

Examining the Professional Practice of Brass Band Conducting

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Principal Cornet: Paula Russell
Soprano: Jaime Brown
Solo Cornets: Tony Lashmar, Chris Baldwin, Laurence Smith, Kevin McMorran
Repiano Cornet: Stuart Lang
Second Cornet: Matthew Tierney, Craig Millar
Third Cornet: John Guiton, Stephen Stein
Flugel Horn: Amanda Casagrande
Tenor Horns: Benjamin Tubb, Michael Martin, Cindy Shanahan
Baritones: Ross Moloney, Rowan Yates
Euphoniums: Nigel John, Bari Thomas,
Trombones: Michael Purtle, Stuart Bent, Vilde Gaupholm, Marc Nethercot
Bass Trombone: Jake Mirabito
E♭ Bass: Gareth Lawless, Per Olav Haaland, Jared Proellocks
B♭ Bass: Stephen Whithington, Rick Casagrande
Percussion: Bruce Hamlin, Kerry Vann, Adrian Dadds, Bill McIntyre

Musical Director: Howard Taylor
Producer: Brad Hosking
Engineer: Blind Boy Production
Cover Design: Johnstone Jones Design
Location: Conservatorium Theatre, Griffith University
Website: www.ausbrass.com



TEN
YEARS
ON TOP

BRISBANE EXCELSIOR BAND

Brisbane Excelsior Band

Brisbane Excelsior Band (XLCR) has entertained generations of Australians through concerts, parades, major events and competitions. The last ten years have seen this 100 year old band become the most successful and awarded band in the country.

Pushed to new heights under the direction of Howard Taylor, they are considered the finest brass band in the southern hemisphere having been the only brass band to have successfully won eight Australian National Band Championship titles and two New Zealand National Championships as well as performances at the British Open and the English Masters against the world's best bands.

During this period, the band has released a number of acclaimed albums, featured at the opening of the G20 cultural celebrations, performed at major festivals in China and Hong Kong, opened the Brisbane Festival in 2016 and performed in the major production, En Avante Marche.

The band is a unique combination of amateur musicians who work extraordinarily hard to perform at professional levels. It's players have won dozens of solo prizes around the world and the band on this album features the current national soprano cornet, tenor horn and percussion champions.

Looking forward, Brisbane Excelsior will continue to compete at the highest level, develop their annual concert series and break new ground with performances outside the traditional brass band arena.

This album celebrates XLCR's ongoing success, looking back on memorable performances and looking forward with several exciting new works.

Howard Taylor

Howard Taylor's musical career began as a cornet player in the Salvation Army in the South West of England.

In 1993 he swapped the cornet for a baton and was appointed Musical Director of Championship section Bodmin Town Band subsequently leading them to three successive South-West and Cornish Championships.

The Brisbane Excelsior Band appointed Howard as Musical Director in 2002 after five successful years in Auckland, NZ, leading the Waitakere Band to National Champions status.

He has since led XLCR to remarkable contest successes including eight State Championship wins, FABB Australasian Championship in 2013, eight Australian National A Grade Championships and two New Zealand Championship titles. Howard also led Brisbane XLCR to two prestigious events in the United Kingdom, the British Open and the All England Masters.

Howard has played a big role in Australasian banding and has mentored and led many other bands to contest successes including the St Marys Band, Waratah Brass, Gunnedah Shire and Willoughby Bands.

He held the position of Musical Director of The National Band of New Zealand from 2007 - 2009, until leaving for the UK in 2010 to work as resident conductor with the world famous 'Fairey Band'.

Howard has now returned to Brisbane XLCR as Musical Director, keeping extremely busy with regular trips to Tonga to work with school bands and conductors (starting the very first National Youth Band of Tonga in 2016) and mentoring and adjudicating opportunities throughout Australasia. Howard is currently studying at the Griffith University for his Masters in Conducting.



Another Op'nin', Another Show Cole Porter, arr Stephen Roberts
Showstopping opener from musical *Kiss Me Kate* is one of the great showbiz anthems.

The Jaguar Goff Richards
A popular march by famous British composer Cornishman Goff Richards who passed away in 2011.

Virtuosity Kenny Barker arr Jack Peberdy. Cornet Soloist: Paula Russell
Composed by Britain's finest jazz trumpet player, this showpiece was written to display the soloist's technical superiority and musicianship.

Candle of the Lord Joy Webb arr Peter Graham
Beautiful melody taken from the popular arrangement '*Shine as the light*'.

