

ACTAEON

1. ACTAEON

©Prima Vista Musikk

Gareth Wood

17.27

2. PRELUDE ON THREE WELSH HYMN TUNES

©SP&S

Ralph Vaughan Williams

6.43

3. VISIONS OF GERONTIUS

©SP&S

Kenneth Downie

17.29

4-7. SYMPHONY NO. 10 'NOVEMBER JOURNEYS'

©Band Press VOF

George Lloyd arr. Vertommen

28.34

I. Allegro Moderato 8.20

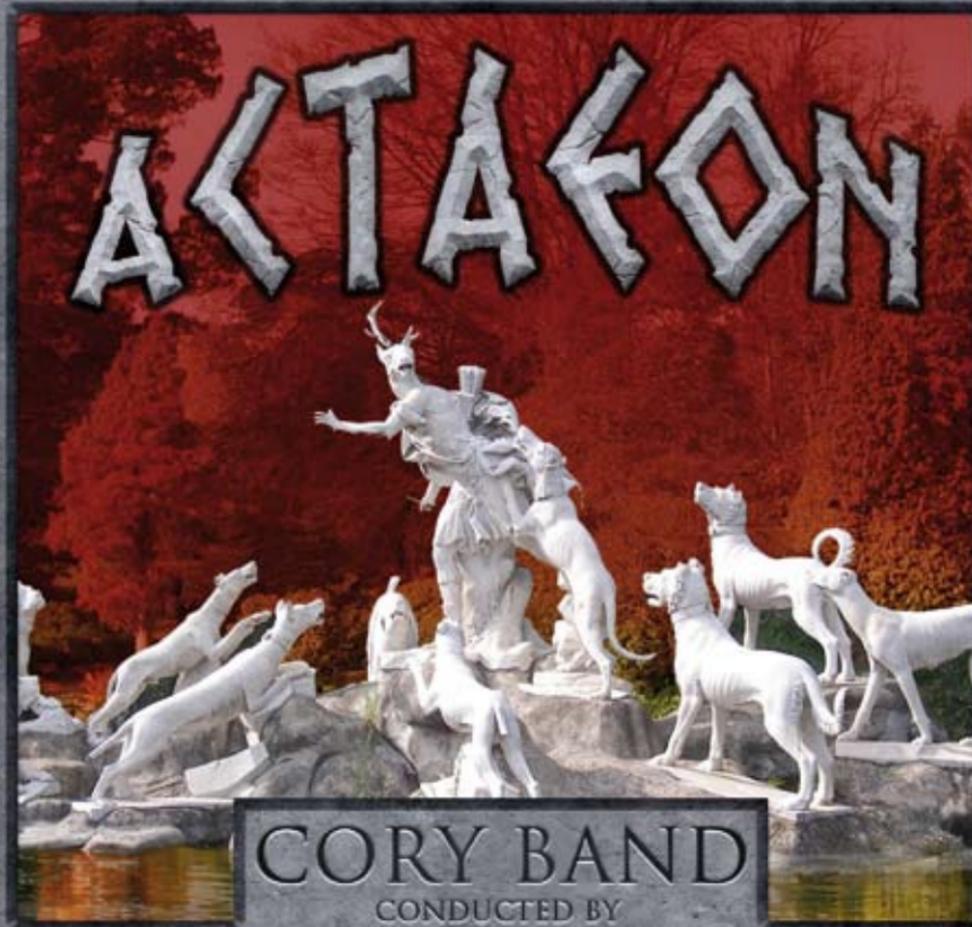
II. Calma 6.19

III. Andante Grazioso 7.18

IV. Energico 6.37

Total CD Playing Time 70.33

DOY CD241



CORY BAND

CONDUCTED BY
DR. ROBERT CHILDS

Introduction

This latest recording by the current British Open and European Brass Band Champions showcase the Cory Band in an eclectic mix of music based on journeys, myths and legends.

Designed as a follow up to the successful release of *The Promised Land*, **Actaeon** consists of world première recordings by significant British composers.

The music is varied in style, from the dramatic and violent depiction of Actaeon's death to the beautiful inner movements of George Lloyd's *November Journeys* inspired by English Cathedrals.

The inclusion of Kenneth Downie's *Visions of Gerontius* has been eagerly awaited since the Cory Band under the direction of Dr. Robert Childs gave the winning performance of the work at the 'British Open' held in Birmingham's Symphony Hall in September 2007.



Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull

Producer: John Maines

Engineer: Richard Scott

Digital Editing & Mastering: R.E. Editing

Production Manager: Julian Bright

Project Manager: Kevin J Coates MBE

Cover Design & Artwork: GK Graphic Design

Photography: John Stirzaker

Recorded during April 2008 at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun, Aberdare.

