Jenkins, David Lancaster, Paul Lovatt-Cooper, Rodney Newton, Stephen Roberts, Richard Scott, Tony Small, Philip Sparke, Benjamin Tubb, Bill Whelan, Phillip Wilby, Gareth Wood & The Cory Band.

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull
Producers: Robert Childs & Keith Farrington
Engineer: Richard Scott
Editing & Mastering: Richard Scott
Commentary: David Childs
Project Manager: Kevin J Coates MBE
Cover Design & Artwork: GK Graphic Design

Recorded at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, Aberdare on 14 & 15 April 2007

THE MUSIC

Paul Lovatt-Cooper's '**Neath the Dublin Skies** was composed especially for this album and received its première during Cory's September 2007 tour of Ireland. The music is certainly Irish in nature featuring an atmospheric introduction, ornamented reel, lyrical melody and a high spirited jig. With multi-phonics and lip glissandi amongst the challenges set for the soloist, the music is a lot of fun to perform and like so many of the tracks featured on this disc, a welcome addition to the repertoire.

Ar Lan y Môr is a Welsh love song which translates simply as 'on the sea shore'. Leigh Baker's skilfully crafted arrangement of this beautiful song begins with muted euphonium lamenting over a traditional Celtic drone featuring bowed vibraphone. **Ar Lan y Môr** is a favourite in the Principality and has been previously recorded by two of

Wales' most popular voices, Bryn Terfel and Katherine Jenkins.

The Irish jig is very fashionable within the traditions of Irish dance music and none more so than this particular favourite of mine, **The Irish Washerwoman**. There are various forms of jigs including the 'single jig', 'slip jig' and 'slide jig'. However, written in 6/8 metre this skilful setting by Rodney Newton breathes new life into the popular tune and is a perfect example of the 'double jig'.

Y Deryn Pur is a traditional Welsh folk song close to my heart. When my late grandfather John Childs played solo euphonium with the Tredegar Town Band this was one of the solos he used to play. Known to many by its English translation of, 'The Dove' or 'The Gentle Dove' the beauty of the melody is in its simplicity.

Amidst a Celtic Dream is another original composition for euphonium from

the pen of bright young composing talent, Benjamin Tubb. The work begins with an expressive lament incorporating a clever quote from *Amazing Grace*; a melody associated by many with Celtic Scotland, but known to be of American origin. Following an expressive cadenza the music moves quickly through a variety of styles featuring complex rhythms before arriving at a grandstand close.

Donegal Bay is Ireland's largest bay, and also contains Europe's highest sea cliffs towering 1972 feet above sea level. The natural beauty of the bay bounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the northwestern region of Ireland provided inspiration for Paul Lovatt-Cooper's earliest composition; the serene *Donegal Bay*.

Of all the performances to emerge from Ireland - in rock, music, theatre and film - nothing has carried the energy,

the sensuality and the spectacle of **Riverdance**. Weaving ancient Celtic mythology and Irish history the music moves through the dawn of history as the river moves through the land. As the power of the river grows, as the barren earth becomes fertile, as men and women grow, one solo voice is joined by many as the music becomes a joyous riot of celebration encapsulating the essence of the music's message; 'We are one kind. We are one people now, our voices blended, our music a great world in which we can feel everywhere at home - together we are strong.'

The Sally Gardens is a traditional Irish love song sometimes known as *The Maids of Mourne Shore*. Here it is given a new setting by Salvationist composer Kenneth Downie. The song refers to the meeting place of two lovers, 'It was down by the Sally Gardens, my love and I did meet.'

Wales for the first time in the contest's 148-year history; a triumph repeated in 2002, and also 2007. Cory have also developed musically outside of the contest field. In 2002 the band were selected to play in London for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and have since given concert performances in many of the world's finest venues including the Grieg Hall, Stravinsky Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Welsh Millennium Centre and Birmingham's Symphony Hall. The band regularly perform at the prestigious Welsh Proms and have had the pleasure of sharing the 'Last Night' with the Royal Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic orchestras on several

occasions. Cory are now recognised as one the Principality's finest and most innovative music ensembles. Having worked with Karl Jenkins and recorded with EMI, Cory are the only brass band to feature in the 2007 Top 10 classical album charts and in addition, through their continued success in the contest arena the band are officially ranked No.1 in the world at the time of this release.

With further prestigious projects planned for their 125th anniversary, Cory are sure to continue cementing their reputation as one of the finest and most entertaining brass ensembles in the world. For further information visit www.coryband.com



Band of Wales, and Managing Director of 'Performing Arts Education'.

