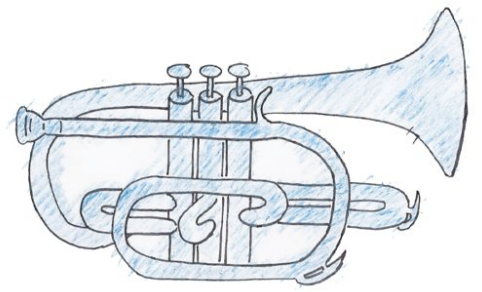


Big Shiny Brass



Summer Newsletter 2009

Summer = Bandstand time!

It's the busiest time of the year for brass bands, and we have some lovely numbers for you to play to the punters when you're up on the bandstand.

First up, there's **Great Scott! It's Ragtime**, a lively foot-tapping number with catchy tunes and jolly syncopations.



Mr Marcello's Adagio is another crowd-pleaser - a beautiful flugel solo built along the same lines as Concerto de Orange Juice.

Our favourite, though, has to be our funky, badass swing arrangement of **Go Down Moses**, which has been going down a storm with audiences from Oz to Oslo.

Blowing our own Cornet

Our Ultimate Cornet Method has been winning a lot of fans for its fun and friendly approach to cornet practice.

The book helps you to improve your playing style and build your technique - and there isn't a boring technical exercise in sight!

Instead, it's packed full of well-known melodies, each one of them designed to improve different aspects of your playing.

Say you want to work on your staccato double-tonguing. A quick look in the index points you in the direction of the *William Tell Overture*, *Rimsky's Procession of the Nobles*, and seven other tunes that will help you.

We've repeated this idea for nearly 50 different techniques - and there are concise and informative notes to help you along.

The book's been picking up some celebrity admirers, too.

Trumpeter **Alison Balsom** - fresh from collecting her gong at the Classical BRIT Awards - dropped us a line to tell us how much she enjoyed the book's "new and friendly" way of making music, and said that players would find the learning techniques "enlightening".

Conductor and composer **Simon Dobson** called the book "innovative, thorough and exciting", and wished he'd had a copy when he was learning!

And cornet legend **Alan Morrison** loved the bit at the back of the book which covers basic music theory, calling it "an excellent tutor that will be enjoyed by players of all abilities".

It's enough to make us blush with pride!

Shiny New Music!

Holst's remarkable **Planets Suite** needs no introduction, so we'll just say that you can read about our new arrangement on page 3.

Also new is our take on the wistful Celtic melody **The Last Rose of Summer**. We've given the piece a more up-beat feel with a battery of Scots percussion.

Have a listen to all our music at www.BigShinyBrass.com

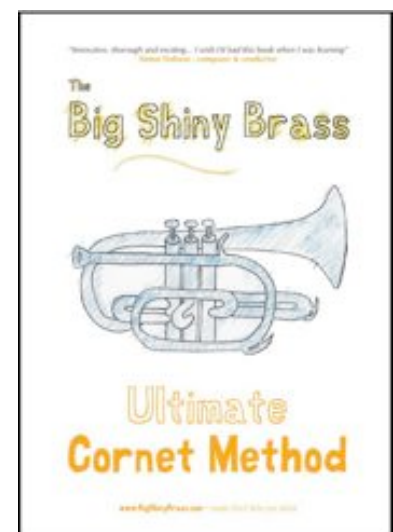
View from the Band Room

"Absolutely lovely pieces that will go down really well with our summer audiences"

Sidmouth Town Band

"Great Scott! It's Ragtime was a hoot to play and will be a real crowd-pleaser as the run of Bands in the Park is looming"

Gloucestershire Constabulary Band



Available from
www.BigShinyBrass.com

Print it, play it, LOVE IT!

As well as selling music the good old-fashioned printed way, we also let you download and print it yourself.

It's a quick and convenient way to get your music. You can buy an arrangement on the website this afternoon and play it at band practice this evening!

And if you need any extra parts, no problem! Just a few clicks of the mouse and you're sorted.

Which brings us neatly onto...

Spare parts!

Here's a question for you. **What do you do when your trombonist loses his music?** Do you...

a) get your MD to copy out his part from the score

b) ring the publisher and get them to send a replacement (two weeks later and at a ridiculously high price)

or

c) go to the **Big Shiny Brass website**, and print off the spare part you need... totally free of charge.

Even when you buy printed music from us, you're still able to download and print any extra bits you need. We like to make life easier for you!

Join the club

Do you get fed up with your band umming and ahing about which bits of music to buy?

Our Monthly Music Club takes all the hassle out of buying music. We send you a new piece of music each month, AND you get two free pieces when you join!

That's a whopping £160-worth of music when you take out a 6 month subscription for just £75!

Find out more about the best way to buy your brass band music:

www.BigShinyBrass.com/music-club

Music for Youth Brass Bands

There have been so many people asking us about music for their Junior and Training bands that we thought we'd best do something about it.

So we've put together a set of five arrangements of fun, catchy and well-known tunes for players who are just starting out.

And there was only one thing we could have called it...



The first set of pieces features favourites like *La Bamba*, plus upbeat versions of classics by Bach and Grieg.

Arranged for 7-part band (3 cornet parts, 1 horn, 2 tromps, euphs or baris and 1 bass) plus easy percussion, the arrangements are fun to play, and the parts complement each other nicely - the weaker players can follow the lead of those playing the more advanced parts.

You can buy the music in booklets for just £1.50 per instrumental part.

Or we've also put together a **download version**, where you print your own music whenever you need it (if there's one thing kids are good at, it's losing their music!)

