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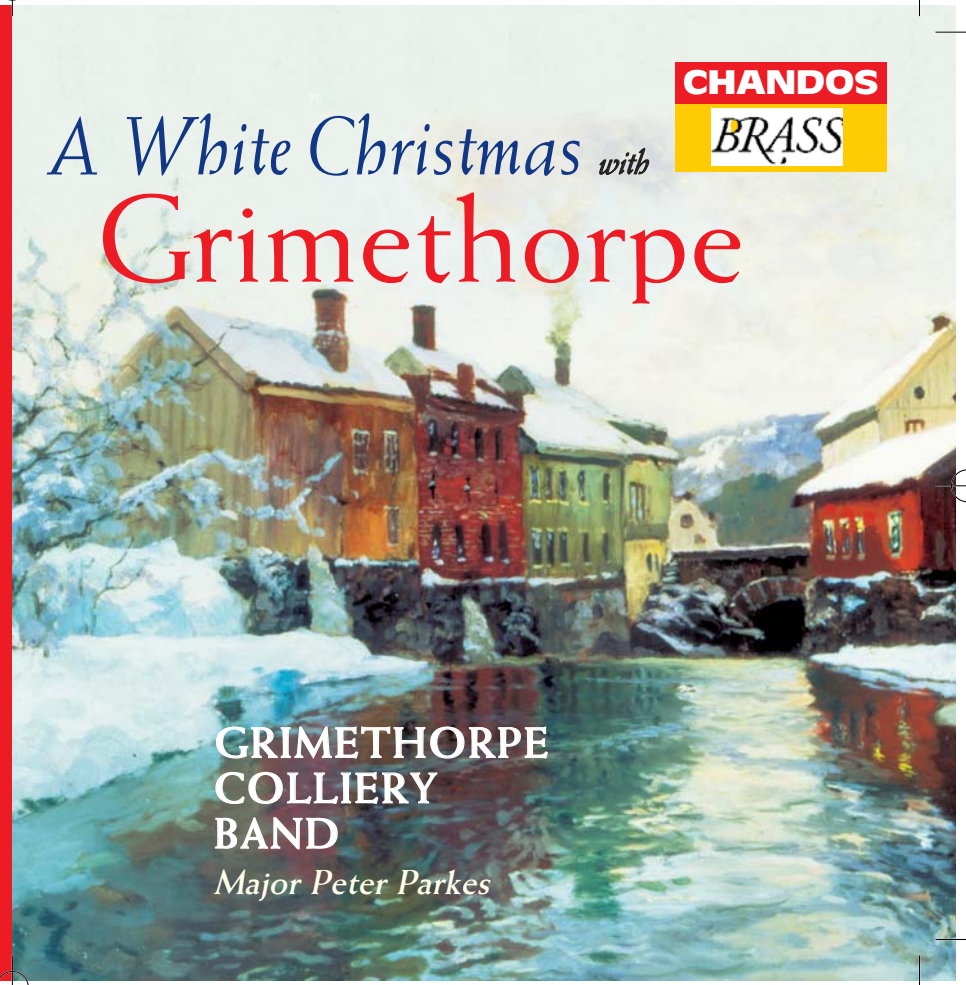
CHANDOS
BRASS

A White Christmas with Grimethorpe



GRIMETHORPE COLLIERY BAND

Major Peter Parkes

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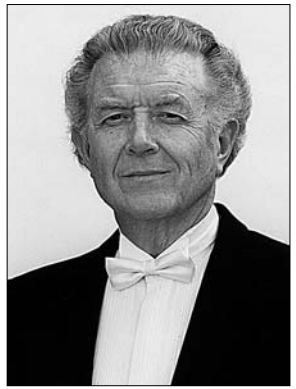

Major Peter Parkes

A WHITE CHRISTMAS
WITH GRIMETHORPE

	Irving Berlin (arr. Mark Freeh)	
1	**White Christmas**	**2:56**
	F. Cootes/H. Gillespie (arr. Robin Dewhurst)	
2	**Santa Claus is Coming to Town**	**3:09**
	Felix Bernard/Richard Smith (arr. Gordon Langford)	
3	**Winter Wonderland**	**2:59**
	Leroy Anderson (arr. Ernest Tomlinson)	
4	**Sleigh Ride**	**2:48**
	Midge Ure/Bob Geldof (arr. Derek Broadbent)	
5	**Do They Know It's Christmas**	**3:21**
	John D. Marks (arr. Alan Fernie)	
6	**Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer**	**2:11**
	Howard Blake (arr. Philip Sparke)	
7	**Walking in the Air** (theme from *The Snowman*)	**4:28**
	Zacar/Jay (arr. John Golland)	
8	**When a Child is Born**	**3:23**

