

Saint Louis Brass Quintet Provides Evening of Music, Humor

Contributed by Angela Kilcrease - 601.266.4988
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Dispelling the myth that its kind of music is aimed solely at classical music lovers, the nationally renowned Saint Louis Brass Quintet will present a program of nice variety at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 10, when it appears in concert at The University of Southern Mississippi's Bennett Auditorium.

Take two trumpets, one French horn, a trombone, and a tuba, put them in the hands of virtuoso performers, add some lighthearted demonstrations, and you have the Saint Louis Brass Quintet. The concert starts as any concert might, but as it moves along, the music gets lighter and the Quintet presents the humorous demonstrations for which it is famous.

"We have a lot of fun with the audience," trombonist Melvyn Jernigan told a reporter after a concert last fall. "It starts off really kind of straight and then gets lighter as we go along," said Jernigan, a music educator who performed with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra in addition to his quintet role.

A special feature of this tour is the new work "Aesop's Fables" by Anthony Plog, in which the brass music is used to accompany the clever stories.

The program will also feature American composers of both jazz and classical genre. The Quintet has commissioned two jazz oriented arrangements — the famed "Sweet Georgia Brown" and a medley "Tribute to Pops" — and will present them at this concert together with a new commission, "Daylight at Midnight" by Dana Wilson.

Allan Dean has written many of the arrangements, including some songs and music of the Renaissance plus tangos by the Argentinean Astor Piazzolla.

Humorous demonstrations offered by the quintet have served to enhance their reputation as an extraordinary musical group. One such demonstration will focus on the history of the brass instruments all the way from the time of King Tut to the present, including the straight trombone and the French horn fashioned from a 12-foot section of garden hose.

In addition to Melvyn Jernigan, members of the quintet include trumpet soloists Allan Dean and Ray Sasaki, hornist Thomas Bacon and Daniel Perantoni, tuba.

For more than 30 years, the quintet has presented hundreds of concerts across the country and internationally. The musicians have been funded for touring by the Missouri Arts Council, the Illinois Arts Council, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, Arts Midwest and The National Endowment for the Arts.

This Southern Miss concert is made possible with support from Partners for the Arts and School of Music. For more information, call 601.266.5543.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$8 for senior citizens and Southern Miss faculty/staff and \$6 for students, available from the Southern Miss Ticket Office at 601.266-5418 or 800-844-8425. Order online at www.southernmisstickets.com. For more information, visit the Web at www.usm.edu/arts or contact Angela Kilcrease at 601.266.4988.

Saint Louis Brass Quintet will perform at the University of Southern Mississippi Feb. 10 at Bennett Auditorium.

About The University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi, founded in 1910, is a comprehensive doctoral and research-extensive university fulfilling its mission of being a leading university in engaging and empowering individuals to transform lives and communities. In a tradition of leadership for student development, Southern Miss is educating a 21st century work force providing intellectual capital, cultural enrichment and innovation to Mississippi and the world. Southern Miss is located in Hattiesburg, Miss, with an additional campus and teaching and research sites on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; further information is found at www.usm.edu.