




in partnership with leeds metropolitan university 



Brass Festival

Heritage Symposium

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in ensuring such a successful 2009 Festival. In particular the partnership and support from Leeds Metropolitan University, the Heritage Lottery, Walter Ainscough and the Brass Band Archive, Charley Brighton and his wonderful collection of Vintage Instruments, Professors Philip Wilby, Peter Graham, David Thornton, Joseph Cook, Brett Baker, the wonderful musicians of the Black Dyke Band, and our Festival Administrator, Alison Childs.

Professor Nicholas Childs
Festival Director

29 - 31 May 2009
Gandhi Hall, Headingley Campus
Leeds Metropolitan University
& Leeds Town Hall

Black Dyke Band
Director of Music, Professor Nicholas J. Childs
Artistic Directors, Professors Philip Wilby and Peter Graham

Festival Administrator, Alison Childs

Supported by Heritage Lottery Fund
Partnering the Past and Fostering the Future



Festival Programme

Friday 29 May

- 19.30 Inaugural lecture History of Brass Bands "The Golden Period"
Professor Nicholas Childs and the Black Dyke Band
Lecture Theatre B - Exhibition of brass band heritage and
vintage brass band instruments
The Gandhi Hall - admission free
-

Saturday 30 May

Lower Brass Spotlight: led by David Thornton and Joseph Cook
The Gandhi Hall

- 11.30 Registration
12.00 Warm-up and 'building playing techniques'
12.45 Chamber music sessions
13.45 Celebrity recital
15.00 In Conversation with Black Dyke Legends
including Geoffrey Whitham, John Clough & Derek Jackson
Brass band heritage proud of the past and fostering the future
15.30 Performance platform
16.00 Massed finale

Lecture Theatre - Exhibition of brass band heritage and vintage brass instruments

Saturday 30 May

Gala Concert - Black Dyke Band, Gandhi Hall
Conductors Professor Nicholas Childs, Professor Philip Wilby and Professor Peter Graham

- 18.00 Reception - Acre Room and Jubilee Room
18.30 Pre-concert talk Philip Wilby, Peter Graham, Paul Lovatt-Cooper and Philip Harper
19.00 Performance including:
Black Dyke Band performing live to Paul Lovatt-Cooper's
Immortal and Rubbing Shoulders With Champions to accompany the film of
Leeds Met's review of the year
World Premiere, Philip Harper's Willow Pattern
Philip Wilby's Euphonium Concerto and Peter Graham's Harrison's Dream
21.00 Close

Sunday 31 May

British Trombone Society Workshop
Albert Room, Leeds Town Hall

- 10.30 Registration and exhibition stands
11.00 Massed blow
12.00 Lunch
12.45 Composers' Collective: Workshop led by Brett Baker and recording with Philip Wilby
and Emily Howard
Black Dyke Trombone Quartet, and Steven Sykes, Winner Radio 2
Young Brass Soloist 2009
Music by composers from the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band, Junior RNCM
and prize-winners of the BTS Composers' Competition
13.45 Massed trombone ensemble

Delegates' coffee lounge - Exhibition of brass band heritage and vintage brass instruments

Sunday 31 May

Gala Concert - Black Dyke Band with special guests Yorkshire Youth Brass Band
Grand Finale with musicians from Hebden Bridge and Newstead Bands
performing Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture
Conductor Professor Nicholas Childs

- 15.00 Performance including
Montage - Peter Graham
Breathless Alleluia - Philip Wilby
Solar Eclipse - Paul Lovatt-Cooper



Festival Introduction

'Partnering the Past and Fostering the Future'

The 2009 Black Dyke Brass Festival will mark a special year in the band's long and distinguished history. The festival aims to pass on some of its hard-won core values to future generations, to place new music alongside established repertoire, and to counterpoint some stars of the future with legends of the past and present. This year's festival marks the start of the band's five-year commissioning policy, which will culminate in 2014 with the premiere of a substantial new score by the leading international composer, James McMillan.

The festival starts with an on-line lecture-recital as the band and its director give an illustrated overview of their 155-year history. Beginning with rare music taken from John Foster's 1855 octet books, it also includes music from the Golden Period, featuring Elgar, Holst and Ireland. The band's lecture will be available as a worldwide educational resource on the Black Dyke website during and after the weekend. One of the over-riding ambitions at Queensbury is to involve and inspire young performers to aim at the highest level. Accordingly, there will be a young composer's workshop led by Paul Hamlyn, award winner Emily Howard, and a combined performance featuring Black Dyke in concert with the 60 young musicians of the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. The British Trombone Society have accepted an invitation to participate in the Lower Brass Focus, when it is anticipated that 120 local players will join a sequence of daytime workshops, and we are pleased that new music, including scores by Professor Peter Graham and Philip Harper will feature prominently.

The Black Dyke Band stands at the centre of a worldwide culture, ranging from Australasia to Scandinavia and North America. Thanks to its wide legacy of recording and an increasing amount of internet performance, brass players around the globe regard its activities as a musical high-water mark, and we believe that by supporting its continuing activities, the social and musical values of the United Kingdom are equally well served.