In December, 2002, Robert was awarded a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the University of Salford. Robert is also an Associate of the Royal College of Music, a Fellow of the London College of Music, gained a distinction

in a Masters Degree from the University of Leeds, holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from the Open University and in 2007 his remarkable achievements were recognized by the Worshipful Company of Musicians when he was awarded the prestigious Iles Medal. For further information visit www.robertchilds.co.uk

THE BAND

Cory were formed in 1884 and originally bore the name 'Ton Temperance'. In 1923 the band achieved the distinction of performing what is believed to have been the first radio broadcast by a brass band and 82 years later made history once again by giving the première performance of the largest scale original work in the brass band repertory live on BBC radio 3; John Pickard's *Gaia Symphony*.

In 1980 Cory were crowned European Champions and in 1984 they won the third in a hat-trick of National titles at the Royal Albert Hall. However, the culmination of their contest successes came in 2000 following the appointment of Dr. Robert Childs as their Musical Director. During that millennium year they won both the British Open and the National Championships and made history in taking the British Open Shield home to

In addition to being a large town in County Antrim, Northern Ireland **Carrickfergus** is an Irish folk song; a typical lament of an Irish expatriate who wishes he was back in his homeland. The origins of the song are unclear, but the town of Carrickfergus which stands on the north shore of Belfast Lough originates from the Irish 'Carraig Fhearghais' meaning 'Rock of Fergus'.

From Ireland we travel back to its Celtic cousin Wales for **Twm Siôn Cati**, a figure in Welsh folklore, often described as the Welsh Robin Hood. The hills and valleys around Tregaron were once the playing fields of Twm Sion Cati; highwayman, thief and prankster whose exploits were legendary throughout South Wales. A handsome man of many faces he could swap between the fine robes of a gentleman or the rags of a peasant to suit his mischievous deeds. Rodney

Newton's new work for euphonium depicts Twm being pursued on horseback having taken from the rich before giving to the poor!

Tros Y Gareg meaning 'Over the Stone' is a traditional Welsh song. The sentiment of the song is attributed to Rhys Bodychen, who led a troop of Welsh forces at the Battle of Bosworth Field where Richard III was defeated by Henry Tudor in 1485; '*Over the stone, the old gray stone, Let me ponder here alone, Through all weather we go together, Ancient stone, thou good old stone.*'

A Minstrel Boy is a work of two parts using both the popular Irish air, *The Minstrel Boy* and the traditional Irish folk reel, *Toss the Feathers*. This arrangement was made back in the year 2000 by Peter Graham and received its première in the same year performed by myself and the Cory Band

at the Royal Albert Hall. Seven years on it seems quite apt that both the band and I present the first recording of this most Irish of euphonium solos.

A Celtic Charm composed by Philip Wilby was originally conceived as a work for solo flute and piano. Dedicated to Peter & Norma Wilson (Peter is a former euphonium player and Editor of the British Bandsman), the music received its première at their wedding in a performance given by the composer and his daughter Sarah. Here **A Celtic Charm** is heard for the first time in its new form for solo euphonium and band made especially for this album.

The next two tracks are of particular importance to me. **Caellidh** composed by Rodney Newton in 1999 was commissioned by my loving parents Robert & Lorraine and given to me as an eighteenth birthday present.

It was the perfect gift for a son who was a fan of Celtic music and enjoyed performing solos. I premièred **Caellidh** with the Brighouse & Rastrick Band back in 1999 and eight years on it's a pleasure to re-visit the work with Cory under my father's direction.

Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn is an 18th century Welsh love song known to many by its English title of *Watching the Wheat*. Although the song describes a tragic love affair, the music remains extremely popular with musicians throughout Wales; it was in fact the first euphonium solo my father ever recorded as a sixteen year old boy playing for Tredegar Junior Band under the direction of his father John. This skilful new setting by Welshman Gareth Wood was again a gift from my parents (this time for my 26th birthday!) and I'm delighted to include it here. 'A simple youthful lad am I, Who loves at fancy's pleasure:

THE CONDUCTOR

Robert Childs is a leading figure in the world of brass music. For over thirty years he has performed at the highest level giving solo performances in many of the world's most prestigious venues. He has given masterclasses throughout Europe's finest conservatoires and is now recognised as a leading education specialist within his field. In the year 2000 Robert relinquished his enviable position as principal euphonium and bandmaster with the Black Dyke Band in order to become Principal Conductor and Music Director of Cory, the Champion Band of Wales. Robert's success with Cory has been unprecedented and having returned to his homeland of Wales he is now Director of Brass Band Studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music, Musical Director of the National Youth Brass



CRITICS

"a great ambassador for the euphonium, possessing an astonishing technique and an engaging stage presence."

