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CD 2

1	Old Licks Bluesed Up © Norsk Noteservices A/S	Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen 18.35
	Manger Musikklag Conductor Peter Szilvay	
2	Benediction M/s	John Stevens 4.10
	Duo Synthesis - Raphael Christen, Marimba a	nd Thomas Rüedi, Euphonium
3	Gankino Horo M/s	Traditional arr. Holm 2.28
	Duo Synthesis - Raphael Christen, Marimba a	nd Thomas Rüedi, Euph <mark>onium</mark>
4	Es Burebüebli Goes Strange M/s	Traditional arr. James 3.05
	Swiss Brass Consort	
	Trumpet Soloist Heinz Saurer	
5	Be a Clown © Obrasso Verlag	Cole Porter arr. Fernie 1.31
	Swiss Brass Consort	
6	Brillante © Winwood Music	Peter Graham 5.15
	Cory Band Conductor Dr Robert Childs	
	Euphonium Soloists David Childs and David	Thornton
7	Agincourt Song © Winwood Music	John Dunstable arr. Howarth 2.08
	Brassband Bürgermusik Luzern Conductor M	ichael Bach
8	Tribute to Major Peter Parkes and James Wats	on
	The Lonely Maid © MF Music	Traditional arr. Rüedi 5.57
	Brassband Bürgermusik Luzern Conductor M	ichael Bach
9	Pas Redoublé © Woodbrass Music SA	Camille Saint-Saëns arr. Bach 3.48
	Brassband Bürgermusik Luzern Conductor M	ichael Bach
10	From Ancient Times © De Haske	Jan Van <mark>der Roost 18.1</mark> 2
	Cory Band Conductor Dr Robert Childs	
11	Finale to William Tell © Boosey & Hawkes	Gioachino Rossini arr. Hawkins 2.50
	Cory Band Conductor Dr Robert Childs	

Total Playing Time 68.06



With the imposing backdrop of the Alps and the deep blue-grey waters of Lake Geneva framed in every south facing window of the newly-refurbished Auditorium Stravinski, we could not have wished for a more picturesque setting for the 2011 European Brass Band Championships. After a memorable four days of quality music-making and engaging entertainment, Manger Musikklag from Norway's equally beautiful fjord coast, where its brass band heart beats fastest, reached the summit of European banding for the first time, having been 'in the frame' on more than one occasion in the past. What struck a chord with so many of the cognoscente in the capacity audiences, who were drawn to the cultural hub of Montreux, was the undemonstrative vet unfailingly musical way in which Manger achieved its victory. Under conductor Peter Szilvay's intelligent direction, the band produced two of the most satisfying performances of the weekend, in which the music leaped off the page with flair and imagination.

Oliver Waespi's *Audivi Media Nocte* proved a stern, but rewarding, set-test on Friday 29 April. Swiss composer, Oliver Waespi (b. 1971), drew inspiration from a favourite choral motet by Thomas Tallis, taking key

motifs, counterpoints and rhythms from it to construct what he described in his pre-event presentation as a work that fuses contrasting musical styles and techniques into a coherent whole. Audivi Media Nocte is a highly sophisticated piece of writing, which wears its complexities lightly. All the bands seemed to relish the challenge and a large audience listened enthralled throughout. The musical purists were also well satisfied. As you'll hear, Manger Musikklag and Peter Szilvay engaged with the spirit of the music wonderfully well, teasing out the contrasts that the composer asks for and presenting a beautifully proportioned reading, which balanced virtuosity and lyricism, frenetic energy and calm expansiveness.

