DOY CD22

## Devil's Duel

1.	Devil's Duel ©Peter Meechan Music		Peter Meechan	8.11
2.	Benediction ©TUBA Press		John Stevens	3.28
	Euphonium & Tuba Trio			
3.	Requiem Paraphrases ©Peter Meechan Music		Peter Meechan	9.26
4.	So Deep Is The Night @Obrasso Verlag AG		Frédéric Chopin arr. Fernie	3.20
57.	Sonata in C Major M/s		J.S. Bach arr. Meechan/Thornton	
	Euphonium & Brass Quintet			THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TO THE PERSON NA
	5. Andante - Presto 1.39			
	6. Adagio 1.55			
	7. Allegro 2.17			
8.	There Will Be God @SP&S Ltd.		Joy Webb arr. Phillips	4.47
912.	Concerto for Euphonium @Winwood Music		Philip Wilby	
	9. Non Troppo Allegro	7.25		
	10. Zeibekikos - Greek Dance 2.33			
	11. Andante	1.48		
	12. Allegro Vivace	3.23		
13.	My Mountain Top @Astute Music		Andy Scott	8.33
	Euphonium, Synthesized Accompaniment & Narration			

**Total CD Playing Time 62.30** 

DEVIL'S
DUEL



DAVID THORNTON

ACCOMPANIED BY BLACK DYKE BAND MUSIC DIRECTOR DR. NICHOLAS J. CHILDS





DAVID THORNTON
PRINCIPAL EUPHONIUM BLACK DYKE BAND

Band featured with household names such as Lesley Garrett, Elton John, Evelyn Glennie, James Morrison, Rod Franks, Ian Bousfield, Philip Smith and many more.

In October 1993, Black Dyke Band created history as the first British brass band to appear at the Carnegie Hall, New York, and a year later they became the first brass band ever to perform at the Royal College of Music. In 2004, the Band was proud to be appointed the first ever 'Band in Residence' at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

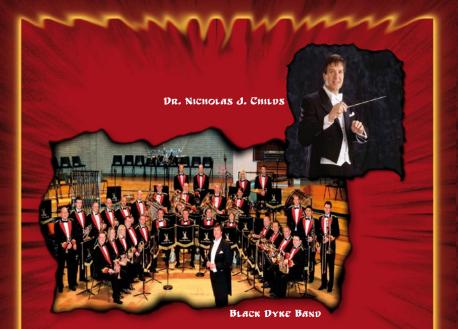
Many 'legends' of the brass world have been associated with the Black Dyke Band over the years, together with a significant number who have gone on to enjoy successful careers in the Orchestral world including Jack Pinches (who was solo trombone player in the band at the tender age of 16), William Lang, Maurice Murphy and Rod Franks. Today the Band is proud to be associated with a

modern day 'giant' of the Composing World; Philip Wilby as Musical Associate.

The Black Dyke Band has, throughout its history, enjoyed unparalleled success in the contesting world, being awarded the title 'Champion Band of Great Britain' no less than 20 times, most recently in October 2004. In their 150th year they also became European and British Open Champions 2005, and retained the British Open title in 2006.

The Band is relentless in its quest to perform music of the highest possible standard and upholding its long and fine tradition. This desire is summed up perfectly in its motto, taken from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster: 'Justum Perficito nihil timeto' - 'Act justly and fear nothing'.





when it provided the backing for the song *That'll Do* by Peter Gabriel in the film *Babe* 2. The Band has been proud to enjoy success with other recording artists including Paul McCartney & Wings, Tori Amos, Beautiful

South, Evelyn Glennie, and, decades earlier, The Beatles on their hit record, *Yellow Submarine*. Television shows, broadcasts, concerts at Music Festivals, The Proms and other high profile events have also seen the

#### DAVID THORNTON

David Thornton was appointed as principal euphonium of the Black Dyke Band in 2000.

4barsrest.com, the Internet magazine commented "...it was the position he was destined for...he has made it his own with a series of concert and contest performances that have been invariably breathtaking."

Born in Nottingham in 1978, David began his euphonium lessons at just eight years old and only five years later became the first ever euphonium player to gain a place at Chetham's School of Music, one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious institutions for specialist musical education.

Since then, his success has earned him many awards, but most notably as the International Euphonium Player of the Year in 2001. Following the release of his debut solo recording, Three Worlds, the British Bandsman Magazine awarded it Solo CD of the Year in 2003.