Find our more at
www.LittleShinyBrass.com



A helping hand in Africa

Our Brass Music for Charity arrangements have been making a big difference for young brass players in Uganda.

Each month we're selecting one of our arrangements and donating **£5 from every sale** to the Mbale District Youth Band - the country's only sitting down, reading music brass band.



MBALE DISTRICT YOUTH BAND

The first arrangement was **Great Scott! It's Ragtime**, and we raised enough money to pay for three old cornets for the band. Most of their instruments are held together by sticky tape and old solder, and this will give three more kids the chance to join the band.

The current Charity Arrangement is our re-working of Holst's **The Planets**, and judging from the reaction so far we'll have no trouble in beating last time's total!

You can read more about our efforts - and meet some of the band - at www.BigShinyBrass.com/music-for-charity

Featured arrangement - The Planets

Holst's monumental **Planets Suite** is our most ambitious arrangement to date. We spoke to arranger **Matt Kingston** to get the lowdown on how he turned a 50-minute masterpiece into something a bit more bite-sized.

Right then... the Planets. Hasn't this been done before?!

There's a famous arrangement by Stephen Roberts - Black Dyke recorded it, and it was played at the British Open a few years back - but that's the whole suite. I wanted to write something a bit more manageable, and more playable by 'the average band'. And not to arrange just one of the obvious movements either, as there are so many other amazing tunes in some of the less well-known movements.



So how did you decide on how to structure the arrangement?

That was actually the hardest part. Originally I was going to make it into one continuous piece which featured all my favourite bits, but that would still have been quite a daunting bit of music, and exhausting to play. I decided that by splitting it into three movements, it would make it more accessible to bands. Even if they murder the last movement, they'll get confidence from being able to play the first two!

It also gives you three very contrasting movements that way

The piece begins as per the original, with the 5/4 pattern of Mars, and I've kept that dark, dramatic feeling throughout the movement, adding some themes from Mercury and Uranus as well. The second movement is a complete contrast; it takes the quiet, serene harmonies of Venus and Saturn.

And the arrangement ends with Jupiter - that's very different to the original

Again, deciding how to end it was a long and drawn-out process. I must have changed my mind at least a dozen times. Especially as Holst's own ending was such a stroke of genius - music's first ever fade out! But then, most brass bands don't have access to a four-part choir in the room next door.

So instead of that, I chose the most spectacular ending from the other pieces, and that was Jupiter. So I built the last movement around Jupiter's various themes.

You can find out more about Matt's rather wonderful arrangement at www.BigShinyBrass.com/planets

Buy the colossal printed version for £25!

Great Days Out for brass players No. 2: Tredegar, South Wales

The town that gave us the NHS and snooker's Ray Reardon is a fantastic starting point for exploring the Brecon Beacons.

What is there to do?

If you like hiking, take a stroll up nearby Mynydd Llangynidr (summit: 550m), or for more a challenge, try Pen-y-Fan, the highest peak in South Wales (886m). If you don't like hiking, the Brecon Mountain Railway will do the hard work for you, in return for a fee of £9.50. If you're in a thoughtful and pensive mood, maybe try the Cholera Cemetery at nearby Cefn Golau.

Claims to fame

Not many small towns can claim two former Labour Party leaders amongst its sons. Neil Kinnock was born here in 1942, and his predecessor Michael Foot was the local MP for over 20 years.



Where to have your photo taken

The Town Clock takes pride of place in The Circle. Standing 72ft tall, the clock celebrates its 151st birthday this month. You can impress your companions by mentioning that the clock mechanism is a fifteen inch mainwheel strike, with a single four-legged gravity escapement driving the four dials.

Tredegar Town Band won the Welsh Regionals for the 9th time last year. Their CD - *Spirit of the Valleys* - can be purchased from 4barsrest.com, priced £12.95

Brass instruments of Yore no. 2 : the CORNU



A slightly scrawny ancestor of the Sousaphone, the enormous Cornu was used by the Romans as a signalling instrument

Measuring up to three and a half metres and curved into a big letter G, the *Cornicen* (we've looked up the technical term this time!) would blow coded messages to the soldiers on the battlefield.

It was also used for ceremonial purposes, often being used to announce the Emperor.

The Cornu made a brief comeback during the French Revolution and was played at Voltaire's funeral (for reasons best known to Voltaire).

Where can I buy one?

Reproduction instruments can be bought from www.medieval-arms.co.uk, priced £55 plus p&p.

Shiny happy brass players!

You've been saying some very kind things about our music...

"Absolutely lovely pieces that will go down really well with our summer audiences"

Sidmouth Town Band

"**Great Scott! it's Ragtime** was a hoot to play and will be a real crowd-pleaser as the run of Bands in the Park is looming"

Band of the Gloucestershire Constabulary

"We played through four of your pieces last night at the Waverley Bondi Beach Band and were very impressed!"

Waverley Bondi Beach Band, Sydney

"We played **She moved through the Fair** last night at a concert in a lovely little church with great acoustics - it sounded wonderful. Band and audience loved it."

Cowes Concert Band

"**Go Down Moses** was so popular that we will brush it up again in May for our annual Jazz Concert. The arrangements are all entertaining and sound great, but are not too difficult!"

Stonnington City Brass, Australia

"**To Ancient Light** is an absolutely stunning composition. Your ears just can't get enough. Buy it. Find a big church. Play it. Then play it again."

Band of the Gloucestershire Constabulary



[www.Big Shiny Brass.com](http://www.BigShinyBrass.com)

Music that lets you shine