We hope that you will enjoy this festival, and would like to acknowledge our wonderful partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University and this year we are also supported by Heritage Lottery Fund, where our accent is firmly on 'Partnering the Past and Fostering the Future'.

Alison Childs, Festival Administrator



in partnership with **leeds metropolitan university**

In 1816 Peter Wharton founded a brass and reed band in the Yorkshire village of Queenshead - later to become Queensbury. John Foster, apart from being the founder of Black Dyke Mills, played French horn in this band. It has been said on many occasions that Black Dyke was formed from it; however this is not strictly true, as, "Peter Wharton's band went out of existence through loss of members." In 1833, a new band was formed and named 'Queenshead Band,' which may well have contained players from the former band. It is reported that this Band reached its Zenith from 1838 to 1843, at which time it consisted of 18 musicians". However it is recorded in the Halifax Courier of the 15th September 1855 that:

"Queenshead Band formed early in the century by residents came into difficulties. John Foster & Son, having lately become acquainted with the depressed state of the band determined to make an effort themselves to raise it up again. Accordingly they have purchased from that eminent maker, Mr Joseph Higham, of Manchester, a new set of instruments which have this week been delivered to the band, which in future is to be denominated Black Dyke Mills Band. A new and talented leader, as well as several performers, have been added to the band which now comprises 18 musicians. Messrs Fosters have provided for them a comfortable room in which they will meet for practicing."

On 15 September 2005, the Band were proud to celebrate their 150th anniversary, two of the many highlights were the publication of '150 Golden Years,' a book by Dr Roy Newsome describing, in words and photographs, the history and progress of Black Dyke Band from 1855 to 2005, and a unique 'triple CD' covering the recorded musical history of the Band from the early days of 1903 to the present day.

In December 2005, a unique partnership was formed when Black Dyke Band and Leeds Metropolitan University joined together, building upon the success of the University's cultural links with Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre, Harrogate International Festival and the West Yorkshire Playhouse. This partnership will form a strategy for long-term support.

In September 2006 at Symphony Hall Birmingham, Black Dyke Band were declared British Open Champions for the second year running. Although they have not entered the contest every year, this was the 29th time the band were declared 'British Open Champions'. The Band has also been National Champions on 21 occasions, most recently in October 2008.

Black Dyke Band is the most recorded band in the world with over 300 recordings, a number which is growing every year.

In August 2007, the Band were invited to take part in the BBC Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

In 2006 as part of its initiative to sponsor the work of young people, Black Dyke Band, under the guidance of Professor Nicholas Childs assisted by qualified members, formed the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band. The purpose is to inspire and motivate young people aged 11 to 18 years to achieve their full potential as musicians, composers and citizens.

The band logo of the stags head and Latin quotation are taken from the armorial bearings granted in 1857 to John Foster, founder of the band. The quotation translates to: 'Act justly and fear nothing.'

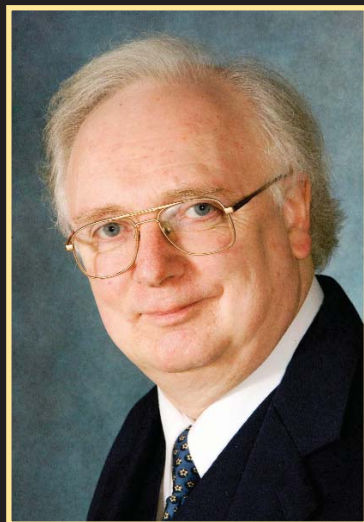


www.blackdykeband.co.uk

email secblackdykeband@btinternet.com

Artistic Directors

Philip Wilby



Encouraged to take up composition by Herbert Howells, Philip Wilby graduated from Keble College, Oxford, in 1970. After some years as a professional violinist, he was invited by Alexander Goehr, then Professor of Music at the University of Leeds, to join his staff. He was senior tutor in composition there from 1984. More recently he was awarded a doctorate in composition, and made Professor in 2002. Since January 2007, he has lived in Bristol where his wife Wendy has been serving as Canon Precentor at the cathedral.

Most of his major works are expressions of Christian faith, and he enjoys tailoring his compositional technique to the very different demands of the skilled amateur in a brass or wind band, both in Britain and in the United States, to the church or cathedral choir or to the finest professional soloist or orchestra. In 2008, he was granted a Dutch Government BUMA award for his

innovative works for brass bands, and he is proud to have served as the musical associate at the world famous Black Dyke Band for 15 years.

As part of that long-term commitment, Wilby has spearheaded the band's writing programme, working with a number of young composers. Peter Meechan was a pioneer of the 'Young Composers in Association', and a number of the band's playing members have established themselves as professional writers. Paul Lovatt-Cooper's name is well-known, and his music is featured throughout this festival. Cai Isfryn recently provided a new soprano cornet solo for the European Gala Concert, and Andrea Crossley's music was played at the most recent Brass in Concert Festival. Both Wilby and Sandy Smith are working closely with James MacMillan on his new project, and have made arrangements of MacMillan's music for the composer to record. The new composers' scheme, featuring Philip Harper, Emily Howard, and James Macmillan is the most far reaching, and is planned to occupy a five-year period.

