

PRESS RELEASE

AFTERNOON OF BRASS coming to VCC and Mechanics Hall

Honoring local Firefighters with uplifting tribute

Pitzen Brass performers gather from across North America

NORTHBIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS – 11 April 2022 – Northbridge Brass Endeavors is enlisting professional brass players from across North America to perform in an “Afternoon of Brass” at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA and to present an open rehearsal at the Village Congregational Church (VCC) in Whitinsville, MA. The concert features:

- An uplifting video tribute to local Firefighters set to the music of John Williams
- “Resurrection Symphony Finale” Gustav Mahler, arranged by Stephen Bulla
- Brian McCreath – emcee
- Leonardo Ciampa – organist
- Bay Colony Brass (BCB) – Lawrence Isaacson
- New World Chorale (NWC) – Holly Krafka
- Pitzen Brass Resurrection (PBR) – Mitchell Arnold
- Free face painting – begins one hour before the concert in the lobby
- Firefighters and their guests – 50% discount on tickets

The concert begins at 3PM on Sunday June 5, 2020. With general admission tickets set low for this type of event (\$10 to \$20), interested concertgoers are advised to get tickets early. Tickets are now on sale (both livestream and in person). Tickets and more information about the concert and open rehearsal are available online at <https://ABMH.eventbrite.com/> and <https://ORPBR.eventbrite.com/> respectively.

“The Mahler Finale alone (which should be on everyone’s bucket list) is worth the price of admission” said Patrick Smith who is both executive producer of Afternoon of Brass and publisher of the Mahler arrangement. “I attended the premiere in Chicago with Steve Bulla. It was a critically acclaimed success but it lacked the optional chorus” Smith said. <https://chicagoontheaisle.com/2021/12/16/cso-brass-measure-up-to-golden-reputation-with-sonorous-fare-capped-by-blazing-mahler/> The Afternoon of Brass combines the forces of Bay Colony Brass, the New World Chorale, and Leonardo Ciampa (organist). Led by maestro Lawrence Isaacson this performance promises to be a grand musical experience showcasing just 11 minutes of music from the final movement of this otherwise lengthy work (typically 80+ minutes).

“This should be a spectacular and emotionally moving concert” said Smith. “In addition to the portion of the program ‘Honoring Local Firefighters’ with organist Leonardo Ciampa, Bay Colony Brass and New World Chorale, we also have the once thriving Pitzen Brass coming back to life.” Their last concert was at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Evanston, IL on June 18, 1989. “The Pitzen Brass play all styles with precision and élan. If you like interesting music well played and intelligently presented, go hear them” said music critic Kyle Gann. Pitzen alumni hail from the finest orchestras across the globe (Chicago, Boston, Beethoven (in Bonn, DE), Canada, St. Louis, and many others). “I jumped at the chance to be a part of the Pitzen Brass Resurrection for the Afternoon of Brass” said Music Director Mitchell Arnold who is travelling from Ohio. “Of all the ensembles I’ve had the privilege to play in as a professional symphony musician, Pitzen was the best” said founding member Don Schultz who is travelling from Ottawa, Canada to perform with the Pitzen Brass Resurrection.

The Afternoon of Brass is supported in part by grants from eight (8) Local Cultural Councils (LCCs), namely, Auburn, Burlington, Charlton, Grafton, Hopedale, Sterling, Uxbridge, and West Boylston as well as a separate state-level grant from the Mass Cultural Council (MCC).

AFTERNOON OF BRASS

Honoring Local Firefighters
Pitzen Brass Resurrection

FACE PAINTING 2:00pm
FREE!

Mechanics Hall : Worcester, MA : 3PM Sunday June 5, 2022 : [ABMH.eventbrite.com](https://abmh.eventbrite.com)



LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCILS
Auburn Hopedale
Burlington Sterling
Charlton Uxbridge
Grafton West Boylston



BRIAN MCCREATH - EMCEE / ORGAN - LEONARDO CIAMPA
BAY COLONY BRASS - LAWRENCE ISAACSON
NEW WORLD CHORALE - HOLLY KRAFKA
PITZEN BRASS RESURRECTION - MITCHELL ARNOLD

HYMN TO THE FALLEN - JOHN WILLIAMS
'RESURRECTION' SYMPHONY FINALE - GUSTAV MAHLER

AND OTHER WORKS BY

ELGAR, COPLAND, MASON, SIBELIUS,
R. STRAUSS, G. GABRIELI, DUKAS, CRESPO, BRAHMS,
BYRD, SUSATO, KARG-ELERT, GRIEG, WAGNER

Northbridge Brass Endeavors reserves the right to make changes to the program.

