

Glyn Williams

DOY CD287

"Glyn Williams is a tremendous natural musician, whether performing a virtuoso work on the euphonium, singing in his thrilling Welsh baritone or, increasingly, as a leading brass band conductor. As solo euphonium of Foden's Band and also as an indispensable member of the NYBBGB music staff, I have been privileged to work with Glyn for over a decade. He is one of the outstanding brass band musicians of our time." *Bramwell Tovey*

"When a conductor looks back upon his career with a particular band, of the really crucial moments, the signing of key players is right at the top of the list. During my tenure as Musical Director, I invited Glyn Williams to Foden's confident that I had found someone with all the virtues one hopes for in a solo euphonium. His vibrant sound, his turn of phrase, gentle and bold in turn, his fearless attack, have all developed over the decade and a half he has occupied that vital chair. Of very few players can one say that they offer a complete experience, Glyn does that and more. He has my unreserved admiration." *Howard Snell*

"Glyn is a versatile virtuoso, with a glorious singing Welsh sound! Looking forward to listening to your latest solo album." *Dr Nicholas Childs*

"In my role as Composer in Residence with Foden's Band I have had the opportunity to work closely with a group of great musicians and conductors for the last three years. So many things have impressed me about Glyn; he has a passion both for music and for Foden's and the brass band movement, he is totally dedicated, committed and expects equally high standards from those around him. After collaborating together on the piece *My Mountain Top*, an opportunity then arose to write Glyn a concerto. This was challenging and enjoyable - on one occasion Glyn politely pointing out that the final movement wasn't virtuosic enough for him! Of course he was right, and I set about re-writing a couple of sections, and then kept my distance! Technique is one thing, but listen to Glyn in *Far Beyond the Stars* and you experience subtlety of phrasing and sheer emotion. Bravo Glyn, a true musical virtuoso." *Andy Scott*

The Lure of the Red Jacket

Glyn Williams
Accompanied by Foden's Band
Conducted by Michael Fowles

Introduction

After the release of my first solo CD in 2005 (where I performed on every instrument in the band, including my voice) it was always on my mind that a more 'serious' direction should be taken with my next project. The commission of a brand new euphonium concerto from Foden's Composer in Residence Andy Scott turned out to be the catalyst to turn my ideas into reality.

Many of the pieces I have chosen for inclusion on this CD have special meaning for me, and are associated with important occasions or fond memories gathered along my way. The first movement of Andy's Concerto, aptly titled *The Lure of the Red Jacket*, seems to sum up my journey so far and was an obvious choice as the title track.

I would like to thank Foden's Band for many memorable performances which have helped shape my career over the last 17 years, not to mention the great camaraderie and support. Many thanks for their hard work together with direction from Mike Fowles on the production of this CD.



Foden's Band has achieved great success in the contest field since then, winning the North West Regionals, International Masters, USA Open, English Nationals, British Open, Tameside Whit Friday and Brass in Concert Championships.

As well as being extremely successful on the contest field, Foden's are in great demand for concerts in the UK and abroad due to their diversity and entertaining choice of programmes. Recent tours abroad have included Italy, Switzerland, the USA, Ireland, France, Norway and Israel.

For further information visit www.fodensband.co.uk



Foden's Band

The origins of the band go back to 1900 when the village of Elworth, near Sandbach in Cheshire, formed its own band having been let down by its attempt to secure the services of the nearby town band to feature in the celebrations marking the relief of Mafeking in the Boer War.

After a couple of years the village band was wound up, but from that base local industrialist Edwin Foden formed the Foden's Motor Works Band. For a few years the new band had modest ambitions, but in 1908 a fundamental reorganisation took place and, by the following year, it had achieved Championship Section status, a prestigious position that has been maintained ever since.

Under its former title, the band was ordered to play by Royal Command on three occasions: in 1913 for King George V and Queen Mary, in 1938 at Windsor Castle for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and most recently in 1983 where the band had the honour of playing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

In wartime, the band toured Europe for ENSA and in peacetime it toured Canada, South Africa and Israel.

In July 1986 the band accepted sponsorship from Britannia Building Society. The band maintained its position as one of the country's leading bands, becoming BBC Band of the Year in 1990 and 1992, European Champions in 1992 and French Open Champions in 1998.

