10-26-2003

Concert: Rhythm & Brass

Rhythm & Brass

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“It is my plan to build a school of music second to none.”

—William Grant Egbert (1867–1928) Founder, Ithaca Conservatory of Music

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

ITHACA
RHYTHM & BRASS
Wiff Rudd, trumpet
Rex Richardson, trumpet
Alex Shuhan, French horn and piano
Tom Brantley, trombone
Matthew Gaunt, tuba
David Gluck, drums and percussion

On Your Radio Dial

Fantasie in C minor
Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

Norwegian Wood
Lennon/McCartney
Arranged by David Gluck

The Tao of "Heavy D"
Rex Richardson

Two Studies in English Folk Song
Ralph Vaughan Williams
(1889-1965)
Arranged by Charles Villarrubia

Ballet and Film Music
Dmitri Shostakovich
(1906-1975)
Arranged by Villarrubia

Contradanse from The Gadfly
Barrel Organ from The Gadfly
The Breucrat from The Bolt

INTERMISSION

Featuring Selected Music Of:
The Beatles
Hank Williams
Led Zeppelin
Duke Ellington
Pink Floyd
Louis Armstrong
Stevie Wonder

Program subject to change

Ford Hall
Sunday, October 26, 2003
3:00 p.m.
Robert G. Boehmler '38, MS '61

Robert G. Boehmler, born February 2, 1915 to Albert and Sara Graf Boehmler, had a passion for music that began in his youth. He was a graduate of the Lyons School and went on to attend Ithaca College. As a clarinet major, he played in the concert band and was a member of the symphony, oratorios, and Little Theater Orchestra. Robert was also a member of the Oracle senior honor society and Adelphi, the freshman honor society. He served as business manager of the _Cayugan_, and president and vice president of Phi Mu Alpha. Following his graduation in 1938, Boehmler returned to Lyons as a music educator in the Palmyra-Macedon School District, where for many years he touched the lives of generations of students. He later earned his Master of Science degree in music at Ithaca College. Boehmler retired from the Palmyra-Macedon School District as director of music. Robert remained a close friend of many of his classmates throughout his lifetime, as well as a close friend and generous donor to the School of Music and Ithaca College. He passed away on September 20, 1998.

During Boehmler's lifetime, he established the Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation, Inc. to support music endeavors. Today's performance and master classes by Rhythm & Brass are funded by his foundation. Other artists who have appeared at the School of Music with funding from the Robert G. Boehmler Community Foundation, Inc. are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>James Campbell, clarinet</td>
<td>February 9-10, 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Vizzutti, trumpet</td>
<td>February 14-15, 2002</td>
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<td>Free Flight</td>
<td>November 8-9, 2002</td>
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Program Notes

Imagine tuning your radio and stopping on each station. By the time you reach the end of the dial, chances are that you've encountered quite an eclectic palette of music. _On Your Radio Dial_ was conceived as a presentation that crosses centuries of composition and multitudes of genres as effortlessly as changing the station on the radio.

Music is often organized as if each composer or style belongs to a certain culture, place or time. The reality is that the works of the seminal figures in European music such as Johann Sebastian Bach, Claude Debussy, Igor Stravinsky, and Dimitri Shostakovich all have played a role in the development of those American composers (Ellington, Monk, and Mingus to name a few) who are all "classified" - inadequately so - as jazz musicians. Whether drawing contrapuntal techniques from Bach, imitating the revolutionary color palette of Debussy or obtaining
inspiration from the visceral brutality of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*, one can get the impression that these musical worlds are not so far removed from each other. Conversely, twentieth-century European composers have also learned and drawn inspiration from the rhythmic and harmonic creations of the above mentioned American composers.

A similar correlation can be observed in the world of popular music. Every culture has some variation of what might be referred to as "folk music" or "song." The "music of the people" has permeated virtually all forms and styles of music and this occurs much more rapidly today with advancements in technology and the ease of travel. Thus, divergent influences have undergone a certain cultural "cross pollination." In America, the great blues musicians from the Mississippi Delta as well as the musicians from the radio program "The Louisiana Hayride" – led by Hank Williams – lead to the somewhat more rebellious sounds of the British Invasion. Sadly, many of these great blues artists never got the recognition from a general populace thoroughly absorbed with the Beatles, a sound that they helped to create.

For Rhythm & Brass (R&B) the logical extension of such varied musical interests is to present original music from members of the group. While one can find total artistic satisfaction in performing music of such venerable composers as Bach, Ellington, Debussy, Lennon/McCartney, et al., it is still somewhat of a re-creative or interpretive experience. For R&B, ultimate creativity, perhaps, comes from building something from nothing and is part of the journey to capture what's *On Your Radio Dial*.

