

Bala Brass



“Amazing Virtuosity”

David Hickman

trumpet soloist

founding member, Summit Brass

The award-winning Bala Brass thrills audiences around the globe with their infectious spirit and enthusiastic performances. A brass quintet dedicated to furthering the art of brass music performance, Bala was the first group of its kind to be invited to participate in the Osaka International Chamber Music Festa in Japan in 2002. The Boston area chamber ensemble was also awarded the bronze medal at the 2001 Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition, as well as being honored as a finalist in the 2001 Coleman Chamber Music Competition.



Bala enjoys collaborations with a diverse group of composers and artists, actively commissioning new works for the genre. Recent world premiers include Robert Bradshaw's Cantate Domino, Whitman Brown's Knuckleball, and Jeremy Spindler's As It Went By.

Committed to fostering music through education, the quintet frequently conducts master classes and educational concerts for young

persons. Bala has been featured on the campuses of the Southern New Hampshire University, UMASS, UCONN, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Lakeside College, the Conservatory of Music at Purchase College-State University of New York, Phillips Academy, and Bridgewater State College.

Bala is thrilled to announce residencies for the 2009-2010 season at Southern New Hampshire University, St. Peter's Church in Weston, MA, and Trinity Church in Concord, MA. The quintet was also pleased to be invited to participate in a two-week residency at the Banff Centre in Alberta, Canada, during the summer of 2009.

"Stellar"

International Trumpet Guild

"High Quality of Musicianship"

Scott Hartman- former member Empire Brass

Bala Brass

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CELEBRATING BRASS MUSIC

"All members of the Bala Brass were in top form in this difficult piece. The excellent performance of this ensemble was stellar—adjectives offered in their most honest, sincere meaning."

International Trumpet Guild Journal

"Bala Brass are an outstanding group of the 21st century where, style, musicianship and impeccable playing are taken for granted."

Graham Ashton, Chair of Brass, Purchase College & Dir. The Graham Ashton Brass Ensemble

Bala has performed at Shepherd College on several occasions, from a full formal recital to an informal masterclass for the college brass quintets. They have always impressed the audience, faculty, and students with their musicianship and knowledge. The fact that we bring them back every year is a testament to the quality of their appearances. Most recently Bala was the guest artist at the 2004 Shepherd College All-Star Brass Festival. The Shepherd College All-Star Brass Ensemble consists of the finest high school brass players from the counties surrounding Shepherd College. The students are selected on the recommendation of their band directors and have two intensive days of rehearsals, sectionals and clinics, culminating in a concert. Bala presented clinics for the 2 all-star ensembles, totaling 25 students from 12 different high schools, and shared the evening concert with the all-star ensembles. We have received rave reviews from the students about the clinics and the performance. As I circulated from clinic to clinic I could see the impression that they made on the students and saw the enthusiasm that the students had for Bala. We have already scheduled Bala's next engagement at Shepherd, and look forward to the performance.

Dr. Frank S. Gazda
Faculty, Shepherd College
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Thank you so much for a fantastic performance on the Wisconsin Lutheran College campus! The program that you presented was absolutely superb. You made the most difficult of selections sound routine. The WLC Brass Quintet also learned so much musically from your Master Class. The members of your group showed a sincere interest in making our ensemble play on a higher plane musically. Our brass quintet still talks about that master class a half year later!

Terry Treuden
Wisconsin Lutheran College

In the summer of 2003, visitors to the Norman Rockwell Museum received a musical treat from the brass quintet BALA. When many people hear the words "brass quintet" they think of loud march music and straw-hatted summer bands on gazebos.... BALA, on the other hand, is something completely different. Through a program focused largely on the music of American

composers, this unusual quintet demonstrated a versatility ranging from rousing to subtle. Moving phrases of harmonic sound enveloped the audience in wonder, while the familiar bold refrains of American favorites brought forth cheers and applause. A musical group sure to delight, BALA is a must-see.

Melinda Georgeson
Director of Education
The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge
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What an extraordinary evening! It was wonderful to have this ensemble of young, "cool", talented musicians sharing this great music with the bonus of each player taking turns to sharing insight of the various works! The ensemble performed with great precision and style! Thank you so very much and we hope to see you again soon!

Sincerely,

William E Thomas
Director of Performance
Phillips Academy, Andover, Ma

Bala Brass Ensemble came to Dover-Sherborn Middle School to do a performance and master class with the 6th Grade and 7th & 8th Grade Bands. After performing a few pieces, the members of Bala Brass sat in with the bands and played our repertoire with the students. Then, the members of Bala worked on some key musical factors with the band members on these pieces. The intimacy of this performance/clinic was very effective and had a lasting effect on the band students. It gave a nice boost to our rehearsal, and I would recommend this to any band director who wants to put some spark into their ensemble's performance.

Tom Duprey
Band Director - Dover-Sherborn Middle School

BALA is coming! BALA is coming! Watch out, Canadian Brass. . . BALA is coming! What a superb group of musicians! For the past two years, BALA has given a master class on proper embouchure technique, listening, breathing, historical background, and score study to my band of 120+ students. The students relate to them easily and love the interaction of questions and answers, and "hands on" playing with the group, not only for ensemble and/or concert settings, but also in my marching band. The lead trumpet and tuba players have been successful in making the students "think" about their music and performance. This gives them that extra spark in the field show that an audience needs at an outdoor performance. This learning process then transfers over to the concert season. I have had BALA do a master class for the last two years and the students and myself look forward to creating this on a yearly basis. They have made such a positive impact on my program that a concert season without them would seem empty. BALA is here!

John Porter
Band director, Plymouth High Schools, MA