Over the years, the European Championships' so-called 'side events' have taken on increasing significance, with the emergence of the European Youth Brass Band (EYBB), this year under the direction of Philippe Bach, and the annual competitions for young composers, soloists or conductors. This year it was the turn of Europe's young conductors. There were seventeen candidates selected for the preliminary rounds. Of the three eventual finalists, the winner was Erik van der Kolk, currently the musical director of the Dutch Brass Band

CD 1

1	Audivi Media Nocte © Beriato Oliver Waespi 18.50
	Manger Musikklag Conductor Peter Szilvay
2	Toccata for Brass Band <i>M/s</i> Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula 5.45
	European Youth Brass Band Conductor Philippe Bach
3	The Old Chalet © <i>Rakeway Music</i> Traditional arr. Snell 5.06
	European Youth Brass Band Conductor Philippe Bach
4	The Dreaded Groove and Hook © Faber Simon Dobson 3.47
	European Youth Brass Band Conductor Philippe Bach
5	Welsh Fantasy © Chandos/Maecenas Music Gareth Wood/Gordon Langford 5.33
	including Men of Harlech and Sosban Fach
	Cory Band Conductor Dr Robert Childs
6	Stabat Mater © <i>Prima Vista Musikk</i> Karl Jenkins arr. Wainwright/Childs 13.09
	Cory Band Conductor Dr Robert Childs
7	Vertex © Lucerne Music Edition Stephan Hodel 7.07
	Ensemble de Cuivres Euphonia Conductor Michael Bach
8	Of Men and Mountains © <i>Novello</i> Edward Gregson 16.38
	Ensemble de Cuivres Euphonia Conductor Michael Bach

Oliver Wassni 19 50

Total Playing Time 75.59

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house down once again. We hear them in Harry James's updated jazzy version of The Carnival of Venice and Be a Clown. Brassband Bürgermusik Luzern, conducted by its Musical Director, Michael Bach, brought the music performances of the 2011 European Championships to an appropriate conclusion with a poignant tribute to the late Major Peter Parkes and James Watson, who both passed away in February. The music is a tender arrangement by Thomas Rüedi of The Lonely Maid. The band's set also included Elgar Howarth's fanfare treatment of The Agincourt Song and Saint-Saëns' breathless galop, Pas Redoublé.

Although still only two years old, Jan Van der Roost's From Ancient Times has already cemented its place firmly in the test-piece repertoire, due in large measure to the stunning performance given by the Cory Band at the Ostend 'European' in 2009. The band's spectacular performance in Montreux, was greeted by a prolonged standing ovation. The brilliance of the playing, the range of tone and the unanimity of 'means and ends' bring this highlights CD to a fitting climax. In the work's central section, the artistry of the band's fine soloists can be heard to great effect in a delicate tracery of Monteverdi-inspired embellishments and arabesques.

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concert performances and spoken elements within the European Championships give the whole event a context and contribute significantly towards the over-riding ambition of European Brass Band Association President, Ulf Rosenberg, to raise the profile and status of the event within a wider cultural frame. As he said during his closing remarks, the Swiss organising team led by Kurt Bohlhalter and Armin Bachmann have "raised the bar" in terms of artistic ambition and organisation. With the continued sponsorship from Besson and principal support from World of Brass, the future of this wonderful event seems assured.

Paul Hindmarsh (Features Editor British Bandsman)







Rijnmond. He won the main, audience and band prizes - a clean sweep for this talented brass band conductor.

The 43 members of the European Youth Brass Band were selected from all the European Brass Band Association nations and had gathered some days before the main events to prepare for their contribution, which was substantial and of a remarkably high level. Philippe Bach's admirable vision was to introduce the young players to a range of new writing, most of which was from British and Swiss writers. The EYBB's contribution to the Farewell Concert (Sunday 1 May) included the first performance of a colourful and assured Toccata by 19-year-old Jean-Sélim Abdelmoula, a gifted young Swiss composer currently studying with composer Julian Anderson at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, Howard Snell's evocative take on the famous horn melody from the finale of the Symphony No. 1 by Brahms, The Old Chalet, added some appropriate local atmosphere. Of the recent British pieces in EYBB's 2011 repertoire, which included B of the Bang by Peter Meechan, Elegy by Kenneth Hesketh and Set To by Mark-Anthony Turnage, Simon Dobson's brief and brilliant The Dreaded Groove and Hook was the band's favourite and, judging by the reception, the audience's too.

