

NEWS RELEASE



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Laurier welcomes True North Brass as distinguished guest ensemble

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s Faculty of Music welcomes the True North Brass chamber ensemble as Laurier’s distinguished guest ensemble for 2011-2012. Known internationally, the performers and pedagogues will be in residence at Laurier for master classes and workshops on November 4 and 5, 2011 and March 2 and 3, 2012.

“This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for our brass students to hear and to be coached by one of the finest chamber ensembles in Canada,” said Amy Hamilton, coordinator of winds, brass and percussion in Laurier’s Faculty of Music. “True North’s presence at Laurier will enrich our entire community. In addition, the master classes will explore important career and performance topics that will be very beneficial to all music students.”

True North Brass burst on the scene in 1997, and has since solidified its reputation as one of the world’s finest brass ensembles. True North’s membership includes two outstanding composer/arrangers who create the ensemble’s fresh and unique programming.

Canadian in focus and expression with an international outlook, True North Brass has performed in Canada, China and throughout North America. The ensemble has released four critically acclaimed recordings, has been featured on *CBC Television’s* “Opening Night” program and is heard frequently on public and private radio.

The ensemble has collaborated on other recording projects with such artists as the Elmer Iseler Singers, Rick Fox, Lori Cullen, Eleanor Daley and the St. Michael’s Choir School.

True North Brass was featured at the International Brass Symposium in Atlanta, Georgia in March 2000. They accompanied former Canadian prime minister Jean Chretien’s 1998 trade mission to China, performing recitals in Beijing and Wuhan and directing master classes at the Beijing Conservatory.

The quintet has also performed master classes and recitals at numerous conservatories and music festivals throughout Canada and the United States, including recent performances in Pennsylvania, Idaho, Roy Thomson Hall with the Toronto Children’s Chorus and the 2010 International Women’s Brass Conference in Toronto.

The ensemble’s most recent recording project is a transcription of pictures at an exhibition for brass quintet and organ by J. Scott Irvine.

The members of True North Brass are Yamaha Artists associated with Yamaha Music Canada.