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Total CD Playing Time: 66:21

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SPS 330 CD



THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND
 OF THE SALVATION ARMY

QUEST

STAFF BANDMASTER DR STEPHEN COBB



THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF BAND

The Salvation Army's early history makes mention of several 'staff bands' dating back as far as 1880, but it was on 7 October 1891 that the 'International Headquarters Staff Band' was officially brought into being. The present-day ISB acknowledges this date as the beginning of its existence.

Staff Captain Fred Fry was appointed Bandmaster and, under his direction, daily rehearsals commenced in the basement of the old headquarters building at 101 Queen Victoria Street. There were also one or two weeknight rehearsals, which were occasionally followed by outdoor marching practice on Queen Victoria Street!

In those days all the members of the band were either officers or employees of The Salvation Army and attendance at band rehearsals and engagements took precedence over work! Fred Fry was a patient teacher and worked hard with the limited talent at his disposal. However, the motivation for their work was underpinned by a firm belief that their efforts were blessed by God and that they would be used to bring listeners into a knowledge of God's love.

From those beginnings, the present-day ISB has evolved. Throughout its history the band has maintained the highest musical and spiritual standards and has been proud to be associated with many notable Salvation Army musicians, with Eric Ball, Bernard Adams, Ray Bowes and Robert Redhead among its former Bandmasters. Currently led by Dr Stephen Cobb, the ISB's first non-officer Bandmaster, the band still works to achieve the very highest standards in its music-making and in its communication of the Christian message.

The band meets every Wednesday evening for rehearsal and travels the length and breadth of the country, visiting Salvation Army centres to present concerts and lead worship. It is regularly featured at major Salvation Army events and has also taken part in several significant concerts in the wider world of non-Salvation Army brass banding, building and strengthening healthy links between these two strands of the brass band movement.

The ISB makes frequent visits abroad, including Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada and

As Bandmaster of The International Staff Band, and formerly Bandmaster of Hendon Salvation Army Band (29 years service), Stephen achieved the highest standards of musicianship and musical ministry, providing outstanding models for the worldwide Salvation Army musical fellowship. Recordings, concerts and international tours with both ensembles received the highest critical praise and affirmation. He has recently taken up the baton again as conductor of Hendon Band.

In addition to the recent ISB120 celebrations, The International Staff Band continues to be involved in major brass banding events, including Brass in Concert, gala concerts following the National Brass Band

Championships of Great Britain and other concert and recording projects with high profile groups which have been both rewarding and stimulating. Stephen and The International Staff Band have made many recordings which have received notable acclaim, including the double-CD *Origins* and *St Magnus - The Music of Kenneth Downie*.

Stephen Cobb's initial reputation was secured as a cornet soloist, both at Hendon and within The International Staff Band, having come from a family of talented bandmasters and soloists. He and his wife, Elaine, are members of the corps at Hendon along with their youngest son Philip, who is himself a renowned cornet and trumpet player.

Executive Producer: Trevor Caffull

Producer: Brian Hillson

Associate Producer: Simon Birkett

Engineer: Edward Heathcote

Post-Production: Adam Goldsmith & Daniel Newton

Production Manager: Nicki Tonge

Project Co-ordinator: Neil Brownless

Artwork and Design: GK Graphic Design

Programme Notes: Ray Farr

Recorded by World of Sound on 1 & 8 May 2013 at

All Saints' Church, East Finchley.

STAFF BANDMASTER DR STEPHEN COBB

Dr Stephen Cobb, Territorial Music Director for the United Kingdom Territory, oversees all aspects of The Salvation Army's music and arts ministries. In addition to that major responsibility he has, since 1994, directed the premier brass band of the denomination, The International Staff Band. In both positions he has ably followed some of The Salvation Army's most famous music leaders and conductors.

Stephen has led The International Staff Band through an exciting period of innovation that has seen the band's profile in the wider brass band movement significantly raised. His innovative leadership in SA music has brought about a renewed vigour to that great musical tradition, marked symbolically by the establishment of the Territorial Youth Band (directed by Dr Cobb), a group made up of the finest young players in the Territory, and its sister group, the Territorial Youth Choir. In 2010 Dr Cobb received the Iles Medal of the Worshipful Company of Musicians for his contributions to brass bands and their music.

