

regionals 2008

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|--|--|--------------------|-------|
| 1. - 3. | Festival Music ©R. Smith & Co. | Eric Ball | 15.22 |
| Championship Section: Black Dyke Band, conducted by Dr. Nicholas Childs | | | |
| 1. | <i>Overture</i> | 3.56 | |
| 2. | <i>Romance</i> | 7.38 | |
| 3. | <i>Impromptu</i> | 3.59 | |
| 4. | James Cook - Circumnavigator ©Studio Music | Gilbert Vinter | 10.45 |
| First Section: Cory Band, conducted by Dr. Robert Childs | | | |
| 5. - 7. | Three Part Invention ©North Music Holland | Kenneth Downie | 11.21 |
| Second Section: Whitburn Band, conducted by Duncan Beckley | | | |
| 5. | <i>Prelude</i> | 3.11 | |
| 6. | <i>Romance</i> | 4.07 | |
| 7. | <i>Caprice</i> | 4.02 | |
| 8. | The Dark Side of the Moon ©Prima Vista Musikk | Paul Lovatt-Cooper | 12.36 |
| Third Section: Black Dyke Band, conducted by Dr. Nicholas Childs | | | |
| 9. - 12. | Four Cities Symphony ©Prima Vista Musikk | Rodney Newton | 11.25 |
| Fourth Section: Cory Band, conducted by Dr. Robert Childs | | | |
| 9. | <i>London</i> | 3.23 | |
| 10. | <i>Paris</i> | 2.13 | |
| 11. | <i>Rome</i> | 3.18 | |
| 12. | <i>Moscow</i> | 2.28 | |

Total CD Playing Time 62.07

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull
Producer: Keith Farrington
Sound Engineer: Richard Scott
Sound Engineer for B&H Sound*: Brian Hillson
Digital Editing & Mastering: R.E. Editing
Programme Notes: John Maines
Project Manager: Kevin J Coates MBE
Artwork & Design: GK Graphic Design


DOY CD238

Recorded at
Whitburn Band: The Regal Theatre,
Whitburn on 1 July 2007
Black Dyke Band: Morley Town Hall
on 12 July 2007,
Cory Band: Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun,
Aberdare on 3 June 2007*

regionals 2008



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regionals 2008

Festival Music Eric Ball (1903-1989)

This symphonic suite for brass band was written in 1956 by Eric Ball and is the chosen test for the Championship Section. It is played on this disc by the Black Dyke Band conducted by Dr. Nicholas Childs.

It is Ball's tribute to Mozart whose Bicentennial was celebrated in the same year. The piece was commissioned for the National Championships of Great Britain held on the 27 October 1956 at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

The suite is in three movements: *Overture*, *Romance* and *Impromptu*. Although now over fifty years old Festival Music is still an extremely demanding test, particularly of the expressive qualities of the bands with the music requiring a modicum of graceful subtlety and musical control.

Eric Ball was born in 1903 in Bristol to a Salvation Army family he became an accomplished pianist and organist. Largely self taught as a composer he is quoted as saying: "My music is a bit old fashioned, back in the romantic era". His main influences were Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and especially Elgar.

In the 1930's and 1940's he worked as a full time Salvation Army officer and made numerous recordings with the SP&S Band.

He conducted many of the top bands of his day winning the British Open Championships three times with CWS (Manchester) Band in 1948 and 1952 and with Ransome & Marles on his own piece *The Conquerers* in 1951.

In 1946 he steered Brighouse & Rastrick to victory in the National Championships in the Royal Albert Hall. At the same contest in 1950 he conducted all three bands into 3rd, 4th and 5th places.

Surprisingly, at least to brass band musicians, is the fact that he wrote more anthems and songs than brass band pieces.

James Cook - Circumnavigator Gilbert Vinter (1909-1969)

First Section bands have to get to grips with a Gilbert Vinter classic played here by the Cory Band conducted by Dr. Robert Childs, *James Cook - Circumnavigator* was the last work for brass band by Gilbert Vinter and was completed just four months before his death. He was destined never to hear the

Whitburn Band

Whitburn Band was formed as Whitburn Town Band in 1870, a time when the Brass Band movement in Scotland was very much in its infancy.

