

# 80 YEARS IN THE MAKING *Virtuosi* THE GUS BAND

DOY CD318

- |       |                                                                                                           |       |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1     | <b>Toccata and Fugue in D Minor</b> <i>M/s</i>                                                            | 8.36  |
| 2     | <b>Jealousy</b> ©Brass Wind Publications<br><i>Trumpet Soloists Peter Collins and James Fountain</i>      | 4.38  |
| 3     | <b>Cantus Lacrimosus</b> ©Prima Vista Musik                                                               | 3.55  |
| 4     | <b>Themes from Silverado</b> ©The Music Company                                                           | 4.19  |
| 5     | <b>The Harmonious Blacksmith</b> <i>M/s</i><br><i>Euphonium Soloist Mark Giles</i>                        | 5.03  |
| 6     | <b>And the Winter Moon Rises</b> <i>M/s</i>                                                               | 4.03  |
| 7     | <b>Blackfriars</b> ©Paxton                                                                                | 11.17 |
| 8     | <b>Galop from Masquerade Suite</b> <i>M/s</i>                                                             | 2.50  |
| 9     | <b>Ballad from Concertino for Flugel Horn</b> ©Studio Music<br><i>Flugel Horn Soloist Thomas Fountain</i> | 5.15  |
| 10-12 | <b>Contest Music</b> ©Boosey & Hawkes                                                                     |       |
|       | i. 4.13                                                                                                   |       |
|       | ii. 5.24                                                                                                  |       |
|       | iii. 4.53                                                                                                 |       |

Total CD Playing Time 64.33

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull

Producer: Adam Goldsmith

Engineer: Edward Heathcote

Post-Production: Adam Goldsmith and Sam Grainger

Production Manager: Nicki Tonge

Project Co-ordinator: Neil Brownless

Artwork and Design: GK Graphic Design

Programme Notes: Andrew Wainwright

Recorded by World of Sound on 22 & 23 June 2013 at Corby Business Academy



# 80 YEARS IN THE MAKING *Virtuosi* THE GUS BAND

CONDUCTED BY JOHN BERRYMAN

## EIGHTY YEARS IN THE MAKING

This year, Virtuosi GUS Band marks its 80th anniversary. Anniversaries are a way of marking significant milestones and symbolic moments in time; they are a way of celebrating achievement. They are a time of reflection and consideration, looking back at the past but also looking forward to the future. Through anniversaries come service, and milestones such as the one the band is celebrating this year do not occur without the considerable commitment and dedication of those who devote themselves wholeheartedly to the cause.

There can be no finer example of this than John Berryman, who this October relinquishes his position as Musical Director after no less than 54 years' association with Virtuosi GUS Band. Joining the band at the tender age of 18, within a year he had been appointed principal cornet. Since that time, John has enjoyed two highly successful terms as Musical Director and one as Resident Conductor. It may be true to say that for all the tangible success he has brought to the band, it is in the less obvious areas that John will perhaps be best remembered, for example his unassuming character, unselfish commitment to the cause and endearing personality. What remains incalculable is the guidance and encouragement he has shown to the numerous players who have come under his wing. This CD, then, as well being a celebration of the band's

80th anniversary, is a fitting tribute to John Berryman and all he has achieved with the band during his long association.

The CD opens with perhaps the most famous of all toccatas, Johann Sebastian Bach's **Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor**, here arranged by Mark Freeh, who has been a good friend of Virtuosi GUS Band since the early 1980s and continues to maintain links with the band. Originally published in 1883 through the efforts of Felix Mendelssohn, this organ work has seen many varied arrangements for different musical groups.