Becoming All England Masters Champions in 1990, 1991, 1994 and 1995, 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 1997 the band accepted new sponsorship from the French instrument manufacturer Antoine Courtois that also allowed the band to go back to its original name of Foden's. With this fresh impetus the band again experienced major Championship success, winning the coveted title Champion Band of Great Britain in October 1999.

Glyn Williams

Glyn Williams is highly regarded within the brass band movement as both a superstar euphonium player and as an up-and-coming musical director.

Glyn was born in Aberystwyth where he was introduced to music by his uncle and enjoyed playing euphonium with Towyn Silver, Royal Oakley and Menai Bridge, all local bands.

He is also recognised as an outstanding soloist in his own right and as a popular musician with the Foden's Band. His appointment as solo euphonium in 1995 has contributed to many contest victories including the Swiss Open in 1995, All England Masters 1995/2002/07/09, French Open 1998, Brass in Concert 1998/2002/09, North West Area Finals 98/99/00/02/03/06/07/08/09/10/11, National Champions of Great Britain 1999, British Open Brass Band Champions in 2004 and 2008, and English National Champions in 2006.

His repertoire, often captured on commercial recordings, is truly impressive and includes performances with National Radio 2 *Brass Showcase* and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, and as featured soloist at the Annual Tuba and Euphonium Conference. His enviable list of successes includes being awarded winner of the Harry Mortimer Most Outstanding Instrumentalist in his final year at Salford University, Best Brass Instrumentalist at the Urdd Eisteddfod and Best Soloist Prize at the French Open and Brass in Concert Entertainment Contests. Glyn also took the Best Instrumentalist Prize at both Open and Nationals in 2008 and the All England International Masters and Nationals in 2009.

Glyn has held the position of Professional Conductor at the Marsden Silver Prize Band since 2004, with great contest success including becoming Excellence Division Champions and overall March Champions at the 2005 French Open Championships, an unequalled run of first prizes at several March contests in the Summers of 2005, 2006 and 2007 (competing much of the time against higher graded bands) and becoming the Pontins First Section Champions for 2005. In September 2006, Marsden Band

represented Yorkshire at the National Brass Band Finals, which in turn resulted in the band gaining promotion to the Championship Section. Glyn was a nominee for Conductor of the Year on the internet brass band magazine, *www.4barsrest.com*, at the end of 2005.

Under his baton, the Marsden Band recorded a highly successful CD, *Riverhead*, in the summer of 2007 and were delighted to be invited to appear at the prestigious Great Northern Brass Arts Festival in September of the same year at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Continuing their contest success, Glyn and the Band were awarded 2nd prize at their first attempt in the Pontins Championship Section in November 2007 and became overall winners in 2010. Marsden have maintained their position in the Championship section and took away first prize at the Senior Cup in 2009 and 2011 and are looking forward to competing at the Grand Shield next year. The band's highest achievement was gaining 3rd place at the All England International Masters in 2011.

Breaking with tradition, and undertaking a project that has never before been attempted in the 200-year history of brass banding, Glyn recorded his debut solo CD in 2005, but with a difference; Glyn performs solos not only on euphonium, but also on seven other instruments, including his voice (well, being a Welshman, he couldn't resist!) The solos are accompanied by the Foden's Band and prove how versatile this man really is, hence the title of the recording: *Glyn Williams: Virtuoso*.

Glyn's playing expertise and experience, combined with his approachability and eagerness to see brass bands thrive, have made him the person that many brass bands want to work with when purchasing both new and second hand instruments.

On 1 July 2007, Glyn Williams Musical Instruments was born and since then has grown from strength to strength, supplying a full range of brass instruments along with services such as repairs, concert promotions and recording opportunities.

For more information visit
www.glynwilliamsmusicalinstruments.com or simply e-mail Glyn at
info@glynwilliamsmusicalinstruments.com

Michael Fowles - Conductor

Widely regarded as one of the leading conductors of his generation, Michael's earliest musical education came from the peripatetic services of North Staffordshire. This led to honours degree studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, during which time he undertook a post graduate course studying conducting with Howard Snell and was a member of the trombone section of Britannia Building Society (Foden's) Band.



