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Jewel Box Series: Feb. 3, 2007

Jewel Box Staff

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2006 - 2007

the arts

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Saturday, February 3, 2007 8:00 p.m.
Northeastern Illinois University Auditorium

Dallas **BRASS**

Michael Levine, trombone/director

Brian Neal, trumpet

D. J. Barraclough, trumpet

Chris Castellanos, horn

Nat McIntosh, tuba

Jeff Handel, percussion

American Musical Journey

Program to be announced from the stage



Dallas BRASS

Since its founding in 1983 by Michael Levine, the Dallas Brass has become one of America's foremost musical ensembles. The group has established a unique blend of traditional brass instruments with a full complement of drums and percussion, which creates a performing entity of extraordinary range and musical challenges. The Dallas Brass repertoire includes classical masterpieces, Dixieland, swing, Broadway, Hollywood and patriotic music.

According to Mr. Levine, "a Dallas Brass concert is intended for the entire family. Our ideal audience has a range in ages from 5 to 95. Our goal is to entertain and enrich by playing great music, while showing our audience how much we enjoy what we do."

In addition to their solo engagements, the Dallas Brass appears with symphony orchestras nationwide. Symphonic credits include the Cincinnati Pops conducted by Erich Kunzel, New York Pops conducted by Skitch Henderson, and the Philly Pops conducted by Peter Nero. The Dallas Brass has performed at Carnegie Hall, the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and has toured overseas to Europe and the Far East. They have shared the stage with the late Bob Hope, have performed for Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush, have appeared on the CBS "Early Show", and their music has been used numerous times on the television show, "The Young & The Restless".

The ensemble has released five recordings: Debut, Dallas Brass II, A Merry Christmas with Brass, Windborne, and Nutcracker. The Dallas Brass has a strong dedication to working with young musicians, frequently going into the public schools to present clinics and workshops for students of all ages.

MICHAEL LEVINE (director, trombone) is originally from St. Louis Park, Minnesota. He first attended the University of Minnesota and then The Juilliard School, where he received his Bachelor of Music Degree. For three years he held the position of Assistant Principal Trombone in the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. Michael founded the Dallas Brass in 1983, and he serves as the ensemble's trombonist, Master of Ceremonies and Artistic Director. As an arranger, he has made significant contributions to the Dallas Brass library. Michael has invented a device called the WindMaster, to help wind players develop their breathing technique. It is being marketed nationally and in conjunction with Dallas Brass breathing clinics. Michael's favorite non-musical activity is snow skiing. He presently resides in Dallas.

BRIAN NEAL (trumpet) is a native of Miami, Florida. After earning music degrees from the Manhattan School of Music in New York and the University of Miami, Brian earned positions as principal trumpet of the Miami Symphony Orchestra and the Miami Bach Society Orchestra. Brian has been a fellow recipient at Tanglewood Music Festival, Waterloo Music Festival and Norfolk Chamber Music Festival. In addition to performing with the Dallas Brass, he has performed as a soloist with the Florida Philharmonic, Miami Symphony, Ensemble Monterey, California Symphony, Palm Beach Symphonic Band, and the Miami Bach Society and has also performed professionally throughout much of the United States Mexico and Europe. Equally at home as a composer, Brian's compositions have been performed at both the Aspen and Waterloo Music Festivals. Brian has also received commissions to write music for the opening of the Bayfront Park outdoor amphitheater in Miami and for the opening of the Miami Symphony's tenth anniversary season. Brian lives in Miami, Florida where he resides with his wife, Karen, and their three children.

D.J. BARRACLOUGH (trumpet) began his musical studies on the trombone and continued playing it through high school. He didn't actually begin the trumpet until his 3rd year in college. Originally from southern Utah, D.J. attended Dixie State College in St. George. While attending DSC, he served as principal trumpet in the Utah Intercollegiate Band three consecutive years. His solo honors include first prize in the Intercollegiate Solo Competition, held in Denver, CO. This prize earned him a solo performance in Denver with the Arapahoe Philharmonic. He has performed with such organizations as the Utah Symphony, the Lex De Azevedo Orchestra, and the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. When not performing, D.J. enjoys working as a brass clinician, and through the use of the Smart Music Studio software by Coda Music Technologies, he helps young students learn to make practice more effective and fun. D.J. is also an accomplished instrument repair technician. His other interests include hiking, camping, and various forms of meditation. D.J. presently lives in southern Utah with his wife, Kristine, and their four children.

