

DOYCD 264



CORY BAND
CONDUCTED BY DR. ROBERT CHILDS

ENTER THE
GALAXIES



Introduction

The year of 2009 sees Cory Band celebrate their 125th anniversary and, to mark this momentous milestone, several special events and projects have been put in place. New music has been commissioned, prestigious concerts and tours have been planned, a complete history of the band is being written, but perhaps most importantly several CD and DVD recordings of the band are being produced providing a lasting celebratory memento of this special year in the band's rich history.

This album, the band's first commercial release of 2009, celebrates the lighter side of Cory and features 13 new concert items, all of which receive their first studio recording. Starting in outer space with the eponymous **Enter the Galaxies**, the listener is taken on a musical journey of contrasting styles through Britain, America, Mexico, Italy, Spain, Greece, Bulgaria and Africa! Along the way several of Cory's star soloists are featured together with a blend of the brass band movement's most respected and established composers together with some young composing talents of the future.

1	Enter the Galaxies ©Prima Vista Musikk	Paul Lovatt-Cooper	3.09
2-5	Aspects of Adiemus ©Boosey & Hawkes	Karl Jenkins arr. Graham	
	I. Adiemus	3.14	
	II. Song of the Spirit	3.57	
	III. Chorale (Vocalise)	2.18	
	IV. Song of the Plains	3.43	
6	Sunrise Over Blue Ridge ©Prima Vista Musikk	Dan Price	4.03
7	Mexican Hat Dance ©Prima Vista Musikk	Traditional arr. Webster	5.01
	Cornet Soloist Ian Williams		
8-10	Sirocco ©Gramercy Music	Peter Graham	
	I. Tarantella	2.09	
	II. Romanza	2.36	
	Flugel Horn Soloist Joanne Childs		
	III. Sirtaki	2.11	
11	Kopanitsa ©Jagrins Music Publications	Andrew Baker	4.24
	Percussion Soloist Gavin Pritchard		
12	Turrís Fortíssima ©SP&S	Steven Ponsford	9.21
13	Tom Bowling ©Kantaramusikk	Charles Dibdin arr. Downie	3.58
	Trombone Soloist Christopher Thomas		
14	Men of Harlech ©Prima Vista Musikk	Traditional arr. Wood	3.19
15	Capricorno ©Anglo Music	Philip Sparke	6.47
	Tenor Horn Soloist Owen Farr		
16	King Solomon's Mines ©Prima Vista Musikk	Rodney Newton	4.55
17	The Hot Canary ©Prima Vista Musikk	Paul Nero arr. Wood	2.46
	Euphonium Soloist David Childs		
18	An American Tale ©Prima Vista Musikk	Dan Price	5.57
	Narration by Frank Renton		

Total CD Playing Time 75.02

Band Personnel

Soprano	1st Baritone
Christopher Turner	Susan Thomas
Christopher Avison	2nd Baritone
Principal Cornet	Christopher Straker
Ian Williams	Principal Euphonium
Solo Cornet	David Childs
Christopher Turner	2nd Euphonium
Darren Thomas	Matthew Jenkins
Shamus Gallagher	Solo Trombone
John Southcombe	Christopher Thomas
Repiano Cornet	2nd Trombone
Richard Davies	Johanna Hirst
2nd Cornet	Bass Trombone
Lisa Fitzgerald-Lombard	Andrew Williams
Phillip Harris	Eb Bass
3rd Cornet	Simon Howell
Neil Blockley	Oliver Browne
Travis Griffiths	Austin Davies
Nicholas Brill	Bb Bass
Flugel Horn	Fraser Bish
Joanne Childs	John Prosser
Solo Horn	Percussion
Owen Farr	Alun Horgan
1st Horn	Gavin Pritchard
Michael Franey	Simon Brittlebank
2nd Horn	Dave Danford
Lucy Griffiths	David Mitchell
	Alun Hathaway

Programme Notes

Like several of the tracks on this disc, Paul Lovatt-Cooper's **Enter the Galaxies** received its world premiere at The Sage, Gateshead forming part of Cory's winning 'Brass in Concert Championship 2008' programme. The music provides a dramatic curtain raiser and takes its inspiration from the space exploration man experienced during the last century. The composer writes, 'At the beginning of the 21st century, we stand at a unique time in our exploration of the heavens. NASA has defined space travel as we know it and the exploratory voyages of our past and future now give us the potential within our lifetimes, to discover the unknown. **Enter the Galaxies** paints a musical picture of the experiences and excitement space exploration has to offer and is dedicated to my friends, Cory Band.'

Karl Jenkins is not only regarded as one of the most successful composers of his generation, he is a proud Welshman and a friend of Cory Band. Having

previously recorded an arrangement of his award winning *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* and collaborated closely with him during the recording of his album *This Land of Ours*, Cory Band are fans of the Welshman's music and here present four of his most popular *Adiemus* compositions musically packaged as **Aspects of Adiemus**.