Although it was not to be four-in-a-row for Cory and Robert Childs, the 2011 European Championships was a satisfying occasion for Welsh 'banding' as a whole, with Cory the worthy runners-up and Tredegar Town achieving third place at the first attempt. During the weekend, I was privileged to chair a panel discussion on the future direction of brass band music. While we didn't come to any conclusions in the short time available. Dr Childs' observation concerning the range of roles that a brass band fulfils goes a long way to explaining why his wonderful band is so good at both the serious 'sport' of band contesting and the matter of entertaining a concert audience. There was something to suit all musical tastes in the band's magnificent contribution to the Saturday evening 'Wales meets Switzerland' Gala Concert, from the vivacity of Gordon Langford's Welsh Fantasy to the delight of hearing a substantial new suite from Karl Jenkins' large scale choral and orchestral setting of the Stabat Mater, in which a number of the band's outstanding soloists were featured, including David Childs. As you'll hear on CD 2, the band's Rossini encore and the sparkling performance of Peter Graham's Brillante by the two euphonium 'Davids' - Childs and Thornton (what a guest player to have!) - brought the house down.

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In the main Championship after day one, a clear picture had not really emerged. Audivi Media Nocte had proved a superb test of both technique and musical insight. Some in the hall already had Manger out in front. Others were rooting for the pedigree of Cory or the excitement of Tredegar. However, before our heart-rate increased once again for the own-choice section, we were offered some fine performances from the bands in the B section. Bands from Austria, France, Germany and Italy were represented, but it was the home country's First section champion band, Ensemble de Cuivres Euphonia, conducted by Michael Bach, Philippe's younger brother, that won the day with their performances of the engaging set-test, Vertex, by Swiss composer Stephan Hodel. Playing last and in front of an audience that had grown to over 1,000, they continued with a performance of Edward Gregson's Of Men and Mountains that confirmed not only the pedigree of this fine, atmospheric work, but also the quality of the band and its young conductor.

The Auditorium Stravinski was well filled throughout the own-choice section on the afternoon of Saturday 29 April. As usual on these occasions, the audience



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was vociferous in its encouragement and reception of all ten performances. For any passionate follower of brass bands or an enthusiast of new writing, it was a memorable and significant occasion irrespective of the competitive element. Where else in the world of serious music other than in a festival devoted to contemporary works, listened to by an audience of a few hundred at best, could vou expect to hear two world premières. two second hearings and five more performances of music composed within the last six or seven years. Rarely in a brass band contest have I experienced ten performances of music of such intrinsic quality.

Torstein Aagaard-Nilsen has been closely connected with Manger Musikklag for decades. He used to play in the band and his family still does. His wife collected the prize on behalf of the band. Old Licks Bluesed Up is full of colourful invention, which the band delivered in scintillating style. The fast music inhabits a 'retro' world of Bachian toccata figuration imagined through a contemporary lens, as it were. Listen out for the definition in the rapid semiquaver figures played by the full band. Manger's highlight was

the long, sustained slow movement and the extended solo 'licks' from bass trombone and vibraphone - what players!

Montreux entertained us all in style throughout the European weekend. From Friday's opening ceremony, in the historic surroundings of the Chateau de Chillon, to the Farewell Concert on Sunday morning. the quintessential sounds of Switzerland the Kuhhorn (cow horn), the Alphorn and its smaller cousin, the Büchel played by Heinz Della Torre - provided a quintessentially Swiss continuity to the proceedings. As part of the Farewell Concert we were treated to some refined chamber music performances by Duo Synthesis, Thomas Rüedi (euphonium) and Raphael Christen (marimba), including a performance of John Stevens' haunting Benediction that brought a moment of rapt stillness to the music-making, and a lively arrangement of a traditional tune, Gankino Horo.

The second half of the entertaining Gala Concert was given by the 10-piece Swiss Brass Concert, with European Brass Band Festival Director, Armin Bachmann and trumpet soloist Heinz Saurer leading the way. Their modern twist on the traditional Swiss musical character brought the