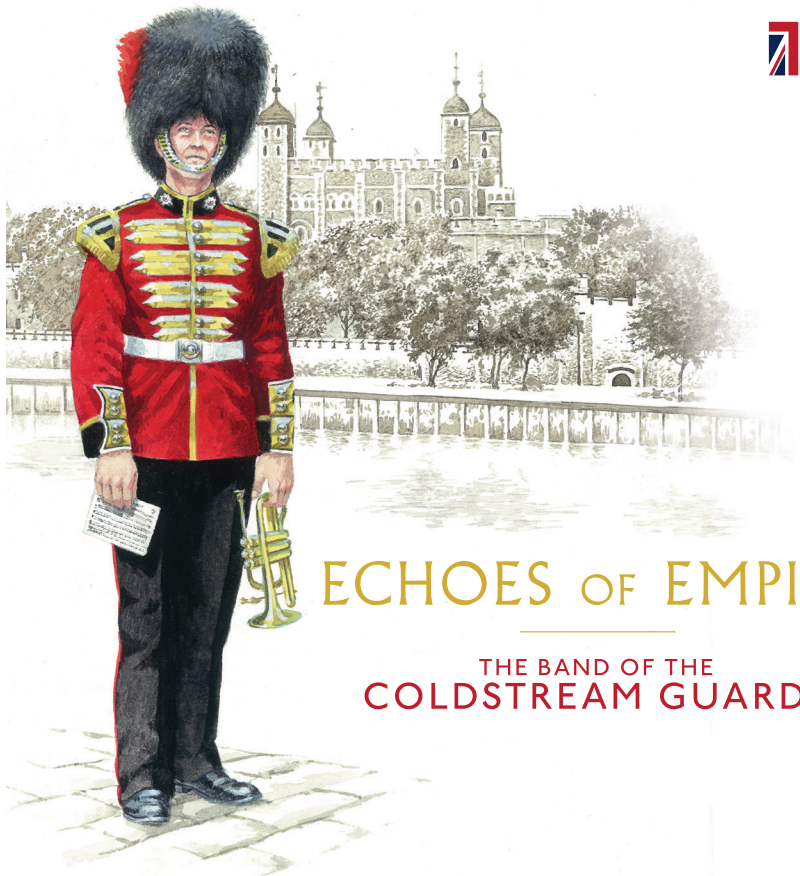


4.718



9.5

BRITISH
MILITARY
MUSIC
ARCHIVE



ECHOES OF EMPIRE

THE BAND OF THE
COLDSTREAM GUARDS

4.75

8

4.75

1

4.718



9.5

THE ARTWORK

Produced by Sean Bolan, the son of a former drummer in the Grenadier Guards, Ted Bolan. Sean specializes in paintings of the 1920/30's era, mostly of the Household Division and railway scenes. He is now a well established artist.

The cover painting depicts a Coldstream Guards musician in the uniform of the inter-war period with the Tower of London in the background.

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

BMMA.ORG.UK

© & © 2016 British Military Music Archive Ltd.
Under exclusive licence to Naxos of America, Inc.
All rights of the producer and of the owner of this recorded work reserved. Unauthorised copying, public performance, broadcasting, hiring or rental of this recording prohibited.



BMMACGI602

4.75

2

4.75

7



9.5

THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

From the earliest days the Coldstream Guards had drummers and a "Band of Music" from 1685. This comprised eight civilian musicians who were hired by the month by officers of the Regiment to provide music for the Changing of the Guard at St James' Palace. When, in 1785, the musicians were asked to perform at an aquatic excursion to Greenwich, they declined on the grounds that the performance was "incompatible with their several respectable and private engagements." This was too much for the officers, who asked the Duke of York, Colonel of the Regiment, for a regular attested band. He agreed and from Hanover in Germany sent twelve musicians under the direction of Music Major C.F. Eley. The instrumentation consisted of two oboes, four clarinets, two bassoons, two horns, one trumpet and a serpent. The date of the Band's formation was May 16th, 1785. The Band has been in continuous existence since then, mostly under German bandmasters in the nineteenth century.

In 1896 John Mackenzie Rogan took over as Director of Music, and it was he who ushered the Band into the twentieth century. He was the first bandmaster to achieve commissioned rank and was the outstanding military musician of his day. By 1900 the size of the Band had grown to fifty-one musicians, and during the years before World War I the Band reached new heights of excellence in concert and on record. Their first recording took place in a London hotel in 1898.

The Coldstream Guards Band became the first band to visit North America when it traveled to Canada in 1903, one of two western tours around that time. In 1916, with other regimental bands, the Band performed in concert for the troops in northern France and, after the end of the First World War, in Paris and Rome in 1919. The following year when Robert Evans took over as Director of Music, the Band had a strength of sixty-six. In 1930 James Causley Windram became the Director of Music, and under his baton the Band broadcast regularly on BBC radio. A more unusual engagement was to don uniforms of the Napoleonic period for the pre-war film "The Scarlet Pimpernel." In 1936 the Band was present at St. James' Palace for the proclamation of King Edward VIII and, following his abdication, for that of King George VI. At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 the familiar scarlet tunics were replaced by khaki, and during the War the Band did important work encouraging the morale of troops and civilians throughout the United Kingdom.

It was on Sunday, June 18, 1944 that the greatest tragedy in the history of the Band occurred. The Band was playing in the Guards Chapel, during Sunday morning service in Wellington Barracks, London, when it was struck by a German V1 flying bomb. Over 120 people were killed including the Director of Music, Major Windram, and five musicians. Despite this disaster the Band continued to function until the new Director of Music, Captain Douglas Alexander Pope, was appointed. One of his first duties was to follow the Allied forces to Europe after D-Day.

After the war the Band continued as it had done before with the usual round of state, court and ceremonial duties, plus the many varied private engagements both at home and abroad. It was in 1960 that the Band went to North America for a three month coast to coast tour; this was the first of what became a regular ten yearly event. The Band toured North America again in 1970, 1981 and 1991. The Band has also toured regularly in Japan. In 1984 the Band moved into the newly completed Wellington Barracks, its first official accommodation since the Band was formed. The Band was flown into Sarajevo in 1996 after the relief of a two year siege to entertain and lift the spirits of the local population. The Coldstream Band continues to play in concert, when not involved in public duties and state ceremonial in London, and in June 2015, 200 years exactly after they deployed to Paris after the Allied victory at Waterloo, they entertained large crowds in Brussels at the 200th anniversary celebrations of the great battle, including the Waterloo Ball and the opening of a new visitor centre on the battlefield.

4.75

4

4.75

5

4.718