BAND PERSONNEL

Soprano Cornet
MICHELLE IBBOTSON

Principal Cornet
IAN WILLIAMS

Solo Cornet
CHRISTOPHER TURNER
DARREN THOMAS
SHAMUS GALLAGHER
JOHN SOUTHCOMBE

Repiano Cornet
RICHARD DAVIES

2nd Cornet
LISA CHILDS
PHILLIP HARRIS

3rd Cornet
NEIL BLOCKLEY
TRAVIS GRIFFITHS

Flugel Horn
JOANNE CHILDS

Solo Horn
OWEN FARR

1st Horn
MICHAEL FRANEY

2nd Horn
LUCY ROGERS

1st Baritone
SUSAN THOMAS

2nd Baritone
CHRISTOPHER STRAKER

Euphonium
DAVID CHILDS
MATTHEW JENKINS
ROBERT FOX

Solo Trombone
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

2nd Trombone
JOHANNA HIRST

Bass Trombone
ANDREW WILLIAMS

Eb Bass
STEVE SYKES
OLIVER BROWNE
AUSTIN DAVIES

Bb Bass
FRASER BISH
JOHN PROSSER

Percussion
ALUN HORGAN
DAVE DANFORD
SIMON BRITTLEBANK
DAVID MITCHELL
ALUN HATHAWAY

ACTAEON

Actaeon is based on the gruesome Greek myth of Actaeon, who while hunting with his hounds, is turned into a stag by Artemis, who he spies bathing in a stream. When she sees Actaeon watching, she turns him into a stag, which is then torn to pieces by the hounds.

The music begins with Actaeon taunting his hounds. A slower section represents the young hunter (solo horn), leading to an up-tempo section as he rides through the forest. The central scherzo portrays a hunt. A gentle section (euphonium solo) portrays Artemis bathing under a waterfall. The music then shows the transformation of Actaeon into the stag, with the final terrifying sounds of him being torn apart.

Gareth Wood was born in 1950. He studied composition and the double bass at The Royal Academy of Music, joining the

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in 1972. Since then Gareth has toured extensively with the orchestra, appearing at all the world's major music festivals.

As a composer, he first came to the attention of the public in 1975 when his overture *Tombstone, Arizona* was performed at the Royal Albert Hall during the National Brass Band Festival. Many works for band followed and included test-pieces for the 1977 Butlins Youth Band Contest, the 1980 New Zealand Brass Band Championships and the 1992 European Championships.

Gareth has been the Composer in Residence with the Cory Band since 2005 and has written several major works for the band including; *A Tear in The Fabric of Time*, *Concerto for Horn and Salome*.

PRELUDE ON THREE WELSH HYMN TUNES

In 1954 the 82-year-old Vaughan Williams was taken to hear The International Staff Band of The Salvation Army. He was suitably impressed and agreed to write something which The Salvation Army could publish. The result was **Prelude on Three Welsh Hymn Tunes**, for which he re-worked and expanded material that had originally been published as two organ preludes – *Calfaria* and *Hyfrydol*. The setting of *Ebenezer* at the start was new and sets the tone for a work which despite its brevity, is characteristically expansive and festive.

Vaughan Williams was born in 1872 in the Cotswold village of Down Ampney. He was educated at Charterhouse School, then Trinity College, Cambridge. Later he was a pupil of Stanford and Parry at

the Royal College of Music after which he studied with Max Bruch in Berlin and Maurice Ravel in Paris.

At the turn of the century he was among the very first to travel into the countryside to collect folk-songs and carols from singers, notating them for future generations to enjoy. As musical editor of The English Hymnal he composed several hymns that are now world-wide favourites. Later he also helped to edit *The Oxford Book of Carols*, with similar success.

In his lifetime, Vaughan Williams eschewed all honours with the exception of the Order of Merit which was conferred upon him in 1938. He died in August 1958, his ashes are interred in Westminster Abbey, near Purcell.



The Cory Band has also developed musically outside of the contest field. In 2001 together with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales they were appointed as resident ensemble to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and in the same year appointed Dr. John Pickard as their 'Composer in Residence'. John Pickard's tenure with the band ended in July 2005 when the band made history giving the première performance of his *Gaia Symphony* at the prestigious Cheltenham International Festival. The *Symphony* was broadcast live on *Radio 3*, and lasting over an hour in duration, it is currently the largest scale original work in the repertoire.