OPEN REHEARSAL

Pitzen Brass Resurrection
2-5 PM June 4, 2022

Village Congregational Church : Whitinsville, MA : [ORPBR.eventbrite.com](https://orpbr.eventbrite.com)



LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCILS
Auburn Hopedale
Burlington Sterling
Charlton Uxbridge
Grafton West Boylston



Mechanics Hall : <https://www.mechanicshall.org/> 321 Main St., Worcester, MA 01608

Village Congregational Church : <https://www.vccucc.org/> 5 Church St., Whitinsville, MA 01588

Bay Colony Brass : <https://www.baycolonybrass.org/about-1/> Established in 2000, Bay Colony Brass is one of the few large brass ensembles of its kind in the United States. Composed of twenty brass and percussion players from the Greater Boston metropolitan area, the ensemble performs a broad range of challenging repertoire spanning five centuries, including both original works and transcriptions of masterpieces from the Renaissance, classical era, romantic era, 20th century, jazz, and world music.

New World Chorale : <http://www.newworldchorale.org/about-us/> The New World Chorale was founded in 1999 by Holly MacEwen Krafka and John Zielinski with the mission of performing the best choral music and the goal of performing with many of the finest orchestras in New England. NWC's membership comprises some of the Boston area's most experienced choral singers and soloists who have performed both locally and internationally with the world's major orchestras.

Pitzen Brass Resurrection : A brass ensemble consisting of original members of the Pitzen Brass Ensemble (1978-1989) and supplemented by brass musicians from the local area including Mike Roylance (principal tuba, Boston Symphony), Kevin Owen (principal horn, Boston Pops) and others not yet confirmed at the time of this press release.

Leonardo Ciampa : <https://www.leonardociampa.com/> Born in Boston in 1971, composer, organist and pianist LEONARDO CIAMPA is a musician of international repute. Ciampa is Mechanics Hall Composer-in-Residence 2021-2022, Director of Music at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Worcester, MA (since 2019) and Maestro di Cappella Onorario of the Basilica in Gubbio, Italy (since 2015). He was artistic director of organ concerts at MIT (2009-2016) and founding director of Arts MetroWest (2012-2019).

Brian McCreath : <https://www.classicalwcrb.org/people/brian-mccreath> Brian McCreath produces WCRB's Boston Symphony Orchestra broadcasts, produces and hosts both The Bach Hour and The Answered Question (an interview podcast), and supervises digital content production for classicalwcrb.org. He came to WGBH from a diverse background in music. With degrees in trumpet performance from the New England Conservatory and The College of Wooster, he spent several years as a musician, including two years with the Symphony Orchestra of the State of Mexico and five years as Principal Trumpet of the Milwaukee Ballet Orchestra.

Mitchell Arnold : <https://www.music.wvu.edu/faculty/mitchell-arnold> Mitchell Arnold holds Masters in Composition and Doctor of Music in Orchestral Conducting degrees from Northwestern University. He is Associate Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Studies at West Virginia University. He was the Music Director of the Pitzen Brass Ensemble (1978-1989).

Lawrence Isaacson : <http://www.lawrenceisaacson.com/biography.html/> A vibrant presence in the classical music world, Lawrence Isaacson inspires audiences with exciting, interactive and creative concerts. In seeking not only to entertain but also to educate concertgoers, Mr. Isaacson helps them to discover the classical tradition's depth, beauty and relevance today.

Stephen Bulla : <http://www.bullamusic.com/bio/bio.html/> Stephen Bulla graduated Magna Cum Laude from Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he studied trombone with Phil Wilson and Composition/Arranging with Herb Pomeroy. In 1980 he became Staff Arranger to "The President's Own" United States Marine Band and Chamber Orchestra in Washington DC. For the next thirty years he would provide musical scores for myriad White House events, beginning with the Reagan era until 2010.

CONTACT INFORMATION (for PRESS inquiries only)

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