It was, however, a time when a number of bands were being formed in the area as an outlet for the growing number of amateur musicians in the mining community of West Lothian for whom musical instruments were becoming available for the first time.



For most of the early part of its existence, the band played little part in the competitive movement in Scotland but played a major role in the life of the community. In the early 1900s they were instrumental in the introduction of the town's Annual Gala (or 'Downie') Week in June, an event in which the band still perform a vital role.

It wasn't until 1948 that the band, by then known as Whitburn Miners Welfare, made their first impact on the contest scene by winning the Scottish 4th Section Championships under the direction of Herbert Kearsley.



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Since then, they have featured on no less than 80 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, 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 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.

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'.

piece as it was commissioned on behalf of the New Zealand Brass Band Association by the Port Nicholson Band Trust for the Captain Cook Bicentenary celebrations the following year. He was due to visit New Zealand in 1970.

The music describes the treacherous journey by Captain Cook which led to the discovery of Australia and New Zealand. It depicts the turbulence of the ocean as well as the dramatic moment when Cook dies at the hands of natives on Hawaii.

It was used as the test piece for the British Open Brass Band Championships held at Belle Vue Manchester on the 7 September 1974.

Gilbert Vinter was born on the 4 May 1909 in Lincoln, England. Composer, conductor and bassoonist, Vinter made his name in the BBC Wireless Band and the London Philharmonic Orchestra and, during World War II in the Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

In the late 1940's he was made a staff conductor with the BBC and conducted the well-known BBC Light Orchestra for many years whilst teaching at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

In addition to **James Cook - Circumnavigator** he composed numerous works for brass band including, *The Trumpets, Ado for Drummers, The Dover Coach, Salute to Youth, Symphony of Marches, Variations on a Ninth, Entertainments, Triumphant Rhapsody, Spectrum, Viszcaya, John O'Gaunt* and lighter pieces like *Portuguese Party* and *Lisbon Carnival*.

Three Part Invention Kenneth Downie

The World Premiere recording of the piece chosen for the Second Section Bands is played by the Whitburn Band conducted by Duncan Beckley.

The composer borrowed the title for this music from J.S. Bach, some of whose great keyboard works bearing that name he played as a student although, as he puts it 'any similarity with Bach is very loose and superficial however. I am really only using the term to describe a suite, invented by me which happens to be in three movements'.

Again in the composer's own words: 'the first movement is a **Prelude** which does have a hint of counterpoint about it but it is only a veneer and by the time the euphonium melody appears at the meno mosso we are in a more lyrical style which is further developed by cornets.

The second movement, *Romance* is an affectionate backward glance at the music of the late 18th/early 19th century and calls for a singing style, with great sensitivity. The closing horn-calls should be full of nostalgia.

The finale, *Caprice* brings a quick change of tempo and mood. The aim is to be light-hearted and good-humoured, while always remaining musical and avoiding vulgarity. Hopefully by the end, players and listeners will have enjoyed themselves'.

Kenneth Downie was born in Glasgow in 1946 and educated at Greenock High School, the Royal Manchester College of Music (RNCM) and Durham University. He then became a specialist music teacher in schools before leaving his position as head of music at Poole Grammar School to go into the jewellery business in 1976.

His published compositions, many of which have been recorded and broadcast on national radio, span a period of 30 years and are mainly for brass band or choir. Recent commissions include music for the Hampshire County Youth Band, City of Winchester Brass and the Swiss and Norwegian National Championships.

In 1998 and 2000 his *Purcell Variations* and *Music for the Common Man* were chosen as First Section regional test pieces for the National Brass Band Championships.

In April 1998 he was appointed to the post of 'Composer in Residence' to the Yorkshire Building Society Band, and thus began a fruitful relationship involving concerts, broadcasts and recordings.

In November 1999 his contribution to Salvation Army Music was recognised by the New York Staff Band when he was invited to be the guest at their annual Profile Night.

In July 2001 Kenneth was appointed as 'Creative Consultant' to the Salvation Army's Music Ministries department in the United Kingdom.

Kenneth Downie was selected to write the test piece for the European Brass Band Championships, held in Glasgow in April 2004. It is a set of variations on the hymn tune *St. Magnus*.

duration, it is currently the largest scale original work in the repertoire.

