

A Journey Through Music With Brass

The St. Paul Conservatory of Music Brass Quintet

Graham Taylor & Beckett Shuholm, Trumpets

Allyson Partin, French Horn

Lauren Hustings, Trombone

Jason Tanksley, Tuba



The brass family: Trumpet, French horn, Trombone, Tuba
Fun facts ?

Today's Performance

A Journey Through Music With Brass

- Performance of 4 exciting musical pieces.
- Interactive Q&A about brass instruments.
- Learn about our free "Music Across Minnesota" online lesson program.

Gabrieli's Canzona per Sonare No. 2

- Giovanni Gabrieli and the Renaissance period.
- Explanation of what a Canzona is.
- How the piece sounds with brass and why it's special.



Giovanni Gabrieli

- ◆ Italian composer Giovanni Gabrieli (1554?-1612) was among the most influential musicians bridging the Renaissance and Baroque stylistic periods.
- ◆ His prestigious position as organist and chief composer for Venice's famed Saint Mark's Basilica, the chapel of the Doge of Venice, thus making him one of the best-known composers in Europe. The Doge is the highest role of authority within the Republic of Venice and the word Doge derives from the Latin Dux, meaning "leader,".
- ◆ Canzon Secunda a 4 (Second Song for 4) is one of four canzoni by Gabrieli included in Canzoni per sonare (Songs to Play), an anthology of works by a number of different composers first published in 1608.
- ◆ They are among the earliest works intended for performance specifically by instruments rather than by voices, and this anthology helped pave the way for what would soon become the new Baroque concerto style, which remains popular to this day.



Grieg's In the Hall of the Mountain King

- Story behind the piece (part of "Peer Gynt" and its plot about trolls and a mountain king).
- How the music builds tension and the exciting climax.



- ◆ "In the Hall of the Mountain King" is a piece of orchestral music composed by Edvard Grieg for Henrik Ibsen's play "Peer Gynt," which premiered in 1876. The play itself is a dramatic fairy tale that tells the story of Peer Gynt, a Norwegian anti-hero who is a liar, a braggart, and a charmer who experiences numerous fantastical adventures.
- ◆ The specific scene involving "In the Hall of the Mountain King" occurs in Act II of the play. Peer Gynt has insulted the Mountain King and ends up in the mountain hall surrounded by trolls, goblins, and gnomes. The Mountain King decides Peer must either face terrible punishment or solve a riddle to prove he is "troll enough" to marry the king's daughter. The music accompanies this tense and eerie scene, as it portrays Peer's frantic attempts to escape from the mountain as the trolls chase after him.
- ◆ Grieg's music starts quietly and ominously, gradually building in speed and intensity, mimicking the rising tension and chase as Peer tries to escape the increasingly hostile creatures until it reaches a climactic and frenetic finish.

PEER GYNT



This story was written as a play by Henrik Ibsen, a Norwegian writer. He was very inspired by local folk stories about trolls, and this part of the story is about the king of the trolls.

Borodín's Polovetsian Dances

- About Alexander Borodín and his opera "Prince Igor".
- The dance and its cultural significance.
- Adaptation for brass quintet.



- ◆ Alexander Borodin: Russian composer and chemist, part of the "Mighty Handful" group of composers (also known as the Five) included Mily Balakirev, César Cui, Modest Mussorgsky, Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, all dedicated to creating a distinctly Russian style of classical music.
- ◆ "Prince Igor": by Borodin, was based on a medieval epic poem and recounts a prince's fight against the Polovtsian tribes in 1185. Incomplete Work: Borodin died before completing the opera, which was later finished by his friends Rimsky-Korsakov and Alexander Glazunov.
- ◆ Part of the Opera: Featured in Act II of "Prince Igor," where the Polovtsian leader entertains the captive Prince Igor with a display of dances by his tribespeople.
- ◆ The music represents the exotic and enchanting culture of the Polovtsian tribe, contrasting with the Russian characters, showcasing Borodin's interest in the diverse cultures of Russia's past.
- ◆ Initially scored for a large orchestra including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion, along with a chorus.



Duke Ellington's It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)

- Who was Duke Ellington?
- Explanation of "swing" music.



- ◆ Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974) was an American composer, pianist, and bandleader, pivotal in the development of jazz.
- ◆ Career: Led his orchestra from 1923 until his death in 1974, with notable residences at the Cotton Club in Harlem.
- ◆ Contributions: Composed thousands of pieces, extending jazz into concert settings with suites, film scores, and stage works.
- ◆ Legacy: Known for his sophistication in harmony and orchestration, Ellington elevated the perception of jazz to a respected art form on par with classical music.
- ◆ Swing Era: Dominated the American music scene from the 1930s to the mid-1940s, characterized by big bands and lively, dancing rhythms.
- ◆ Musical Style: Swing music features a strong rhythmic groove with a flowing yet syncopated feel, often accentuated by a walking bass line and steady beat.
- ◆ Dance Focus: It was highly popular for dance due to its rhythmic bounce, leading to dances like the Lindy Hop.
- ◆ Big Bands: Swing music is typically played by big bands featuring brass, woodwinds, and rhythm sections, with notable bandleaders including Benny Goodman, Count Basie, and of course, Duke Ellington.

Q&A on Brass Playing

- ◆ Examples:
- ◆ How did you start in music?"
- ◆ "What route did your life take to get to here?"
- ◆ "What other jobs have you had that weren't music based?"
- ◆ "Is music something you always wanted to do or did you fall into it?"
- ◆ "What's the best and worst things about your job?"
- ◆ "What's a typical week look like in your life?"
- ◆ "What mistakes or successes have you made?"
- ◆ "What are you proud of?"
- ◆ "What advice would you give yourself at my age?"
- ◆ "What are you looking forward to?"



Our "Music Across Minnesota" Program

- ◆ Learn Music for Free!
- ◆ Details about the free online lesson program funded by the Minnesota Department of Health.
- ◆ Benefits of joining the program (e.g., improve musical skills, learn from professional musicians, fun and interactive).
- ◆ Sign up today and start your musical adventure!
- ◆ <https://thespcm.org/music-across-mn>

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participation today!



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