

The Brass Band BRIDGE

*bridge: a link, a tie, a connection, an alliance,
to band together, to unify, a bond*

ISSUE 11, JANUARY 1983

THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN BRITISH BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS, . . . test-pieces will be as follows:

Championship Section: "Sinfonietta in Three Movements," by Gordon Langford.

Second Section: "Little Suite For Brass" (Op. 80), Malcolm Arnold.

Non-competitive Section: No set test-piece.

In addition to playing a set test-piece, each band is required to present a 25-minute concert. Ratings and points awarded by the three judges will be based upon the excellence of the musical performance coupled with the composition of the musical program offered.

Prizes are to be as follows:

Championship Section

First Place:

\$1,000 Schweppes Prize Money
Sovereign Bb Baritone horn — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon
Two Bach Short Model Cornets — Selmer, Inc.
Traveling Trophy — Yamaha Musical Products
Traveling Trophy — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon
Plaque — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon
Purchase Award — Rosehill Music Publishers

Second Place:

\$500.00 Schweppes Prize Money
Sovereign Eb Alto Horn — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon
Bach Short Model Cornet — Selmer, Inc.
Plaque — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon

Third Place:

\$300.00 Schweppes Prize Money
Sovereign Eb (or Bb) Cornet — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon
Bach Short Model Cornet — Selmer, Inc.
Plaque — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon

Second Section

First Place:

\$600.00 Schweppes Prize Money
Eb Alto Horn — Yamaha Musical Products
Traveling Trophy — Selmer, Inc.
Purchase Award — Rosehill Music Publishers
Plaque — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon
Trophy — C.G. Conn, Ltd.

Second Place:

\$400.00 Schweppes Prize Money
Trophy — Selmer, Inc.
Plaque — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon

Third Place:

\$200.00 Schweppes Prize Money

Trophy — Selmer, Inc.

Plaque — Boosey & Hawkes/Bufet Crampon

For the Outstanding Soloist of the day from either section, Conn will award a trophy.

Non-competitive Section

No prizes awarded. Bands play for adjudicator's evaluations and comments only.

We remind all our readers that this historic event will take place on the campus of North Carolina State University on Saturday, April 23, 1983. The actual contest will be held in Stewart Theatre while bands will assemble, warm-up and tune-up, and generally prepare for the Championships in Price Music Center which is right next door. Adult admission will be \$5.00 and students (17 and younger) will be \$3.00. We are pleased to announce that the New York Salvation Army Staff Band will be the guest band for these first Championships. This outstanding brass band will present the evening's special concert as a climax to the day's events. Also featured during the evening will be the winning band from the Championship Section performing their rendition of the Test Piece. The above charges will also include admission to the evening's program!

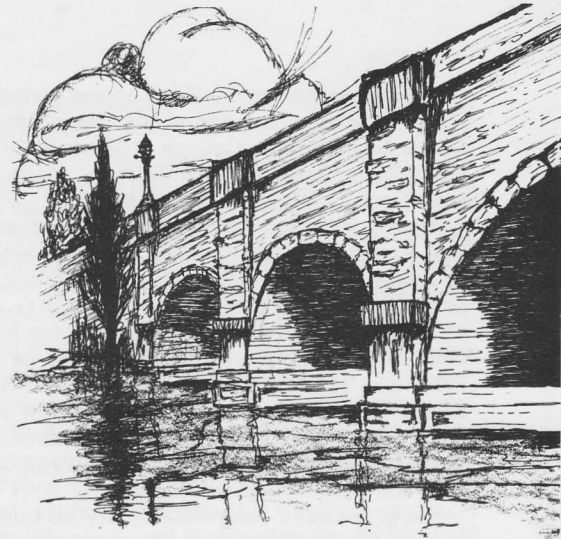
FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE, . . . is Stephen Bulla, a most successful composer of brass band music, staff arranger for the U.S. Marine Band in Washington, D.C., a Salvationist, and a warm and friendly human being! Elsewhere in this issue of *The Bridge* you will find a review of Stephen's music and a review by him dealing with a rather recent record release. To

begin with, it is very difficult to get Steve to expound on his many accomplishments. When asked to give us some information about himself and his activities, he modestly sent an outline of his education, employment, publications, and recordings. As a matter of fact, Steve's work with the Marine Band, his winning brass band composition contests, and his commissions only start to tell the whole story.