Considering David's relatively young age, his achievements in education are also quite remarkable. He tutors at the Royal Northern College of Music, the University of Huddersfield and Chetham's School of Music, as well as holding visiting tutor roles at the Birmingham Conservatoire and the RSAMD. His current and former students already hold principal positions in many leading bands around the United Kingdom.



#### Black Dyke Band (1855)

In 1816, in the Yorkshire village of Oueenshead - later to become Oueensbury. Mr Peter Wharton founded a brass and reed band. Amongst the players, on French Horn, was John Foster, owner of the John Foster & Son mill in that small village. The life of this band, however, was short lived through declining numbers of players. In 1837, a new band was formed - the Oueenshead Band, and in September 1855 John Foster & Son 'adopted' the band, acquiring for it a new set of instruments and attracting new members. In addition to this, a room was provided for practising - The Black Dyke Mills Band had been formed.

Most of the Band's musicians lived in Queensbury and worked in the mill, ensuring a close link to the community that remains to this day. The Band has been at the forefront of banding development throughout its history, making one of the earliest brass band recordings in 1904 and embarking on a 5 month tour of Canada and the USA in 1906, during which it played over 200 concerts and travelled over13,000 miles. Since then, they have featured on no less than 100 recordings, and have toured widely throughout Europe and the rest of the world, including Sierra Leone, Japan, Australia and several re-visits to Canada and the USA.

Amongst its recordings, the band is proud to have been recognised in wider musical spheres, in 1996 winning the Music Industries Association Award for the best CD in the Orchestral category with their recording of Sir William Walton's music. In February 1999 the Band were nominated for a 'Grammy Award' in the 'Crossover Classical Section', and this was followed a month later by an Oscar nomination,

specialist, Childs has performed and taught throughout the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, Africa, the Far East, Canada, and the United States. He has appeared with such groups as the BBC Philharmonic, Hallé Orchestra, United States Marine Band ('The President's Own'), the London Symphony Brass, and the Canadian Brass. In addition, he has been featured with nearly every major brass band throughout the world and many wind bands, especially in university settings with the United States, where he has been equally acclaimed for his teaching and clinic work.

With his roots in the British brass band tradition, having first been trained in the Tredegar (Wales) Youth Band, Childs continues to give important emphasis to the development of the brass band movement. This comes via his commitment of the training of outstanding young musicians both at the collegiate level and within the

National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He has taken his teaching and conducting skills to a variety of outstanding brass bands outside the UK. He has served as the Director of The National Youth Brass Band of Denmark and Associate Conductor of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, and has gained National Championships in England, Wales, Scotland, France, Sweden and Norway.

He has reached the pinnacle of success with three National Championships of Great Britain: 1999 with Fodens Courtois, 2001 and 2004 with Black Dyke Band. With Black Dyke he also won the coveted British Open in 2005, retaining the title in 2006.

Childs also received an honorary doctorate from Leeds Metropolitan University in 2006 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to music.

© Dr. Ron Holz

#### DEVIL'S DUEL

#### Peter Meechan

Devil's Duel takes its inspiration from the story of the infamous Niccolo Paganini whose virtuosity was astounding. He began playing the violin at age seven, and by the age of 13 had the reputation of being the leading Italian violinist of his time. People began to speculate about Paganini's great talent, and began to wonder about his gift he became known as a 'Hexensohn' or witch's brat. Paganini's demonic reputation became so widespread that his talent was often attributed to the belief that he had bartered for help from the Devil. Later in life. with his popularity at a peak and constantly touring Europe, the rumours of supernatural guidance never ceased. He would give concerts, and often 'duel' with other virtuosi "winning' by improvising during the contest (or concert!) by adding octaves, thirds, and sixths, and often playing more notes in a second than thought humanly possible.

**Devil's Duel** uses the famous theme of Paganini's Caprice No.24, and sees the euphonium soloist 'duelling' with various instrumentalists in the band – with displays of virtuosity in the fast music and cunning in the slow

Peter Meechan is recognised as one of the most exciting composition talents of his generation. His music is informed by completely different influences from preceding generations, including jazz, dance, funk and acid house.

#### BENEDICTION

#### John Stevens

A 'benediction' is a short invocation for divine help, asking for blessing and guidance. This work, by American composer John Stevens, is scored for soloist accompanied by one euphonium and two tubas, producing a rich breadth of sound, rarely matched by any other combination.

#### Requiem Paraphrases

Peter Meechan

**Requiem Paraphrases** uses the opening bars of Mozart's *Requiem* as the basis of its musical material.

An aggressive opening is followed by a sounding of Mozart's original theme, in a setting for low brass and solo euphonium. As the percussion and cornets join, the soloist begins to elaborate on the initial themes. A brief return to the opening, gives way to a faster, percussion driven Allegro.