Although a great deal of his creative time is spent working with church musicians, and in spite of recently receiving a 2009 Honorary Fellowship from the Royal School of Church Music, composing music for brass bands is a central plank of his activities. He counts his work with the Black Dyke players as inspirational, and a sequence of solo works, including Concertos for Cornet, Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba have appeared over his tenure to augment a burgeoning repertoire. Most recently, he has completed a new euphonium work, 'A Day in the Life' for David Thornton, which will receive its premiere performance in the new season. Black Dyke have recorded a popular sequence of albums of his music.

Their recent CD, 'A Breathless Alleluia', made for the Naxos label, entered their charts in the top ten sales list.

Peter Graham

Whether as an arranger ("Cry of the Celts ... an extraordinary arrangement, exuberant, extrovert," The Times) or composer ("Harrison's Dream is an absolute knockout," American Record Guide), Peter Graham's work has been celebrated by performers and audiences alike.

Born in Scotland, Peter read music at Edinburgh and London universities (Goldsmiths' College) and, following spells in publishing in New York and London, is currently Professor of Composition at the University of Salford in Greater Manchester, England.

His music is performed across the globe, from China, Japan, Korea and Singapore in the Far East to every major European country. Performers have included the Royal Philharmonic, New Zealand Symphony, the White House Orchestras, the Royal Concertgebouw and Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra Brass, the Osaka Municipal Symphonic, United States Air Force Bands and the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra. As a former composer in residence to the Coldstream Guards Band he was presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh, and his music was represented at a private Royal Command Performance in Windsor Castle.

However, it is his music for British Brass Band which has established his international reputation. Described by British Bandsman Magazine as, "a spectacularly imaginative and innovative talent," he attributes his interest in brass to lessons from his father at the local Salvation Army band in Ayr, on the west coast of Scotland. He has written for all levels of brass band, from educational concert music to the most demanding test-piece and is in the unique position of having had his music performed in every major brass band competition worldwide.

His music for brass has also been arranged for various ensembles, from fanfare bands of the Benelux countries to marching bands in the USA. The famous Blue Knights Drum and Bugle Corps' most successful show to date, Colors of Brass and Percussion, was built entirely around his compositions, The Essence of Time and Montage.

Peter Graham's music has won many prizes, and in 2002 he became the first composer outside of the USA to win the American Bandmasters Association/Ostwald Award for Original Composition for Symphonic Winds.

His arrangements and orchestrations have been performed on most British TV and Radio stations and frequently on BBC TV's Songs of Praise. He has written for and collaborated with some of the world's leading performers including Karl Jenkins (as co-arranger and orchestrator on the EMI album, This Land of Ours), Evelyn Glennie (as composer and orchestrator on the Grammy nominated BMG Classics/RCA album, Reflected in Brass), The Beautiful South (brass orchestrator on the Universal/Mercury album, Painting it Red) and Peter Gabriel. He was brass orchestrator on the Universal album, Together, featuring the ISB and Lesley Garrett and nominated as Album of the Year at the 2009 Classical Brit Awards.

Peter Graham lives in Cheshire with his wife Janey, son Ryan and daughter Megan.



Music Director

Nicholas Childs



Professor Nicholas Childs has achieved the highest international reputation as a performer, teacher/clinician, conductor, interpreter and advocate of new music, and producer of pace-setting recordings. Initial success came as a euphonium soloist and partner with his talented brother, Dr Robert Childs, who together have literally toured the world as The Childs Brothers, performing in many of the world's most famous concert halls with the most prestigious bands and orchestras. Taking up the baton as a conductor, Nicholas has had phenomenal success with many bands, including highly acclaimed national championships. His current tenure as Principal Conductor and Director of Music of the famous Black Dyke Band has been marked not only with continued contest success, but with a series of innovative concerts and world premieres of major works for brass bands with a variety of soloists and musical combinations. He serves as Senior Tutor in Brass Band Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music, where he has

taught for over 12 years. Further honours have come with his appointment as Associate Conductor of the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, and as Trustee of the Brass Band Heritage Trust.

With his roots in the British brass band tradition, having first been trained in the Tredegar (Wales) Youth Band, Childs continues to give important emphasis to the development of the brass band movement. This comes via his commitment of the training of outstanding young musicians both at the collegiate level and within the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain. He has reached the pinnacle of success with three recent National Championships of Great Britain, with Black Dyke in 2001, 2004 and 2008. In April 2005, as Music Director of Black Dyke Band he guided them to 1st place at the European Championship in Holland, in September 2005 and 2006 he was also victorious with Black Dyke Band, winning the British Open Championship.

