

mór




A COCKTAIL OF HAPPINESS

The Music of Fred Hartley



Royal Air Force
Salon Orchestra

mór




William Frederic Hartley was born at 2a Bell Street, Dundee at 05:30 on the 29 December 1905. His parents were William and Anne – his father was a professional violinist who was well known as an arranger and teacher in the Dundee area. Fred grew up in Dundee before moving to London to further his musical education at the Royal Academy of Music.

Fred commenced his illustrious career in broadcasting on 21 August 1925. This was on the Dundee local BBC programme. There is no listing of the musical content he performed, but a few months later he gave another broadcast, where the works are listed as: two *Ballades* by Chopin, then some 'contemporary English piano music'. His broadcasting career continued throughout the 1930s where he appeared with his quintet or as a solo pianist, innumerable times on the wireless.

His popularity also spread to being featured as a soloist and an accompanist on gramophone records. He could be heard on Decca, Columbia and Regal-Zonophone labels, often with his Quintet. He directed many sessions accompanying such artists as Gracie Fields, Webster Booth and Vera Lynn, managing to clock-up over 300 sides in 1933 alone. In 1925 he was the pianist for Jack Hylton's Kit Cat Club Band and in 1934 a couple of records were issued on Decca which featured the Fred Hartley Dance Band.

In 1936 he married Mary Cecilia Savage and the couple settled down to married life in Maida Vale. Although by the outbreak of WW2 they were living with Mary's parents in Paddington.

During the late days of WW2 (December 1944) he travelled to Australia as he was in the pool for the BBC's Overseas Music Unit. He went 'down under' to play broadcasts for 20 weeks and during this time he would form a 20-piece string




orchestra to specifically perform light music. Throughout the 1950s he continued to broadcast and record for the Chappell Light Music Library and made a number of LPs for Decca until the mid-1960s. He also made return visits to Australia. His final broadcast on the BBC appears to have been as a solo pianist in January 1964 when he appeared on *Morning Music* on the *Light Programme*. He seems to have lived the remainder of his life in relative obscurity in Leighton Buzzard and died there (aged 74) on the 8 April 1980, a notice appeared in *The Times*.

He was also a prolific arranger and composer and like many composer/performers of the day, used a pseudonym to avoid issues with broadcasting his own compositions. Fred's most famous being the *nom de plume* of Iris Taylor. His skills as a musical arranger also made it to the big screen - his music appeared in at least two films *Three Men in a Boat* (1933) and *Sing as you Swing* (1937).

This CD of Fred Hartley's compositions and arrangements features the consummate artistry of the RAF Salon Orchestra who have adapted his arrangements to accommodate their size. Hartley's native Scotland was never far from his ink-well and there is a rich plethora of exciting reels and ballads from *north of the border*. These are coupled with arrangements of other folk tunes and some popular tunes of the day, including one of the most beautiful craftings of Jack Strachey's, *These Foolish Things*.

Harry Craddock the 1930s doyen of the Savoy Hotel's Cocktail Bar, was once asked how best to drink a cocktail – he replied, “Quickly! While it's still laughing at you...” The opening number, *A Cocktail of Happiness* by Wynford Reynolds should certainly put a smile on your face. It was written in 1944 and almost immediately recorded by the composer and his orchestra for the radio show *Music While You Work* – it was arranged by Fred Hartley.




Lady John Scott's adapted melody for *Annie Laurie* provides an excellent platform for him to weave his musical magic with a simple plaintive melody, and this treatment returns for Burn's *My love is like a red, red, rose*. The reels get going too with the effervescent *Flowers of Edinburgh*. In 1963 Hartley recorded an LP for the Scottish label Beltona (then owned by Decca) inspired by favourite Scottish melodies – many of the tunes on this CD appear on that issue.

The Aberfeldy Highland Ball, to give it its correct title, is the social event of the Scottish Country Calendar, held at Blair Castle. The events are renowned, and with Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery a stone's throw away – the parties never run dry. Talking about whisky... the fun composition, is an *en homage* to Compton Mackenzie's famous 1947 novel *Whisky Galore*, with tasteful fiddle slurs which capture...the true spirit!

The *Kashmiri Song* from Amy Woodforde-Finden's 1902 *Four Indian Love Songs* has been delightfully arranged... 'Pale hands I loved, across the Shalimar'. *Five minutes in Old Vienna* introduces favourite melodies - one of which isn't Viennese! The *Waves of the Danube*, is a waltz by the Romanian composer - Josef Ivanovici.

José F Payan was born in Lima in 1899 but for much of his life was a GP in Essex. He was a gifted pianist and composer and two of his compositions are represented in this collection. *Tango of the Night* has a plaintive opening and then the drive and thrust of the tango dance rhythms take over. *A Summer Evening in Santa Cruz* is another delightful composition which includes infectious Latin rhythms.



