

Recording Review . . .

Compact Disk Reviews

Terry Bender's "From Rags to Riches" and "Marvelous Marches"

Terry Bender who lives in Great Falls, Virginia, is a very popular entertainer at many community events and fairs in northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. and has recently produced two high quality outstanding CDs. One CD, titled "From Rags to Riches" features his Raffin 31/84 and music arranged by two arrangers: Wayne Holton, an American; and Ian Alderman, who is British. Both of these arrangers not only have the musical sensibility associated with good arrangers, but often exhibit the creative ability of composers. The pieces selected for this CD easily work within the limitations of the 31-note scale of the instrument and exhibit melodies, counter-melodies and bass lines that fully utilize the organs capabilities.

Wayne Holton is well known for his arrangements for large band organs and European fairground organs but over the past few years has been engaged by the writer to apply his talents to arranging music for the 31-note Raffin scale resulting in the grand sound of its larger cousins on the 31-note street organ. Holton selections featured on the CD range from Sousa and Circus Marches by King and Fucik to familiar American polkas and waltzes.

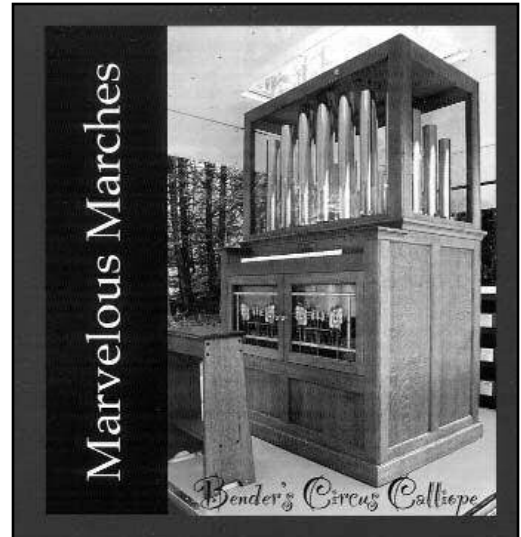
Ian Alderman is a well known arranger of music for small organs. His arrangements also fully exploit the organ both musically and mechanically so that it sounds larger than life. His previous works for the street organ have been primarily classical music. However he was introduced to ragtime several years ago by an itinerant pub piano tuner and he incredibly renders ragtime with the technique of Liszt. One of his most appreciated rolls is of American patriotic music. Ian's ragtime and American music both are featured on the CD.

There is no better street organ CD available for listening pleasure or hear the capabilities of this model Raffin organ.

The second CD, titled "Marvelous Marches" features Terry's new Circus Calliope, a replica model ST-58 Tangley Calliaphone. The Tangley Company originally designed two models, ST-43 and ST-58, (the numbers refer to the number of pipes in each) that were advertised as "low-pressure" for indoor use. The additional pipes in the ST-58 fully utilized the note configuration of "A" rolls. No production records exist showing how many of the ST-58 models were ever produced; but, very few (perhaps only two or three) remain.

The Calliaphone was built by Dave Minor and is mounted in a custom show trailer. Unique features include a pipe organ blower for more even sound, a mellow voicing and a plexiglass hood with swell shutters for volume control. The quartersawn oak cabinet with custom designed stained glass doors reflects the Arts and Crafts style of furniture that was popular when the calliope was invented.

As with the original Calliaphone models Terry's instrument can be played using "A" player piano rolls or the key-



board. Because these rolls are usually repunched vintage rolls the marches and tunes on the CD are typical of the period with many of the melodies still familiar to us today. The CD has 25 band, circus and fairground marches on it, most of which are well known to us all and often heard at rallies, parades, carnivals and circuses. This CD presents a unique mechanical musical instrument playing time-honored music and provides a highly pleasurable listening experience.

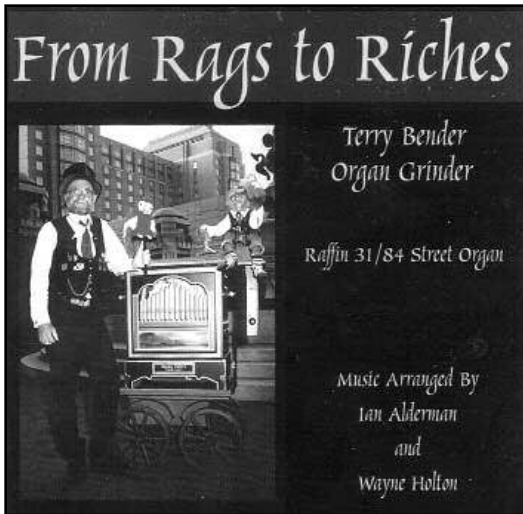
1. Barnum and Bailey's Favorite March	13. Hi Henry's Triumphal March
2. The Billboard March	14. The Whirl Wind Galop
3. Bombasto March	15. Colonel Conway March
4. Repaz Band March	16. El Capitan
5. The Chariot Race March	17. Free Lance March
6. King Cotton	18. On the Square
7. On the Alert	19. Hail, Columbia,
8. Don't Give Up the Ship	Gem of the Ocean
9. Queen City March	20. God Bless America
10. Mark Time	21. Washington Post March
11. We Saw the Sea	22. Semper Fidelis
12. Robinson's Grand Entry March	23. American Patrol
	24. National Emblem
	25. Stars and Stripes Forever

A list of tunes available on the "Marvelous Marches" CD.

On a personal note both Jan and Terry are involved with the calliope including dressing in costume in order to enhance its display.

Both CDs are of extremely high professional quality and each will be a valued addition to your collection of mechanical music recordings. They are available directly from Terry who may be contacted in Great Falls, VA at 793-430-9566 or alternatively at tabender@mac.com. The price of each is \$13.00 postpaid. Also, for more information, visit Terry's new interesting website at 222.bendermelodies.com

Tom Griffith



1. Semper Fidelis [Arr. Ian Alderman] 2:05
2. Bugler's Holiday [Arr. Wayne Holton] 3:08
3. National Emblem [Holton] 3:09
4. Pennsylvania Polka [Holton] 1:44
5. Saloon Bar Rag [Alderman] 3:01
6. Dizzy Fingers [Alderman] 2:28
7. Whistling Rufus [Alderman] 2:47
8. Entry of the Gladiators [Holton] 2:53
9. Florentiner March [Holton] 3:41
10. Beer Barrel Polka [Holton] 2:29
11. Mandy's Broadway Stroll [Alderman] 2:17
12. Peaches and Cream [Alderman] 2:44
13. Hungarian Rag [Alderman] 3:21
14. Silver Bell [Alderman] 3:01
15. Thunder and Lightening Polka [Holton] 2:54
16. Blue Skirt Waltz [Holton] 2:34
17. Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis [Alderman] 1:31
18. At a Georgia Camp Meeting [Alderman] 2:57
19. Washington Post [Holton] 2:29
20. Operatic Rag [Alderman] 2:45
21. Clarinet Polka [Holton] 2:45
22. The Cascades [Alderman] 2:41
23. The St. Louis Rag [Alderman] 2:35
24. Barnum and Bailey's Favorite [Holton] 2:45

The tune list for the CD "From Rags to Riches."