



Philadelphia Brass

“RESPLENDENT”

– Fanfare Magazine

“One of the gems of Philadelphia’s cultural life...”

– Martin Goldsmith, NPR’s *Performance Today*



Photo: Hub Willson, Allentown, PA

*“The most artistic brass quintet before
the public today”*

– composer Daniel Pinkham

“Dazzling!”

– The Capital (Annapolis, MD)

*“Incredibly effortless... stylistically
impeccable... consummate technical ability”*

– International Trumpet Guild

*“You played my music with such wonderful
attention to detail...the performance was
simply riveting!”*

– composer Eric Ewazen

Philadelphia Brass

Brian Kuszyk & Steven Heitzer, Trumpets
Anthony Cecere, Horn • **Robert Gale**, Trombone
Scott Mendoker, Tuba

Bookings and Events

Please contact Scott Mendoker
201.454.1660 • philadelphiabrass@mac.com
www.philadelphiabrass.com

From the stage of the Royal Albert Hall to the heights of the Bolivian Andes, **Philadelphia Brass** has delighted audiences with virtuosity, artistry, and *“cohesiveness seldom heard in live chamber music”* *The Morning Call* (Allentown, PA). Formed in 1988, the ensemble performs the finest brass literature of all styles and periods. A top prizewinner in the prestigious Raphael Mendez Competition, **Philadelphia Brass** continues to promote the enjoyment of chamber music among audiences of all ages and interests.

Critics and the public alike have enthusiastically praised the appealing diversity of repertoire, technical brilliance, and superb musicality of the ensemble.

Philadelphia Brass is dedicated to educating the public to the pleasures and subtleties of brass chamber music through clinics and residencies at conservatories, universities, and in communities across America. The ensemble is on the roster of Pennsylvania Performing Artists on Tour and was sponsored by the U.S. State Department in a recent tour to Bolivia.

Repertoire is chosen from an array of classical and popular music including exciting new works commissioned by Philadelphia Brass from composers such as Daniel Pinkham, David Diamond, J.A.C. Redford, Larry Lipkis, Paul Salerni and David Sampson.

*The palpable sense of musical enjoyment,
respect, and affection among the members
of Philadelphia Brass enhances the
quintet’s appeal to listeners
of all ages.*

Recordings:

Anniversary Album
Christmas in the Grand Tradition
Christmas
Joan Lippincott and Philadelphia Brass
Renaissance & Baroque

*“This quintet brings a verve and spirit to brass
ensemble playing that invariably turns the
audience into a cheering section.”*
– *The Sullivan Review (Dushore, PA)*

Philadelphia Brass Group Bio

Philadelphia Brass was formed in 1988 by professional musicians of Eastern Pennsylvania to pursue their common goals: performing the best of brass quintet literature of all periods and styles, and educating the public to the pleasures, subtleties, and complexities of chamber music. It has collaborated in performances with bands, choruses, organists and dancers. It has performed educational programs for grade-school children, college students, and adults of all ages, coached grade school instrumentalists and taught a master class for the brass students of Julliard.

Critics and public alike have enthusiastically praised the appealing diversity of repertoire, technical virtuosity, humorous and informative educational programs, and superb musicality of the ensemble. The ensemble's playing has been praised as "artistry of the highest calibre" and "dazzling technique" by presenters. Its master classes have been called "excellent and sensitively handled" and the esteemed American composer Daniel Pinkham has written that Philadelphia Brass is "the most artistic brass quintet before the public today".

The ensemble has toured extensively in the Eastern, Southern, Mid-western United States, and abroad. Daniel Pinkham's "Creation of the World", a work for brass, organ, choir, and narrator co-commissioned by Philadelphia Brass and 13 presenters across the country, was premiered by Philadelphia Brass in 1995. Other premiers have included commissioned works by David Diamond, J.A.C. Redord, Dick Hyman and Paul Salerni.