The band is dedicated to new music, raising the profile of the brass band genre and keeping music alive in Wales. They have an active commissioning policy and have performed works by many of Britain's leading composers; John McCabe, Judith Bingham, Elgar Howarth, Edward Gregson, Alun Hoddinott, Karl Jenkins, Gareth Wood, David Bedford and John Pickard to name but a few. The

band's current 'Composer in Residence' is Welshman Gareth Wood. Since his appointment he has written *A Tear In The Fabric of Time*, *A Tenor Horn Concerto* and *Actaeon*.

In 2002 the band were selected to play for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and have since performed in many of the world's finest concert venues including the Grieg Hall, Stravinsky Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham's Symphony Hall. In 2003 they performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Last Night of the Welsh Proms and were more recently featured during the opening celebrations of the new Welsh Millennium Centre.

The Cory Band are recognised as one the Principality's finest and most innovative music ensembles. Their numerous CD recordings and live concert performances have received worldwide acclaim.

For further information on the Cory Band visit www.coryband.com

VISIONS OF GERONTIUS

The tune *Gerontius* written by the Victorian clergyman and hymn writer, John Bacchus Dykes, is the subject of this set of variations. The music is dedicated to the composer's friend Leighton Rich, a fellow resident of Winchester, who inspired so many young musicians through his energy and enthusiasm working with the Hampshire County Youth Band.

By the time Kenneth had finished writing this music, Leighton had died from cancer which, though threatening for five years, seemed to have gone into remission. Fortunately, the last six months of his life, was a journey from doubt to faith, from fear to calm, from hopelessness to quiet assurance that his future was indeed in good hands. Almost inevitably, under the circumstances, some of the doubt, fear, struggle, calm and certainty is reflected in the music. Kenneth did not set out to create a piece of programme music, but the fact that Leighton's last journey coincided with the writing of the music, means that these elements coloured its creation.

Dr. Kenneth Downie has been writing music of quality for over 40 years. His first composition was published by The Salvation Army in 1966, and for the next 30 years he wrote exclusively for them. He now works as Creative Consultant to the Music Ministries Unit of The Salvation Army in a part-time capacity and his compositional output continues unabated.

His consequent international reputation as a composer has led to a great demand for new music from bands outside The Salvation Army as well, and in the last few years he has been commissioned to write major works for some of the most prestigious band contests in the world, including the European Championships, British Open Championships and the Swiss, Norwegian and Dutch National Championships.

Kenneth Downie has an association with the Cory Band, having written *The Promised Land* for them in 2006.

SYMPHONY NO. 10 'NOVEMBER JOURNEYS'

George Lloyd's 12 symphonies form the spine of his creative life. He composed his first when he was 19 and the 12th when he was 76. **Symphony No.10** was completed in March 1981 for the brass of the BBC Philharmonic. This is how Lloyd recalled the composition of the work: 'I was taking advantage of some cheap rail fares to visit various cathedrals that I had not seen before. As I journeyed round the country, I kept on thinking of sounds for the brass which became mixed up with the magnificent buildings I was seeing.' Lloyd would perhaps agree that there is nothing especially ecclesiastic about the music, apart perhaps from the second movement, which he describes as 'rather like a carol'. Luc Vertommen's fine band version is remarkably faithful to the character of the original.

George Lloyd was born in 1913 to a family with great enthusiasm for music. He was mainly home-schooled because of rheumatic fever. He later studied violin with Albert Sammons and composition with Harry Farjeon.

George Lloyd showed his talent as a composer early. His first symphony, written at age 19, was premiered in 1933. A second symphony had its premiere in 1935 and was soon followed by a third. His first opera was performed in 1934 and his second was staged at Covent Garden when Lloyd was just 25.

He was introduced to brass bands by Geoffrey Brand and subsequently wrote several major works including; *Diversions on a Bass Theme, English Heritage and Royal Parks*.



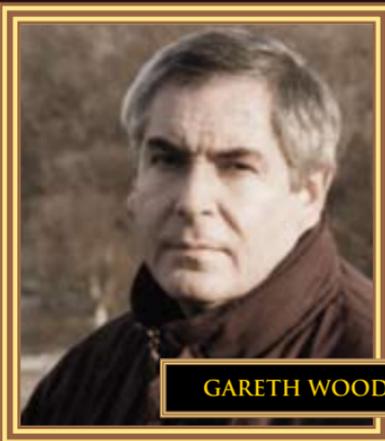
CORY BAND

The Cory Band hails from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. They were formed in 1884 and originally bore the name 'Ton Temperance'. In 1895 Sir Clifford Cory, Chairman of Cory Brothers heard the band and offered to provide financial assistance for them resulting in the band's change of name to 'Cory'. In 1920 the band gained Championship status and three years later achieved the distinction of performing what is believed to have been the first radio broadcast by a brass band. A significant honour was bestowed on the band in 1976 when they were chosen to represent Wales and the Brass Band Movement on a tour of the USA as part of their bicentennial celebrations.