The first movement, entitled *Adiemus*, was originally aired all over the world as part of an airline television commercial and was later released on the composer's platinum selling album, *Adiemus - Songs of Sanctuary*. The following three movements are all taken from the composer's second *Adiemus* album, *Cantata Mundi* and were first performed by Cory back in 2001 in Birmingham's prestigious Symphony Hall. *Adiemus*, literally translated, means 'we will draw near', but curiously enough, Karl Jenkins was unaware of the word's meaning when he created it, and believed it to be an invented word of his own imagination.

Sunrise Over Blue Ridge is an original composition from the pen of exciting young composer, Dan Price. Like **Enter the Galaxies**, this work received its world première at The Sage, Gateshead forming part of Cory's winning 'Brass in Concert Championship 2008' programme. Blue Ridge (or The Blue Ridge Mountains) is a mountain range within the larger Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia. The trees growing on the mountainside in this area release hydrocarbons into the atmosphere and when the range is viewed from a distance the natural haze produced in this process gives the mountains a distinctive blue-ish colour. **Sunrise Over Blue Ridge** is lyrical in nature and as the title suggests takes its inspiration from the wonderful landscapes which can be seen in this part of the world.

The widely acclaimed **Mexican Hat Dance** became so popular that at one point it was declared the national folk dance of Mexico. Its popularity is attributed to the great Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova when, after a visit to Mexico in 1930, she fell in love with the culture and spectacular

costumes of the country and decided to include the dance in her permanent repertoire. For many years **Mexican Hat Dance** was inextricably linked to the charismatic trumpeter Rafael Méndez, whose flamboyant soloistic style was the inspiration behind this arrangement. Here we hear the solo performed in authentic style by Cory's phenomenal talisman, Ian Williams.

Sirocco is a wind that originates in the Sahara and sweeps across the Mediterranean through North Africa to Southern Europe. Taking this route as his inspiration, Peter Graham has fashioned a tour-de-force for band that features three Mediterranean folk songs. Two of the three movements are well known in their respective countries. Firstly, the fast and furious *Tarantella*, followed by a seductive Romanza beautifully played by Joanne Childs. In the this movement Joanne cleverly fuses the warm dark tone of the flugel horn with the sound of an authentic African balaphone! The final movement has its roots in traditional Greek dance music, being a mixture of slow and fast versions of the hasapiko. The best-known example of the form

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 BBC Radio 3, and lasting over an hour in duration, it is currently the largest scale original work in the brass band 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.

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 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 are recognised as one the Principality's finest and most innovative music ensembles and in 2009 they were honoured by the Welsh Music Guild for their contribution to Welsh music. Their numerous CD recordings and live concert performances have received worldwide acclaim.

For further information visit
www.coryband.com

Cory Band

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 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 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 Brass Band Championships 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 Brass Band 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 and again 2007 when the band won their third British Open title. In May 2008 the band won the European Brass Band Championships and floated to the top of the World of Brass ranking table. The band retained their European title in 2009, winning the contest by eight clear points

is the famous *Zorba's Dance*, and in the same manner the *Sirtaki's* sedate opening bars soon give way to a frenzy of activity as Cory whip up their own musical storm.

Kopanitsa was written for Cory's very own talented percussion soloist Gavin Pritchard. The work is based on the style and rhythms of Bulgarian folk music and requires great dexterity and musicianship from the soloist who is required to play a range of instruments including vibraphone, seven tuned drums, four different pitched cymbals and a xylophone! The music begins slowly with some plaintive sounds from both band and soloist, but soon becomes a whirlwind tour-de-force of semi-quavers building in tempo and intensity right to the end.

Turris Fortissima meaning 'Strongest Tower' takes part of its inspiration from the English city of Plymouth. The geographical position of Plymouth means that at various times in history the city has been Britain's first line of defence and a series of forts around the coast bears testimony to this. Being

under siege for nearly four years during the English Civil War saw more forts built to completely encircle Plymouth and these forts have featured on the city's coat-of-arms ever since. However the city's forefathers believed that physical security was worthless without a faith in God's protection and this is reflected in the city motto: *Turris Fortissima est nomen Jehova - The name of Jehovah is our Strongest Tower* (Proverbs 18:10).

Steven Ponsford's composition is inspired by this assurance; the music portrays strength throughout and is based on the hymn *A Safe Stronghold is our God* along with the more contemporary *Blessed be the name of the Lord* and *My Jesus, my Saviour* drawing particular attention to the phrase 'Tower of Refuge and Strength'.

Tom Bowling is a British tune and was written by Charles Dibdin, the eighteenth son of a poor silver-maker. Dibdin was born in Southampton in 1740. In 1778 he became resident composer at Covent Garden Opera House and in 1803 the British government paid him to write a series of songs to 'keep alive the national feelings against the French.'

Dibdin's songs were said to be worth ten thousand sailors to the cause of Britain and this particular song was written in memory of the composer's brother, Thomas Dibdin, captain of a ship in the East India trade who died at sea. The melody has become famous as the beautiful cello solo in Sir Henry Wood's *Fantasy on British Sea Songs*, but can be heard here expertly performed by Cory's principal trombonist Christopher Thomas.

