

Grenland International Brass Festival

Remarks – Mount Charles Band

Church Programme

Iver Vadtvdet and **Sverre Olsrud**

I will try to do my comments in English please excuse the lack of my language.

Knight Templar

Very good style, FF is a little bit hard in this room. I want it more softly. Watch the balance, too much bass, specifically in p and pp. Watch intonation in tutti but VERY good

Great opening! Superb dynamics and musical sculpture. Super snare drum

Share my Yoke

Good balance in intro, bass a little too dominant from B. Generally very good through the whole piece. Marvellous sound and interpretation, fantastic soloist. Thank you for your MUSIC.

Beautiful introduction, super soloist thank you! Only small small tuning issues in band

Light of the World

Nice and quiet start. A is good but the horns could be little strong. D don't miss the intensity. F very nice sound and musicality

Good opening, not all eights moving together. A – great shaping and musicality. B thank you for holding back the dynamics. E small intonation. Super sub basses except maybe one bar!

Light Walk

Nice! Basses and drums are not always together, a little bit heavy throughout the whole piece but a very good performance

Good Salvation Army style but not in my era of swing! Super solo! The style of the piece seems a bit heavy and in my opinion it could do with being more 'jazzy' in the swing approach.

Russian Christmas Music

1-32 please move forward a little bit more, 33 onwards well done. 55 onwards bigger difference between pp and ff please. Good rhythm with a little lack of intonation at the end.

Thank you for a fantastic performance. Very nice sound, balance, dynamics and musicality. To the conductor – very good interpretation.

Small intonation in opening. Good style in 32. Trombones not perfectly in tune! 77 sounds great! Due to the loud dynamics you lose your perfect intonation for the night! The shaping of the music is very good.

Thank you for a great performance. Super shaping by conductor. I really appreciate your use of dynamics in general!

Thank you –

Test piece – Band on a Holy Crusade

Philip Harper

Very well organised to begin, creating a good atmosphere. Not all agree on the 'Maestoso' style at 1. (basses a bit lumpy) Good sound in evidence which could for me, retain some warmth, but a super climax to 2. Some lovely solo playing here, but careful on octave tuning! Well balanced mutes at 3 – expressive solos, especially the flugel. Agitato to 4 builds superbly to ff at 6 – well controlled and full of drama. Chanting at 9 – fine. Not clean at 10 on entry.... 11 full of detail here – excellent projection from trombones! Excellent clarity again with well controlled dynamics a feature. Bravado stuff! Moments of unease (23, just before 24) but generally it's super, exciting stuff!

Real expression at 29 – well done. Then back on the roller coaster for more high quality thrills! 35 again is beautiful. Just frays at the edges a little at 41, but now comes the challenge of tranquillity at 43 and you are well up to it with some smashing sounds. Not quite from Sop into 45 but fantastic on final note.

Overall, a performance of real quality which successfully connected with both the drama and tension, and the tender reflection in this piece.

Many thanks

Bjorn Bogetvedt

Solid opening. Tight sound, good intonation. A little bit sharp trombone sound at 2. Nice soloists at 3, impressive technique in triplets from 7. The song at 9 could have been even more sacred / holy. Not so clear triplets in euphonium at 11 and 12. Nice build up at 20, but not precise before 24. Good translation and nice chamber music at 29. The band is dealing with the fast shifts in the music very well. In general good soloists and a nice overall picture of the music. Intonation suffers a little in the last bar!

The was a very good interpretation and performance of this piece.

Thanks!

Entertainment programme

Philip Harper

Walking with Heros – sparkling start, but not quite all ‘on board’ with the tempo. Nice trombone. At ff reinstatement, it would have been better to have the cornets facing out a bit because the trombones totally dominate the sound here!

New Colonial – Much better sound now – phew! Great tempo and some real stylish touches – also very clean on cornet arpeggios. A fantastic ‘p’ achieved – it’s a ‘wow’ moment. This was a superb march!

Elegy – Excellent start – Euph plays with distinction and sound remains warm throughout. Just a couple of tuning glitches and a bass a little loud before E. Nearly the perfect ending – just lost 1st trombone I think?

Harry James Trumpet Concerto - A great performance of flair and virtuosity – bravo!

Mr Sandman – Very funny, very well played – it all worked a treat

Widor’s Toccata – Good attention to semi quaver detail (especially the bottom of the figure) but it does come unstuck in the more foreign keys later on! I’d have liked more sustain from lower parts also. It definitely suffers in the quieter dynamics too and you just get away with it! However the ending itself is nothing short of splendid!!

Well done a performance of quality.

Bjorn Bogetvedt

Walking with Heros – Fine start, very rhythmic throughout, and great articulation – good performance!

New Colonial – Delicate march style – very fine dynamics!

Elegy – Fine lyrical playing, good soloists. Perhaps more ‘piu mosso’ would be a good idea after C?

Harry James Trumpet Concerto – Strong performance from a very good player.

Mr Sandman – great fun 😊

Widor’s Toccata – You are brave to pick a piece like this! Although there was very impressive playing throughout, i didn’t really feel that Widor came through.

(Sorry about the language!)