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Guest Recital: Gaudete Brass

Bill Baxtresser, Trumpet

Ryan Berndt, Trumpet

Julia Filson, Horn

Paul Von Hoff, Trombone

Scott Tegge, Tuba

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Gaudete Brass

So Last Season: New Brass Chamber Music from 2011

Trumpets - Bill Baxtresser and Ryan Berndt Horn - Julia Filson Trombone - Paul Von Hoff Tuba - Scott Tegge

Program

Copperwave (2006)

Joan Tower (b. 1938)

Italian Madrigals

Giaches De Wert (c.1535-1596)

- 1. Vezzosi Augelli Graceful Birds
- 2. Con voi giocando, Amor Playing with you, Love
- 3. M'ha punt' Amor Love has pierced me

Chicago Moves (2011)

David Sampson (b. 1951)

- 1. Grant Park
- 2. The Spaghetti Bowl
- 3. Looped Lament
- 4. Lake Shore Drive

Helios (2011)

Stacy Garrop (b. 1969)

Brass (2011)

- 1. Bell
- 2. Mute
- 3. Slide

Rob Deemer (b. 1970)

Joan Tower writes about her composition, *Copperwave*, "My father was a geologist and mining engineer and I grew up loving everything to do with minerals and rocks. Copper is a heavy but flexible mineral that is used for many different purposes and most brass instruments are made of copper. The ideas in this piece move in waves, sometimes heavy ones and at other times lighter--also in circles, turning around on the same notes. Occasionally, there is a Latin-type of rhythm that appears, which is a reminder of my years growing up in South America where my father was working as a mining engineer."

Giaches De Wert was a Franco-Flemish composer from the village of Weert who moved to Italy and became a master of the Italian Madrigal. Wert's madrigals were highly influential on Claudio Monteverdi and foreshadow the development baroque style and opera. Brass players in the Renaissance would have played this music in ensembles along with singers or string and wind instrumentalists. They also adapted this music and performed it as their own, a practice that the GBQ gladly continues.

David Sampson wrote *Chicago Moves* for the Gaudete Brass Quintet. The piece is in four movements, and each movement showcases a particular aspect of life in Chicago focused on a place or landmark. The piece is a concatenation of third stream style melodies overlaid on to an almost minimalistic groove that is passed between the instruments. Sampson makes extensive use of mutes, flugelhorns and interconnected lines to make the ensemble colors more like the colors of a string quartet or a choir than those typically associated with brass instruments. The work was commissioned for the GBQ by Giddings and Webster Mouthpieces, The Venzon Family, Earl and Judy Baxtresser, and the Chicago Modern Brass Project.

Stacy Garrop describes her piece *Helios*, "In Greek mythology, Helios was the god of the sun. His head wreathed in light, he daily drove a chariot drawn by four horses (in some tales, the horses are winged; in others, they are made of fire) across the sky. At the end of each day's journey, he slept in a golden boat that carried him on the Okeanos River (a fresh water stream that encircled the flat earth) back to his rising place. The cyclic journey of Helios is depicted in this short work for brass quintet. The first half is faced-paced and very energetic, while the second half is slow and serene, representing day and night." Helios was commissioned by the Gaudete Brass Quintet in 2011.

Rob Deemer's *Brass* invites the listener and performers to explore the colors that are unique to the brass family of instruments. Each movement explores the emotive and communicative power of one of those colors in a way that a visual artist might explore the depths of meaning and rich shading of a single color such as red or blue. Dr. Deemer takes the muted brass color of the second movement or the bell-like tones in the first and shows the rich and varied textures and sounds that are available and inviting the listener to a range of experiences within "Bell," "Mute" and "Slide."

About the Quintet

Founded in 2004, the Gaudete Brass Quintet is devoted to presenting serious chamber music at the highest level of excellence and to encouraging worldwide appreciation of the art of chamber music on brass instruments through live performances, recordings, education and the creation of new works. The quintet is committed to expanding the brass quintet repertoire, commissioning works by by noted composers such as David Sampson, John Cheetham, Jan Bach and Stacy Garrop as well as working with emerging young artists through programs such as the advanced composition course at Columbia College-Chicago and the composition department at Roosevelt University. The GBQ is also dedicated to historically informed performances of Renaissance music, creating and performing their own editions of these works. They have performed in many prominent concert venues, including Merkin Hall and Symphony Space in New York City, the Cedarhurst Center for the Arts Chamber Music Series and Millennium Park's Onstage at Noon. The quintet has served as Artist-in-Residence at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. They have performed on live radio broadcasts "Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series" and "Live from the Mayne Stage" on Chicago's WFMT, "Live in Studio C" program on Nashville Public Radio, the 21st Century Classical program on WMSE in Milwaukee, and Kenosha Public Radio. The Gaudete Brass has collaborated with many accomplished organists on brass and organ programs as well as creating perhaps the world's first collaboration of brass quintet and theremin with classical theremin virtuoso Randy George. The quintet has had the privilege of performing the National Anthem at MLB, NBA and WNBA games. Gaudete has presented performances and educational programs on tour to a number of universities colleges and conservatories including The Juilliard School, Eastman School of Music, Vanderbilt University, the University of Chicago, the University of Missouri, Western Illinois University, the University of Georgia, the University of Alabama, Furman University, St. Cloud State University, Western Carolina University, Eastern Illinois University, and the University of Notre Dame. In 2006, the Gaudete Brass released its first CD (featuring Andre Previn's Four Outings for Brass), which was honored with the CDBaby Editors' Choice distinction and nominated for the 2009 Just Plain Folks Best Classical Chamber Album. The quintet will soon release a recording with organ, Conversations in Time, on the Pro Organo label. To find out more about the Gaudete Brass Quintet please visit our website at www.gaudetebrass.com

Special Thanks for making this visit possible:

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Illinois State University Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia

Dr. Dan Belongia

Illinois State University Brass Faculty: Dr. Amy Gilreath, Dr. Joe Neisler, Dr. Mark Babbit, and Professor Andy Rummel