The euphonium and various soloists in the ensemble interact, exchanging ideas over repeated patterns on the marimba. The ensemble gradually drifts into the background, leaving the soloist to again break free, with flourishes and gestures leading to a virtuosic cadenza. After a short recapitulation, the soloist brings us to a breathtaking conclusion!

#### So Deep 1s The Night

Frédéric Chopin arr. Fernie

Virtually the entire output of Chopin consisted of works for piano. This beautiful arrangement by Alan Fernie uses the theme from Chopin's famous *Etude No. 3 Opus 10.* 

#### SONATA IN C MAJOR

J.S. Bach arr. Meechan/Thornton

Bach's Sonatas for Flute were written between 1720 and 1741 at a time when the recorder was being superseded by the flute. After about 1725 compositions specifically for recorder became increasingly rare, and these works are a celebration by Bach of the technical and expressive qualities, and tonal colours newly available to him. This arrangement for euphonium and brass quintet was skillfully crafted once again by Peter Meechan, whilst the euphonium solo part has been developed and edited by David himself.

music of Michael Ball, Arthur Butterworth, Peter Graham, and Edward Gregson. With The International Staff Band, he and Black Dyke released the award winning *Heaton Collection*, now in four volumes.

In the Autumn of 2003 Childs released a dynamic new recording celebrating the centenary of the dean of 20th-century brass band composers, Eric Ball (1903-1989). Along with the band's multiple-CD celebration of their 150th year (2005), Jewels in the Crown, the Butterworth, Eric Ball, Gregson, and Heaton discs were declared CD of the year in the period 2001-2005 in the British brass band press, and Dr. Childs was awarded Conductor of the Year in 2005.

In 2007 Dr. Childs will make his conducting debut at the BBC Proms held at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

With Black Dyke Band Childs has been able to promote the widest range of literature, several concerts of which have also led to broadcasts on BBC Radio 3. One representative programme included the January 2002 concert featuring Philip Wilby's Atlantic, Michael Ball's Cambrian Suite, and Kenneth Hesketh's Alchymist's Journal, the concert later broadcast in June. 2002. Childs combines this interest in premiering new works with outstanding recordings, the most recent example being the 2005 release, A Golden Year, the programme containing five premiere recordings of major works for brass band by Peter Graham (Journey to the Centre of the Earth), Johan de Meij (Extreme Makeover), Philip Wilby (Northern Lights), Bramwell Tovey (The Night to Sing), and John Pickard (Eden).

As one of the world's most recognized masters of the euphonium and brass

In recent years Childs has premiered with Black Dyke Band many new works by leading British composers. A representative, selective list since 2001 includes: Michael Ball - Cambrian Suite; Arthur Butterworth - Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel; Martin Ellerby - Concerto for Trombone and Brass Band; Peter Graham - Journey to the Centre of the Earth; Edward Gregson - An Age of Kings; Peter Meechan - Pulse Fiction; Rodney Newton - Lancashire Fantasia; Ian Wilson - Seascapes; Philip Wilby - Concerto 1945 for Cornet and Brass Band

In June 2000 he directed Fodens Courtois Band in the premiere of Edward Gregson's significant work, *Trumpets of the Angels*. He followed this with the Royal Northern College of Music Brass Band's first presentation of *Danceries* by Kenneth Hesketh. The Sunday Times reported that at the July 2006 world premiere of

Elgar Howarth's Boddington Variations that "Nicholas Childs' direction proved scintillating." With Philip Wilby as Musical Associate of Black Dyke Band and Peter Meechan as Composer in Residence of this famed ensemble, Childs has presented innovative concert programmes with new and appealing music. Representative of these achievements was Peter Graham's Call of the Cossacks performed at the 2002 Gala Concert of the European Brass Band Championships. With Black Dyke Band Childs has featured in some of the most recognized festivals, including the Harrogate International Festival. Chichester, Newbury, Cheltenham, Kings Lynn, City of London, and Gala Concerts at the National Brass Band Championships in London's Royal Albert Hall.

Childs has pursued a series of pace-setting recordings of much of this new music, including Doyen releases showcasing the

#### THERE WILL BE GOD

Joy Webb arr. Phillips

Richard Phillips arranged this Joy Webb original for Derek Kane, the leading figure in Salvation Army euphonium playing for the past thirty years. The dramatic opening fanfare and impressive ending surround a beautiful setting of Joy Webb's poignant words:

In the pain, in the doubt, in the loneliness,
Only one thing can still make men strong,
Somewhere amidst the confusion,
There will be Hope – There will be Love
There will be God.

