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Premier Canadian Brass Quartet in Concert to Cohan Center Nov. 20

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA – In reviewing a Canadian Brass concert, the Washington Post declared the group had “virtuosic musicianship, masterful interpretations” and called Canadian Brass “the world’s leading brass ensemble.”

Cal Poly Arts is pleased to present these masters on Sunday, November 20, 2005 at 4 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center.

The afternoon program will include Girolamo Frescobaldi’s “Toccatà,” John Wilbye’s “Madrigal,” Mozart’s “Rondo from Quintet for Horn & Strings,” Giovanni Gabrieli’s “Canzona,” Bramwell Tovey’s “Santa Barbara Sonata,” a tribute to Fats Waller, Christopher Dedrick’s arrangement of “Penny Lane,” Tomaso Albinoni’s “Adagio in G minor,” Astor Piazzolla’s “Tres Tangos,” and highlights from Bizet’s “Carmen.”

The five virtuosi of Canadian Brass have made the brass quintet an exciting vehicle for serious concert music. The quintet — now in its 34th season — consists of new members Justin Emerich (trumpet) and Bernhard Scully (horn) alongside original members Stuart Laughton (trumpet), Gene Watts (trombone), and Chuck Daellenbach on tuba.

The group has a long history of recording classical repertoire, with a special affinity for Baroque music which requires the brilliance and musical structure that has become the Canadian Brass’ trademark. More than 60 recordings include works by Purcell, Vivaldi, Gabrieli, Pachelbel, Beethoven, Wagner, and J.S. Bach.

The imagination and consummate musicianship of the two of the group’s founders — Gene Watts and Chuck Daellenbach -- elevated the art of the brass quintet to a serious concert ensemble, while keeping the quintet’s unique character and rapport with audiences.

Canadian Brass offers a variety of concert presentations — from formal classical concerts to music served up with lively dialogue and theatrical effect -- and the music is always performed with the utmost dedication and excellence.

The group spends most of their time on tour and have performed with many major symphony orchestras in the US, Canada, Europe and Japan, gaining a large international following.

Canadian Brass created their own musical world by transcribing, arranging and commissioning more than 200 works; the most recent being the brilliant Quintet by Michael Kamen.

Canadian Brass has performed on such shows as “The Tonight Show,” “Today,” and “Entertainment Tonight.” They have appeared as guest artists on “Evening at Pops with John Williams and the Boston Pops,” Beverly Sills’ “Music Around the World,” and numerous PBS specials.

The quintet has also created eight videos that have gained an international audience and has just released a DVD that captures the group in performance over three decades, entitled “Three Nights with Canadian Brass”.

The musicians are the chamber quintet-in-residence at the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. Additionally, they have created an innovative brass summer course at the famous Eastman School of Music.

They have also been invited by the Canadian Government to play for visiting heads of states on numerous official occasions.

A pre-concert lecture will be presented by one of the members of Canadian Brass, beginning at 3 p.m. in the Philips Recital Hall.

Tickets for the performance range from \$36 - \$48, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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