Philadelphia Brass has produced five CDs: "Renaissance and Baroque", "Joan Lippincott and Philadelphia Brass", "Christmas", "Christmas in the Grand Tradition", "The Anniversary Album", and is featured in Family Portrait and Smoky Mountain Fanfare, two pieces on the new Summit Records CD, "David Sampson - Notes from Far Away Places". For 25 years Philadelphia Brass performed as the resident brass quintet for the First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem, PA, Greg Funfgeld, Music Director, as well as with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem on two recordings, "Christmas In Bethlehem Volumes 2 and 3". As of this season we are delighted to begin a new chapter as Ensemble-in-Residence for the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, PA, with Music Director Dr. Michael Diorio.

PB has conducted numerous educational programs including residencies at Lehigh University, Villanova University, Elizabethtown College and has played benefit performances for Habitat for Humanity, Cure Autism Now and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

One of the unique strengths of Philadelphia Brass is the palpable sense of respect, affection and musical enjoyment among its members. This allows the players to perform with exceptional flexibility and cohesiveness, and enhances the ensemble's appeal to audiences of all ages.

Philadelphia Brass Individual Bios

Anthony Cecere, French horn, graduated from the University of Michigan. He has been principal horn and soloist with the New Orleans Philharmonic, a member of the American Chamber Players of Washington, DC, and has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the New Jersey and Boston Symphony Orchestras, and the New York Philharmonic. Tony is currently principal horn of the Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem.

His recording credits include concerti by Mozart and Haydn, *Twilight Music* for violin, horn and piano by John Harbison, and the *Bach Mass in b minor* and *Christmas Oratorio* with the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. He has toured throughout Germany and France, and conducted master classes at numerous schools of music including Yale, Juilliard, the University of Missouri, the University of Arkansas, Idaho State University and the University of Seoul, South Korea.

Tony has played for many Broadway musicals including *Beauty and the Beast* and resides in Bernardsville, New Jersey with his wife, cellist Gerall Hieser. He loves railroads and a nice Sonoma Zinfandel.

Robert Gale is principal trombone with Opera Philadelphia, the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia and a member of the pit orchestra of the Walnut Street Theater. He is on the faculties of The College of New Jersey and Drexel University. He has performed with the St. Louis and Richmond Symphonies and has recorded extensively for many vocal artists, television and major motion pictures. After graduating from the University of Illinois Bob began fifteen years of touring with the swing bands of Glenn Miller, Les Elgart, Jimmy Dorsey, and Bob Crosby, and the back-up bands for Bob Hope, Johnny Mathis, Donna Summer, Vic Damone, the Temptations, Manhattan Transfer, Natalie Cole and numerous others.

His love for music is closely followed by his love for the movies, which he sees, in his estimation, many more than he should. Bob lives in Philadelphia with his wife, violinist Martha Mott-Gale.

Steven Heitzer, a native Philadelphian, is an active classical trumpet player in the tri-state area. He is a member of Opera Philadelphia, Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem, Reading Symphony and Ocean City Pops Orchestra. He is also a frequent performer with Delaware Symphony, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Ballet Orchestra, Lancaster Symphony, and the Walnut Street Theatre.

Steve's many performing credits include Dave Brubeck, Branford Marsalis, Don Rickles, Peter Nero and Luciano Pavarotti among others. Steven's main musical interest besides playing the trumpet is arranging music. He has scored nearly 200 brass arrangements for Philadelphia Brass, the Delaware Symphony, Ocean City Pops Orchestra as well as works for various choirs and organists around the Philadelphia region. He received his undergraduate degree from Temple University and his master's degree from Manhattan School of Music.

He lives in Philadelphia with his wife Kelly, a jazz vocalist and music therapist, and son Sam. In his spare time, when not arranging music, Steve enjoys old movies, spy novels, and crossword puzzles.

Brian Kuszyk is principal trumpet of the Opera Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Delaware Symphony, a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, the Bethlehem Bach Festival Orchestra, and a frequent substitute with the Philadelphia Orchestra. He also serves as principal trumpet with the Princeton Festival. He has been a featured soloist with the Delaware Symphony, the Pennsylvania Ballet and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia.

After completing his musical education at Temple University as a student of Seymour Rosenfeld, he served for sixteen years as principal trumpet with the Opera Festival of New Jersey. Among his numerous national TV, radio and film credits is the Emmy Award winning documentary *Johnny Unitas* and a Latin Grammy winning recording *Interchange* with the LA Guitar Quartet and the Delaware Symphony. He has collaborated with artists Luciano Pavarotti, Denyce Graves, Tony Randall and Barry Manilow and recorded for the Telarc, RCA, Dorian, Albany, Gothic and Argo/London Labels. Recent tours have taken him to Bolivia, England, Germany and Portugal.