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Sergey Prokofiev (arr. Ray Farr)
9 **Midnight Sleigh Ride (Troika)** **2:34**

Goff Richards
10 **Christmas Piece** **3:42**

John Golland
11 **Dies Natalis, Op. 86** **7:30**

John D. Marks (arr. Robin Dewhurst)
12 **Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree** **3:06**

Strachan/Paul/Stewart (arr. Darrol Barry)
13 **Mistletoe and Wine** **3:52**

James Curnow
Christmas Triptych **6:12**
14 I Maestoso – Allegro moderato – 2:09
15 II Pastorale – 2:08
16 III Allegro giocoso 1:56

Steve Nelson/Jack Rollins (arr. Sandy Smith)
17 **Frosty the Snowman** **4:21**
David Dransfield bass trombone

Peter Graham
18 **The Spirit of Christmas** **2:26**

Simeone/Onorati/Davis (arr. Philip Sparke)
19 **The Little Drummer Boy** **3:50**

Jester J. Hairston (arr. Robin Dewhurst)
20 **Mary's Boy Child** **4:10**

Stephen Bulla
A Christmas Suite **9:01**
21 1 Wassail Song 1:43
22 2 Lo, how a rose e're blooming 4:07
23 3 Pot-pourri 3:07
TT 77:18

Grimethorpe Colliery Band
Major Peter Parkes

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Professional Music Director	Peter Parkes
Resident Musical Director	Gary Cutt
Band Manager	Terry Webster

Soprano Cornet	Nigel Fielding
Principal Cornet	Richard Marshall
Solo Cornet	Duncan Byers
	Darryl Hobbins
	David Barraclough
Repiano Cornet	Shaun Randall
Second Cornet	Michael Kennedy
	Stuart Kennedy
Third Cornet	Stephen Peacock
	Colin Brook
Flugel Horn	Mark Walters
Solo Tenor Horn	Melvyn Bathgate
First Tenor Horn	Ray Curry
	Paul Bennett
Second Tenor Horn	Adrian Brooke
	Christopher Parkes

First Baritone	Robert Archer
Second Baritone	Cliff Hopes
Solo Euphonium	Matthew Grimes
Second Euphonium	Billy Lyons
Solo Tenor Trombone	Jonathan Beatty
Second Tenor Trombone	Andrew Hirst
Bass Trombone	David Dransfield
E Flat Bass	Paul Davies
	Roy Bowater
B Flat Bass	Roy Batty
	Malcolm Clegg
Percussion	Peter Matthews
	Ian Matthews
	David Hartland
	Heather Jackson
	Martin King

A White Christmas with Grimethorpe

Grimethorpe's Christmas disc concentrates on the lighter side of the music associated with this great family festival. The majority of the pieces are popular and well known, the important difference between this and previous discs is that wherever possible new, exciting arrangements have been provided. The list of writers includes the very best available; Alan Fernie, Peter Graham, Gordon Langford and Robin Dewhurst have all provided new up-beat arrangements. If Robin's sparkling arrangement of *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* and Alan's *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* don't get the feet tapping, nothing will!

I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas
I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas will always be associated with Bing Crosby, easily the most popular singer of his generation. His film career began with an appearance with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra in *The King of Jazz* and lasted for the best part of fifty years. His recording of *White Christmas* was his biggest hit and it remains an essential part of the festive season's music.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town
Santa Claus is Coming to Town is featured next in another of the fine up-beat arrangements of Robin Dewhurst – another one to keep the feet tapping!

Winter Wonderland
Winter Wonderland appears in a new version by Gordon Langford. Gordon has been associated with Chandos from the company's very beginning. His many fine compositions and arrangements had an important influence on the very necessary updating of the brass band repertoire.