Upon completion of his studies Michael was invited to work at the RNCM as a conductor and administrator, working with the brass band, brass ensembles and within the Opera Department excerpt programme, which he did for five years.

Michael is much in demand as a conductor and has worked with the Carlton Main Frickley Colliery, Fairey, Flowers, Leyland, Point of Ayr, Ratby Co-operative Band and Tredegar Bands, amongst others.

Educational work also forms an important part of Michael's musical life. He is the Musical Director of the Wessex Band Summer School and has been a regular visitor to the ensembles of the Barnsley Performing Arts Department, delivering staff training on conducting for that service. He is also a regular guest conductor for school projects in both Staffordshire and Leicestershire and undertakes much training work with bands of all levels from championship section to youth.

Once described as 'One of the leading young interpreters of modern brass styles' (Brass Band World magazine) Michael has conducted at International Festivals, recorded for both BBC Radio 2 and 3, recorded many commercial CDs, directed premières and conducted concerto appearances of eminent soloists. His skills of accompaniment are held in high regard and in 2007 he conducted the Concerto Final of the Soloist Competition of the European Brass Band Championships to critical acclaim.

In addition to his work with Ratby Co-operative Band, 2009 saw Michael delighted to accept two major appointments. Firstly, following a win at the 2008 Scottish Open as guest conductor, to become Professional Musical Director of the Co-operative Funeralcare Band, a relationship that has already enjoyed further success and secondly, in somewhat of a musical full circle, to become Associate Conductor of Foden's Band.

Salt of the Earth Gospel *Andy Scott* ©Astute Music

“Glyn and I had discussed me arranging this piece as a euphonium solo with band for some time, and I am delighted that this was possible especially for this recording. Glyn’s tone, control, power and style are all ideal for *Salt of the Earth Gospel*. As a composer you can’t ask for more; Glyn and Foden’s are on outstanding form on this CD”. So says the composer Andy Scott.

The connection with *Salt of the Earth* and Foden’s Band is very strong, as the piece (originally a concerto for tuba with brass band, commissioned by Les Neish, and recorded by Les on his award-winning CD *Salt of the Earth* with Foden’s), was premiered at the RNCM Festival of Brass 2008, and has featured in many of Foden’s concert programmes in recent years.

The composer created a band version of the latin big band-influenced finale in addition to this new euphonium version of the the second movement, *Gospel*. The three-movement concerto remains exclusive to tuba!

My Favourite Things *Alan Fernie* *M/s*

Glyn Williams has regularly stunned audiences with his amazing versatility on all the instruments in the band... and of course the kitchen sink! Arranger Alan Fernie has always come up with very clever pieces as vehicles for Glyn to showcase his talents, so when he was asked to put together a euphonium solo including some well-loved brass band test piece snippets, Glyn and the band knew it would be special.

Listen out for *Paganini*, *Harmony Music*, *Year of the Dragon*, *Rococo Variations* and *Journey into Freedom*, to mention just a few, as Glyn dazzles you with *His Favourite Things*.

Programme Notes

Concerto for Euphonium & Brass Band *Andy Scott* ©Astute Music

Commissioned by Glyn Williams and Foden’s Band, from Foden’s Band Composer in Residence Andy Scott, *Concerto for Euphonium & Brass Band* was premièred at the Royal Northern College of Music Festival of Brass on 29 January 2011. It is scored in three movements:

i. The Lure of the Red Jacket

The title refers to Glyn’s youthful ambition to play with a leading brass band in future years. This can be seen and heard firsthand on *YouTube*, Glyn aged 16 years! The red jacket of Foden’s is indeed a coveted prize.

To achieve a goal such as this there are inevitably years of unrelenting hard work. This is helped with supportive people around you, passing on musical experience to the point where the young musician is confident enough to ‘fly’ on their own, and in turn pass on experiences to the younger generation.