Rhythm & Brass

Biography

"...nothing short of stunning..."

- *American Record Guide*

"Beyond Category" was a term the great Duke Ellington used as the highest form of praise for those artists who transcended normal boundaries. Since their inaugural season in 1993, Rhythm & Brass has lived up to the ideal of a musical presentation that is not bound by time, geography or culture. With the unique ability to incorporate influences as divergent as Josquin Des Prez, Pink Floyd, John Coltrane, Johann Sebastian Bach, and, of course, Duke Ellington, Rhythm & Brass searches for the commonality in these influences and fearlessly weaves them all into a single concert experience.
While maintaining a full touring schedule, Rhythm & Brass has also performed at numerous special events including a 1994 New York concert debut at Carnegie Recital Hall with celebrated jazz trumpeter Randy Brecker. Commissions have been premiered at Chicago's Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic and the national convention of the Music Educator's National Conference. R&B has also been featured at the New York Brass Conference, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the Raphael Mendez Brass Institute, Kentucky's Great American Brass Band Festival, the National Trumpet Competition and the National Association of Music Merchants Convention in Los Angeles. Internationally, Rhythm & Brass has concertized in Canada, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and the Virgin Islands.

Song & Dance (1994), the group's first CD on d'Note Records, is an immensely versatile program of works from the 17th century composer Samuel Scheidt to the World Premiere recording of Dance Suite by Leonard Bernstein, his last composed work. Their second album, Time in September (1995), includes original jazz compositions by R&B members and features award winning guitarist Gene Bertoncini as well as a commissioned work by the Grammy-nominated composer Maria Schneider. Christmas Time is Here (1996) was hailed by the national press as one of the most creative recordings for the holiday season. R&B's recording More Money Jungle. . .Ellington Explorations (1998), on the KochJazz label, celebrates the centenary (1999) of one of America's most significant composers and musical ambassadors, Duke Ellington. The album was described by Entertainment Weekly as "...smart and deliciously off-centered...." and was named by the New York Times as "Album of the Week" (May 7, 1999). Rhythm & Brass is currently being featured on "BET on Jazz" (Black Entertainment Television) performing several segments of the Ellington album. Their latest release, Sitting in an English Garden Waiting for the Sun, is an outrageous salute to the British invasion and includes music by The Beatles, Pink Floyd, and Led Zeppelin. In early 2004, Rhythm & Brass will return to the recording studio to produce a 2-CD collection of original compositions by four members of the group.

The members of Rhythm & Brass maintain an active involvement in music education. Of particular interest is the promotion of chamber music in the schools. Their book, Team Play: a Guide to making Chamber Music Together (Universal Edition), is a method by which educator and student alike can take part in the joys of chamber music. Rhythm & Brass has given workshops and lectures on this subject at the Music Educator's National Conference and the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic as well as authoring an article for The Instrumentalist, one of the most important music education publications.
The group is often found in residence at major universities throughout the nation as well as summer music camps and festivals such as Bands of America and the Brevard Music Center. Rhythm & Brass is a Yamaha Performing Ensemble.

The Artists

Rex Richardson, trumpet
Rex Richardson has enjoyed a varied and ascending career as a soloist, chamber musician, and jazz musician. He has toured the world as a member of Rhythm & Brass for nearly seven years. In 1997-98 he was a member of the late, great jazz legend Joe Henderson’s Quintet and Sextet performing across North America and in Japan. For several years, he has regularly appeared as first cornetist or soloist with the Brass Band of Battle Creek. Whether in the context of R&B or as a soloist, he has been a guest artist with numerous orchestras, jazz ensembles, and student ensembles around the world, including resident ensembles in Tokyo, Osaka, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Grand Rapids (MI), Syracuse, Rochester, and Omaha, and the US Navy Commodores Jazz Ensemble. In 1995, Down Beat magazine honored Rex in their International Critics Poll as one of nine jazz trumpeters deserving wider recognition. Rex holds degrees in anthropology and music from Northwestern University and Louisiana State University. He has served on the faculty Brass Quintet at LSU for the past two years, and is an adjunct faculty member at Loyola University in New Orleans. He is a former member of the faculty at Columbia College in Chicago, served as visiting assistant professor of trumpet at Ithaca College in 2002, and is presently assistant professor of trumpet at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Wiff Rudd, trumpet
Wiff Rudd, a San Antonio, Texas native and a founding member of Rhythm & Brass, recently left the University of Arkansas to serve as professor of trumpet and brass coordinator at Baylor University. He holds music degrees from Baylor University (BME) and the University of Northern Colorado (MM) and was assistant professor of music at Oklahoma Baptist University for seven years. Mr. Rudd has been affiliated with the Oklahoma Symphony and Lyric Theater Orchestra, and toured for eight years with the Dallas Brass. Mr. Rudd is an active soloist, orchestral and chamber musician, clinician, and adjudicator. Recent performances include appearing as a soloist at Chicago’s Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic and the New York premiere in Carnegie Hall of Joseph Turrin’s Chronicles for solo trumpet and wind ensemble. He is principal trumpet of the North Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, a member of the Boston Mountain
Chamber Players, and has adjudicated for the State Solo Contests of Texas and Oklahoma, the Louisiana Trumpet Competition, and the International Trumpet Guild’s Solo Competition Finals.

