



'.....Always a Marine' - our second CD

Following our hugely successful first CD 'Once A Marine....' in January we again travelled to Clovelly's studio in Dover to record our second CD, the other half of the RMA's strapline 'Once A Marine, Always A Marine'.

It was a little daunting sitting in a relatively small studio with a 50-piece band, however with good humour and some temperature controls adjustments we soon got to work balancing and putting down around 70 minutes of music in two days. The 10 or 11 hours spent recording passed quickly and even 'Victor Meldrew' in the box seemed pleased with the result.

We played some less familiar material including a new Sousa march, *Library of Congress March*, which apparently was in the process of being written when Sousa died in 1932. Sousa's original manuscript has recently been reconstructed by Stephen Bulla and the result is a most effective replica of Sousa's distinctive march style. We believe we may be the first band to record it.

Not to be forgotten was the cymbal playing of David Smart, principal oboe, in the last phrase of *Hands Across the Sea* which is marked double forte. He played with such enthusiasm and vigour we thought the ceiling would fall in. Noteworthy too was Paul Coker's magnificent trombone solo of the well-known title theme by Burt Bacharach of the film 'Alfie'. Also Jon Yates' stunning impersonation of Harry James' unforgettable virtuosity in Sammy Nestico's *Harry James Medley*.

Sales of this CD have already exceeded our expectations. Enquiries should be directed to the RMA Concert Band, Building 32, Whale Island, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 8ER (tel: 02392-651519). Cheques to be made payable to the RMA Band Fund for £12.00, which includes postage and packing.

The full track listing is: *Fanfare for the First Sea Lord* (Cole), *Hands Across the Sea* (Sousa), *Porgy and Bess* (Gershwin), *Army and Marine* (Zehle), *Bell A'Peal* (Brien), *Eastney* (Dunn), *Harry James Medley* (Nestico - trumpet: Jon Yates), *Gallop for Band* (Woodfield), *Tribute to Stephen Foster* (Nestico), *Blue Band* (Woodfield), *Alfie* (Bacharach arr. Woodfield - trombone: Paul Coker), *Library of Congress March* (Sousa arr Bulla), *Roller Coaster* (Cowell - trumpets: Jon Yates, Roger Hammond, Kevin Jones), *The Globe and Laurel* (Dunn), *Curtain Up* (Woodfield), *The Galloping Major* (Bastow arr Jacob), *Pavane pour une Enfante Defunte* (Ravel arr Brubaker), *Clarinet Cascade* (Brien), *Entry of the Gladiators* (Fucik arr Langford).



That's Entertainment!

Ted Whealing writes:

2007 closed with two particularly enjoyable concerts. The first was a local gig and was held in the Community Centre on **Hayling Island**. It was organised by the Hayling Island Naval Association and we performed to a capacity audience.



Although the stage area was quite small we managed to squeeze in and enjoyed a most enthusiastic reception. The same could also be said of our final concert of 2007 which was held in the intimate little Strode Theatre, at **Street** in Somerset. It was a long way to travel but the theatre was sold out weeks in advance. Some Christmas music added a seasonal flavour and we are returning there again this year (13th December).

Our 2008 round of concerts started with the opening of the

Portsmouth Music Festival

for which we combined with the Highbury Area Band conducted



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The RMA Concert Band Newsletter is published occasionally for friends and sponsors of the Band. News and views for inclusion may be sent to:

The Editor, Concert Band Newsletter, Building 32, Whale Island, Portsmouth PO2 8ER (tel: 02392-651519)



by Steve Tanner – who is also our principal flautist. The young players in the Highbury Band were impressive, particularly their solo trumpet player, who gave an excellent reading of the 3rd movement of Hummel's Trumpet Concerto. The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth was present and spoke highly of the two Bands' performances in his speech.



Left: Octagon Theatre, Yeovil
Right: Weymouth Pavilion
Centre: Royal Marines Museum, Eastney

Our second concert of 2008 was in the Regent Centre in **Christchurch**, Dorset. This is another smallish venue, right in the middle of Christchurch High Street. They were not at all used to having such a large ensemble on their stage as they had to hire in our on-stage chairs! After this concert we received a highly complimentary write-up in the local press, and several minutes film coverage later appeared on ITV's 'Local Life' programme.

March saw us performing in the Octagon theatre, **Yeovil** and in April we made a return visit to the **Weymouth Pavilion**.

At all venues we have been enthusiastically received, especially for our audience participation-packed finale, and we hope that return visits will be possible next year.