The band is dedicated to new music, raising the profile of the brass band genre and keeping music alive in Wales. They have an active commissioning policy and have performed works by many of Britain's leading composers; John McCabe, Judith Bingham, Elgar Howarth, Edward Gregson, Alun Hoddinott, Karl Jenkins, Gareth Wood, David Bedford, as well as John Pickard to name but a few. The band's current 'Composer in Residence' is Welshman Gareth Wood. Since his appointment he has written *A Tear In The Fabric of Time*, *A Tenor Horn Concerto* and *Actaeon*.

BLACK DYKE BAND



In 1816, in the Yorkshire village of Queenshead - later to become Queensbury, 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 Queenshead Band, and in September 1855 John Foster & Son 'adopted' the band, acquiring for it a new set

In 2002 the band were selected to play for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and have since performed in many of the world's finest concert venues including the Grieg Hall, Stravinsky Hall, the Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham's Symphony Hall.

In 2003 they performed with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Last Night of the Welsh Proms and were more recently featured during the opening celebrations of the new Welsh Millennium Centre.

The Cory Band is recognised as one of the Principality's finest and most innovative music ensembles. Their numerous CD recordings and live concert performances have received worldwide acclaim.

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 over 13,000 miles.

Cory Band

The Cory Band hails from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. They were formed in 1884 and originally bore the name 'Ton Temperance'. In 1895 Sir Clifford Cory, Chairman of Cory Brothers heard the band and offered to provide financial assistance for them resulting in the band's change of name to 'Cory'.



In 1920 the band gained championship status and three years later achieved the distinction of performing what is believed to have been the first radio broadcast by a brass band. A significant honour was bestowed on the band in 1976 when they were chosen to represent Wales and the Brass Band Movement on a tour of the USA as part of their bicentennial celebrations.

In 1998 Just Rentals, a locally based company, agreed to support the band, resulting in it being known as the 'Just Rentals' Cory Band. Just Rentals changed their name to Buy As You View to reflect developments in their business and with this the band became known as the 'Buy As You View' Cory Band and in 2004 Cory was removed from the band's name. However when the sponsorship package ended in

March 2007 the Band was delighted to return to their traditional name Cory Band.

In 1980 the band became European Champions and in 1984, their centenary year, they won the third in a hat-trick of National titles at the Royal Albert Hall, London. The culmination of their contest successes came in 2000 following the appointment of Dr. Robert Childs as their Musical Director. During that millennium year they won both the British Open and the National Championships and made history in taking the British Open Shield home to Wales for the first time in the contest's 148-year history. This triumph was repeated in 2002 when the band won their second British Open title.

The Cory Band has also developed musically outside of the contest field. In 2001, together with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales they were appointed as resident ensemble to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and in the same year appointed Dr. John Pickard as their 'Composer in Residence'. John Pickard's tenure with the band ended in July 2005 when the band made history giving the première performance of his *Gaia Symphony* at the prestigious Cheltenham International Festival. The *Symphony* was broadcast live on *Radio 3*, and lasting over an hour in

The Dark Side of the Moon Paul Lovatt-Cooper

The bands in the Third Section have a new piece by Paul Lovatt-Cooper to tackle played on this occasion by the Black Dyke Band conducted by Dr. Nicholas Childs again in a World Premiere recording.

Let's hear what the composer has to say about it:

'Have you ever thought of a holiday destination, tourist attraction, event, place, site or period in history and thought "I wonder what it would be like"? Somewhere you have never been and can only let your imagination run wild on what the place would be like and all the things surrounding it like the mood, feelings you get experiencing it, the temperature, who would be there, what you would see etc.

I know from news reports, the internet and other footage that the moon is a very desolate place, very barren and rugged. So from the start the piece gives the listener a musical picture of the rugged landscape with little light and warmth.

However, the one place that has had me thinking about is the side of the moon that we don't see in our night skies, the

side of the moon with no sun and with no light pollution from civilisation. I can only imagine the eeriness one would feel being stood in complete darkness on the moon's surface looking around.

