

## **Brass Band World – April 2011**

### **CD of the month**

#### **Enfield Connections**

#### **Enfield Band (Jonathan Corry)**

#### **World of Sound, SPS 284CD**

Enfield Citadel Band's latest CD release features music either specially written for the band, or by composers with close connections with the band – hence the title. Within this simple premise, and thanks to some judicious choices by Bandmaster Jonathan Corry, the programme is extremely well balanced musically and offers a well considered journey for the listener with some vivid contrasts in mood, but retaining its musical integrity throughout. There are three major works. Firstly, Leslie Condon's classic *The Call of the Righteous*, which was composed for the band's tour of the USA in 1964, is given a very committed performance here with some meticulously balanced middle band sonorities. Edward Gregson, who was at one point a bandsman at Tottenham Citadel, is represented by *Laudate Dominum* in its revised scoring, and this disc's performance shows great awareness of the various musical styles through which the famous hymn travels. Finally Stephen Ponsford's *Turris Fortissima* which was written for another visit of the band to the USA, this time in 2007, which offers a severe technical test for the band, most of which it responds to in impressive fashion. There are many other tracks of great interest too, including Peter Graham's *Ad Optimum* which, with this composer's usual stylish panache, presents a marvellous fantasy on various hymn tunes, and the opening number, *Battle Ready* by Roger Trigg, both of which the band clearly enjoys playing. The soloists are on fine form, with Maurice Patterson proving a classy brass orator in Ralph Pearce's new arrangement of Elgar's *Ave Verum*, and Andrew Justice convincing in Andrew Mackereth's 'popular' number *Knowing my Failings*.

The standard of performance through this release bears testament to the excellent work of Jonathan Corry since his appointment as Bandmaster in 2009, and the band achieves great things. There is the occasional over-exuberance, especially on final loud notes of pieces, but you can't knock enthusiasm! The recorded sound is superb, as we have come to expect from producer Adam Goldsmith, and this disc comes highly recommended.

PHILIP HARPER