“AMERICA’S HIGH PRIESTS OF BRASS,” THE AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET, IN CONCERT AT JORGENSEN

Tues, Oct 27, at 7:30 pm / Concert Talk at 6:45 pm

Hailed by *Newsweek* as “the high priests of brass” and internationally recognized as one of the premier chamber music ensembles of our time, the American Brass Quintet brings their award-winning artistry to the Jorgensen stage on Tuesday, October 27th with a breathtaking presentation of 16th century Renaissance and 20th century contemporary brass chamber compositions. The concert, which takes place at the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, begins at 7:30 pm and will be preceded by a free Concert Talk at 6:45 pm with ABQ member Dr. Louis Hanzlik, who serves as Associate Professor of Trumpet at the university. Doors to the hall open at 7:00 pm.

The evening’s program begins with *Elizabethan Consort Music*: five short energetic pieces written during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I which reflect the vitality and exuberance of England’s Renaissance era. Following is *Five Miniatures*, one of three chamber pieces written expressly for brass quintet by Vienna-born composer Robert Starer (b. 1924). Concluding the first half of the program will be *Shine for Brass Quintet* by Robert Paterson (b. 1973), a composition in four movements inspired by the composer’s father, a bronze sculptor, which explores colorful aspects of four different metal types: brass, gold, mercury, and steel.

After intermission the ensemble returns with *Brass Quintet No. 1 “Circus”* by Clint Needham (b. 1981). Winner of the 2004 Brass Chamber Music Forum Composition Competition, the five-movement work was inspired by the composer’s not-so-fond memories of a circus he was forced to attend as a child. Next, the Quintet performs *Canons of the 16th Century*, a series of four chamber compositions popular in the 1500s featuring unexpected and unusual tensions and harmonies created by the structure of the canon itself, which requires members of the ensemble to all play the same melody but start at different points. For the evening’s finale, the group performs *Colchester Fantasy* by Eric Ewazen (b. 1954), a piece written for the Quintet in 1987. Inspired by a visit to Colchester, Britain’s oldest recorded town, the four movement composition conjures images of ancient and historical traditions and impressions of the grandeur and majesty of time past.

“A focus of the ABQ’s mission, since its inception in the 1960s, is to present only the best classical music written for brass to the chamber music stage and to audiences around the globe,” says Dr. Hanzlik, who received his UConn appointment in 2008 and joined the American Brass Quintet in December of 2013. “For a typical concert, this involves us performing music from the Renaissance, the mid-late 1900s, and today - usually, every concert presents a piece that was just written for us. Unlike string quartets, brass quintets only came into existence during the late 1950s. No Beethoven, no Mozart in our repertoire! So, the ABQ, most especially, has been central to the development in the creation of the entire brass chamber music repertoire. Audiences respect and respond to this history.”

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The American Brass Quintet members are Kevin Cobb and Louis Hanzlik, trumpets; Eric Reed, horn; Michael Powell, trombone; and John D. Rojak, bass trombone. Celebrated for peerless leadership in the brass world, the ABQ is the 2013 recipient of Chamber Music America’s highest honor, the Richard J. Bogomolny National Service Award for significant and lasting contributions to the field. The ensemble’s rich history includes performances in Asia, Australia, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and all 50 of the United States; a discography of nearly 60 recordings; and the premieres of more than 150 contemporary brass works.

For more information about the artists please visit www.americanbrassquintet.org.

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state’s educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor seats - $36, Mezzanine - $32.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient $5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.