The Observer

"a charismatic advocate of the euphonium, a demonstration of versatility and extrovert musicality."

The Guardian

"a serious musician dedicated to raising his instrument's profile. Childs demonstrated a superbly focused, glowing tone."

The Times

"he makes the euphonium sound as flexible and as agile as a trumpet and as smooth as the trombone played by Tommy Dorsey."

The Independent

"Incredible Playing! Bravo, Bravo Bravissimo!"

Christian Lindberg - International trombone soloist

"Clearly the hero of the euphonium."

Alexander Baillie - International cellist

"I have never heard such outstanding brass playing."

Trevor Green - Managing Director, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

"One of the finest soloists in the world - the Paganini of the Euphonium."

Aled Jones - Singer, Actor, Radio and Television Presenter

*I fondly watch the blooming wheat,
Another reaps the treasure.'*

Reels & Jigs is a new solo composed by Darrol Barry especially for this disc. The title alludes to the musical content of the work, but with tricky rhythms, florid finger work and extended passages in the high register it is a far cry from a simple reel or jig! It is however a great deal of fun to play and a solo I am sure will become popular with performers and audiences alike.

It is almost inconceivable to have an album with such an emphasis on Irish music without including the famous Irish air **Danny Boy**. Although more popular outside Ireland than within, the song is widely considered an Irish anthem and in my view is one of the most beautiful melodies we have. **Danny Boy** has been recorded as a solo many times before, but here it can

be heard in the form of a euphonium quartet as the melody is passed around from voice to voice in a setting inspired by David Lancaster. Using a multi-track recording technique all four parts are played by the same person!

Bringing this disc to a close is a fantastic new 'encore' item by Phillip Sparke entitled **A Final Fling**.

Written to be played at break neck speed the soloist and band are given ample opportunity to showcase sheer technique whilst the music flies through various keys using *The Irish Washerwoman* as inspiration before arriving at an exciting finish. A fitting finale I hope you'll agree.

THE SOLOIST

In recent years David Childs has emerged as one of the finest young brass soloists in the world today. At the turn of the millennium he broke new ground for the euphonium becoming the first euphonium soloist to win the brass final of the televised 'BBC Young Musician of the Year' competition, and later in 2000 was awarded the coveted 'Euphonium Player of the Year' title, an award he won again in 2004. Since that time David has been instrumental in raising the profile of the euphonium in the classical world of music and has not ceased to wow audiences with his astonishing technique, extrovert musicality and engaging stage presence.

At twenty-six years of age David is still in the early stages of his career, but has already toured extensively performing as a soloist in Australia, the Middle

East, Japan, Hong Kong, Europe and the U.S.A. He is a keen advocate of new music and has premièred six new concerti for euphonium including a Royal Albert Hall performance of Alun Hoddinott's *The Sunne Rising - The King Will Ride*. David has been broadcast on BBC Radio 2, BBC Radio 3, Classic fm, Classic FMTV, S4C, HTV, BBC 2 and BBC 1 television. He has also been featured in the Gramophone, Classical Music and MUSO music magazines.

David has appeared as a soloist with the Royal Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, BBC Concert Orchestra, BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Sinfonia Cymru; given concerto performances at the Cheltenham Festival, Harrogate Festival, Melbourne International Festival and BBC Proms; performed solo recitals at the Wigmore Hall, Purcell Room and Bridgewater Hall; and made numerous

solo recordings to great acclaim with orchestra, wind orchestra and brass band.

David has already achieved a great deal as a young euphonium soloist and received many awards in recognition: a Silver Medal from the Worshipful Company of Musicians; a Star Award from the Countess of Munster; Musicians Benevolent' Sir Charles Leggett Award; Welsh Music Guild's Leo Abse & Cohen Award; BBC Radio Wales Soloist Award, and the Harry Mortimer Award for Outstanding Achievement.

As a Schreiber-Keilwerth York Artist David is leading the way for a new generation of euphonium players worldwide; he is proving the euphonium as a serious solo vehicle within the world of classical music whilst remaining dedicated to the British style brass band movement. As a principal soloist with Cory, and with several new commissions on the horizon, David is sure to continue raising the euphonium's profile through his own unique performances.

For further information please visit
www.davechilds.com

