

1.	Hail! Smiling Morn ©F Richardson & Co. <i>Delph Band, Conductor Philip Goodwin</i>	William Spofforth	2.14
2.	Knight Templar ©EMI Music Publishing <i>Black Dyke Band, Conductor Dr. Nicholas J Childs</i>	George Allen	4.42
3.	The President ©R. Smith & Co. <i>Foden's Richardson Band, Conductor Garry Cutt</i>	William German	4.18
4.	Honest Toil ©T. A Haigh <i>Marsden Silver (Ossett Brewery) Band, Conductor Geoffrey Whitham</i>	William Rimmer George Allen	4.49 5.01
5.	The Wizard ©George Allen <i>Rothwell Temperance Band, Conductor David Roberts</i>	William Ord Hulme	4.19
6.	Roll Away Bet ©F Richardson Ltd. <i>Lindley Band, Conductor Neil Jowett</i>	Shipley Douglas	5.29
7.	Mephistopheles ©R. Smith & Co. <i>Mossley Band, Conductor Duncan Byers</i>	William Rimmer	4.34
8.	Ravenswood ©Peter Maurice Music Co. <i>Roberts Bakery Band, Conductor Colin Cranson</i>	Philip Sparke	3.18
9.	The Conqueror ©Anglo Music Press <i>Alexander Band, Conductor Morten Hansen</i>	William Rimmer	4.31
10.	Viva Birkinshaw ©F Richardson & Co. <i>Grange Moor Band, Conductor Michael Early</i>	Thomas James Powell	4.53
11.	The Contestor ©F Richardson & Co. <i>Bedworth Band, Conductor Alistair McKenzie</i>	Ernest Urbach	4.24
12.	Through Bolts and Bars ©Boosey & Hawkes <i>Regent Brass, Conductor Alan Duguid</i>	John Carr	5.14
13.	Bramwyn ©Paxton Music <i>St. Sebastian's Wokingham Band, Conductor James Calloway</i>	Iain Rayner	5.03
14.	True Freedom ©Danetre Music <i>Salvo Brass, Conductor John Broadhurst</i>	H. Daetwyler	3.25
15.	Marignan ©Rauber <i>MG Root Band (Switzerland), Conductor Peter Gruber</i>	George Allen	5.00
16.	Senator ©Peter Maurice Music Co. <i>Emley Band, Conductor Gary Hallas</i>	John Carr	4.32
17.	Glemdene ©Paxton Music <i>Boobs and Brass, Conductor Jonathan Mott</i>	Thomas J. Powell	3.55
18.	The Gay Hussar ©F Richardson & Co. <i>Somerset Brass, Conductor Peter Memory</i>		

Total CD Playing Time 79.51

DOY CD236

Whit Friday Marches



Highlights from the Delph March Contest 2007

Featuring
Black Dyke, Foden's, Marsden, Roberts Bakery, Delph,
Salvo Brass, Lindley and others



Whit Friday Marches

Welcome to this, the fourth CD recording of the Delph Whit Friday Quickstep Contest. Although a rather puzzling title, it indicates the difference in tempo between the street and contest march. The first 'Quickstep Contests' were held in Uppermill and Stalybridge in 1884, so both the Saddleworth and Tameside areas can claim the Whit Friday Contests as part of their heritage.

Here in Delph, the first contest was held in 1946, begun by a handful of men from the village, fired with enthusiasm after the war which was aimed at bringing community life back to our village. That first contest was a great success with 16 bands competing; sixty one years later numbers have more than quadrupled with 78 bands playing in our village on 1st June.

Originally the contest was limited to bands playing for the local processions of witness, of which there were then a considerable number. These days we not only welcome bands from far flung parts of the British Isles but have regular visitors from all over the world. This year bands from Norway, Switzerland and the USA competed in our area and we are delighted to be able

to include two of these performances on this recording.

The bands from overseas bring with them a slightly different sound and style of playing which provides even more entertainment for our large and knowledgeable audience, this year these bands also brought with them new music in the form of *Conqueror* and *Marignan*. The composer of *Conqueror*, Philip Sparke and the arranger of *Marignan*, Tony Cheseaux were both in our audience. So Whit Friday is bringing both new faces and new music to the British brass band scene and seems to be the one contest of the year that goes from strength to strength.

The seventy eight bands that competed gave us the opportunity to offer listeners a wide variety of marches and for the first time we were able to include eighteen different tracks including the traditional start to the day's proceedings *Hail Smiling Morn* played by our own Delph Band. What better way to spend a cold winter evening than to re-visit Delph for 79 minutes and re-live that wonderful day spent here on 1st June 2007?