With the guidance of Professor Childs, 2006 saw the founding of the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band (YYBB). The purpose behind the creation of the YYBB is to inspire young people aged 11 – 18 who have already achieved Grade 4, using the umbrella of members of Black Dyke Band and facilities of the Band's partners Leeds Metropolitan University.

Inaugural Lecture - Professor Nicholas J. Childs

History of Brass Bands – 'The Golden Period'

Friday, 29 May 19:00

Gandhi Hall, Headingley Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University

The repertoire played by bands has altered radically over many years. However, commissioning bodies have always been governed by a desire to attract the leading mainstream composers of the day to write original material for the medium.

The so-called 'Golden Period,' spanning the period between the Great Depression and the Second World War, encapsulates this ambition at its most successful. A sequence of seminal works, by John Ireland, Gustav Holst, Herbert Howells and Sir Edward Elgar, revitalised the repertoire and placed amateur musicians in a place of honour within the British musical establishment.

In an illustrated lecture, Professor Nicholas Childs and the Black Dyke Band place this music in its wider context, from the production of the first original band compositions in 1913 up until the death of Elgar in 1934.





Stephen McGowan
3rd Cornet



Andrea Price
Percussion



Neil Edwards
Timpani



Paul Lovatt-Cooper
Percussion



Lee Skipsy
Principal Percussion



Dr. Nicholas J. Childs
Director of Music
Principal Conductor



John Murtaugh
3rd Cornet



Daniel Sinclair
BBb Bass



Matthew Routley
Solo BBb Bass



Joseph Cook
Solo Eeb Bass



Phillip Goodwin
EEb Bass



Rebecca Marshall
2nd Cornet



Cai Yafyn
Solo Cornet



Alexandra Kerwin
Flugel Horn



Sandy Smith
Principal Horn



Julie Backhouse
1st Horn



Alison Childs
2nd Horn



Gareth Daniel
2nd Baritone



John O'Brien
2nd Cornet



Tom Hutchinson
Solo Cornet



Gareth Brindle
Solo Baritone



Adrian Hirst
Bass Trombone



John Doyle
Replano Cornet



Morvern Gilchrist
Solo Cornet



John French
Euphonium



Garry Beed
2nd Trombone



Paul Duffy
Soprano Cornet



Richard Marshall
Principal Solo Cornet



David Thornton
Principal Euphonium



Brett Baker
Principal Trombone



in partnership with leeds metropolitan university

Artistic Directors Professors Philip Wilby and Peter Graham

Black Dyke Band

Principal Conductor Professor Nicholas Childs
Euphonium Soloist David Thornton

Gandhi Hall 19.00
Saturday 30 May

18.30 Pre-concert talk in the Acre Room and Jubilee Room
with Philip Wilby, Peter Graham,
Paul Lovatt-Cooper and Philip Harper

Academic Fanfare	Peter Graham
Harrison's Dream	Peter Graham
<i>Willow Pattern</i> World Premiere	Philip Harper
INTERVAL	20 minutes
Rubbing Shoulders with Champions	Paul Lovatt-Cooper
<i>Euphonium Concerto</i>	Philip Wilby
<i>Euphonium Soloist</i>	David Thornton
Immortal	Paul Lovatt-Cooper

Gala Concert

Black Dyke Band
David Thornton (Euphonium)
Nicholas Childs (Conductor)

Gandhi Hall, Headingley Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University

Academic Fanfare - Peter Graham

Tonight's concert opens with music by Professor Peter Graham, who celebrates his 50th birthday this year, and whose music has been central to the repertoire for a generation.

He has chosen to open his account with his powerful Academic Fanfare. Containing an appropriate reference to Brahms' famous overture, it opens the concert in resounding style.

More substantial music follows, with one of Graham's most distinguished scores. Harrison's Dream follows both an intellectual and a literary narrative. The composer writes, "At 8pm on the 22nd October 1707, the Association, flagship of the Royal Navy, struck rocks off the Scilly Isles with the loss of the entire crew. Throughout the rest of the evening the remaining three ships in the fleet suffered the same fate. Only 26 of the original 1,647 crew members survived. This disaster was a direct result of an inability to calculate longitude, the most pressing scientific problem of the time. It pushed the longitude question to the forefront of the national consciousness and precipitated the Longitude Act. Parliament funded a prize of £20,000 to anyone whose method or device would solve the dilemma.

"For carpenter and self-taught clockmaker John Harrison, this was the beginning of a 40 year obsession. To calculate longitude it is necessary to know the time aboard ship and at the home port or place of known longitude, at precisely the same moment. Harrison's dream was to build a clock so accurate that this calculation could be made, an audacious feat of engineering.

"This work reflects on aspects of this epic tale, brilliantly brought to life in Dava Sobel's book Longitude. Much of the music is mechanistic in tone and is constructed along precise mathematical and metrical lines. The heart of the work however is human - the attraction of the £20,000 prize is often cited as Harrison's motivation. However, the realisation that countless lives depended on a solution was one which haunted Harrison. The emotional core of the music reflects on this, and in particular the evening of 22 October 1707."