Most recently, on 22nd May, we performed our second concert at our home venue, the **Royal Marines Museum, Eastney** – the world's finest band room! – a very special concert for several reasons. Firstly it was

a total sell out several times over. Secondly, in tribute to the Museum's 50th Anniversary year we played *Eastney*, a 1939 composition by the young Lieutenant F Vivian Dunn. And finally, just days after

Portsmouth Football Club's triumph in the FA Cup Final, it gave us the opportunity to play Sir Vivian Dunn's 1948 composition *Pompey Chimes*, a march which has only rarely been played since Pompey's successful seasons at the top of the old Division 1 in the late 1940s! It was well received and we were delighted to be able to play a very small part in the team's week of celebrations. [*Pompey Chimes* is likely to be included in our next CD and we are currently discussing its release as a single in the near future].

On August 17th we return to Ferneham Hall, **Fareham**, on September 7th to the Lighthouse, **Poole** and on September 18th to the **Royal Marines Museum, Eastney**. One new engagement is a concert in **Portsmouth Cathedral**, to help raise funds for the building on Thursday 20th November. Details of our remaining public concerts for 2008 are below. In addition to these we shall also be playing at the WRNS reunion in **York** in August, and at the RMA reunion at **Lympstone** in September.

Future programme

Date	Time	Venue	Box Office
Sun 17th August	15:00	Ferneham Hall, Fareham	01329-231942
Sun 7th September	15:00	Lighthouse Theatre, Poole	0844-406-8666
Thurs 18th September	19:30	Royal Marines Museum, Southsea	02392-819385
Thur 20th November	19:45	Portsmouth Cathedral	02392-349430
Sat 13th December	19:30	Strode Theatre, Street, Somerset	01458-442846

Personality profile No.3



Dr Paul C Coker BSc BEd (principal trombone and band committee member) writes: "I was born in 1957 in East London where I studied music and fought for the county judo team, so the transition into the Royal Marines Band Service in April 1974 was almost a natural progression of my

adolescent years. My professor at Deal was Jack Dacombe and, ironically, my first instructor Paddy Mailey, who is also a member of our band. I was awarded the Trombone Cup and the trombone class prize during my time in training. In December 1976 I was drafted early to the Commando Forces Band in Plymouth. Graham Harvey was to leave the band and I was to be the principal and solo trombone replacement for him, a tall order to follow. The band saw service in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and, of course, the Falklands. In 1983, when the band was disbanded at Stonehouse, I was offered the chance to join the Commander-in-Chief Fleet's band which was to form at Northolt under Ted Whealing's direction. Back injury and spinal surgery saw my exit from the Corps in October 1987 and I then set about achieving more formal qualifications, primarily through Sussex University, South Devon College and Guildford College of Further and Higher Education. I now play both as an amateur and professionally, I am a free lance lecturer and trainer in law and legislation, security procedures, terrorism threat, risk assessment and conflict resolution. I also run a successful clinic in alternative therapies such as neuro muscular massage, deep tissue therapy, sports therapy and aromatherapy. Occasionally, I even manage to spend some time with my family!" [Paul's solo, *Alfie*, in our second CD is testament to his considerable talent as one of the band's finest instrumentalists – Ed].



Personality profile No.4

Looking around the band it is difficult to detect who might be the oldest member but that honour clearly goes to one of our tenor sax players, **Fred Wyllie**, who was born on the Isle of Wight on 19th February 1923. His father was a violinist and taught Fred the instrument. Fred quickly progressed to a good enough standard to be able to play Mozart's Violin Concerto in public at the age of 11. There was a piano in the house which



was always full of music, but Fred has a sad memory of it being taken away as the payments on it could not be kept up.

In 1937 Fred travelled to Deal with Dave Boyce from Gosport to join up (sadly Dave was later killed during the war). They joined 60 Squad and lived in room R1 in East Barracks under trained soldier Bill Greasley. Like many former band boys Fred can still remember his instructors - Bandmasters Firth, Ernie Ough and E H 'Sam' Weller - who all told him to "stick at it and don't let anyone put you off; go for promotion and you will do well!" The choice of a second instrument was made by the Music Director, Major Arthur Pragnell MVO LRAM, and Fred is eternally grateful that it was the saxophone which has since opened many doors for him.

On 11th August 1941, when he was just 18 years old, Fred was posted to HMS Malaya's band. This battleship was deployed on the Atlantic and Malta convoys and Fred witnessed the sinking of HMS Ark Royal off Gibraltar on 13th November 1941, "at tea time". At about that time Fred met Able Seaman Lockhart who played the piano and taught Fred harmony. AB Lockhart was in fact a doctor of music from Edinburgh University and he was of the opinion that his pupil should get out of the Service as soon as he could and go to the Royal Academy of Music. However, Fred's Bandmaster told him that he wasn't considered musically suitable for promotion. This was a major blow because Fred was working hard at his music studies and was an ambitious 19-year old. He left HMS Malaya on 14th October 1943 and a few days later joined HMS Valiant's band which was known as 'the Hungry Fifteen'. In August 1944, this venerable battleship was severely damaged at Trincomalee, Ceylon, when the floating dry dock she was in collapsed requiring her to return to England for extensive repairs. The band ended up in Scarborough's finest hotels, however shortly afterwards the 'Band for Germany' was formed and Fred found himself marching through Hamburg and other European cities, an unforgettable experience in 1945. Similarly, in 1946 Fred was selected to join a 'showing the flag' cruise to the USA in HMS Kenya from a hand-picked team of musicians which included Alan 'Taff' Lewis, in those days and for many subsequent years arguably the Band Service's finest trumpet player.