As you slowly explore the surroundings your eyes drift up to the night sky there is an awesome sight unfolding in front of you: Countless stars and galaxies, planets and different solar systems and all right in front of you glistening from the light of the sun beaming from the other side of the moon. The dark side of the moon portrays a musical picture of the whole experience as seen in my imagination taking the listener from the rugged landscape to the awesome beauty that sits endlessly in front of you'.

The Dark Side of the Moon was commissioned by Ted Andrews and the Members of The Rotary Club of Cardiff and St. Cecilia Lodge.

Paul Lovatt-Cooper was born and raised in the Salvation Army with his parents who were Officers. He was quickly introduced into music by all of his family members who were all keen musicians and keen to keep the family tradition going.

Paul started his musical career by playing the drums at school at the age of twelve. He

joined the school band shortly after, which led to an invitation to play for former British Open Champions Kennedy's Swinton Band.

After school Paul continued to study music at the University of Salford. Paul studied percussion under freelance percussionist Andrew Whettam and he majored in conducting under David King and composing with Peter Graham. In his final year Paul added to his degree success by winning the coveted Roy Newsome Conductors Award.

On graduating from university Paul earned his Post Graduate Certificate in Education at Manchester Metropolitan University and became a teacher of Music.

In 2003 he joined the world famous Black Dyke Band as percussionist. The professional conductor Dr. Nicholas Childs realised Paul's potential as a composer and soon had the band performing his works, starting with the world premier of his Trombone Concerto *Earth's Fury* at Birmingham's Symphony Hall which was recorded and broadcast on BBC's *Radio 2*.

Since then Paul has been enjoying both playing and composing successes with Black Dyke and with other bands around the world.

In 2006 Paul won the Brighthouse & Rastrick Band's 125th Anniversary Composers Competition with his piece *West Rydings*.

Paul is currently Head of Music at Wardle High School in Rochdale is percussion tutor for the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain.

Four Cities Symphony Rodney Newton

In yet another World Premiere recording this work, played here by the Cory Band conducted by Dr. Robert Childs, was commissioned by the Music Selection Panel of the National Contesting Council for the Fourth Section of the National Regional Brass Band Championships 2008.

It is in four movements, which follow each other without a break. As Newton explains: The opening movement, *London*, begins with a stately melody followed by an animated section, intended to contrast the pageantry of historic London with the busy, modern city of today.

The second movement, *Paris*, is given over to a waltz which seeks to evoke the leafy boulevards and romantic riverside walks beside the Seine.

The solemn sound of Gregorian chant heralds the third movement, *Rome*, as the Paternoster (Our Father) and the Credo (Creed) are quoted. After a strong climax, the music subsides and mysterious tramping footsteps are heard as the ghosts of a Roman legion march through the 'Eternal City'. The vision fades and the movement ends with a quotation of the ancient Ambrosian chant, *Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat!* (Christ conquers, Christ reigns, Christ is Lord), signifying that it was Christianity which survived in the end.

The final movement, *Moscow*, contrasts the majestic sound of a Russian choir with a fiery Cossack dance, bringing symphony to an energetic conclusion.

Rodney Newton was born in Birmingham in 1945 and received his musical education at Birmingham School of Music (now Birmingham Conservatoire, of which he is an Honorary Member), studying composition with Dr. Cyril Christopher and timpani with the legendary Ernest Parsons.

In 1967 he joined the BBC Training Orchestra in Bristol as a timpanist and percussionist, leaving at the end of 1969. During his Bristol years he wrote music for the BBC World Service.

In 1974, after a period of freelancing, he joined the orchestra of Sadlers Wells (English National) Opera where he remained for eleven years, the last five as principal timpanist. He also played regularly in London's various orchestras, including the BBC Symphony, London Philharmonic, London Symphony and the Royal Opera.

In the 90s he became much involved with brass and wind bands, notably the famous Williams Fairey Band and was responsible for all the arrangements for Jeremy Deller's Acid Brass project, which caused something of a sensation in the late 1990s and helped to gain its originator the 2004 Turner Prize.

Apart from Fairey, his music has been played and recorded by many of the world's top bands. He has written works for a number of youth bands, among them Besses Boys', Hampshire County Youth and 2nd Rossendale Scout Group and for distinguished soloists including David Childs, Brett Baker and James Gourlay.