World Premiere of Willow Pattern by Philip Harper

It is entirely fitting that the first half of this evening should end with music newly minted for the occasion. Philip Harper, whose Legend of Sangeet made such a strong impression at last year's Brass Arts Festival, has provided a brand new commission for this year's Heritage Symposium. Again, combining old and new values, he has chosen to set this new score in Asia.

Basing his music on the legend behind the famous Willow Pattern design, he writes, "Once there lived a wealthy and powerful Mandarin who had a beautiful daughter, Knoon-se. She had fallen in love with Chang, a humble accountant, which had angered her father who imprisoned her in the pavilion by the river with only the exotic birds for company. She learnt that the Mandarin planned to marry her to the Duke Ta-jin and that the wedding would take place on the day the blossom fell from the willow tree. She sent Chang a message: 'Gather thy blossom, ere it be stolen.'

"The Duke arrived by sea amid great fanfare when the tree was heavy with bud, and nights of magnificent banquets followed. After one such occasion when the Mandarin slept, Chang crept over the crooked fence and into the pavilion to rescue Knoon-se but as they escaped the alarm was raised. They fled over the bridge with the Mandarin close on their heels brandishing his whip.

"They managed to escape by boat to a secluded island where they lived happily for a time. Meanwhile, the Mandarin learned of their refuge and, intent on revenge, he ordered his soldiers to kill them. As Knoon-se and Chang slept at night, the men set fire to the pagoda in which they lived and the lovers perished in the flames.

"However, the Gods, moved by the lover's plight, transformed their souls into two turtle-doves which rose from the charred remains, soaring above the Earth, symbolising eternal happiness."

This piece tells the Willow Pattern legend through music. Several motifs are used both for the different characters and also for some of the important emotions in the tale.

Additionally, Knoon-se's part is mainly played by the flugel horn, Chang by the euphonium, the Mandarin by the Eb Bass and the Duke Ta-jin by the trombone.

Interval

The second half of this gala concert counterpoints music by two of the band's serving writers. Philip Wilby's Concerto for Euphonium has recently formed part of the Band's 2008 award winning Naxos CD, 'A Breathless Alleluia,' and has become a central part of the repertoire of euphonium players throughout the world. Tonight's soloist David Thornton has received much critical acclaim for his individual reading of this epic score, whose classical approach chimes so well with the composer's original vision.

Originally composed for Robert Childs, this concerto has four movements, dividing the work into two parts. The second movement, Zeibekikos is a dance from the Greek islands, involving lifting tables in one's teeth and ending with some traditional plate-smashing.

The emotional heart of the composition is contained in the third movement, and the work ends in a brilliant fugal style encapsulating all that is most impressive about the brilliant traditions of the band's luminary heritage.

Paul Lovatt-Cooper is the band's current Composer in Association, and offers two short scores to open and close this half of the musical menu. Rubbing Shoulders with Champions is the review of Leeds Metropolitan University 2008, and combines filmic music with narrative images in a highly characteristic way.

Immortal is also composed to unique film footage of Black Dyke Band (past and present) in action both on and off stage - showing a rare insight into the history and current life of the ensemble. The music takes you on a journey that shows their renowned technical ability, the different musical colours within the ensemble and their glorious sound.

The most famous position in brass band history is the principal cornet. The middle of the piece is a dedication to the many fantastic past principal cornets that have played with the Band. Fittingly this section of the music features the Band's current principal cornet, Richard Marshall. The beautiful middle movement leads the Band to a huge climatic ending, summing up in one word the whole Black Dyke experience – Immortal.

Spotlight Workshop for Lower Brass

Saturday 30 May

Gandhi Hall, Headingley Campus, Leeds Metropolitan University

David Thornton (Euphonium) and Joseph Cook (Tuba)

Alongside our youth education initiatives, Black Dyke Band is keen to help bands within our community to develop and flourish. This event offers a series of free sessions that have real relevance to banding life and the practical skills involved in furthering bands and the players within them, as well as a concentrated look at the low end of the band.

On offer are a number of free sessions which are aimed at players of any age or standard to participate or simply observe. They will be led by Black Dyke soloists David Thornton and Joe Cook, and assisted by their colleagues, John French, Phil Goodwin, Matthew Routley, Danny Sinclair and Gareth Daniel – a team which boasts over 80 years of Black Dyke Band experience between them.

The day is intended to inspire and stimulate players through practical classes on key skills used at and during concerts, including playing in the section and how to cope with nerves. Highlights will focus on warm ups, chamber music sessions, celebrity recitals and a special feature - a conversation with Black Dyke legends offering insights into their proud history. The day will close with a performance platform, with brass players accompanied by Daniel Gordon.





