

REVIEW

Bringing listeners into the presence of God

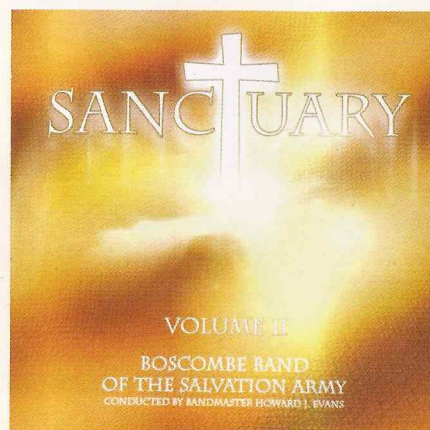
Bandmaster Gavin Lamplough (Birmingham Citadel) reviews Boscombe Band's CD *Sanctuary Volume II*

FROM the opening phrase of this recording, Bandmaster Howard Evans and the band make it abundantly clear that this sequel seeks to continue a musical journey. As Salvationist musicians, word association is an intrinsic part of our music ministry and this CD reflects a deep understanding and belief in the message the music seeks to portray.

Howard's choice of repertoire finds something for everyone. As with the first volume, the band allows us to bask in the Salvation Army meditation, but by including almost-forgotten music by early Salvationist composers alongside more contemporary works, it treats us to great variety while maintaining the integrity of the concept.

There are no fewer than five works on this CD that have not been recorded before. Prolific composers such as Kenneth Downie, Eric Ball, Dean Goffin and Ray Steadman-Allen are all represented and it is the playing of RSA's 'Via Dolorosa' which is a particular highlight for me. This shows the band and conductor at their best, with a full and rich sound and creating a sense of space within the music despite its elaborate and polyphonic texture.

This is a CD for brass band enthusiasts, who will enjoy listening to a band in fine form playing beautifully crafted music. It is also an ideal recording for those who might benefit from using the music in their daily devotions. As Christian musicians we must always strive for the



highest standards in our music-making as it is our love-offering to our Lord, but it is imperative that we explore the music and find a way to communicate the message.

I am confident that this music will bring listeners into the presence of God.

● *Sanctuary Volume II* is available from SP&S priced £13.95 (plus £2.95 postage and packing)

TRAIN LINES

Fully operational!

Major Val Mylechreest helps us keep on track

THE lift service at Elephant and Castle Underground station is fully operational. Thank you so much to so many who were concerned about my wellbeing while refurbishment was under way. You will remember, I'm sure, the frustrations of too many people trying to crowd into one lift where there used to be three in operation. I can't recall if I told you about the time the lift got stuck a few metres from the surface and we were trapped for about ten minutes – which felt far more like half a day!

I know I've regaled you with tales of grumpy London Transport staff and cheery London Transport staff – maybe the same people, just in different moods on different days! I've also mentioned members of the public who were split into

two camps over the whole 'life saga': either they moan every day about the time and waste and annoyance of commuting, or they get along with life, do the best they can and often are an encouragement to others.

A good thing happened last week. Quietly and unannounced a second lift returned to service. Oh joy!

I nearly cheered with delight as I approached the lifts and realised signs had been removed, notice boards pushed to the sides and the approach to the second lift was clear. The wait seemed shorter, the journey was certainly less crowded and passengers entered the sunlit world of South London smiling and better able to cope with the day.

You know what interested me? There

used to be three lifts and then we were limited to one. The fact that we now had two was amazing! Nobody moaned about what 'used to be' or 'the way things were'. We were just so pleased that the service had increased by 100 per cent. The 'new norm' made our lives so much easier and we were grateful for what we had.

Sometimes our corps/church journey can seem to be an uphill struggle. Folk can be caught up with 'what used to be' and 'the way things were', when the new norm could provide new possibilities and opportunities. It all depends on our own personal attitudes and responses and – whether we like it or not – these attitudes can and do affect others.

Let's be grateful for whatever 'lift' service is available. It sure beats using the stairs!

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