

## **Music of the Allies – from the Peninsula to Waterloo**

### ***Comments of Philip Haythornthwaite***

It has always seemed to me that one can associate music of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with other, more visual arts and with the attitudes of the time: the structured tunes of, say Handel, seem to mirror the philosophical beliefs about the fairly rigid structure of society. I find that music gets one into the period more than writing, pictures or whatever, and this CD does exactly that.

I was delighted to find some of my favourites in here: 'Hail the Conquering Hero Comes' from Maccabeus, Garryowen and 'Over the Hills', which I always find very emotive, not in the music itself but in what it represents. But then I suppose that music should stir the emotions.

Some of the tracks on the disc are so evocative and stir the memory. 'Ça Ira' always provokes a shiver and I'm not surprised it was shunned by the Napoleonic regime when it says 'les aristocrates à la lanterne!' etc, etc.

I have never heard 'The Queen Charlotte' or 'Vencer o morir (Conquer or die)' before.

I was fascinated to hear General John Reid's 'Garb of Old Gaul' in this original version – I loved that. He was a great chap. The Gentleman's Magazine described him as the 'best gentleman German flute performer in England.'

I think that the way your music is performed on the disc is quite wonderful. I did wonder, mischievously, whether you'd try to reproduce the sound made by the band of the 88<sup>th</sup> Connaught Rangers in the Peninsula which Grattan claimed was so awful that, once when they struck up, the cacophony was such that it caused General John Sontag's horse to fall flat - with him on it.

This disc is such a triumph – it is just splendid and I trust that all those involved with it are as pleased with it as they ought to be !