Jacob Gade was a Danish violinist and composer, mostly of orchestral popular music. Gade is known almost exclusively for his tune, *Tango Jalousie*, or **Jealousy**. The tango was written to accompany a silent film when Gade was the orchestral leader of the Palads Cinema, in Copenhagen. It went on to become an international hit, featuring in over 100 movies, and the royalties allowed Gade to devote himself to full-time composition for the rest of his life. Here the tune has been arranged for two trumpets by John Iveson, former co-principal trombonist with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and principal trombonist in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. It is expertly performed by the band's principal cornet Peter Collins,

## BAND PERSONNEL

*Principal Cornet*  
Peter Collins

*Solo Cornets*  
James Fountain  
Nigel Bramley  
Jack Wilson

*Soprano Cornet*  
Martin Britt

*Repiano Cornet*  
Gary Sherlock

*2nd Cornets*  
Karl Busch  
Stuart Bryan

*3rd Cornets*  
Graham Smith  
Sally Bramley

*Flugel Horn*  
Thomas Fountain

*Solo Horn*  
Nathan Waterman

*1st Horn*  
Simon Smith

*2nd Horn*  
Joanna Cambray Young

*Principal Euphonium*  
Mark Giles

*2nd Euphonium*  
Simon Rotchell

*Principal Baritone*  
Joanne Stephenson

*2nd Baritone*  
Rob Mason

*Principal Trombone*  
Chris Jeans

*2nd Trombone*  
John Hopkins

*Bass Trombone*  
Nigel Love

*Principal EEb Bass*  
Linda Hobbs

*2nd EEb Bass*  
David Elliot Smith

*Principal BBb Bass*  
Mike Smith

*2nd BBb Bass*  
Jonathan Mott

*Percussion*  
Tim Jones  
Richard White  
Clive Wears  
Liam Halloran

## JOHN BERRYMAN

John Berryman A.L.C.M., L.T.C.L. is a native of Cornwall, and started his musical career at the age of eight with Camborne Town Band.

He was principal cornet of The National Youth Brass Band for several years before joining the Munn and Felton Works Band at the age of 18. Within a year he had been appointed Principal Cornet and went on to establish a reputation as one of the finest players in the brass band world, winning three National titles with this band when it was known as GUS (Footwear) Band.

In 1969, John returned to Cornwall to begin a conducting career with Bodmin Town Band, moving on to Grimethorpe Colliery Band to work with Elgar Howarth. He came back to conduct GUS after ten years in charge of William Davis Construction Group Band, during which he led them notably to win the BBC Band Of The Year trophy.

John was employed by the Northamptonshire County Council as a brass tutor and was responsible for the County Youth Brass Band, which has toured America, Canada, Norway, Austria and Yugoslavia. John is also a much-requested adjudicator at major band and other music festivals.



In 1987, John was awarded The Iles Medal of The Worshipful Company of Musicians of the City of London for his outstanding services to brass band music.

In 2008, the band invited John to become Musical Director once more. Since John's reappointment, the band has achieved two Midlands Regional Championship wins, and prize winning performances at The Grand Shield, All England Masters International, English National Brass Band Championships and The National Brass Band Championship Finals.

and assistant principal cornet James Fountain and was part of the band's winning Butlins Mineworkers Open National Brass Band Festival programme of 2013.

Whether you know it or not, it is more than likely that the music of Karl Jenkins has at some point entered your living room. The most performed living composer in the world today, Jenkins' credits have included composing the music for advertisements including British Airways, Levi's, Renault, Volvo and Pepsi, amongst others. Jenkins' work is not limited to commercial music, however, and his more substantial works have garnered widespread critical acclaim. One such is his *Stabat Mater*, composed in 2008 and based on a 13th century Roman Catholic prayer of the same name. Like much of his earlier work, the piece incorporates traditional Western music with ethnic instruments and vocals - this time focusing on the Middle East. **Cantus Lacrimosus** is the first of 12 movements of the work, and it is here arranged for brass band by the band's Composer in Residence, Andrew Wainwright.

The American Western movie *Silverado* (1985) tells the story of a misfit group of friends who come together to right the injustices which exist in the small town of Turley, Oklahoma. Grossing over \$32 million at the box office, the film went on to achieve Best Sound and Best Original Score at the Academy Awards. This was in no

small part down to the composer of the music, Bruce Broughton, one of the most versatile and successful film composers alive today. **Silverado** was in fact his first major film score and brought him an Oscar nomination.