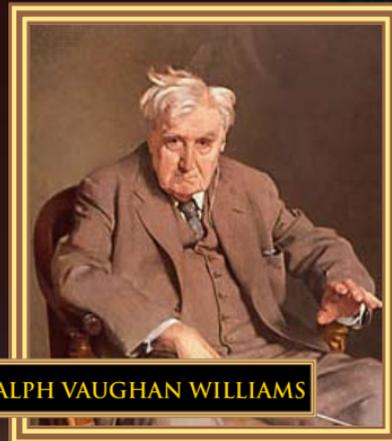
In 1998 Just Rentals, a locally based company, agreed to support the band, resulting in it being known as the 'Just Rentals' Cory Band. Just Rentals changed their name to Buy As You View to reflect developments in their business and with this the band became known as the 'Buy

As You View' Cory Band and in 2004 Cory was removed from the band's name. However when the sponsorship package ended in March 2007 the Band was delighted to return to their traditional name Cory Band.

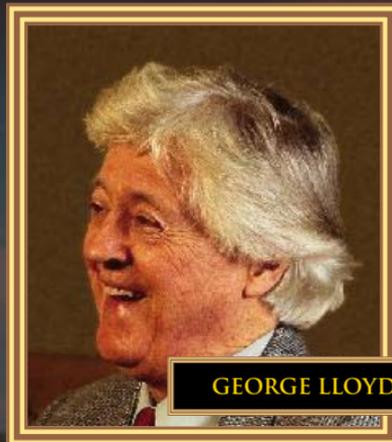
In 1980 the band became European Champions and in 1984, their centenary year, they won the third in a hat-trick of National titles at the Royal Albert Hall, London. The culmination of their contest successes came in 2000 following the appointment of Dr. Robert Childs as their Musical Director. During that millennium year they won both the British Open and the National Championships and made history in taking the British Open Shield home to Wales for the first time in the contest's 148-year history. This triumph was repeated in 2002 and 2007 when the band won their third British Open title. In May 2008 the Band won the European Brass Band Championships and floated to the top of the World of Brass World ranking table.



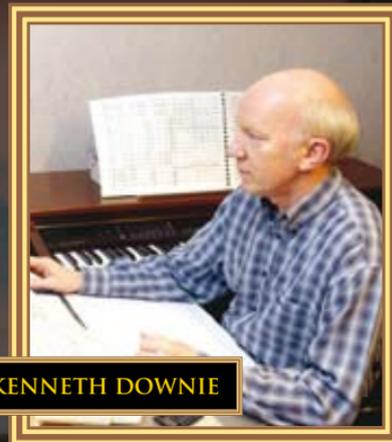
GARETH WOOD



RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS



GEORGE LLOYD



KENNETH DOWNIE

DR. ROBERT CHILDS

Dr. Childs' status as a professional musician encompasses many fields of music making: He is Director of Brass Band Studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff, Founder and Director of Doyen Recordings Ltd., a Trustee and advisor to the Harry Mortimer Trust and Director of Prima Vista Musikk Publishing.

Robert is a tutor and council member to the National Youth Brass Bands of Wales and Great Britain and in July 2002 he became Musical Director to the National Youth Brass Band of Wales

For almost ten years Robert conducted and performed with the Yorkshire-based Black Dyke Band and before that he played under Elgar Howarth with the Grimethorpe Colliery Band. He has performed with many of the United Kingdom's leading orchestras and regularly gives solo recitals in various prestigious concert halls throughout the world. He has performed in Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert

Hall, Grieg Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Sydney Opera House and frequently delivers master classes at Universities at home and abroad.

In May 2000 Robert was delighted to accept an invitation to become the Professional Musical Director of the Cory Band from the Rhondda in South Wales, thus reuniting him with Wales and associating him with the band he has held in such high esteem since he was a boy. In a short space of time he revitalised brass banding in Wales by steering his new band to win the British Open Championship, the National Championship and runner-up at the European Brass Band Championship in a single season.

Robert was awarded the title 'Doctor of Musical Arts' in December 2002 from the University of Salford and is also an Associate of the Royal College of Music, a Fellow of the London College of Music and gained a distinction in a Masters Degree from the University of Leeds. He holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from the Open University.