A music educator by profession and training (his initial degrees the BA (Hons), Cert-Ed and MA), in July 2006 Dr Cobb completed the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts, in instrumental conducting, at Salford University.



the USA in its long list of countries visited. In addition to performing live, the band makes regular recordings on the SP&S label.

Currently, about one third of the band are employed by The Salvation Army while the rest work in a wide and varied range of professions.

All are active members of their local Salvation Army corps, many holding leadership positions. They give their time and talents to service with The International Staff Band because they, like their early day counterparts, believe that God uses the band's ministry as a means of spreading the message of the Christian Gospel.



PROGRAMME NOTES

This recording by The International Staff Band of The Salvation Army, conducted by Bandmaster Stephen Cobb, brings inspiration and hope - inspiration through its musical and theological message to all who will hear, and hope for the brass band as a medium in the service of religion. The playing, as one would expect from an ensemble with such a pedigree, is excellent and with roots in traditional style pushes the boundaries of what a brass band can do in an exciting, innovative way. Congratulations to all involved in the production; and thank you for the time and effort dedicated to this 'Quest' to bring the listener renewed encouragement and optimism.



Call of the Gospel by Martin Corder starts with a brilliant John Williams-style flourish where cornets and lower brass vie for attention. The first *plena voce* is a thrilling statement of confidence announcing instrumentally 'We're going to sing, sing, sing the gospel story' followed immediately by a bright march-style presentation of *We have a gospel*. Some dark uncertainty is expressed by the flugel but the syncopated, exotic accompaniment suggests this is temporary. Reassuringly, the reprise of the gospel theme arrives and the full song is presented in a driving, unstoppable conclusion with a touch of razzmatazz.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You by Nik & Emma Pears arranged by Paul Sharman creates a mellow reflective mood. This lovely melody is beautifully scored for full band and every section shines. The music is in a modern, pop style but tastefully presented, leaving a warm and satisfying glow even without the lyrics.

Martin Corder's **Fusion** is a new and attractive piece based on the hymn *Brantwood, I know*

BAND PERSONNEL

Staff Bandmaster

Dr Stephen Cobb

Executive Officer

Major Noel Wright

Soprano Cornet

Gary Fountain

Principal Cornet

Carl Nielsen

Solo Cornet

Paul Sharman
Gavin Lamplough
Nicola Redhead

1st Cornet

Martyn Bryant
Kevin Coates
Band Manager

2nd Cornet

Nigel Hills
Darren Bull

Flugel Horn

Richard Woodrow

Solo Horn

David Winch
Andrew Dickinson

1st Horn

Stephen Hanover

2nd Horn

Gary Terrar

1st Baritone

Iain Parkhouse
Darren Willis

2nd Baritone

Anthony Smith



1st Trombone

Andrew Justice
Simon Scott

2nd Trombone

Stuart Hall

Bass Trombone

Gordon Camsey

Euphonium

Derick Kane
Deputy Bandmaster
Jonathan Evans

Eb Bass

Michael Calland
Carl Woodman

Bb Bass

Martin Tiplady
Trevor Caffull

Percussion

Robert Hayward
Ashley Durrant
Christopher House



accompaniment has a fascinating mix of mutes and percussion.

Guardian of my Soul by Darren Shaw combines two religious songs; one old, *Aurelia (O Jesus, I have promised)* and one new, composed by Darren Shaw himself, *I worship you*. Both songs contain the phrase, 'Guardian of my soul' and the music creates a powerful emotive response which will move even the coldest of hearts. Listen out for the wonderful climactic key change following the simple, repetitive rolling melody.

The Day of the Lord by Steven Ponsford is the final track on the CD and makes a convincing and satisfying finale to a terrific programme.