**The Harmonious Blacksmith** was originally part of George Frideric Handel's *Suite No. 5 in E major*, for harpsichord. Of the many possible explanations proffered as to the origination of the title, none can be substantiated, although what is known is that Handel himself did not name the piece. An air and variations, it was in 1983 arranged by Keith Wilkinson for the band's legendary euphonium player of the time, Trevor Groom. Here it is performed by the band's current principal euphonium, Mark Giles.

**And the Winter Moon Rises** was, in the words of the composer, 'inspired by a winter's evening car journey across the Pennines, from Manchester to Huddersfield, through the brass band heartland of Saddleworth. There was snow on the ground, and the sun had just set. A bright clear moon was rising into a sky coloured with orange from the setting sun, and the moonlight made all the snow and ice sparkle. I simply had to stop the car, get out, stand and marvel at the simple, glorious beauty of it all. This work is my musical response to that experience.'

Selected for the National Championships of Great Britain at the Royal Albert Hall, London

1955, *Blackfriars* is a symphonic prelude originally written for orchestra by Edric Cundell and scored for brass band by Frank Wright. Harry Mortimer conducted the band's winning performance.

The Soviet Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian, often known as one of the three 'titans' of Soviet music alongside Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich, is perhaps best known for his *Sabre Dance*. Of similar ilk, and very much in the same style, is his *Galop* from the *Masquerade Suite*. Written in 1941, it is part of a five-movement suite that was written for a play of the same name by Russian poet and playwright Mikhail Lermontov. The second item on the CD to be arranged by Virtuosi GUS Band's Composer in Residence, Andrew Wainwright, it was featured in the band's Brass in Concert performance in November 2012 and also its winning Butlins Entertainments Championships performance in January 2013.

As was alluded to earlier, the influence of John Berryman on so many of the players who have contributed to the band's history cannot be underestimated. One of the most recent additions to the group, and in fact its youngest player currently, is flugel horn soloist Thomas Fountain. Thomas hails from a family of fine musicians and father Gary, mother Cathy and brother James have all played with the band at one time or another. Thomas is also currently a member

of the Kettering Citadel Corps of The Salvation Army, which over the years has maintained a close link with Virtuosi GUS Band, with a number of its members having come up through the corps. Maintaining the Salvation Army link, here Thomas is the featured soloist in *Ballad* from *Concertino for Flugel Horn*, composed by William Himes, currently the Territorial Music Director for The Salvation Army's USA Central Territory and Bandmaster of the Chicago Staff Band.

The CD concludes with music from another composer with Salvation Army links, Wilfred Heaton. *Contest Music*, intriguingly, was actually first rejected as a test-piece for the National Championships of Great Britain of 1973 for being 'too advanced', the composer having come out of semi-retirement to compose the work. However, nine years later, it was to be used to huge acclaim at the same contest, and has since gone on to be considered as one of the finest pieces ever to be written for the movement. This tour de force was the featured test-piece in the band's winning performance at the British Open in 1988, at which time John Berryman was the Resident Conductor to Bramwell Tovey. 21 years later, the band's performance of the work ensured qualification to the British Open, under the baton of John Berryman, and in 2013 the band was placed runner up to Black Dyke at the English National Brass Band Championships once again playing *Contest Music*.

Andrew Wainwright

## VIRTUOSI GUS BAND

In January 1933, Fred Felton called a newspaper reporter and told him 'my factory is going to form a band and we are going to aim high!' Two years later, Munn & Felton Works Band was the Champion Band of Great Britain and a brass band legend was born. The band has played under the names of Munn & Felton, GUS (Footwear), The GUS Band, Rigid Containers Group, Travelsphere Holidays and now Virtuosi GUS and has toured concert halls throughout Britain, Europe and America. The band has performed extensively on

television and radio, recorded many records and CDs, won six National Championships, two British Open Championships and in 1971 was declared World Champion Band. Starting its 80th anniversary in fine style the Band has become Butlins National Champions, followed by runners up positions at The Midlands Area, All England Masters International and English National Brass Band Championships. The band started its journey in a small Northamptonshire Shoe Factory and continues to entertain audiences throughout the UK today.

