

## CORY BAND

The Cory Band hails from the Rhondda Valley in South Wales. They were formed in 1884 and originally bore the name 'Ton Temperance'. In 1895 Sir Clifford Cory, Chairman of Cory Brothers heard the band and offered to provide financial assistance for them resulting in the band's change of name to 'Cory'. In 1920 the band gained championship status and three years later achieved the distinction of performing what is believed to have been the first radio broadcast by a brass band. A significant honour was bestowed on the band in 1976 when they were chosen to represent Wales and the Brass Band Movement on a tour of the USA as part of their bicentennial celebrations.

In 1998 Just Rentals, a locally based company, agreed to support the band, resulting in it being known as the 'Just Rentals' Cory Band. In 1999 Just Rentals changed their name to 'Buy As You View' reflecting developments in their business, and with this the band became known as the 'Buy As You View' Cory Band. In 2004 the band removed Cory from their name in recognition of the support shown to them by their sponsor. However, when the sponsorship package ended in 2007 the band proudly took back the most famous name in Welsh banding and are once again known throughout the world as 'Cory'.

In 1980 Cory became European Champions and in 1984, their centenary year, they won the third in a hat-trick of National titles at the Royal Albert Hall, London. The culmination of their contest successes came in 2000 following the appointment of Dr. Robert Childs as their Musical Director. During that millennium year they won both the British Open and the National Championships and made history in taking the British Open Shield home to Wales for the first time in the contest's 148-year history. This triumph was repeated in 2002 when the band won their second British Open title.

The Cory Band has also developed musically outside of the contest field. In 2001, together with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales they were appointed as resident ensemble to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and in the same year appointed Dr John Pickard as their 'Composer in Residence'. John Pickard's tenure with the band ended in July 2005 when the band made history giving the première performance of his *Gaia Symphony* at the prestigious Cheltenham International Festival. The *Symphony* was broadcast live on Radio 3, and lasting over an hour in duration, it is currently the largest scale original work in the repertory.

The band is dedicated to new music, raising the profile of the brass band genre, and keeping music alive in Wales. They have an active commissioning policy and have performed works by many of Britain's leading composers; John McCabe, Judith Bingham, Elgar Howarth, Edward Gregson, Alun Hoddinott, Karl Jenkins, Gareth Wood, David Bedford, as well as John Pickard to name but a few. The band's current 'Composer in Residence' is Welshman Gareth Wood. Since Gareth's appointment he has written three large scale works for the band; *A Tear In The Fabric of Time*, *Concerto for Tenor Horn & Band*, and *Actaeon – Symphony for Brass & Percussion*.

In 2002 the band were selected to play in London for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and have since performed in many of the world's finest concert venues including the Grieg Hall, Stravinsky Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, the Welsh Millennium Centre and Birmingham's Symphony Hall. The band regularly appears at the prestigious Welsh Proms and has had the pleasure of sharing the 'Last Night' with the Royal Philharmonic and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic orchestras on several occasions.

Cory are now recognised as one of the Principality's finest and most innovative music ensembles. Their numerous CD recordings and live concert performances have received worldwide acclaim, and with further projects planned for 2008 & 2009, Cory are sure to continue cementing their reputation as one of the finest brass bands in the world. For further information on the Cory Band and its personnel visit [www.coryband.com](http://www.coryband.com)