It starts with intrigue and gradually brings fragments of the song *The Judgement Day*, which begin in a sombre mood. Suddenly the music becomes agitated but gradually calmed by broad themes on cornet with a euphonium ostinato. Horns introduce new hope and the music builds in confidence but is not completely secure. A lovely slow section with running quavers and waves of emotion search for fulfilment before an assertive fanfare introduces the final section which starts with warm, mellow euphoniums. The music develops and the themes, *I see the King of Glory* and *Salvation belongs to our God* are presented in majestic sonority before a final burst of energy and magnificent coda.

Ray Farr



thee who thou art by Albert Orsborn, and the Chris Rice song *Come to Jesus*. The structure is a simple introduction/fast/slow/fast with an exciting Hollywood-style blockbuster ending. The many key changes, quickly contrasting moods and effervescent rhythms make an attractive fusion of fresh ideas in John Williams' style which will win many supporters.

Air 'N Variations is a showpiece for euphonium written by American composer Stephen Bulla. Originally, this set of variations on the song '*Tw'as a happy, happy day* by Grace Weiser Davis, was composed for the euphonium soloist Aaron van der Weele – hence the play on words in the title. The piece is cleverly written in a range of styles where the variations flow almost seamlessly in a Leidzén-esque fashion.

While there is also homage to other composers such as Gregson and Heaton, Stephen Bulla's masterly work, with its four variations, cadenzas and interludes will, undoubtedly last the test of time. Derick Kane's performance on this recording is stunning in its impressive display of virtuosity and musicianship.

Through the Fair is a much-recorded Irish traditional folk song tastefully arranged here as a flugel horn solo by Chelsea Pascoe. The mysterious and haunting melody with its sorrowful lyrics is beautifully performed by Richard Woodrow, with a tasteful accompaniment provided by the full band. Each verse has an interesting character and in the third verse the soloist skilfully projects a lovely florid decoration.

Quest is a significant new work by Paul Sharman and the title track for the CD. It is in three movements and attempts to portray something of what it is to be a Christian in today's world.

1. Making a Difference. This movement is based on motifs from Ray Steadman-Allen's *My New Day* and celebrates how exciting it is being a Christian. The attractive, up-tempo style is reminiscent of Stephen Sondheim and there are also references to the tune, *Southport (To serve the present age)*.

2. Making Time. This movement is all about making time in a busy life to speak to God and make the most of what each day brings. The song, *This Day*, by Lowell Alexander is featured, along with other original material. Tubular bells are used to indicate the passing

of time and the movement closes with a reference to Terry Camsey's tune, *Lord, hear me as I pray to thee*.

3. Making Progress. This movement portrays the Christian's journey through life. There is insecurity to start, with unsettled, fragmented motifs, but the music builds in confidence. The trombones appear brave and bold but the horns, reminiscent of Eric Ball, seem doubtful in a reference to the melody *As the varied way of life we journey*. A short fugato indicates the hustle and bustle of life with its challenges and problems, but the music rushes to a triumphant conclusion with a setting of *Trust in God*. A true grand-stand finish complete with a final emphatic thump from the bass drum.



You Love Me by Brian Willetts was originally published as a song in 1993. The lyrics of the song tell us that despite the wonder and vastness of God's creation He still loves each one of us individually. This arrangement for tenor horn is tastefully constructed in pop-music style by Paul Sharman and features tenor horn soloist David Winch who 'sings' charmingly in the upper tessitura.

The march **Unconquered** was composed by Arthur Gullidge, a prominent Australian musician, in the 1930s. When war broke out in Europe Bandmaster Gullidge and his Salvation Army Band were enrolled as the band of the 2/22nd Battalion of the Australian Army. In 1941 they were posted to the remote Pacific outpost

of Rabaul as part of 'Lark Force' but in 1942, following the Japanese attack, most of the men were killed. Despite this, the spirit of the music is 'unconquered' and the band's performance on this CD is foot-tappingly good.

Blessed Assurance is a well-known Christian hymn with lyrics written by the blind hymn writer Fanny Crosby and music written by Phoebe Knapp back in 1873. American arranger William Himes has given the song a face-lift in modern jazz style which features the trombone. With the laid-back tempo and progressive major 9th chords this treatment may shock the purist, but the groovy feel will appeal to many. Andrew Justice plays in a cool, convincingly jazzy style with impressive use of vibrato. The