Steve's father was a Salvation Army officer and started giving him music lessons on the baritone at the age of six. He switched



Stephen Bulla



to trombone during his high school years. He also started piano lessons at the age of six. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from Berklee College of Music in 1976. While there he studied composition with William Malloof, jazz arranging with Herb Pomeroy, and trombone with Philip Wilson.

Steve's impact on music education, brass bands, the Salvation Army, and instrumental music in general started when he was a free-lance arranger in New York City. While there he had the opportunity to work, again as a free-lance agent, with the editorial department of Kendor Music and also with Charles Colin Music. During this time he was working with every sort of instrumental combination from Bop Duets to full bands. He spent two years with the New York Salvation Army Music Department supervising music publications and producing recordings all the while playing principal trombone with the New York Staff Band.

His brass band compositions are all published by Rosehill Music, 64 London End, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 2JD, England and include: "A Festive Prelude," "Blow Away The Morning Dew" (see a review of this selection elsewhere in this issue), "Shenandoah" a euphonium solo, and "Widdicombe Fair" (A Folksong Fantasy) which won first prize as a test piece for the British "Rothman's Brass In Concert Championship 1982." Of this last selection, Rosehill Music states, . . . "this brilliant and entertaining arrangement has established Stephen Bulla on the forefront of the younger school of composers."

His many compositions and arrangements for the Salvation Army Publishing and Supplies (in both New York and England) include choral, brass sextet, and brass band music. In fact two of his New York selections won first place in the Salvation Army Centennial Composition Contests; they are "A Soldier's Proclamation" winning first place in the Band Selection category and "Joyous Celebration" winning first place in the Band March category.

And when you speak of recordings which contain at least one of his works, the list is quite impressive. For instance, "Sounds of Brass" by the James Shepherd Versatile Brass, "Firebird" by the Grimethorp Colliery Band, and "Bravo" all by the New York Staff Band, the "ISB/USA Tour Recording" by the International Staff Band, plus Albert Avery's "A Song To Sing" and "A God To Praise" are albums all containing one or more of Steve's works. And that list is far from complete.

So, it is with a great deal of pleasure that we put the spotlight on Stephen Bulla. We hope that our readers will share our pride in this young man and his many contributions to the brass band world.

A BRASS BAND WORKSHOP, . . . will again be offered by John Kincaid at the Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison. John wrote to tell us about his plans indicating the dates will be June 27 to July 1, 1983. Of special interest is the fact that John is having Bruce Borthwick from New Zealand to help him with this workshop. Bruce is solo cornet in the Hamilton Citizens Brass, he also teaches at the Hamilton's Teacher's College, and is a foremost conductor and trumpet soloist in Hamilton. He does a lot of conducting in major productions of opera, musicals, etc. John is looking forward to holding this workshop and invites all interested brass banders to contact him about additional information. John's address is in care of the Division of Music and the Arts, Western State College of Colorado, Gunnison, Colorado 81230.

IT'S NEWS TO US DEPARTMENT! . . . Correspondence with some good folks in England brings us news that Brelly Imports of 155 North San Vicente Boulevard in Beverly Hills, California 90211 has a supply of British brass band recordings. Specifically, they have records available which are produced by Kestrel Sound Recordings of Surry, England. Your editor ordered the GUS Band's recording entitled "Essay In Brass" (conducted by Dr. Keith Wilkinson) from that company and they in turn sent the record and this information. This

This issue is brought to you by the YAMAHA M

recording is an attractive record with most complete jacket notes about the music and the composer Edward Gregson. The sound reproduced is an excellent quality and with all contemporary music on both sides, this is a fine addition to any record library. There are also three interesting photographs of the band on the jacket (with conductor and composer) taken during the recording session. If you want a nice brass band recording, . . . "try it, . . . you'll like it!"

FIRST CALL FOR HELP, . . . is made to all our readers to send us color slides of brass bands or individual brass players for the purpose of developing a tape/slide presentation. This exhibition will be used to introduce the idea of British brass bands to various companies and firms, service clubs and fraternal organizations, arts councils and community groups and others who might be interested in initiating and/or sponsoring a British brass band. This show will then be made available to anyone wishing to borrow it. The only costs in using this demonstration will be the postage and insurance both ways. There will be narration and music to accompany the color slides and it is hoped that the entire offering will be able to stimulate additional brass band activity throughout this country and Canada. This call for help goes out to all our readers including those in the British Isles, New Zealand and Australia. We propose to make copies of all transparencies sent to us and return each and every one to the rightful owner as requested. Please help by sending us any appropriate color slides we might be able to use.

