**Chalk Farm No 2**

Like so many of the best composers for brass band – Eric Ball, Wilfred Heaton, Elgar Howarth and Robert Simpson – Edward Gregson’s youthful talents came to the fore in the Salvation Army. In 1975 Gregson was commissioned by the Chalk Farm Band of the Salvation Army to write a march for the centenary of the birth of the band’s most long-serving bandmaster Alfred W Punchard, who conducted the band from 1894 to 1944. In 1909 the Salvation Army published a march called *Chalk Farm* featuring the old Army chorus ‘March on, we shall win the day’.

Gregson uses the same tune in his *Chalk Farm No. 2* march, but this is a symphonic march clearly to be played sitting down. He includes irregular bars of 5 and 7 beats as well as a tongue-in-cheek treatment of th etuen, complete with bongos (in the march) and bi-tonality (in the trio). *Chalk Farm No. 2* imaginatively composed. Gregson’s own main theme ‘fits’ the chorus as a counter-subject. The playful irreverence of the style has more in common with Wilfred Heaton’s *Praise or Glory’,* glory than the conventional Salvation Army March.

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