Gardes Du Corps

by: R. B. Hall

Original Copyright: 1896
By: John Church Co.

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North Royalton, Ohio
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Robert Browne Hall

DOB: June 30th, 1858 (Bowdoinham, Maine)
DOD: June 8th, 1907 (Portland, Maine)

Robert Browne Hall inherited his love of music from his parents, both of whom were trained and academic musicians. His mother, Virginia (Lodeska Browne), was an accomplished pianist as well as a proficient performer of the violin, lute, harp, and classical guitar. His father, Nathaniel W. Hall, was a virtuoso performer on both the keyed bugle and E-flat cornet – for a time he was soloist and conductor of the Nobleboro (Maine) Silver Cornet Band, but was also a blacksmith.

When his father died in 1874, Hall was forced to work in the local shoe factory to help support his mother and two sisters.

Hall was associated with several bands including the Bangor Band, the Richmond Cornet Band, Waterville Military Band (later known as R.B. Hall's Military Band), Chandler's Band, Cherryfield Band, Olympia Band of Augusta, and the Colby College Band. During this period he took time to rebuild the "musically bankrupt" Tenth Regiment Band of Albany, New York. Hall left the Albany assignment to return to his former position in Waterville as director of Waterville Military Band. While in Waterville several of his finest marches were written. He also enjoyed great popularity throughout New England as a cornet soloist.

R.B. Hall died on June 8, 1907 in Portland, Maine. He had published more than 62 marches during his lifetime. The funeral procession included the Olympia Band, the Waterville Military Band, and Chandler's Band. "March Funèbre", "Eternal Rest" and "Independentia" were among the Hall compositions played for that day.

Hall received important recognition during and after his lifetime, including John Philip Sousa playing a Hall march at the Paris Exposition in 1900. His marches were also popular with British bands. A memorial program was given in his honor on August 14, 1936 in Waterville, Maine. During this event, a Memorial Band Stand was dedicated to R.B. Hall's memory. A bill was approved by Maine Governor Joseph Brennan on May 11, 1981 to establish an annual R.B. Hall Day to honor and commemorate Robert Browne Hall.

_Gardes Du Corps_ (march) has endured as one of R.B. Hall's finest works. The piece was published by the John Church Co. in 1896. Along with _Independentia_, _New Colonial_, _Officer of the Day_ and others, it helped establish Hall's reputation as a composer.

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to marcusneiman@zoominternet.net

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1 [http://www.link75.org/mta3/curriculum/music/rbh/rbhall.html](http://www.link75.org/mta3/curriculum/music/rbh/rbhall.html)

2 Smith, Norman E. _March music notes_. (1986), Program Note Press, Lake Charles Louisiana, p. 178
Eb Clarinet.

GARDES DU CORPS MARCH.

R.B. HALL.

Trio.

34049 - 5½ Theodore Presser Co. Printed in U.S.A.
Bassoon.

GARDES DU CORPS MARCH.

R. B. HALL.

Trio.
Gardes Du Corps March

Alto Saxophone

R.B. Hall
Gardes Du Corps March
Baritone Saxophone

R. B. HALL

Theodore Presser Co.
Printed in U.S.A.
1st Bb Cornet.

GARDES DU CORPS MARCH.

R. B. HALL.

Trio.

Theodore Presser Co.
Printed in U.S.A.
GARDES DU CORPS MARCH.

1st & 2nd Bb Tenors

Trio.

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Printed in U.S.A.
GARDES DU CORPS MARCH.
GARDES DU CORPS MARCH.

Drums.

R. B. HALL.

Trio.

Theodore Presser Co.