SECOND CALL FOR HELP, . . . is made to our readers who are changing their mailing addresses. Now that the mailing of this newsletter is being sent by way of a Nonprofit Organization Permit, it means that when the receiver moves and does not guarantee the postage to forward their mail, this newsletter will not reach them. Also, this mailing permit will not return mail to us which is not deliverable; we will be unable to correct our mailing list as we will have no way to know about a change of address. And since we cannot up-date of files in the computer, all subsequent newsletters will also end up in the "dead-letter bag." Sooooo, please let us have any address changes and *please make certain to include your zip-code*. We want to be of service to all who wish to read this newsletter and can only be of help when we have an up-to-date mailing address. Many thanks for your understanding in this request!

THE BRASS BAND NEWS, . . . printed in England by Wright & Round (incidentally, since 1881) reports that the Vickers Barrow Works Band featured our own Glenn K. Call as euphonium soloist at a celebrity concert last October. It was reported that the audience was held spellbound by Glenn's artistry on the euphonium. We understand that the whole program was recorded for broadcast at a later date by B.B.C. Radio Cumbria. Glenn was featured performing "Varied Mood," "All Those Endearing Young Charms" and "Jeannie With The Light Brown Hair." We send our appreciation to Editor Denzil Stephens for the pleasure of printing this news and send a warm salute to our good friend Glenn K. for a job well done!

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BRASS BAND, . . . presented two concerts this fall under their conductor James Curnow. The October concert included Langford's "Chequerboard March," Gregson's "Intrada," Senaille's "Allegro Spiritoso" featuring Don Lang as euphonium soloist, Holst's "Suite in F Major," Langford's "Fantasy on British Sea Songs" and concluded with "Treasures From Tchaikovsky."

Their November concert included "Allegro Deciso" from Handel's "Water Music Suite," Gregson's "Concerto Grosso

for Brass Quartet and Brass Band" and featured Steve Anderson on Cornet, James Cheyne on Horn, Jeff Gaylord on Trombone, and Dan Vinson on Euphonium, Dean Goffin's "Symphony of Thanksgiving," Jim's "An Australian Christmas Suite" and finished with Calvert's "Introduction, Elegy and Caprice."

We send our appreciation to the U of I Brass Band for helping us keep our readers informed of this outstanding brass band's activities.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO, . . . bring to our readers information regarding new brass band music; and especially so when this new music is from the pen of "one of our own." We express our appreciation to Peter Wilson, Editor of *The British Bandsman* for the opportunity to reprint the following:

"Blow Away the Morning Dew"

Stephen Bulla

(Rosehill Music Publishers, approximately \$10.00)

Stephen Bulla has become a firm favorite with both brass band audiences and performers alike since his first composition (A Festive Prelude), now a firmly established addition to the repertoire, adorned the libraries of bands this side of the Atlantic.

The latest composition by this talented musician from the USA, described as a Folk Song Fantasy, has all the charm and local flavor of the original version by Ralph Vaughan Williams (English Folk Song Suite), with its flowing rhythms, imaginative counterpoint, interesting scoring for all the sections, and no less than seven key changes, also allowing soloistic opportunities (although slightly limited) to cornet, tenor horn and euphonium (quasi recitative), and to a lesser degree flugel and Eb bass.

I feel sure that bands will welcome this latest offering for possible use in their forthcoming concert programs, and it would, in my opinion, make a pleasant item for inclusion in an entertainment contest, with its duration of four minutes ideal.

It should make interesting rehearsals, too, as there are an abundance of dynamics, and if all the nuances are to be completely effective, then they will require skillful care from both conductor and player.

Presentation of the music is first class, the comprehensive short score and parts being supplied in a library folder. What particularly impressed me was that this latest release from the Stephen Bulla Collection was printed on high quality A4 size paper (no problems for players turning pages), clear for all to read, with the added innovation from Rosehill Music of optional bass clef parts for tenor trombones and BBb bass.

This, I feel, is going to be as popular as the three previous compositions from the pen of Stephen Bulla.