Brian lives in Merion Station, PA with his wife Laure, a high school French teacher, and his children Matthieu and Isabelle. He spends part of each summer in France and has a passion for motorcycles and biographies.

Scott Mendoker has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Montreal Symphony, New York and Boston Pops, the New Jersey Symphony, the Broadway hit musical *Ragtime*, the Bavarian Radio, and recorded with the Metropolitan Opera and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. His recordings of David Sampson's *Three Portraits* for Tuba and Chamber Orchestra with members of the Czech Philharmonic for Summit Records and David Holsinger's *Kansas City Dances* for Tuba and Wind Ensemble for Mark Records have received high praise and critical acclaim. Recently, Scott premiered and recorded *Heavy Weather*, a concerto written for him and the Hartt School Wind Ensemble by Jess Turner. The recording will be released on the Naxos label.

Scott was a long-time student of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's legendary tuba player and brass pedagogue, the late Arnold Jacobs, and is currently an Artist/Teacher at the Hartt School at the University of Hartford. He is an endorsing artist for Big Mouth Brass tubas www.bartsbrassblog.com and Wedge mouthpieces www.wedgemouthpiece.com

Scott lives in Amherst, Massachusetts with his wife, Annie, a professional hornist, their daughter, Emma and their dog, Rosie.

Philadelphia Brass Reviews

"One of the gems of Philadelphia's cultural life."

Martin Goldsmith, NPR's Performance Today

"The stars of the show were the members of the Philadelphia Brass. This group has to be the most artistic brass quintet before the public today and they are the most style-conscious brass ensemble I have yet worked with."

Daniel Pinkham

"...beautifully played throughout. The arrangements on your CD are a long cut above what I've been hearing in recent Christmases!"

John Harbison

"...this quintet brings a verve and spirit to brass ensemble playing that invariably turns the audience into something resembling a cheering section, while at the same time leaving them breathless."

The Sullivan Review, Dushore, PA

"The performance is full, stylistically impeccable, and well-balanced, showing off consummate technical ability yet never to the detriment of musical statement. Sounding incredible effortless, each melodic line is highly polished; the accompanimental material is always musical."

International Trumpet Guild Journal (from a review of PB's "Renaissance and Baroque" CD)

"A resplendent new recording"

Fanfare (from a review of PB's Brass and Organ CD)

"An overflow audience in Moravian College's Foy Concert Hall discovered what other audiences and CD-buyers already know: The Philadelphia Brass offers some of the brightest, mellowest music around."

The Express Times, Easton, PA

Philadelphia Brass Residencies

Philadelphia Brass has designed and performed educational and residency programs for audiences of virtually every age, education level, and breadth of interest.

Public school instrumentalists as well as the elite musicians of the Juilliard School have benefited from Philadelphia Brass' master classes on specific techniques such as proper breathing and the Alexander technique. Audiences of broader musical interest have shared in the subtleties of chamber music through lecture demonstrations on the music of Bach, on the construction of a musical masterpiece, and on the interplay of performers in a chamber ensemble.

General audiences have enjoyed recitals highlighting a particular nation, musical period or style, and watched choreographed performances illustrating the long historical connection between music and dance. Philadelphia Brass has conducted formal residencies lasting from a few days to several years at Villanova University, Lehigh University, Adams County (PA), Bethlehem's Musikfest and Old Dominion University.

On "Brass Day" at Elizabethtown College, Philadelphia Brass addressed a Marketing class on the economics of the music business, gave a lecture demonstration on emotions in music for a course on death and dying, and explored stylistic similarities between music and the visual arts with an art history class. Philadelphia Brass's educational programs have also taken them to the 3,000 student El Alto Music School in La Paz, Bolivia under the sponsorship of the US State Department, as well as to the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District in Alaska.

<http://www.philadelphiabrass.com/recordings/anniversary-album/>

<http://www.philadelphiabrass.com/video-samples/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVAMK-IROUPbc9NV5f2IQqg>



Philadelphia Brass









Philadelphia Brass