NAT MCINTOSH (tuba) hails from Longmont, Colorado. He studied music performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. During this time, he and three fellow students formed the Sotto Voce Quartet, a nationally acclaimed tuba and euphonium ensemble. Until 2004, Nat was the leader, musical director, and sousaphonist with the YoungBlood Brass Band, an eight-piece brass and drum ensemble in the tradition of the New-Orleans-style brass band. Throughout his nine years as leader of the group, Nat garnered critical and public acclaim for his many compositions, blending intense brass music with hip-hop, afro-cuban, Brazilian, and jazz-funk styles. He was also recently featured on National Public Radio's All Things Considered, where he performed one of his solo sousaphone features entitled The Warrior Comes Out to Play. Nat currently resides in Los Angeles, where he and his brother, trombonist Ben McIntosh, run McIntosh Musical Services, a music transcription, arranging, and copying business. He also performs as a freelance multi-instrumentalist, playing gigs ranging from classical tuba to salsa trombone to Balkan sousaphone. Nat serves on the

faculty of the Academy of Creative Education, a Los Angeles based summer school for gifted junior high and high school aged musicians. "I've received hundreds of questions about my solo feature, "The Warrior Comes Out to Play". I wrote this piece about seven years ago, designing it to be a showcase for all of the extended techniques I had perfected up to that point, including multi-phonics, (singing and playing simultaneously), emulation of electric bass and guitar sounds (done through manipulation of the embouchure), DJ scratch effects, (high percussive rhythmic patterns made with extreme register playing, and what I call "Cosmic Bass", (sound alterations most akin to a flange or didgeridoo). There are so many unexplored possibilities of the sousaphone -and being a longtime fan of groove-based, high energy music, it is very rewarding to utilize my instrument's versatility to play something that is both technically impressive and funky at the same time."

CHRIS CASTELLANOS (horn), a lifelong resident of Las Vegas, received his formal education from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While a student there, he was a winner of the James Huntzinger Memorial Concerto Competition playing principal horn on Schumann's Konzertstuck for 4 horns. Since its inception 1998, Chris has been a member of the Las Vegas Philharmonic with whom he has also been a soloist. In addition to the LV Phil, Chris has served as a hornist for the Nevada Chamber Orchestra, Nevada Wind Ensemble, Nevada Jazz Orchestra, the Boca Sinfonia, and still tours annually with the TAD Wind Symphony of Japan. As a top call freelancer Chris has backed countless headliners on the Las Vegas strip. Most notably - Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra Jr., Johnny Mathis, Wayne Newton, Olivia Newton John, Robert Goulet, Charlotte Church, Placido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Josh Groban and Andrea Bocelli. When not on the road with the Dallas Brass, Chris can be heard as principal horn in Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom - The Las Vegas Spectacular".

JEFF HANDEL (drums/percussion) was born in Indianapolis, IN. He received his Performer's Certificate and Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN, where he also served as Associate Instructor of Percussion. Jeff has been a percussion instructor for the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps and at numerous high schools throughout Indiana and South Carolina. His diverse musical abilities have led to performances with symphony orchestras, jazz ensembles, rock bands and percussion ensembles. He been a member of the Blue Coats Drum and Bugle Corps and performed in Star of Indiana's Brass Theatre. Prior to joining Dallas Brass, Jeff toured North America and Japan for four years as a featured percussionist in the Tony and Emmy Award winning Broadway show, "Blast!" Jeff presently resides in Charleston, SC.

Dwight Sump

Production Manager

Dallas Brass Staff

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Lorraine Levin - Office Manager

Nathan Sump - Assistant Production Manager

A special thank you to the NEIU Music Department, the University Events staff and to all students participating in tonight's performance!

Upcoming Concerts:

The Verdehr Trio

Friday, February 16, 2007 at 8 p.m.

The Ritz Chamber Players

Friday, March 16, 2007 at 8 p.m.

Charles Rosen

Lecture, Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 8 p.m.

Recital, Friday, April 13, 2007 at 8 p.m.

NEIU Box Office

773-442-4636

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