The Lure of the Red Jacket responds musically to these ideas and attitudes; a non-relenting riff that signifies the hard slog of practice, scorings which find members of the band supporting the soloist, all the time the soloist putting together new riffs and ideas. Stylistically all this happens within a frame of minimalism and funk.

ii. Far Beyond the Stars

‘They are all gone into the world of light, and I alone sit lingering here’, wrote the Welsh poet Henry Vaughan (1622-1695). A simple folk-like melody is stated by the soloist, which develops with different harmonic backdrops being introduced. The poignant words form the focus of the emotional intensity of this piece, with *Far Beyond the Stars* paying proud homage to Glyn’s Welsh roots.

iii. The Dragon’s Den

A fierce and fiery fusion of energy, virtuosic playing and intricate ensemble work, the finale of the *Concerto for Euphonium & Brass Band* draws upon the composer’s experience of big band and small group performance and writing. The solo euphonium part presents considerate technical and musical challenges, virtuosically leading from the front!

Veritas *Bramwell Tovey* ©Bramwell Tovey

Veritas (Latin for 'truth'), was written for Joe Alessi, principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic, who recorded it with the Imperial Brass of New York. Glyn Williams gave the first public performance with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain under the direction of the composer, Bramwell Tovey, in St Edmundsbury Cathedral in August 2009. *Veritas* is based upon material from the slow movement of Tovey's cello concerto, which is itself based around W.H. Auden's poem *Tell me the truth about love*. In the cello concerto, the musical material is stretched beyond breaking point, but in the brass version the same music is left open ended and unresolved.

Euphony *Robert Redhead* ©SP&S

Robert Redhead wrote *Euphony* for the great euphonium star Wilf Mountain in 1978. The word 'euphony' means 'a pleasant, sweet sound' and is based on the songs of Sidney E. Cox. Colonel Redhead remarked at the time of writing that 'the euphonium is often associated with melodies and harmonies that lend themselves to pleasing sounds' and that the instrument, through these melodies, should create a euphony. Glyn first performed *Euphony* at the Tuba and Euphonium Conference in 1996 at Birmingham Conservatoire, accompanied by the RNCM Brass Band and appropriately conducted by Michael Fowles.

My Mountain Top *Andy Scott* ©Astute Music

My Mountain Top was originally written for the Apollo Saxophone Quartet (with accompanying CD) with words and narration by Lemn Sissay.

Commissioned by the ISCM World Music Days, the piece was premièred by the ASQ and Lemn at the 1998 ISCM Festival in Manchester and recorded on the ASQ CD, *Words & Pictures*. The piece was subsequently arranged for solo soprano or tenor saxophone for Gerard McChrystal, who premièred it at Dartington Festival in 2001.

My Mountain Top starts with a crackle on the CD, representing lying under the gaze of the sun and feeling the heat on your skin. The rhythmically free opening solo statements represent a mind that is active with thoughts but which gradually floats into a semi-conscious state. At this point the warm keyboard pads emerge and the stage is set for Lemn's magical words. The solo part weaves its way around the voice, gesturing and supporting, but never overpowering. *My Mountain Top* requires musical sensitivity, rhythmic and dynamic control, as well as a great sense of shape.

Euphonium Concerto No.1 *John Golland* ©J&W Chester/Wilhelm Hanson

John Golland was born on 13 September 1942 in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire and educated at the Royal Manchester College of Music (RNCM). He concentrated largely on writing for brass instruments and the number of his original works for brass band is considerable. These include *Aria* (for the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain), *Concerto for Band*, *Derborance*, *Dies Natalis*, *Diversions*, *Euphonium Concertos No.1 and No.2* and *Sounds*, which was the chosen set test piece for the European Championships held in Plymouth on 1 May 1993, just a month after the composer's death on the 14 April 1993 in Dukinfield, Cheshire.

Euphonium Concerto No.1 was first performed by Robert Childs in March 1982 at the Perth Festival in Western Australia. Glyn performed the Concerto with great critical acclaim with the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain in the Summer of 2009, making it a natural choice to be included on this recording.

Peace *John Golland* ©Hallamshire Music

Peace was written by John Golland originally for organ in memory of his niece who sadly died as a very young child. The piece was played on organ at her funeral by the composer and was later adapted by Golland for the euphonium.

This expressive and emotional music showcases Glyn's beautiful sound and ability to shape a melody. It was especially requested for inclusion on this recording by his wife, Helen.