### Concerto for Euphonium

**Philip Wilby** 

This 'tour-de-force' for euphonium was completed on New Year's Eve 1995, and was written for Robert Childs, David's predecessor at Black Dyke. Its extended length successfully allows the composer to

explore that fine combination of sustained lyricism and explosive virtuosity which typifies the modern-day euphonium.

The concerto opens with a sonata-form movement marked Allegro Non Troppo, alternating between cantabile phrases and rapid passage work. Though, as the tempo marking indicates, the intention is a firm and cerebral approach with constant development of the opening motifs. At the tranquil conclusion to the movement. we burst into the Zeibekikos, a fast and fiery dance which portrays the traditions of Greek men smashing plates and lifting tables with their teeth! Movement three - Andante, reveals the lyrical heart of the concerto: we are treated to one of Wilby's trademark melodies - beautiful and calm, time almost stands still for the listener. The Finale – Allegro Vivace begins with a fugal section which moves relentlessly towards the concerto's climactic end.

#### MY MOUNTAIN TOP

**Andy Scott** 

My Mountain Top was originally written for the Apollo Saxophone Quartet (with accompanying CD) with words and narration by Lemn Sissay. This version for euphonium was developed from the composer's own arrangement for solo tenor saxophone and was created especially for this recording. Though the scoring has changed from saxophone quartet to just a solo line, the accompaniment still includes Sissay's evocative narration.

The composer writes: "All four of the members of the Apollo Saxophone Quartet composed pieces for an ISCM commission, all loosely based around the seasons. Two pieces were composed after Lemn had written the words, whereas *My Mountain Top* was one of the other two pieces that were written and then recorded for Lemn to set words to. Inspired by Summer,

My Mountain Top commences with a crackle, representing lying under the gaze of the sun and feeling the heat on your skin. At this point the warm keyboard pads emerge and the stage is set for Lemn's magical words."

Andy Scott, born in 1966, is a freelance professional saxophonist and composer. Despite never having had any formal compositional training, through his work with the Apollo Saxophone Quartet, Andy Scott has worked with many amazing musicians and composers throughout his career to date. Therefore it is no surprise that Andy has developed a writing style that is a blend of jazz, funk and contemporary classical with an emphasis on strong lead lines and tunes! His music can be challenging at times, but it is always accessible, whether it is a roaring big band chart, an intimate classical chamber piece, or large scale ensemble work.

# DR. NICHOLAS J. CHILDS DMA. MA. FLCM. ARCM (Hons)

Heralded as a leading figure in the worldwide brass community. Dr. Nicholas Childs (DMA—Conducting, University of Salford) has rightfully achieved the highest international reputation as a performer. teacher/clinician, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music, and producer of pacesetting recordings. Initial success came as a euphonium soloist and partner with his talented brother. Dr. Robert Childs. who together have literally toured the world as The Childs Brothers, performing in many of the world's most famous concert halls with the most prestigious bands and orchestras.

Taking up the baton as a brass band conductor, Nicholas has had phenomenal success with many brass bands, including highly acclaimed regional and national championships. His current tenure as Principal Conductor and Director of Music of the famous Black Dyke Band has been marked not only with continued contest success, but with a series of innovative concerts, world premieres and recordings of major works for brass band with a variety of soloists and musical combinations.

He continues his advocacy of new music within the outstanding catalogue of brass and wind band recordings he has recorded and produced in his award-winning firm, Doyen Recordings. Not content with these activities, Dr. Childs is in great demand as a teacher, clinician, and consultant throughout the academic community. Further honours have come with his appointment as Artistic Director of the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain, and Founder and Artistic Director of the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band.



# Devil's Duel

DAVID THORNTON ACCOMPANIED BY
BLACK DYKE BAND

Music Director Dr. Nicholas J. Childs

- 1. Devil's Duel
- 2. Benediction
- 3. Requiem Paraphrases
- 4. So Deep 15 The Night
- 5.-7. Sonata in C Major
- 8. There Will Be God
- 9.-12. Concerto for Euphonium
  - 13. My Mountain Top

TOTAL CD PLAYING TIME 62.26











**DOY CD 229** 

DEVIL'S DUEL • DAVID THORNTON

Executive Producer
Trevor Caffull
Producer
Keith Farrington
Sound Engineer
Richard Scott
Digital Sound Editing
& Mastering
R. E Editing

Programme Notes

David Thornton

Project Manager

Kevin J Coates MBE

Artwork & Design

GK Graphic Design Recorded at Morley Town Hall during 2006