Skyfall Adele, arr Steve Newcomb Soloist: Chrislyn Hamilton
Adele's theme for the 23rd James Bond film. Chrislyn Hamilton is one of Australia's top vocal talents, placing highly in both *Australian Idol* and *Australia's Got Talent*.

Nightingale Dances Matthew Hall
Nightingale Dances is a fantasy of moods and styles that dance around the famous tune *A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square*.

Glasshouse Whispers Benjamin Tubb, Soprano Cornet Soloist: Jaime Brown
Written for soloist Jaime Brown, this movement, taken from the composers major work – *Australian Odysseys*, combines soaring melodies with a haunting accompaniment to portray the Glasshouse Mountains on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

Phoenix from **War of the Worlds** Peter Graham
The suite is inspired by 1953 film of the HG Wells novel. The symbolism of the Phoenix, the mythical bird which rises reborn from the ashes of destruction clearly resonates with the Japanese people for whom it was composed, in the aftermath of the devastating 2011 tsunami as testament to the spirit of mankind's ability to overcome adversity.

The Catskills from **East Coast Pictures** Nigel Hess, arr Phillip Littlemore
East Coast Pictures consists of three short 'pictures' inspired by several visits to upstate New York's Catskills Mountains. This work evokes their majesty, power, peace and tranquillity.

Tango Carlos Gardel, arr Peter Graham. Flugelhorn Soloist: Amanda Casagrande
Classic tango by Gardel, a French Argentine singer/songwriter and prominent figure in the history of tango. The melody has appeared in many movies including *True Lies*, *Schindler's List* and *The Scent of a Woman*.

The Pilgrim's Prayer Sydney Rouse, arr Eric Ball
Often regarded as the finest ever brass band composer, much of Eric Ball's work was written for the Salvation Army and reflected his deep faith.

Pantomime Philip Sparke. Euphonium Soloist: Nigel John
Commissioned by Welsh euphonium virtuoso Nick Childs this work is designed to showcase lyrical and technical prowess.

The Melody Shop K.L. King, arr Peter Smalley
Karl L. King wrote more than 300 works for Circus and Military Bands, and did for the circus march what Sousa did for the patriotic march.

Abide with Me W.H. Monk, arr Karl Jenkins trans Peter Graham
Welsh composer Karl Jenkins arranged this ever popular and beautiful hymn, *Eventide*.

From Ancient Times Jan Van Der Roost
A major work for brass band, inspired by the music of the Franco-Flemish School of the Renaissance with hints of Gregorian chant and middle age dances. The foundation for this spectacular work rests on truly 'ancient times' while the tonal language is of a much more modern nature. This performance was recorded live in 2013 at the Australian National Championships in Perth – where it helped Brisbane Excelsior once again to take the title of 'Australian National Champions'.



1. <i>Another Op'nin', Another Show</i>	Cole Porter, arr Stephen Roberts	02.52
2. <i>The Jaguar</i>	Goff Richards	02.51
3. Cornet solo: <i>Virtuosity</i>	Kenny Barker arr Jack Peberdy Soloist: Paula Russell	04.47
4. <i>Candle of the Lord</i>	Joy Webb, arr Peter Graham	04.26
5. Vocal solo: <i>Skyfall</i>	Adele, arr Steve Newcomb Soloist: Chrislyn Hamilton	04.24
6. <i>Nightingale Dances</i>	Matthew Hall	04.40
7. Soprano solo: <i>Glasshouse Whispers</i>	Benjamin Tubb Soloist: Jaime Brown	04.47
8. <i>Phoenix from War of the Worlds</i>	Peter Graham	02.43
9. <i>The Catskills from East Coast Pictures</i>	Nigel Hess, arr Phillip Littlemore	06.15
10. Flugel solo: <i>Tango</i>	Carlos Gardel, arr Peter Graham Soloist: Amanda Casagrande	03.53
11. <i>The Pilgrim's Prayer</i>	Sydney Rouse, arr Eric Ball	03.31
12. Euphonium solo: <i>Pantomime</i>	Philip Sparke Soloist: Nigel John	05.48
13. <i>The Melody Shop</i>	K.L. King, arr Peter Smalley	02.04
14. <i>Abide with Me</i>	W.H. Monk, arr Karl Jenkins and Peter Graham	02.31
15. <i>From Ancient Times</i> (Live performance at 2013 Australian Nationals in Perth)	Jan Van Der Roost	19.01



BRISBANE EXCELSIOR BAND



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