

Aquinas College Music Department Guest Artist Concert
West Michigan Brass Band
The Newest American Brass Band in British Tradition
Thursday, March 27th at 7:30pm
Kretschmer Recital Hall

The Historic, Inaugural Pre-Competition Concert

Program

March: The Black Knight (William Rimmer, 1994)

This is a traditional March used by the Brits in the march of Whit Friday featuring plenty of sizzle and the delicate Cornet playing of our Principal Cornet player, Bill Baxtresser.

Journey Into Freedom (Eric Ball, 1968)

Described by the composer as an often ugly, fierce and harsh response to a materialistic age ends with a full surrender to the Divine Love with the words of Angelus (1657)

O Love, who formest me to wear,
The image of Thy Godhead here
Who soughtest me with tender care
Through all my wanderings wild and drear
O love, I give myself to Thee,
Thine ever, only Thine to be.

This difficult piece will be used as the choice piece WMBB's inaugural appearance at the North American Brass Band Championships.

Rhapsody for Euphonium (James Curnow, 1990)

Dedicated by the composer to Leonard Falcon and performed here by Tom Hanton who is no stranger to the Brass Band Movement. The Hantons have been a part of the Brass Band Landscape in Michigan and Canada for four generations. Tom himself is a graduate of DePaul University and presently serves as the Division Music Director for the Salvation Army in Western Michigan.

Laudate Dominum (Edward Gregson, 2004)

The theme is a noble hymn tune by Sir Hubert H. Parry, associated with the words "O worship the King, all-glorious above". There are five variations, the fifth being a fugato which introduces half of the tune in long notes. The theme is not fully presented until the end, when it is heard in its full majesty and the music brought to a tremendous and climactic conclusion.

I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked (Peter Graham, 1995)

Featuring Timothy Pascoe on the Trombone, this solo was written for Hollywood Composer Bill Broughton and premiered at the 99th annual festival of the New York Staff Band. The well-known words "I walked today where Jesus walked" are portrayed with warmth and strength.

Glorifico Aeturnum (Dean Jones, 2005)

This piece comes from The Salvation Army repertoire with a central theme of offering glory and thanksgiving to God in return for His great love through the

ages. Songs included in this fascinating work include, Now Thank We All Our God, a meditative melody by Tom Hanton as an interlude to the Salvation Army Chorurs, Somebody prayed for me. Ending in the final movement with flourishing ostinatos by the Euphoniums and Baritone leading into the climatic finally based on St. Columbia, often associated with the words of the 23rd Plasm.

March: God & Country (William Himes 1995)

This march will give any red-blooded American plenty of chances to sing along with the patriot songs, “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.” A little Yankee Doodle transitions the band “My Country ‘tis of the Thee” introduced in the mid section of the band by the horn section before the triumphant and brilliant finale based on “America, the Beautiful.”

Gaelforce (Peter Graham, 2000)

Gaelforce follows the path paved by Riverdance and Lord of the Dance, using three traditional folk tunes which colorfully exploit the variety of sound produced by the British Style Brass Band. The Cornets begin with The Rocky Road to Dublin, followed by Taryn McComb playing the Minstrel Boy on her Flugel horn, before the Euphoniums rip into Tossing the Feathers just prior to a tour de force for all in a hugh and surprising finally.

The Band

- ◆ Principal Cornet, Bill Baxtresser
- ◆ Soprano Cornet, Ian Hunt
- ◆ Cornets
 - Ryan Noe
 - Caitlyn Tennison
 - Jared Kellogg
 - Les Chase
- ◆ Horns
 - Chuck Warfel
 - Melissa Pascoe
- ◆ Baritone
 - Betsy Clark
- ◆ Trombone
 - Timothy Pascoe
- Sean Weiss
- Brett Bamford
- ◆ Euphonium
 - Tom Hanton
 - Molly Hazelwood
- ◆ Eb Tuba
 - Tom McComb
 - David Hunt
- ◆ BBb Tuba
 - Daniel Clouse
 - Sam Clark
- ◆ Percussion
 - Jon Aren
 - John Guynn

West Michigan Brass Band is the newest British Style Brass Band in North American and is committed to pursuing the highest level of advanced performance and entertainment obtainable by amateur musicians.

WMBB is directed by John Aren who is no stranger to Brass Bands or the North American Brass Band Movement. He is a third generation Brass Bandsman who founded the Motor City Brass Band and served as advisor to the Northern Michigan Brass Band. John received his Masters from Olivet Nazarene University (2004) and completed the Band Training Course with honors in 1992.