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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND



Empire Brass

Rolf Smedvig, *trumpet*
Jeffrey Curnow, *trumpet*
Martin Hackleman, *French horn*
Scott A. Hartman, *trombone*
J. Samuel Pilafian, *tuba*

Empire Brass is the Quintet-in-Residence at Boston University

Friday, February 24, 1989, 8:15 PM

Cannon Memorial Chapel

Department of Music

University of Richmond, Virginia 23173 • (804) 289-8277

The EMPIRE BRASS enjoys an international reputation as North America's finest brass quintet. The first brass ensemble to win the prestigious Naumburg Chamber Music Award, the Empire Brass has given a command performance for Queen Elizabeth II, performed at a Presidential Inaugural concert, participated in the opening concerts of the newly-renovated Carnegie Hall, and toured extensively in North and South America, the Soviet Union, Europe, and the Far East. Its repertoire of over 300 works -- ranging from those of Bach and Gabrieli to more than fifty commissioned works and popular arrangements -- is unparalleled in its diversity and quality. Such leading composers as Leonard Bernstein, Peter Maxwell Davies, Michael Torke, Earl Kim, Daniel Pinkham, Gunther Schuller, Stanley Silverman, and Ira Taxin have been commissioned to create works especially for the Empire Brass.

Also the recipient of a Harvard Music Association Award, the Empire Brass performs regularly in such cities as Berlin, Paris, Amsterdam, Oslo, Zurich, Caracas, Tokyo, New York, Boston, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. Orchestras with which the Empire Brass has performed include the Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony, Saint Louis Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Cincinnati Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra. A popular attraction at summer musical festivals, the Empire Brass has visited Ravinia, Saratoga, Chautauqua, and Tanglewood, where it continues to lead the Empire Brass seminar at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

In the 1987-88 season, the Empire Brass performed over 100 concerts. One special highlight was the group's highly successful debut tour of the Soviet Union, including appearances at the Moscow Conservatory and the Bolshoi Zal in Leningrad. The latter concert was broadcast over Soviet television. Other engagements included performances with organist Douglas Major at UCLA and the University of Michigan, a return visit to Venezuela, a Carnegie Hall recital, and a twenty-concert European tour featuring a Wigmore Hall recital in London and an appearance with the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich. This season the Empire Brass again travels to Japan, Great Britain, and Venezuela, and performs a return engagement with the Tonhalle Orchestra.

Since the 1976 CBS release of *The American Brass Band Journal*, the Empire Brass has recorded over 20 albums. The best-selling *A Bach Festival for Brass and Organ*, the group's recent Angel/EMI recording with Douglas Major, has been followed by the newly released *Fireworks*, featuring music of Handel, Purcell, and Dowland. *Empire Brass in Japan*, a collection of highlights of a three week tour of Japan, is available on Sony video and CBS/Sony compact disc. Scheduled for release in the 1988-89 season are recordings on the Angel/EMI and Telarc labels.

In its thirteenth consecutive year as Faculty Quintet-in-Residence at Boston University, the Empire Brass also promotes the teaching of brass and quintet studies through the establishment of scholarships, fellowships, clinics, and symposia in the United States and abroad. The quintet has a continuing relationship with the musicians of the Orquesta de Simón Bolívar in Caracas, a superb ensemble of young developing musicians, involving several sessions of teaching, joint performances, and master classes each season.

All arrangements performed during this concert are the property of and have been written by the members of the Empire Brass, except where noted.

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PROGRAM

- Suite from *The Water Music* George Frideric Handel
Allegro (1685-1759)
Bourée
Hornpipe
Minuetto
Alla Hornpipe
- Liebesleid Fritz Kreisler
(1875-1962)
- Schön Rosmarin
- Una voce poco fa, from *The Barber of Seville* Gioacchino Rossini
(1792-1868)
- Music of Spain, featuring the works of Isaac Albéniz and Joaquín Turina
- Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme Johann Sebastian Bach
("Sleepers, Awake" from Cantata, BWV 140) (1685-1750)
- Wie will ich mich freuen
("My Spirit Be Joyful" from Cantata, BWV 146)

INTERMISSION

- Suite from *The Fairy Queen* Henry Purcell
Entry Dance (1659-1695)
Rondeau
Song: If Love's a Sweet Passion
Hornpipe
March
- Street Song (1988) Michael Tilson Thomas
Commissioned by Empire Brass (b. 1944)
- Suite from *Porgy and Bess* George Gershwin
(1898-1937)
- Simple Gifts Aaron Copland
(b. 1900)
- Suite from *Mass* Leonard Bernstein
(b. 1918)
- Suite from *West Side Story*

A founding member of the Empire Brass, ROLF SMEDVIG has performed as principal trumpet of the Boston Symphony and as a member of the Boston Pops and the Boston Symphony Chamber Players. Born in Seattle, he made his debut with the Seattle Symphony before traveling east to attend Boston University. After performing at Tanglewood, Mr. Smedvig was engaged by Leonard Bernstein to perform as soloist for the world premiere of his *Mass* at the opening of the Kennedy Center. Mr. Smedvig, who performed with the National Symphony in 1988, appears as soloist and conductor in some 30 engagements per year. With the Cambridge Chamber Orchestra, he recorded two albums on which he is featured in this dual capacity. He currently serves on the faculties of Boston University and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

A native of Easton, Pennsylvania, JEFFREY CURNOW studied applied trumpet at Temple University with Seymour Rosenfeld. His extensive chamber music experience includes membership in the New York Trumpet Ensemble, Eastern Brass Quintet, and Wichita Brass Quintet. A former member of the Wichita Symphony and New Haven Symphony, Mr. Curnow served on the teaching staff at Wichita University.

Educated at the University of Houston, MARTIN HACKLEMAN began his study of the French horn at age 16; only three years later, he was named principal horn of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. He also served as principal horn of the Vancouver Symphony and then of the CBC Vancouver Radio Orchestra, playing in that ensemble's brass and woodwind quintets. Before joining the Empire Brass, Martin Hackleman played, and recorded for CBS, with the Canadian Brass. Mr. Hackleman has performed as featured soloist with several prominent Canadian and Japanese orchestras. He has taught French horn at several colleges including the University of British Columbia and the Tohoku School of Music in Japan, and served as music director of Virginia's Tidewater Music Festival.

SCOTT A. HARTMAN has played with such noted orchestras as the Rochester Philharmonic, the Phoenix Symphony and the Eastman Philharmonic. He has performed at the Heidelberg Opera Festival in Germany, the Chautauqua Festival, and the Spoleto Festival of Spoleto, Italy and Charleston, South Carolina. A native New Yorker, he earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees at the Eastman School of Music. Mr. Hartman is on the faculties of Boston University and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

In 1967, SAMUEL PILAFIAN won the Concerto Competition at the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan, becoming only the second tuba soloist in 50 years ever to do so. He was awarded fellowships from Dartmouth College in 1969, and from the Tanglewood Music Center in 1970 and 1971. Mr. Pilafian has performed and recorded with the Boston Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the American Ballet Theatre Orchestra, composer Philip Glass, the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and Pink Floyd. He has also recorded for every major label and television network in the United States. A founding member of the Empire Brass, Mr. Pilafian was heard in performance at Tanglewood by Leonard Bernstein, who engaged him as soloist for the world premiere of *Mass* at the opening of the Kennedy Center. Mr. Pilafian serves on the faculties of Boston University and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

Next: Inaugural Concert
by University of Richmond Department of Music
March 17, 1989, 8:00 PM
Camp Theatre