Gareth Wood is 'Composer in Residence' to the Cory Band and in this capacity has written several large scale works for the band including: *A Tear in the Fabric of Time*, *Concerto for Tenor Horn* and *Actaeon*. Gareth is one of Wales' leading composers and regularly has his music performed by orchestras, wind bands and brass bands throughout Europe. However, here Gareth has let his hair down a little with an extremely clever and quirky arrangement of the patriotic Welsh anthem, **Men of Harlech**. Intended as a light hearted encore item, this arrangement received its premiere by Cory Band at the British Open Gala Concert 2008.

Philip Sparke is recognised throughout the brass band movement as one of our most prolific composers. He has written many great test-pieces for the idiom and contributed hugely to the concert repertory including a countless number of solo works. Here Owen Farr presents one such work, a new solo for tenor horn dedicated to the soloist who is now widely regarded as one of the world's finest exponent of his instrument. **Capricorno** pays testament to this with an introduction showcasing lyricism and tone quality followed by a virtuosic finale demonstrating sheer technique and agility. Incidentally, it is no coincidence Philip Sparke is a 'Capricorn' and 'corno' is Italian for 'horn'!

King Solomon's Mines is a short concert overture and was written for Cory Band as part of the composer's contribution to the Brass Band Aid project. It is based on Sir Henry Rider Haggard's African adventure story of the hunter Alan Quatermain and his companions, and their search for the fabled lost diamond mines of King Solomon, in which they are aided by a

During Robert's tenure with Cory, the band has won the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, Brass in Concert Championship, British Brass Band Open Championships (three times), European Brass Band Championships (twice), Welsh Regional Championships (seven times) and, at the time of this recording, are currently

ranked No. 1 in the official British Bandsman World of Brass Rankings.

In 2008 Robert was given 'Freedom of the City of London' and also received the prestigious John Edwards Memorial Award by the Welsh Music Guild for outstanding contribution to Welsh Music.



Robert Childs

Dr. Robert Childs is a leading figure in the world of brass music. For over thirty years he has performed at the highest level giving solo performances in many of the world's most prestigious venues. He has given masterclasses throughout Europe's finest conservatoires and is now recognised as a leading education specialist within his field.

During 2000 Robert relinquished his enviable position as principal euphonium and bandmaster with Black Dyke Band in order to become Principal Conductor and Music Director of Cory, the Principality's premier brass band. Robert's success with Cory has been unprecedented and, having returned to his homeland of Wales, he is now Director of Brass Band Studies at the Royal Welsh College of Music, Musical Director of the National Youth Brass Band of Wales and Managing Director of Performing Arts Education.

In 2002 Robert was awarded a Doctorate in Musical Arts from the



University of Salford and is also an Associate of The Royal College of Music and Fellow of The London College of Music. Robert gained a Masters Degree with distinction from University of Leeds, holds a Post Graduate Certificate in Education from the Open University and in 2007 his remarkable achievements were recognized by the Worshipful Company of Musicians when he was awarded the prestigious Iles Medal.

local tribesman and obstructed by an evil witch doctor. The music is firmly planted in John Williams' *Indiana Jones* territory but, before anyone accuses him of plagiarism, the composer would like to point out that, since all the *Indiana Jones* films owe a huge debt to the romances of Rider Haggard, the wheel has turned the full circle and he is utterly unrepentant! Rodney Newton has a musical association with Cory and **King Solomon's Mines** is one of many works he has dedicated to the band.

American composer and jazz fiddler Paul Nero wrote **The Hot Canary** as a solo for violin in 1951. The catchy tune was an instant success with radio listeners and Nero's subsequent arrangement for trumpet became Maynard Ferguson's first big hit with the Stan Kenton orchestra. Ray Gilbert later wrote words to the tune at the request of Ella Fitzgerald and it was 'The First Lady of Song' who launched **The Hot Canary** into the US Pop charts during the 50s. Over the years **The Hot Canary** has been arranged for an array of instruments and adopted into the lighter repertoire

of many great soloists including world renowned trumpeter Maurice André. This arrangement, crafted especially for Cory's star euphonium soloist David Childs, formed part of Cory's winning 'Brass in Concert Championship 2008' programme and on that occasion earned David the additional honour of being awarded the Best Soloist prize.

An American Tale is a musical tribute to the American Civil war and also received its world premiere at The Sage, Gateshead forming the finale of Cory's winning 'Brass in Concert Championship 2008' programme. The work includes, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *The Girl I Left Behind*, *Kingdom Come*, *Yankee Doodle Dandy*, *The Soldiers Return*, *Turkey in the Straw* and concludes with *Amazing Grace*, a song synonymous with slavery and selected to conclude the work as a reflection of the war's primary goal. Each of the songs is scored in a pseudo-compositional style of an American composer including; John Philip Sousa, Aaron Copland, Charles Ives and Leonard Bernstein. The narrator for this musical tribute is Frank Renton. **Dr.**



DAVID CHILDS



OWEN FARR



CHRIS THOMAS



GAVIN PRITCHARD



IAN WILLIAMS



JOANNE CHILDS