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Mr Alan Speding

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Whit Friday Marches

circuit (Uppermill and Stalybridge contests pre-date it by some 72 years), it has certainly become the largest in terms of the sheer number of bands processed by the organising committee and the thousands of spectators who throng the streets.

This year, Delph created a new record by processing 78 competing bands and it has become something of a tradition that the Contest continues until well past midnight into Saturday morning. This year Delph Band was the last to check in, but it was a good two hours later that they brought the contest to a resounding close in true Whit Friday tradition by following up their contest march with the National Anthem.

The popularity of Delph Quickstep Contest is now so great that mounted police escort the parading bands through the crowds, which, of course, adds a flash of glamour and excitement to the atmosphere and spectacle of what has undoubtedly become the greatest little brass band contest in the Northwest!

The folklore of Delph Contest also reached millions worldwide when it was chosen as the location for the Whit Friday March footage of the box office smash film, *Brassed Off*, in which 'Grimley Band's' Whit Friday contention was shot around the bridge by the village's Rose and Crown inn – now converted into a brass instrument shop.

The magic of Delph Quickstep Contest is captured live on this CD through 18 performances by such brass banding legends as Foden's Richardson Band and Black Dyke Band. Items featured include evergreen marches like *Honest Toil*, *Knight Templar* (on which Black Dyke took top honours at Delph), *Ravenswood*, *Viva Birkinshaw*, *The Wizard*, *The Contestor*, *True Freedom* and *The Senator*. All are played to a high standard and the disc serves as an audio memory bank of all the Whit Friday 'fun of the fair' march experience. For those who couldn't make the annual pilgrimage into Whit Friday country in 2007, this CD the next best thing. Enjoy!

Nicola Bland

Whit Friday Marches

Each year on Whit Friday, bands from all over the United Kingdom, and sometimes from further afield, make a pilgrimage to the Saddleworth and Tameside districts around Oldham to participate in the much-celebrated Whit Friday 'quickstep' march contests.

The bands travel by coach from one village to the next and, upon arrival at each location, march a short distance to the contest arena and perform a march to the assembled crowd. They then sprint back to their coaches, travel on to the next village and repeat the time honoured ritual all over again.

Brass bands of all grades and ages take part, from the nation's top Championship bands including Black Dyke, Foden's and YBS, to the youngest school band. Although the *raison d'être* of the Whit Friday March circuit is gladiatorial, the very essence of it is a good-natured festival that has a unique atmosphere. In fact, it has justifiably earned its reputation as 'the greatest free show on earth', drawing literally tens of thousands of spectators

who line the streets to cheer and applaud their marching musical knights.

For one day and night, brass bands time-travel back to a bygone era, when they were the pulsating life-blood of every village occasion. In so many ways, the Whit Friday March tradition encapsulates all that was (and is) best in community life, in which brass bands played a vital part, performing at every notable happening from births, marriages and fetes to religious occasions and even funerals.

Of all the Whit Friday March contests, the one at Delph occupies a special place in the hearts of Whit Friday 'promenaders'. For as a member of last year's throng reflected: 'Nothing comes close to the feeling I had marching through Delph.' The Contest's official title is Delph Quickstep Contest - a somewhat quaint reference to the type of march performed by competing bands.

Although records show that Delph is not the oldest contest on the Whit Friday



Board carrier Sandra Povah ready to lead the first band of the evening, Hebden Bridge



Best Youth Band and winners of our first ever department award, Rochdale Metropolitan Youth under their Delph based conductor, Eric Landon.



The unmistakable black and red uniforms of the Black Dyke Band as they score 99.5 points on Knight Templar to be crowned Delph champions of 2007.



Possible stars of the future, Dobcross Youth on their way to clinching the 'Best Saddleworth Award'.



The 'pink ladies' of Boobs and Brass (with guest Mark Walters) doing their bit for charity and adding plenty of colour to Delph at dusk



Copyright to Marlin Images and thanks to Simon Jones for morning shot

What the day is really all about! Glorious weather, a great turnout and good music — the perfect Whitsuntide procession.



Clogher Valley from Northern Ireland, new visitors this year, included some old friends of the contest among their ranks.



Among the farthest travelled bands was MG Root from Switzerland competing on the lesser known Marignan march.

No doubting this band's nationality, the flags, the kilts — it could only be Scottish scratch band, Tartan Brass.