**Tom Brantley, trombone**
Tom Brantley grew up in New Iberia, Louisiana and is a third generation trombonist. He began trombone studies while in grade school and attended the Interlochen Music Academy in Michigan. Mr. Brantley studied classical music in Europe as he completed a bachelor’s degree in music at the University of Southern Mississippi. While in college, he studied at the Umea Music Festival in Sweden, performed with an opera orchestra in Austria, and spent a summer playing at Disney World in Orlando. Mr. Brantley holds a master’s degree in trombone performance and jazz studies from the University of North Texas. He has studied with Marta Hofacre, Christian Lindberg, Vern Kagarice, Jan Kagarice, and Royce Lumpkin. He was lead trombonist and jazz soloist for the Grammy-nominated One O’Clock Lab Band under the direction of Neil Slater. Mr. Brantley appears on four One O’Clock Lab Band CDs and on another CD with the Dallas Jazz Orchestra. In 1994, Tom joined Rhythm & Brass as trombonist. In the fall of 1999, Tom accepted a teaching position at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He now serves as trombone and euphonium professor replacing the recently retired Don Kneeburg.

**Alex Shuhan, French horn, piano, keyboard**
Alex Shuhan grew up in Cranford, NJ (in a musical household) where he began piano studies at age five and horn at age 10. After attending the National Music Camp at Interlochen, MI and the Pre-College Division of the Juilliard School, he received bachelor’s degrees in Performance and Music Education at the Eastman School of Music. He continued his graduate studies at Southern Methodist University and subsequently performed with the Dallas Brass for eight years. His teachers have included Greg Hustis, Verne Reynolds, Harry Berv, Marvin Howe, and Henry Babcock. He has appeared as a soloist with numerous symphony orchestras including those in Detroit, Dallas, Oregon, Rochester, Tampa, and Ft. Lauderdale. Mr. Shuhan has worked with the Dallas and Syracuse Symphony Orchestras, Dallas Ballet Orchestra, Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Skaneateles Festival Orchestra, and the Heidelberg Castle Opera Festival Orchestra. Alex is currently assistant professor of horn at Ithaca College.

**Matthew Gaunt, tuba**
Matthew Gaunt, a tubist with Burning River Brass, maintains an active performance schedule with many orchestras and chamber ensembles. Formerly the principal tuba with the Albany Symphony, he has also performed with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops Esplanade
Orchestra, and Boston Ballet in addition to symphony orchestras is Portland, Springfield, Vermont, and Rhode Island. In addition to performing with the Empire Brass, Matt's chamber music experience includes national and international tours and recordings as a member of the award-winning Epic Brass, Paramount Brass, and Boston Brass Quintets. Also active in music education, Matt has served on the faculty of the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, Greater Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, and the South Shore Conservatory of Music.

David Gluck '89, drums and percussion
David Gluck, originally from Utica, New York currently lives amongst the Blue Ridge Mountains in Charlottesville, Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in performance from Ithaca College in 1989 where he won the first annual Louis Smadbeck Award in composition. After serving as a teaching assistant at the University of North Texas he toured with the Dallas Brass for three years. As a founding member of Rhythm & Brass, David has concertized as a percussionist extraordinaire, acclaimed both as a virtuoso mallet performer and drummer. In May of 2000, he graduated from the State University of New York at Purchase College with a Master of Fine Arts degree in studio composition. There, he was the recipient of the prestigious Alvin Brehm Award for composition. His eclectic style is driven by the influences of the psychedelic British Invasion, the "cool" movement in jazz, and artists such as Stanley Beck, David Lynch, and Salvador Dali. Many of David's compositions and unique, pastiche-like arrangements have been performed and recorded by R&B. His music was featured in the Aug./Sept. 1996 issue of Jazz Player magazine. While rapidly gaining recognition as a distinguished composer, he has received numerous commissions. David is a Yamaha, Zildjian, and Innovative Percussion performing artist.

Rhythm & Brass performs exclusively on Yamaha Instruments.
David Gluck plays Zildjian Cymbals. Records: d' Note Records and Koch World
Visit Rhythm & Brass on the web: www.rhythm-brass.com

Exclusive Representation:

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