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Artistic Director Elgar Howarth

Black Dyke Band and Yorkshire Youth Brass Band
Conductors Professor Nicholas Childs and Philip Wilby
Leeds Town Hall, 15.00, Sunday 31 May

Programme

“Partnering the Past and Fostering the Future”

Breathless Alleluia	Philip Wilby
Montage	Peter Graham
Trombone Spotlight	
On Parade	arrangement Dudley Bright
Immanuel's Tide	arrangement Mark Freeh
Organ Symphony	Saint Saens arrangement Philip Wilby
INTERVAL	20 minutes
Yorkshire Youth Brass Band	
Horizons	Paul Lovatt-Cooper
Solar Eclipse	Paul Lovatt-Cooper
Massed Bands	
Black Dyke, Yorkshire Youth Brass, Hebden Bridge and Newstead Bands	
Grand Finale 1812	Tchaikovsky
Encore	
76 Trombones	Meredith Willson

Delegate's coffee lounge - Exhibition of brass band heritage and vintage brass instruments

Black Dyke Band and Yorkshire Youth Brass Band

Nicholas Childs and Philip Wilby (Conductors)
Leeds Town Hall

A Breathless Alleluia: Philip Wilby

This new work, rapidly gaining popularity, was composed especially for Black Dyke's award winning 2008 Naxos recording which bears its name. It is an affectionate tribute to Nicholas Childs, music director and leader of tireless energy.

Montage: Peter Graham

This seminal score was commissioned by the All England Masters Brass Band Championships in 1994. It marked a stylistic sea-change for the composer, precipitated by a compositional crisis. Finding a new source of inspiration in the works of composers like Lutoslawski and Messaien, he wrote a three movement piece whose construction is as intriguing as its effect is impressive. The composers' own notes state, "The first movement 'Intrada' forms a perfect ABCBA arch. Generative thematic fragments appear in A above a pulsing timpani (mirrored in the return by glockenspiel); B is characterised by glistening cornet figurations and towering tutti power-chords; and C is a sinuous duet punctuated by sharply accented descending semitones.

Limpid and impressionistic, the chaconne is a movement of supreme and subtle beauty. Expressive melodic strands intertwine above a slowly revolving chord sequence, which gradually wells up to a pivotal climax, and then recedes into dark fluid depths.

The tensions implicit in the preceding two movements are unleashed in the dramatic rondo finale, and drive the music towards its powerful conclusion.

Finale: 'Organ Symphony' Saint Saens (arrangement Philip Wilby)

Saint-Saens' Symphony No 3 in C Minor Opus 78 was written in 1886 and probably represented the artistic zenith of his career. The work was dedicated to Saint-Saens' friend, Franz Liszt.

This work has special significance for Black Dyke Band, since the band was nominated for an Oscar in 1996, for the film, Babe, Pig in the City. The melody which runs throughout the film is taken from the opening of this finale.

Horizons is an early work by Paul Lovatt-Cooper, and in common with his 2000 score Solar Eclipse requires a revised seating plan for the musicians. In common with Philip Wilby's 1995 British Open Test Piece, Revelation, these scores both use movement, anti-phonological groupings and solo stands, and are designed to be at once visual and aural.

With its emphasis on low brass in general and the trombone in particular, it is entirely fitting that this weekend should feature some music for an ensemble of trombonists. On Parade is a selection of well known marches effectively put together by the Principal Trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra, Dudley Bright. Immanuel's Tide is scored for quartet for trombones, and is based on a well known hymn in the United States. It has been arranged by bass trombonist Mark Freeh for the New York Salvation Army Staff Band Trombone Quartet.

Grand Finale: Overture (1812) Tchaikovsky (arrangement Robert Childs)

Napoleon Bonaparte was one of the greatest military leaders of all time. However, the turning point in his illustrious military career came during his invasion of Russia and in particular the Battle of Borodino.

On September 7, 1812, this battle of legendary proportions took place on a field near the village of Borodino, 124 kilometres from Moscow. Napoleon's troops numbered 135,000 soldiers, Prince Mikhail Kutuzov commanded a Russian Army of 132,000 men.

The Battle of Borodino lasted 15 hours and, until the First World War, was the bloodiest single day in the history of human conflict. 75,000 men lost their lives in the battle.

68 years later, plans were being made in Moscow for the inauguration of a new cathedral, to commemorate Russia's victory in 1812. The cathedral was to be consecrated on the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Borodino in the presence of Tsar Alexander II. The plans included military bands and artillery salutes, massed singing and the first peal of the Cathedral's bells. Tchaikovsky was asked to compose a festive overture incorporating all of these elements.

The music unfolds with the Russian hymn, God Preserve Thy People. Quotations from the French national anthem, La Marseillaise, describe the French progress in their campaign. Russian opposition comes in the form of two Slavic melodies. During the final assault of the French to the Marseillaise tune, Russian artillery fire effectively sends them into retreat, and the Russian forces triumph to their own hymn accompanied by bursts of cannon fire and the tintinnabulation of the cathedral bells.

Encore: 76 Trombones: Meredith Willson

One of the most famous and instantly recognizable songs ever, it is from the musical, The Music Man with music and lyrics by Meredith Willson (1902-1984). The musical opened on Broadway at the Majestic Theatre on the 19th December 1957. The show ran for 1,375 performances.