In 1950 Fred was posted to HMS Sheffield for service during the Korean war even though he had applied for discharge having been offered a job with the Oscar Rabin band through Ken O'Donnell the band's bass player, a former RMB. This was a most unfortunate missed opportunity. However, on eventually leaving the Band Service on medical grounds aged 29 Fred started playing in the band which in 1953 won the all Britain 'Melody Maker Dance Band' competition at Belle Vue, Manchester, and his second career then developed rapidly. This included a considerable amount of further sea time but now in rather more luxurious surroundings as he became the Bandmaster of the resident bands on board the major cruise liners such as the Arcadia and Canberra. Eventually in 2006 he joined the RMA Concert Band as one of its founding members at a time when many people half his age would be on the point of reaching for their slippers!

Personality profile No.5

RMB 4092 **Musn**

Roger Hollingworth

joined the Band Service in January 1965 as a percussionist. He underwent training in the company of such notables as Merv Hyatt, Taff Davies, Sid Hale and Bob Metcalf following which he joined the Staff Band in Deal. Two further appointments in HMS Eagle and HMS Ganges followed, the former being the highlight of his career, he claims. "We performed at many memorable venues under the baton of Bandmaster Dennis Brown, other members of the band being Jon Yates, Bert Parton, Phil (Feet) Stevens, Pip Philips, Mick Bromley and Stan Putrell." Roger clearly remembers drawing his first rum tot at sea but confesses he can remember little else afterwards!



Roger left the Band Service in 1973 to pursue a civilian music career. The next 11 years provided him with dual opportunities to work on the Mecca Band circuit in the Midlands during the evenings while gaining a thorough grounding in car sales and dealership with Rolls Royce and Lotus during the day. He also found time to develop an interest that was sparked off during his service in HMS *Eagle*: flying. Roger gained his private pilot's licence in 1974 and then flew extensively in Europe, Scandinavia and the UK.

Eventually the day job took over and he set up his own sports car dealership which he ran successfully until 1998. He is currently involved with a Ferrari Dealership but additionally has found time to complete his air transport pilot's licence to qualify him as a commercial pilot. Roger has warm memories of the Band Service and says of his time: "I experienced a unique and unforgettable period of my life meeting people who have now become life-long friends. As time progresses I feel I have been privileged to have been a tiny cog in such a great Band Service family."

Our thanks

We wish to record our thanks to the Director and Staff of the Royal Marines Museum; and to the Partners of Biscoes (Solicitors) who have kindly sponsored our concert programme.



Obituary – Farewell Hedley

It is with considerable sadness that we announce the death on 6th April of **Hedley Lock** (Musn, RMB 3452), our euphonium player and one of the band's key personalities.

He was 67. A devoted husband, loving father, dear grandfather, trusted friend and a person who made a lasting impression on his many friends and acquaintances,

he will not be forgotten, neither will his musical gifts, his abilities, enthusiasm for life and the many genuine friendships he built over his lifetime.



Joining the Band Service in 1955, he learned to play the euphonium and 'cello to a very high standard. He served on HMS *Hermes* 1958-61 during which time his talent was widely recognised and later rewarded by his appointment to the Royal Yacht band. There is a delightful story that Hedley and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh appeared to be on first name terms because HRH thought that Hedley was his surname – and Hedley never told him otherwise!

On leaving the Band Service in 1970 Hedley took over the Country House pub in Portsmouth's Commercial Road, later moving to the Plough and Harrow at Alfriston. Here he honed his skills on Seaford Head's golf course and later developed his third career with Classic Pens. But music was never far away and he continued to play particularly in the Solent Symphony orchestra and once each year with the Royal Marines All Stars band at Margate. He joined the Concert Band as a founding member in 2006.

Hedley's farewell was on 15th April at Eastbourne. The thanksgiving service, conducted by the Rt Revd Dr J Barry Shucksmith MA (trombone), was packed and Alan 'Hooky' Walker (alto sax) paid a moving personal tribute. The music – *Abide with Me*, *Eternal Father* and *Some Enchanted Evening* – was provided by a brass quintet from the band led by Jon Yates. *Last Post and Reveille* was sounded by a bugler from the Royal Marines School of Music.

At our concert on 22nd May we played Borodin's *Prince Igor*, a particular favourite of Hedley's, as a special dedication to him. We extend our deepest sympathy to Hedley's widow Jennifer, to their children Andrew, Kate, Peter and Victoria, and to their six grandchildren.

