



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

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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:

Notes From Faraway Places
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 with a mission to perform the best of brass quintet literature from all periods and styles while educating the public to the pleasures, subtleties, and complexities of chamber music. One of their unique strengths 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. Critics and public alike have enthusiastically praised their appealing diversity of repertoire, technical virtuosity, humorous and informative educational dialogue, and superb musicality. The group's playing has been celebrated as "artistry of the highest calibre" and "dazzling technique" by presenters. Individually, the members of Philadelphia Brass have performed with the world's top musical ensembles, including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, among many others. Its master classes have been called "excellent and sensitively handled" and esteemed American composer, the late Daniel Pinkham, has written that Philadelphia Brass is "the most artistic brass quintet before the public today."

Philadelphia Brass is dedicated to music education and has a long history of performing programs for students at all levels. Previous master classes and residencies have taken place in such settings as the Juilliard School, the University of Maryland's School of Music, Lehigh University, Villanova University and in numerous public schools such as Bedford and Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Grass Valley, California and the Kenai Peninsula Borough in Soldotna, Alaska.

The ensemble has toured extensively throughout the United States, the United Kingdom and has completed two well-received tours to Bolivia on behalf of the U.S. State Department in collaboration with the Asociacion pro Arte y Cultura's Baroque Festival based in Santa Cruz. 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. Redford, Robert Elkjer, Jack Gale, 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" with Peter Conte and the Wanamaker Organ, "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".

(2021)

Philadelphia Brass Individual Bios

Anthony Cecere, french horn, was raised in Hicksville, NY, and graduated from the University of Michigan. Tony has long been active in the New York musical scene. He joined the New Jersey Symphony in 1976 and was Principal Horn of the New Orleans Philharmonic from 1980-84, appearing as a soloist with them on numerous occasions. Tony was a founding member of the American Chamber Players of Washington, DC and performed as an extra musician with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for more than a decade. He has also performed with such groups as the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, the NY Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Symphony and has been a member of the Philadelphia Brass for almost 20 years. Tony has been Principal horn of the Bach Festival Orchestra of Bethlehem since 1994.

His recording credits include solo concerti by Mozart and Haydn, Twilight Music for violin, horn and piano by John Harbison (Library of Congress), The Anniversary Album, Christmas in the Grand Tradition – The Wanamaker Organ, Notes from Faraway Places music of David Sampson, with Philadelphia Brass, Joseph Haydn Divertimento a tre in Eb and Blues for Monk by David Amram for Voce Verace recordings. He also played for the Bach Choir's recordings of the Mass in b minor and the Christmas Oratorio as well as Christmas in Bethlehem Volume 4.

Tony has played for many Broadway musicals including Sunday in the Park with George, Will Rogers Follies, Beauty and the Beast and toured briefly with Frank Sinatra in 1992. He lives in Bernardsville NJ with his wife, cellist Gerall Hieser. He loves railroads big and small and any wine from an upstart Sonoma vintner.

Robert Gale is principal trombone with Opera Philadelphia, The Academy of Vocal Arts Orchestra, and a member of the pit orchestra at the Walnut Street Theatre. He is on the faculty of The College of New Jersey. Bob has performed as principal trombone with the St. Louis and Richmond Symphonies and has recorded for many vocal artists and major motion pictures.

After graduating from the University of Illinois, his diverse career also included extensive touring with the swing bands of Glenn Miller, Jimmy Dorsey, Les Elgart and Bob Crosby and the back up bands for Bob Hope, Johnny Mathis, Barry Manilow, Donna Summer, Aretha Franklin, The Temptations. Natalie Cole and many others.

His love for music and teaching is followed closely by his love for movies, which he sees, in his estimation, many more than he should. He lives in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania 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, Philadelphia 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. In his spare time, when not arranging music, Steve enjoys old movies, spy novels, and crossword puzzles.

Brian Kuszyk is a native of southeastern Pennsylvania. He is currently principal trumpet of Opera Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Ballet, the Delaware Symphony and the Academy of Vocal Arts Orchestra. Brian is a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, and plays extra with the Philadelphia Orchestra. As soloist, he has been featured with the Delaware Symphony, the Philadelphia Ballet and the Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. He also served for sixteen years as principal trumpet with the Opera Festival of New Jersey.

As a member of Philadelphia Brass for the past thirty years, he has toured the United States extensively, as well as foreign tours to England and Bolivia. With Philadelphia Brass, he has given master classes at Julliard, St. Olaf College, Luther College, The University of Wisconsin and the University of Maryland among others, and has recorded 6 CDs with the group.

After completing his musical education at Temple University as a student of Seymour Rosenfeld, he continued his musical studies with William Vacchiano and Vince Penzarella. Among his national TV, radio and film credits is "Tom and Jerry: A Nutcracker Tale", the NFL Film's Emmy Award-winning documentary "Johnny Unitas" and a Latin Grammy-winning recording "Interchange" with the LA Guitar Quartet and the Delaware Symphony. He has performed under Wolfgang Sawallisch, Simon Rattle, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Lorin Mazel among others.

Brian taught at West Chester University for the fall of 2023 and has been a member of the performance faculty of Princeton University since 2018 and was Professor of Trumpet at the University of Delaware for the 2018-2019 year.

He lives in Merion Station, PA with his wife Laure, a high school French teacher.

Scott Mendoker has performed recitals and given master classes in Japan, Taiwan, South Africa, Bolivia and throughout the United States. Highlights include the world premiers of "The Bezoar Concerto" by Vern Miller, Jr. with the United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own", "Serenata" for Solo Tuba and Wind Ensemble by David Sampson in Carnegie Hall with the Rutgers Wind Ensemble and, again, with the United States Air Force Academy Band in Denver, Colorado and "Heavy Weather" for Solo Tuba and Wind Ensemble by Jess Langston Turner at the University of Hartford's Hartt School. Scott has also recorded "Heavy Weather" with the Hartt Wind Ensemble for the Naxos label. Other recordings include "Kansas City Dances", a tuba concerto by David Holsinger with the Rutgers University Wind Ensemble - Dr. William Berz, conductor (Mark Records), Eddie Sauter's "Piece for Tuba and Sax Quartet" with the New Hudson Sax Quartet (Naxos), David Sampson's "Three Portraits" for Tuba and Chamber Orchestra with members of the Czech Philharmonic (Summit) and "Even Song" for tuba and electronics also written for him by David Sampson and is on the Summit label. Scott has just recorded two more works by Mr. Sampson - "Emma's Dance" and "Sightline" - both for tuba and piano. They will also appear on the Summit Records label.

As part of a busy freelance career, Scott has performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, New Jersey Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, and the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra. And from 1979-82, he was Principal Tuba with the National Symphony Orchestra of the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC)

Scott was a longtime student of the late Arnold Jacobs, widely considered to be one of the greatest brass teachers of the 20th century and Principal Tuba with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra for over 44 years. He has also studied with Warren Deck, Principal Tuba with the New York Philharmonic (retired). Scott's former students hold positions in many highly respected colleges and universities, several major orchestras both in the United States and abroad, as well as some of our nation's top military bands.

Currently, Scott teaches tuba and chamber music at the Hartt School at the University of Hartford. Before joining the Hartt School, Scott served on the faculty of the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University for 21 years. Mr. Mendoker is a member of the award-winning brass quintet-Philadelphia Brass and is an International Performing Artist for Eastman Tubas.

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>



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