Yorkshire Youth Brass Band

As part of its initiative to sponsor the work of young people, Black Dyke Band, under the direction of Professor Nicholas Childs, two years ago formed the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band.

The purpose of the creation of the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band is to inspire and motivate young people aged 11-21 years to achieve their full potential as musicians, composers and citizens. There will be five workshops held to engage those who have already achieved Grade 4, full band rehearsals and sectionals will be given by key members of the Black Dyke Band, including Richard Marshall, cornet, David Thornton, euphonium and Brett Baker, trombone. The day's events will include seating auditions and action planning in preparation for forthcoming projects.

The next major performance is at the Brass Band Focus Day at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on 20th June.



In addition to its work with players, the Band will also include opportunities for young composers, and will hold regular seminars for those who would like to expand their knowledge and experience of writing for brass. 'Composers Collective', under the guidance of Professor Philip Wilby, will meet during the year, and will consist initially of a class for four to eight young composers. It is envisaged that these will be of school age, with an interest in writing or arranging for brass instruments in all aspects. Band members and instrumental staff will work with the collective as soloists and members of smaller groups, and access to the full ensemble will be encouraged as the project develops.

For further details please contact the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band administrator, Alison Childs, tel 01457 820138, email alison@doyenmobile.com, visit www.yybb.co.uk.



Principal Trombone



Brett Baker is viewed as one of Europe's leading brass players and teachers and is now a clinician for Michael Rath Musical Instruments Ltd. Before the age of 25 he had won every major brass band competition. He is currently the most recorded trombone soloist in the brass band movement and was involved in 11 recording projects in 2006. He is a past trombone solo champion of Great Britain and an Associate of the Royal College of Music.

Brett is from the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire and was introduced to the trombone at the age of ten by his father. His first teachers were Bryan Nelmes, Robert Morgan and Ken Harmon. In 1989 he moved to the Polysteel (Flowers) Band and the National Youth Brass Band where he served as principal trombone for two

years. His teachers at this time were Danny Hannaby, Steve Walkley and Lyndon Baglin.

In 1992, Brett became a finalist in BBC's Young Musician of the Year, began studies at Salford University and joined the Fairey Band. Brett was British Open Trombone Solo Champion in 1993 and 1994. He was trombone tutor at Salford University from 1993 to 1996 and studied performance under David King. Brett's first solo recording, Bone Idyll, with the Fairey Band was completed in 1996; his advisor at the time was Denis Wick.

As well as a hectic playing schedule, Brett enjoys presenting workshops and lectures specialising in solo performance techniques and the education of younger players. Brett is trombone tutor of the National Children's Brass Band of Great Britain and has been trombone tutor and course director of the Northern Brass Band Trust in Durham since 1992. In 2006 he became Chairman of the British Trombone Society and Secretary of the International Trombone Association.

Brett studied at the Royal Northern Conservatoire under Chris Houlding, John Iveson and John Miller, and consequently in 2000 joined Black Dyke Band. Under the Direction of Professor Nicholas Childs, Brett has played on over a dozen CD's and won the National Championships in 2001 and 2004, as well as the European Championships in 2005 and British Open Championships in 2005 and 2006.

As a brass clinician over the last 12 months Brett has toured from Brazil to Canada and as far as New Zealand to Western Europe. He has been a guest soloist with dozens of bands in Holland, Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand.

Brett has been involved with over 30 commissions including those with composers such as Robin Dewhurst, Philip Sparke, Philip Harper, Darrol Barry and Martin Ellerby. Brett lives with his wife Sarah in Cheshire and is increasingly popular as a conductor and adjudicator of brass bands.

"Brett is a trombonist who combines robust flair with delicacy, technical accomplishment with a warm audience personality. I have worked with him and thoroughly enjoyed the experience." Howard Snell.

"Brett Baker is surely at the pinnacle of his glittering career – his strength and depth of sound can give way in an instant to the most heart-warming delicacy, and his phenomenally flawless technique is equally matched by an elegant ability to enhance a melodic line with musicianship and responsiveness." Anthony Leggett, Brass Band World.

Euphonium Soloist



David Thornton was appointed as principal euphonium of the Black Dyke Band during July 2000.

4barsrest.com, the internet magazine commented, "It was the position he was destined for...he has made it his own with a series of concert and contest performances that have been invariably breathtaking."

Born in Nottingham in 1978, David began his euphonium lessons at just eight years old and only five years later became the first ever euphonium player to gain a place at Chetham's School of Music, one of the UK's most prestigious institutions for specialist musical education.

Since then his success has earned him many awards, such as scholarships from the Countess of Munster Trust and the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe, a hat-trick of solo awards at the National Euphonium Conference 1995, 1997 and 1999, first prize at the Verso Il Millenio International Euphonium Competition, but most notably as the International Euphonium Player of the Year 2001.

As a recording artist David has released two solo albums. His debut CD, Three Worlds, was awarded Solo CD of the Year for 2004 by the British Bandsman magazine. In May 2007, David released his second solo album, Devil's Duel. Furthermore, David features as a soloist on 14 different albums with the Black Dyke Band, including Epic Brass and Jubilee Brass - live recordings of two concerts at the Royal Albert Hall.

