11-27-2006

Concert: Canadian Brass

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Canadian Brass

Monday • November 27, 2006 • 8:15 p.m.
Ford Hall, James J. Whalen Center for Music, Ithaca College
Now in its 36th year, the Canadian Brass continues to enchant audiences worldwide with its singular blend of impeccable playing, lowbrow antics, and genre-blending repertoire. This redoubtable quintet has become the standard by which the brass quintet is judged. Appearing tonight will be founding members Charles Daellenbach (tuba) and Eugene Watts (trombone) as well as newer additions Josef Burgstaller (trumpet), Jeroen Berwaerts (trumpet), and Bernhard Scully (horn).

The Canadian Brass sprang from modest and highly experimental roots in Toronto, Ontario, in 1970. The brass quintet was not yet established as a serious concert ensemble, and that proved an irresistible challenge to Watts and Daellenbach. Their imagination and consummate musicianship eventually elevated the art of the brass quintet to what it is today. Along the way, the ensemble developed a unique character and a hugely successful rapport with audiences. Performances run the gamut from formal classical concerts to music served up with lively dialogue and theatrical effects. But no matter the style, the music is central and played with dedication and excellence.

Having started with the very limited base of traditional works for brass, the Canadian Brass set out to create its own musical world by transcribing, arranging, and commissioning over 200 works, among them Michael Kamen’s brilliant “Quintet.” The ensemble not only presents works in the classical repertoire but takes daring leaps into jazz, contemporary concert music, and popular songs. Most of this music is published by Hal Leonard and is the inspiration and musical staple of students and brass ensembles throughout North America and Europe.

The group’s more than 60 recordings include works by Purcell, Vivaldi, Gabrieli, Pachelbel, Beethoven, Bach, and Wagner—all in meticulously crafted transcriptions that are setting new musical traditions in brass performance. The quintet has a special affinity for baroque music, particularly the music of Bach, which with its artful structures gives full flight to the dazzling virtuosity that has become a Canadian Brass trademark.

The five musicians spend most of their time on tour and have performed with major symphony orchestras in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Japan. Millions of TV viewers have seen them on The Tonight Show, Today, Entertainment Tonight, Evening at Pops (with John Williams and the Boston Pops), and numerous PBS specials. They have created over a dozen videos, including Three Nights with Canadian Brass, which captures the group in performance over three decades.

All members of the Canadian Brass are keenly interested in training the next generation of players. On their travels they often pause for master classes; they are chamber quintet in residence at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California; and they have created an innovative brass summer course at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

With over three decades of performances, the “fabulous five” continue to fill concert halls and thrill audiences around the world. And they don’t look like they’re letting up anytime soon.
Aire pour les trompettes
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
arr. Michael Allen

The Golyardes’ Grounde
Malcolm Forsyth (b. 1936)

Concerto in D Major, BWV 972
Johann Sebastian Bach/Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)
arr. Josef Burgstaller

Concerto in D Major, BWV 972
Allegro
Larghetto
Allegro

Four Pieces from the Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach
Johann Sebastian Bach
arr. Christopher Dedrick

Seasonal Selections
Traditional

INTERMISSION

Tres Tangos
Ástor Piazzolla (1921–92)
arr. Josef Burgstaller

Glenn Miller Songbook
arr. Christopher Dedrick

Highlights from Carmen
Georges Bizet (1838–75)
arr. Fred Mills

Patrons are requested to silence signal watches, pagers, and cell phones. The use of camera and recording equipment is prohibited by law.

Program subject to change

The Canadian Brass’s official website is www.canadianbrass.com. The group performs on 24-karat-gold-plated Yamaha instruments and may be heard on the Opening Day Recordings label.

Exclusive management for the Canadian Brass:
ICM Artists, Ltd.
40 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
www.icmtalent.com
David V. Foster, President and CEO
The Hockett Family

Shirley and Chas Hockett first met in a mathematics course at the University of Michigan. Shirley is Professor Emerita of Mathematics at Ithaca College. Her late husband, Chas, was the Goldwin Smith Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Linguistics at Cornell University. Together, they were longtime, generous supporters of Ithaca College, and Shirley has continued that tradition. The Hocketts' sustained support of the School of Music led the College to establish the Shirley and Chas Hockett Chamber Music Concert Series in their honor. Sadly, Chas died shortly after the inaugural concert, in the fall of 2000.

Shirley has provided a permanent endowment for the chamber music series and established the Charles F. Hockett Music Scholarship, in memory of Chas. The scholarship is awarded annually to an outstanding student in the School of Music who is majoring in composition. Members and friends of the Hockett family and others interested in supporting the scholarship continue to make gifts to the Charles F. Hockett Music Scholarship Fund. In recognition of Shirley and Chas's significant contributions to the School of Music, the recital hall in the James J. Whalen Center for Music is named the Hockett Family Recital Hall.

Music has always played a crucial role in the lives of the Hockett family. Chas listened to, performed, and composed music from early childhood. His compositions include solo and chamber music as well as an opera, Doña Rosita. Each of the Hocketts' five children studied music while growing up, and two of them, Alpha Walker and Carey Beth Hockett, as well as a son-in-law, David Weiss, are accomplished professional musicians.

Shirley did not play an instrument until she was 57, when she began studying the clarinet. Within a year, she was performing publicly as a member of the Ithaca Concert Band, alongside Chas, who played the bass clarinet. Both were active with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, and Shirley, who was president of the board of directors from 1979 to 1984, continues to serve on the CCO board as director emerita.

After teaching at Cornell for 20 years, Shirley began teaching at Ithaca College in 1966 and was appointed full professor in 1973. Shortly after her retirement in 1991, she was named Professor Emerita of Mathematics by the Ithaca College Board of Trustees. Throughout her career, Shirley was regarded as an exceptional teacher who shared her insights with colleagues and challenged her students. She won several teaching awards and served the College on many faculty committees. She was the founding president of the College's chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society. Her first book, How to Prepare for Advanced Placement Examinations: Mathematics, was published by Barron's Educational Series in 1971. The ninth edition, titled How to Prepare for the AP Calculus Exam, with CD-ROM, and coauthored with David Bock, will be released in 2007. David Bock also coauthored four previous editions. Shirley has published two other examination-oriented books and has written or coauthored several mathematics textbooks. She was editor of the New York State Mathematics Teachers' Journal from June 1969 through October 1974.

Chas taught at Cornell University from 1946 to 1982. He was also an adjunct professor of linguistics at Rice University and taught at the Beijing Foreign Studies University in China. Highly regarded in his field, Chas wrote several books and numerous articles on linguistics and anthropology. He was a member and president of the Linguistic Society of America and was elected to both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. In 1984 he received the American Anthropological Association's Distinguished Lecture Award.

Shirley and Chas were major supporters of the campaign to build the James J. Whalen Center for Music, which opened in 1999. Dean Arthur Ostrander of the School of Music, in announcing the College's tributes to the Hocketts, said, "Given their love of chamber music, it seemed most appropriate to establish the Shirley and Chas Hockett Chamber Music Concert Series as a lasting testament to their support of Ithaca College. We are also privileged to be able to show our appreciation by naming the recital hall for the Hockett family."