Sleigh Ride
Leroy Anderson's music for military and brass bands began to appear in Great Britain during the 1950s. Bands had been playing the same rather stodgy music for many years and every new piece from Leroy Anderson was greeted with enthusiasm. Ernest Tomlinson's brass band arrangement of his *Sleigh Ride* was an immediate success. The sleigh is pulled by a beautiful white horse which makes itself

heard just before the end on the cornet of Richard Marshall!

Do They Know It's Christmas
Bob Geldof, the lead singer of the Boomtown Rats together with Midge Ure of Ultravox, wrote and sang *Do They Know It's Christmas* as part of the great Live Aid concert which was held at London's Wembley Stadium. This concert was held on behalf of the Feed The World campaign.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
The Scottish composer and arranger Alan Fernie is also a well-known trombonist. His music is always imaginative and effective, and this arrangement of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* would be hard to beat!

Walking in the Air
Walking in the Air is Howard Blake's popular theme tune from the 1982 cartoon *The Snowman*. Philip Sparke made this very effective arrangement in 1985. Philip is the most successful writer of brass band test pieces in modern times and his music is in demand throughout the brass bands world. His excellent *Harmony Music* and *The Year of the Dragon* are typical of his work.

When a Child is Born
The popular Christmas song *When a Child is Born* is played here in an arrangement by John Golland. John was in his time one of the leading composers of band music. His compositions include concertos for a number of brass instruments, those for the euphonium and the flugelhorn being particularly successful. His test piece *Sounds* has featured in major championships throughout Europe.

Midnight Sleigh Ride
The Symphonic Suite, *Lieutenant Kijé* is among the most popular works of the Russian composer Sergey Prokofiev. Ray Farr has taken the fourth movement *Troika* from this suite and transformed it into this up-beat and exciting *Midnight Sleigh Ride*. Ray made this arrangement during his time as the very popular musical director of the Grimethorpe Colliery Band.

Christmas Piece
Goff Richards is a prolific composer of light music for every type of orchestra and band, and he wrote this delightful little *Christmas Piece* in 1979. His other works for brass band include the popular test piece *Oceans* and many fine short pieces and arrangements.

Dies Natalis
John Golland wrote *Dies Natalis* for the Lees and Glodwick Band in 1992. It opens with a rousing chorus of *Hail Smiling Morn*, a carol very popular with male-voice choirs in Yorkshire and the North of England, and introduces the West Country Carol *Sweet Nightingale*, in a setting for the soprano cornet played by Nigel Fielding.

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
'Brass Bands can't play Jazz' said one well-known critic! Perhaps Grimethorpe's performance of *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* will change his mind?

Mistletoe and Wine
Cliff Richard had a great success several years ago with his release of *Mistletoe and Wine.* Darrol Barry made this arrangement in 1988 and the song is now a regular part of the traditional Christmas Fare.

Christmas Triptych
James Curnow wrote his *Christmas Triptych* in 1990. There are three short movements, all of which are based on well-known carols. The first movement introduces *Joy to the World* and *The Westminster Carol*; the second is an attractive setting of *Silent Night* and the *Coventry Carol*; and the rousing finale is a very lively version of *Good King Wenceslas*.

Frosty the Snowman
Bass trombone players give so much important support to the bass of the band but they rarely have the glamour of a solo spot. Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins put this right when they wrote the music for *Frosty The Snowman*! Sandy Smith made the brass band arrangement and David Dransfield with his bass trombone accepted the challenge.

The Spirit of Christmas
One of the joys of working with brass bands is the quality of the music being written for the genre, there is more good brass band music being composed now than at any previous time. Peter Graham is one of the leaders in this field, his recent works including *Montage* and the 1997 National Championship Test Piece *On Alderley Edge*. His lively Festival Prelude *The Spirit of Christmas* was written in 1994.

The Little Drummer Boy
The Little Drummer Boy first became very popular during the 1960s and 70s. Philip Sparke's excellent arrangement has helped to

ensure that at Christmas time it is still one of the most often performed pieces in the brass band repertoire.

Mary's Boy Child
Jester Hairston wrote the music for *Mary's Boy Child*. Robin Dewhurst's effective new arrangement begins with the mellow sounds of Melvyn Bathgate's tenor horn answered by Mark Walters' flugel and finally the full rich sound of Grimethorpe – what better music for Christmas?

