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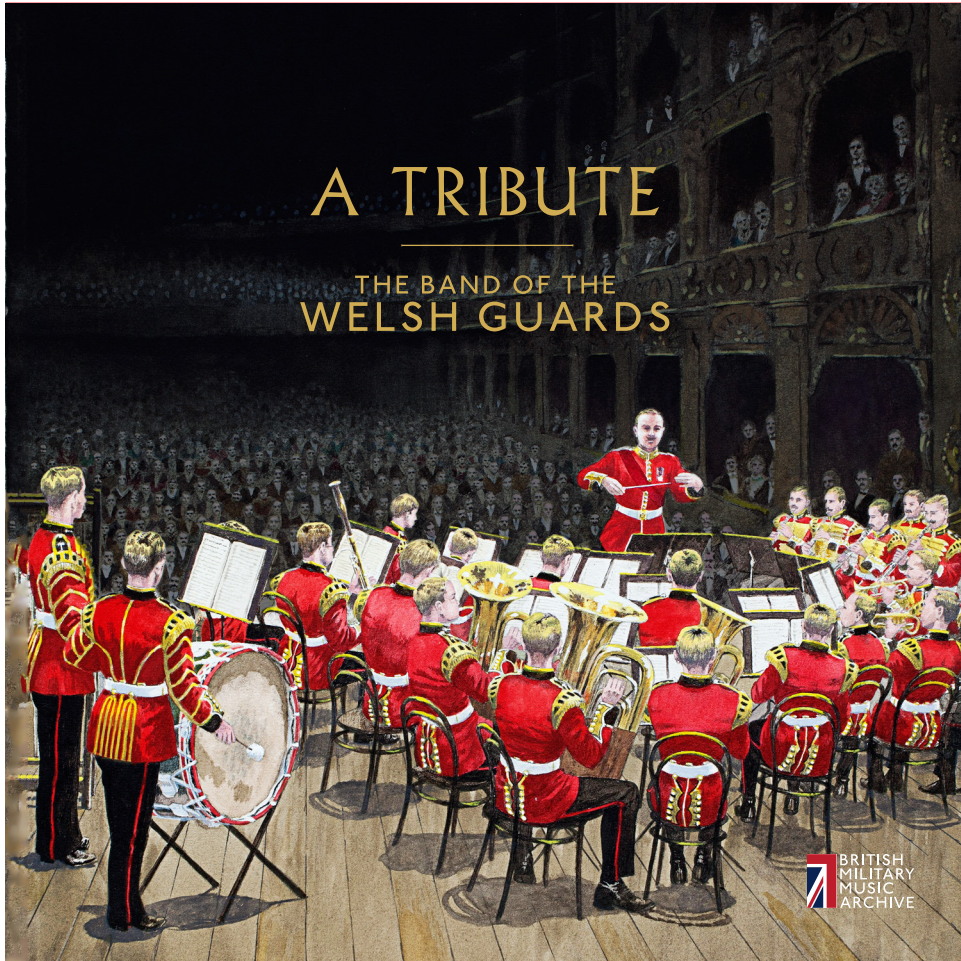
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Title	Single page booklet-stitched (add number of pages)
Flat Size	4.75"x4.719"
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CD ONE

The Welsh Guards on Parade was the band's very first recording, with the salute Men of Glamorgan, and the regimental slow and quick marches, Men of Harlech and The Rising of the Lark. Next comes Reminiscences of Wales which brings together some much-loved melodies from the principality: The Ash Grove, Hunting the Hare, From Dull Slumber Arise, Jenny Jones, Forth to Battle, O Mighty Warrior and God Bless the Prince of Wales. It is very likely that this selection was played by the band at its first public appearances on 1st March 1916.

Land of My Fathers, the Welsh anthem, is followed by Lion of St. Marc, a march referring to the symbol of the city of Venice, and a selection from the light opera La Gran Via, also known as Castles in Spain. The King's Birthday March (Geburtstag Ovation) was a popular march of the time, having been played at the Trooping the Colour in 1899. Punjaub is by a former cavalry bandsman, Charles Payne, while A Flash of Steel and Little Gadabout were both written by Gustave Colin, pseudonym of Charles Woodhouse.