Dennis Wilby

THE WESTON SILVER BAND, . . . of Weston, Ontario in Canada recently was featured on the Weston Central Concert Series. They presented a most demanding and varied concert. Conducted by Douglas Field, they presented "Fanfare" by Gregson, "March of the Pacemakers" by Langford, "Dimensions" by Graham, "Varied Mood" by Woodfield featuring euphonium soloist Ronald Williams, Bach's "Air from the Suite in D" arranged by Leidzen, Wood's "Three Dale Dances" arranged by Wood, "Round the Clock" by Osgood, William Rimmer's arrangement of "Carnival de Venice" featuring cornet soloist Warren Nicholl, all three movements of Arnold's "Little Suite For Brass," Robert Eaves' "Introduction and Burlesque" featuring bass trombone soloist Eric Simmons, and Gordon Langford's ever popular "Fantasy on British Sea Songs."

Doug's letter also brought news about their continuing

busy schedule. With commitments into next August, they are performing over 35 concerts each year and must decline many invitations to perform. An interesting turn-of-events reported including some information regarding the formation of the Toronto Versatile Brass, a quintet which expands up to a tentet of four trumpets, one horn, four trombones and one tuba. According to Doug's letter, this group has quite a sound and is capable of playing very interesting music, a completely different kind of musical experience.

WATCHING THE DEVELOPMENT, . . . of the Wenatchee British Brass Band is inspiring in itself. Patience, gentleness, openness, endurance, and unselfishness are qualities to describe the depth of commitment among the board of directors to communicate. Tremendous sacrifice has taken place by our conductor, Glenn Kelly, our band manager, Joe Williams, and their wives, Miriam Kelly and Shari Williams. (Glenn and Joe have not received payment for their services — quite a tribute to commitment). The 1983 and 1984 budget, completed December 4, 1982 has consumed much of the time in the last twelve weeks.

November 21, 1982 sited our first performance. Perhaps that is not startling to you. Well, have you played a performance without instruments? It started like this: Doris Frederick, the librarian, passed out the music to each respective player seated in his proper position. Recorded music played and all listened intently, sight-reading their parts. Then one player began fingering his part on his invisible instrument, toe tapping joined in, . . . the conductor assumed his role . . . , a few voices started humming their parts until collectively all were singing their part. As the music came to a climactic end a large burst of enthusiasm occurred, solidifying without a doubt that WBBB is a BAND.

We've acquired a National Board of Advisors including the following:

Perry Watson	— North Carolina State University
John Kincaid	— Western State College of Colorado
Paul Curnow	— Rocky Mountain Brass Works Arvada, Colorado
Dick Tolley	— Texas Tech. University Lubbock
Bob Bernat	— River City Brass Band Pittsburg, Pennsylvania
Alan Knapton	— Boosey and Hawkes Instrument Company Melville, New York
Dick Trevarthen	— Smoky Mountain British Brass Band Waynesville, North Carolina
Jim Mathews	— The Band Box Wenatchee

We feel privileged and honored to have their assistance.

I frequently am found awestruck of heart as I observe first hand the organization and smooth flowing dynamics of the WBBB. Allow me to carry further this "dynamics" of dynamite that have carefully been placed throughout our area, then bringing them together under one roof, pictures this band. January 9, 1983, that will happen, and not only that, but it is the "Day of our lighting ceremony." The match will be lit to ignite them. The match? . . . New Boosey and Hawkes instruments all around. They will be playing three numbers of which they have already practiced on their own instruments. In addition, presentations and comments will be given by various people who have an interest in the Brass Banding tradition and those who have played a large part in helping us. Wish you could be here. Till later.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Trout
Public Relations Chairman

THE NEW YORK SALVATION ARMY STAFF BAND, . . . has advised us that there are several recordings available. This very fine band has records and cassettes for sale which may be ordered from: The New York Staff Band, 120 West 14th Street, New York, New York 10011. The list of titles is both impressive and inviting! "Digital Brass" and "New York Staff Band — European Tour 1968" are on disc only while "Centennial Festival of Music" is on cassette alone. "Bravo" featuring the outstanding Philip Smith as cornet soloist, "Ambassadors" celebrating their 1982 world tour, "A Song to Sing," and "Sounds Of Our Heritage" are available on either disc or cassette. Prices range from \$5.00 to \$8.00 and shipping costs are 75¢ per record or cassette, \$1.25 if First Class Mail is desired. Overseas the postage is \$2.00 per record or cassette for surface mail and \$3.00 per record or cassette for air mail. In the U.S. or Canada they can ship 5 records or cassettes in quantity for \$1.50. If you are not privileged to own one or two of these recordings, now is your chance! The information sent indicated that they will be unable to accept charges. Check or money order should be made payable to the Salvation Army and must accompany all orders.