Considering David's relatively young age, his achievements in education are also quite remarkable. He tutors at the RNCM, the University of Huddersfield and Chetham's School of Music, as well as holding visiting tutor roles at the Birmingham Conservatoire and the RSAMD. His current and former students already hold principal positions in many leading bands around the UK.

David is regarded as one of the foremost euphonium players and teachers of his generation and is in constant demand as a performer and clinician throughout the world.

David is a Schrieber-Keilwerth York Consultant and Performing Artist, and plays exclusively on York euphoniums.

"David Thornton is that rare kind of musician - a true artist whose qualities transcend the instrument itself. The listener is carried out of normal music-making into the wide open spaces of real enjoyment." Howard Snell, Conductor, former principal trumpet of the London Symphony Orchestra.

"David Thornton displayed all his wares with a sublime piece of euphonium work in the Devil's Duel, which saw him dispense with all the musical challengers that tried to upstage him in battle throughout the piece - you would have had to kill him with a stake through the heart you suspected such was his brilliance, whilst someone may have to check that he hasn't got cloven hooves instead of feet the next time he plays the piece like this. Not even old Beelzebub could better this one suspects." 4barsrest.com.

Principal Tuba

Joseph Cook was born into a musical family in County Durham. His father was a former principal cornet player and his mother a flugel and tenor horn player with the Ever Ready Brass Band. He started playing tuba at the age of 12 at his local secondary school. With encouragement from his parents and close friends within the Ever Ready Band he soon joined the Boldon Colliery Brass Band. Within two years he had auditioned for and gained entry into the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, at the same time as being accepted to join the Ever Ready Brass Band.

Joseph was a member of the National Brass Band of Great Britain between 1996 and 1999, for the final two years as the band's principal tuba player.

During that time he achieved such accolades as national semi-finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition twice, national semi-finalist in the Shell London Symphony Orchestra Scholarship Competition, winner of the 1997 Harry Mortimer Solo Competition and British Open Tuba Champion 2000.

In 1999, Joseph commenced study at the University of Leeds, reading Music and Electrical Engineering, and in the May of that year he was asked to join the Black Dyke Band, where he still plays today as principal tuba. He has toured extensively with the band and featured as a soloist throughout the UK and overseas, including the USA, Canada, France, Belgium, Holland, Bermuda and Ireland. With the band he has been fortunate enough to share in many contest successes, including twice National Champions, twice British Open Champions and once European Champions. In 2006, Joseph received the Stanley Wainwright Memorial Trophy for the best soloist at the British Open Championship at Symphony Hall. Over the years Joseph has studied with tuba players such as Brian Kingsley, Patrick Harrild, James Gourlay and Roger Bobo.

In the summer of 2002 Joseph was given scholarships for postgraduate study at the Royal Academy of Music and also the Royal Northern College of Music. As well as playing with the Black Dyke Band he is also busy as an orchestral musician, chamber musician and soloist, performing with such ensembles as the Northern Sinfonia, Manchester Camerata, York Guildhall, White River Brass, Fine Arts Brass and Jazz Action, as well as performing solo recitals up and down the country. Joseph also works extensively as a teacher in the classroom, brass coach and performs in many master classes and workshops.



Charity Concert in aid of Self-Help Group for Cerebral Palsy and the Ripon Cathedral Organ Appeal



Black Dyke Band

Director Of Music Professor Nicholas J. Childs

Ripon Cathedral
Thursday 27 August 2009 at 8pm

For ticket details visit
www.riponcathedral.org.uk

When Leeds Met Black Dyke

Shared Visions for a Cultural Partnership

Leeds Met creates pioneering partnerships with the arts and sport. It is well known for its strong cultural partnerships including links with Opera North, Northern Ballet Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse and the Harrogate International Festival.

In 2005, the University formed a partnership with the world-renowned Black Dyke Band and together they have created a number of shared initiatives.

Work with young people has led to the creation of the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band, with students to work with music technology specialists, and with staff members to highly energised presentations at staff away days. The wider public have enjoyed a number of public appearances, including a very special performance of Handel's Messiah with the University's own choir.

Most recently, and firmly in the area of musicological research, the two partners were pleased to announce the creation of the **Black Dyke Band Doctoral Studentship**. The award is to allow a suitably qualified student to study for a PhD on,

'The Black Dyke Mills Band, 1855-c1955:
a social and cultural history'

Professor Dave Russell, from the Institute of Northern Studies, writes, "The British brass band movement was one of the most significant working-class cultural institutions to emerge in the 19th and earlier 20th centuries and the Black Dyke Mills Band was one of its most significant and celebrated products. This project seeks to situate the band within the wider context of social, economic and cultural change over a period which saw the brass band move to a central place in northern popular musical life."



Professor Nicholas Childs and the Black Dyke Band working with students at Leeds Metropolitan University on a recent recording project in the Gandhi Hall.