A Christmas Suite
The programme ends with *A Christmas Suite* by Stephen Bulla. There are three short movements. The first is a full-blooded *Wassail Song*, the second is a lovely setting of *Lo, how a rose e're blooming*, and the final movement is a pot-pourri based on several popular carols including *Good Christian Men Rejoice* and *Joy to the World*. A good way to end this programme of music for your Christmas pleasure – enjoy it, and Merry Christmas from *Grimethorpe*!

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Grimethorpe Colliery Band was formed in 1917. Its headquarters are at the Acorn Centre in the heart of the village. In 1996 the band provided music for the feature film *Brassed Off* which tells the story of a colliery band's fight for survival when the pit to which it belongs is closed. The film's fictional band Grimley was in a situation not so very far removed from that which faced Grimethorpe in recent years. The real difference is that in the film a number of players accepted that the band would have to go, with Grimethorpe it was 'we don't know how we'll survive as a band, but survive we will!' The real breakthrough came in February with sponsorship from RJB Mining Plc. Major Peter Parkes took over as professional conductor in July 1995 and led the band to victory in the Yorkshire Championships and second place at the National Championships in the Royal Albert Hall. Grimethorpe gives concerts almost weekly all over the country and will be touring through France, Germany and Switzerland in 1997.

Peter Parkes was appointed as the band's Professional Musical Director in July 1995. On 17 October 1996 he conducted Grimethorpe at the National Championships which were held in the Royal Albert Hall. The music was Robert Redhead's *Isaiah 40* and Grimethorpe took second place. As the highest placed English band they represented England at the 1997 European Championships at London's Barbican Centre. Peter Parkes has a remarkable record at this great contest, his nineteen appearances have yielded seven first, seven second and two third prizes. He has conducted the winning band at a total of twenty-one European, British Open and National Championships.

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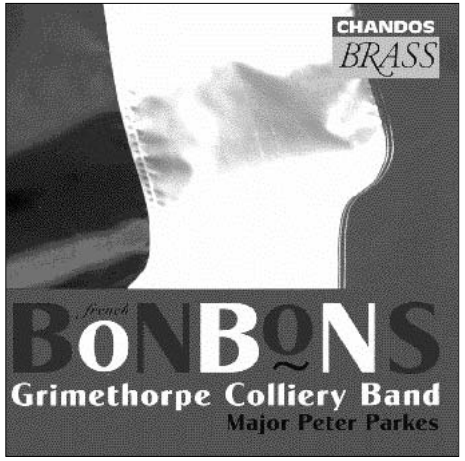

French Bonbons
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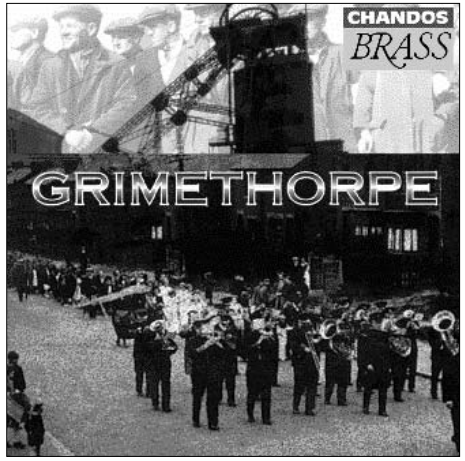

Grimethorpe
CHAN 4545

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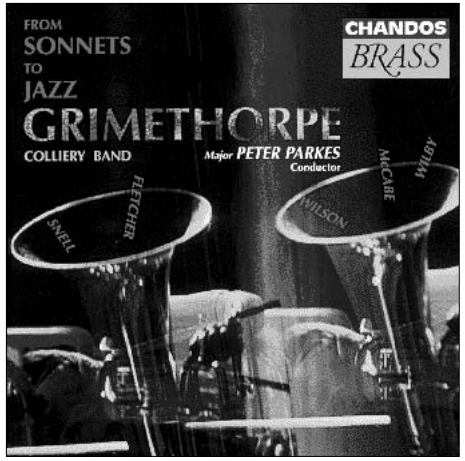
Grimethorpe Colliery Band on Chandos



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CHANDOS DIGITAL **CHAN 4550**

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WITH GRIMETHORPE

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Grimethorpe Colliery Band
Major Peter Parkes

(DDD)

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