WE ALSO, . . . appreciate the opportunity to use the following record review recently printed in *The British Bandman*. Once again, we thank editor Peter Wilson for this privilege.

"The European Brass Band Championships 1981"
(Polyphonic #PRLO 13 - approximately \$9.00)

Side One

1. Caliban (Butterworth) 2. Fantasy for Brass Band (Arnold) 3. Journey Into Freedom (Ball).

Side Two

1. Triumphant Rhapsody (Vinter) 2. Connotations (Gregson).

The art of live brass band recording has come a long way in recent years. Even with the large amount of music on these two sides — five major works — the recorded dynamic range is quite wide and natural to the ear. Congratulations to recording engineer Michael Moor for his skill in bringing these exciting live performances to the home listening environment.

Brighouse & Rastrick disappoints no one with its intelligent performance of Butterworth's angular Caliban and Arnold's Fantasy For Brass Band. This band earned the European Championship title. Side one is completed with Whitburn Burgh's aggressive reading of Eric Ball's Journey Into Freedom (placing fourth). What splendid melodic music this is. And not without considerable technical demand.

Side two opens with Manger Musikklag playing Gregson's Connotations, contrary to the information on record sleeve and label; reversed with Triumphant Rhapsody following to end the side. Manger Musikklag (of Norway) captured second prize with Michael Antrobus at the helm here; despite some loose ends at the start, and perhaps a hint of fatigue towards the close. De Waldsang moved up from last year's fourth place to claim third prize this time with a vibrant interpretation of Vinter's study in seconds, Triumphant Rhapsody. This is Gilbert Vinter in fine form, the music as fresh today as when it was written.

As one might expect, five test pieces in a row makes for heavy listening. However this disc is a tribute to the first rate bands that are being groomed throughout Europe (when will America catch on?!). The performances are all worthy of the awards they received, and are faithfully reproduced on this recording.

Stephen Bulla

COLLIERS MUSIC HOUSE, . . . run by the amiable Ernie Ormrod writes to inform our readers that his company is fully prepared to supply brass band music needs to one and all. His information indicates that "if it's brass band music you want, try us for service." Ernie says that he can supply music from any brass band publisher and invites all brass bands in the U.S. and Canada to write for his 164-page catalog. Several

brass bands over here have tried Ernie's service and have found it most efficient. Ernie has devoted his entire life to the New Zealand brass band movement and has been associated with all levels and all different assignments of brass banding. Most recently he was in charge of the National Brass Band of New Zealand tour of the U.S. So, he knows, from a wide variety of experience, just what the brass band is all about. We are certain that Ernie will be delighted to help anyone seeking advice. You are invited to write: Colliers Music House, P.O. Box 44, New Plymouth, New Zealand (no zipcode).

NEW BRASS BAND MUSIC, . . . is being offered in this country by Studio P/R-Columbia Publications. All of these selections are for the standard British brass band instrumentation (except there is no Repiano Cornet part) and **INCLUDE BASS CLEF** and treble clef parts for baritones, trombones, euphonium, and tubas. Prices include a conductor's score. Melody percussion (bells, chimes, xylophone) are optional on all pieces. The printing is quite clear and the format very nice!

The selections offered thus far are:

Procession of the Nobles, (arr) Curnow - Difficult
Rhapsody For Euphonium & Band, Curnow - Medium
Nicaea, Himes - Medium Easy
Bolero For Brass, Himes - Medium Difficult
Ragtime For Horns, Curnow - Medium
Invictus (march), Himes - Medium Easy
Christmas Triptych, Curnow - Med.-Med. Easy

These selections sell for \$20.00 each plus postage and tax. This music may be ordered from Studio P/R - Columbia Publications, 16333 N.W. 54th Avenue in Hialeah, Florida 33014.



. . . well, first I quit brass banding and then one dern thing led to another . . .

UNTIL NEXT TIME, . . . that's fine for now. Let's hear from you!

J. Perry Watson
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