Jack Strachey teamed up in 1936 with Eric Maschwitz to write the winning hit song *These Foolish Things*. Strachey was another prolific composer - possibly this song, the march *Theatreland* and *In Party Mood* (used for the signature tune of the BBC radio programme *Housewives' Choice*) are his best remembered.

Life is nothing without music was Fred's signature tune with appropriate lyrics supplied by Sam Browne, that led to a 78 recording by one of the greatest tenor voices ever – Richard Tauber.

*Life is nothing without music
Music helps the world along
While the orchestra is playing
My heart is singing a song of love, dear
Let's forget about those grey days
We'll be happy while we dance
Tunes we love will make us realise that
Life is nothing without music
Where there's music we'll find romance*

The RAF Salon Orchestra stirs and shakes this musical cocktail of happiness and it's served with the panache of a bygone age that's equally enjoyable today.

Donald MacKenzie



RAFMRLO23 A Cocktail of Happiness - The Music of Fred Hartley
RAF Salon Orchestra: Leader – Sergeant Henry Eastburn-Pentreath
(The Orchestra plays by permission of the Air Force Board of the Defence Council)
Recorded 16th/17th June 2022 at Studio 2, RAF Music Services, RAF Northolt, London UK
Producer: Mike Purton (MPR Recordings)
Editing: Mike Purton / Tony Faulkner
Recording Engineer: Tony Faulkner
Design: Hannah Whale





Royal Air Force Salon Orchestra

Leader – Sergeant Henry Eastburn-Pentreath

The RAF Salon Orchestra is a seven-piece strings and piano ensemble that performs for Royal, state and ceremonial occasions across the UK and around the world. The Orchestra's roots are traceable to 1937 when a number of London's finest string players were recruited for the RAF Symphony Orchestra which found eminence in the war years. As national service came to an end, the Symphony Orchestra was significantly reduced and the Salon Orchestra was established in 1949. Today, this versatile ensemble performs in a variety of settings from intimate formal dinners to prestigious concert venues with some of the biggest names in the music industry.

Air Specialist (Class 1) Tom Bott – **Violin 1**

Sergeant Emily Eastburn-Pentreath – **Violin 2**

Corporal Mike Hearman – **Violin 3**

Air Specialist (Class 1) Toby Holden – **Viola**

Sergeant Henry Eastburn-Pentreath – **Cello**

Corporal Anthony McCarthy – **Piano**

Air Specialist (Class 1) Jerelle Jacob – **Double Bass**

The logo for Royal Air Force Music. It features the words "ROYAL AIR FORCE" in a blue, sans-serif font, with a stylized red and blue circular emblem to the left. The word "Music" is written in a larger, bold, red, sans-serif font to the right of "ROYAL AIR FORCE".

1	A COCKTAIL OF HAPPINESS WYNFORD REYNOLDS arr. Hartley pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	2:24	13	MACUSHLA DERMOT MACMURROUGH arr. Hartley pub. Boosey & Hawkes	2:45
2	ANNIE LAURIE TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. Bosworth & Co. Ltd.	2:14	14	THE SAILOR'S HORNPIPE TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. Bosworth & Co. Ltd.	4:06
3	THE BALL AT ABERFELDY FRED HARTLEY pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	3:23	15	LIFE IS NOTHING WITHOUT MUSIC FRED HARTLEY pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	3:07
4	MY LOVE IS LIKE A RED, RED ROSE TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. Fred Hartley Publications	2:42	16	SUMMER EVENING IN SANTA CRUZ JOSÉ PAYAN arr. Hartley pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	4:02
5	DREAMY AFTERNOON IRIS TAYLOR (AKA FRED HARTLEY) pub. Fred Hartley Publications	3:29	17	LOCH LOMOND TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. Bosworth & Co. Ltd.	2:26
6	WHISKY GALORE FRED HARTLEY pub. Fred Hartley Publications	2:28	18	THESE FOOLISH THINGS JACK STRACHE arr. Hartley pub. Boosey & Hawkes Ltd.	4:07
7	PALE HANDS I LOVED (KASHMIRI SONG) AMY WOODFORDE-FINDEN arr. Hartley pub. Boosey & Hawkes Ltd.	2:57	19	THE IRISH WASHERWOMAN TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. Fred Hartley Publications	2:08
8	FIVE MINUTES IN OLD VIENNA FRED HARTLEY pub. Fred Hartley Publications	4:56	20	THE ROSE OF TRALEE TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	3:12
9	GREENSLEEVES TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	3:03	21	TANGO OF THE NIGHT JOSÉ PAYAN arr. Hartley pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	3:25
10	SCOTTISH FANTASIE FRED HARTLEY pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	5:10	22	AT THE WHISPERING POOL FRED HARTLEY pub. The Peter Maurice Music Co. Ltd.	4:02
11	IN A DREAM FRED HARTLEY pub. Bosworth & Co. Ltd.	3:31	Total Playing Time: 73:16		
12	THE FLOWERS O' EDINBURGH TRAD. arr. Hartley pub. Fred Hartley Publications	2:48			