

## REVIEWS

# INTERESTING, INSPIRING AND INNOVATIVE

Bandmaster Richard Woodrow (Norwich Citadel) reviews Enfield Band's newest recording, *Faith*

BANDMASTER Jonathan Corry has selected a programme of music that offers plenty of surprises along the way, all presented with a well-balanced sound and the technical expertise and musical intensity we have come to expect from the band.

New music always offers innovative possibilities, and within that category are Roger Trigg's 'My Hope' and the title track, 'Faith' by Dorothy Gates, both written for this band. 'Faith' is a particularly inventive portrayal of the parting of the Red Sea.

It's not all new music though. While listeners familiar with the opening track, 'Mountain Camp', will immediately spot the innovation there, Leslie Condon's 'Celebration' (conducted by Retired Bandmaster James Williams) and Morley Calvert's 'Canadian Folk-Song Suite' are excellently and faithfully

reproduced. Placed consecutively in the middle of the running order, they allow listeners to catch their breath before more innovation is revealed.

The inclusion of professional vocal group *ffourtissimo* in Philip Wilby's 'Wondrous Cross' turns a beautiful piece of music into something truly inspirational. A major innovation, though, is the inclusion of a DVD featuring a silent movie, *The Salvation Army Lass*, with an excellent soundtrack for piano and band composed by Dorothy Gates. In my view, the soundtrack reveals the band's best playing in the whole package.

The artwork and design mirrors the silent movie story boards on the DVD, and is very well presented. Indeed, the non-playing contributors to this release – from engineering, editing and design, to the programme notes add much to its appeal.



It all adds up to a listening (and viewing) experience that is something a little out of the ordinary – interesting, inspiring and innovative.