The Phantom Brigade by W H Myddleton (pen-name of Arnold Safroni) is typical of the descriptive music of the period and portrays a retired colonel who, having enjoyed a good dinner, sits back in his armchair and dreams of days gone by with his soldiers marching past. Kitchener's Brigade and the March of the ANZACs have echoes from the Great War, the ANZACs being the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who suffered such terrible casualties at Gallipoli.

CD TWO

The second disc takes us from 1921 with Mr. Harris now commissioned, and begins with a selection from the Gypsy Princess, a popular operetta written during the war years. Gaiety Echoes features songs written for shows at the Gaiety Theatre in Aldwych by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton.

Kenneth J Alford is regarded as the finest of all march composers but in Wedded Whimsies we have one of his tongue-in-cheek medleys where one melody drifts seamlessly into another. The Whistler and his Dog is a novelty number by Arthur Pryor, trombone virtuoso in Sousa's band, while Tarentella de Concert features the ever popular xylophone.

Grand Opera is represented by a selection from Charles Gounod's Faust which includes the well-known Soldiers' Chorus, then Eric Coates's splendid march London Bridge and Leon Jessel's delightful Wedding of the Rose complete the tracks conducted by Major Andrew Harris MVO, who retired at the end of 1937.

Conscription during the Second World War brought many professional musicians to the band, including members of the Geraldo Orchestra, which raised the standard of the dance orchestra to new heights, such that it was to be one of the very few such combinations in the services to make broadcasts and recordings, including the two tracks featured here. Also joining the band at this time was the renowned tenor, David Lloyd, and we bring this tribute to the band's first 25 years to a close with him singing with the band in this selection of Welsh National Songs: Cwm Rhondda, All Through the Night, Land of My Fathers, Over the Stone, Aberystwyth and finally Men of Harlech.

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THE PAINTING

The Band of the Welsh Guards conducted by Mr. Andrew Harris on the stage of the London Opera House on 1st March 1916. This was the band's first concert appearance; it had played at its first parade that morning for Guard Mounting at Buckingham Palace. From a painting by Sean Bolan

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Executive Producers (British Military Music Archive): Simon Vandeleur, Tim Hollier
Music compiled by Colin Dean for BMMA
Metropolis Product Manager: Luke Smith
Naxos Project Manager: David Hull

Mastering by Metropolis
Mastering Co-ordinator: Dan Baldwin

Commissioned Artwork: Sean Bolan
Product Design: Daniel Titchener

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THE WELSH GUARDS

The Welsh Guards was formed on 26th February 1915 as the Army began to expand following the outbreak of the First World War and it was felt that the Principality should be represented in the Brigade of Guards. Perhaps surprisingly, in the midst of all the horror, little time was wasted in forming a regimental band as by 27th April the City of Cardiff had agreed to help purchase the first set of instruments. Mr. Andrew Harris of the Royal Artillery (Gibraltar) Band was selected to be the first bandmaster and the appointment was approved by King George V, although his Private Secretary wrote that "His Majesty thinks it is a pity that this post has not been given to a Welshman".

Despite that particular failing, Mr. Harris took up his appointment on 1st October 1915 and, along with his Band Sergeant, Henry Roxberry, they set about bringing together musicians to form the band which made its first public appearance on 1st March 1916, St. David's Day, at the Guard Mounting at Buckingham Palace, with a performance at the London Opera House that evening.

However, the band had already been into the studio for the Regal label and tracks 1-6 on CD1 were recorded in February 1916 with tracks 7-10 coming in March and tracks 11-12 later that year. The music on CD1 is therefore played by the founder members of the Band of the Welsh Guards and, although the quality of the records has deteriorated over the years, these tracks are of great historical interest and our tribute to the men who began the hundred years of excellence which is celebrated in 2015/2016.

It was these same men who, on 28th October 1916, embarked to France and Belgium for three months to take their turn in playing to lift the spirits of the Guards Division close to the front line. When 1st Battalion Welsh Guards was relieved from the trenches they marched towards their billets at a rather dreary ruin of a village at Meault. Mr. Harris had positioned his musicians a couple of miles outside the village in order to play them back, quite a dramatic moment as these tired and exhausted men heard their own band and their regimental march, The Rising of the Lark, for the first time.

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A TRIBUTE

THE BAND OF THE WELSH GUARDS

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Recordings by the Band of the Welsh Guards spanning its first 25 Years
DIRECTORS OF MUSIC
Major Andrew Harris MVO and Major Thomas Chandler MVO

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