Educational Outreach Program for

Sounds of the Cinema
Since forming in 2006, Presidio Brass has rocketed to success as the face of a bold new generation in brass entertainment. By combining a brass quintet, piano and percussion instruments with fresh, original arrangements, their unique sound has become a trademark for the ensemble from San Diego, CA, captivating audiences everywhere.

Through their touring show of Hollywood’s greatest hits, Sounds of the Cinema, these five young men present film music with a good dose of wit and humor that together have become hallmarks of every Presidio Brass performance. Audiences and music critics agree, Sounds of the Cinema is “Two Thumbs Up” and a “Must See!” The show has been enjoyed internationally, with performances and educational outreach programs throughout North America. Presidio Brass has performed in over 40 states, conducted master classes at many of America’s finest colleges and universities, and has been featured on National Public Radio.

Each member of the ensemble began his music career in his school’s band program. Inspired by the dedication of their school music teachers, Presidio Brass came together with the primary mission to promote music education and music appreciation in youngsters. This is why at every opportunity, performances are coupled with a master class or school program for which the quintet volunteers their time.
Members of the Presidio Brass have performed with major symphony orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Las Vegas Philharmonic, Pacific Symphony and the San Diego Symphony. When not on tour, they continue to perform with orchestras, maintain private teaching studios at local universities, arrange and compose new music, assist with public school music programs, and operate an annual summer music camp for students of all ages.

In addition to performing as a brass quintet, Presidio Brass performs regularly as a part of Millennia Consort, one of the nation’s premiere brass, organ and percussion ensembles. Millennia Consort is active in commissioning new works as well as arrangements of popular classical music. The latest recording by the ensemble, *Pictures of a New Beginning*, includes commissions of new music by Craig Phillips, John Hirten and Jon Naples, and features an arrangement of the orchestral favorite “Pictures at an Exhibition” by Presidio Brass’s tubist, Scott Sutherland.

The Presidio Brass has released three recordings: *Stolen Moments*, a collection of popular classical and jazz selections, *Christmas Day*, an assortment of well-loved holiday favorites, and *Sounds of the Cinema*, which includes pieces from their signature stage performance of the same name. Look for their newest CD of popular American music, which will be released in 2013.
There are four families of musical instruments.

- Strings
- Woodwinds
- Brass
- Percussion

All of the instruments on which we perform in Presidio Brass are from the Brass Family.

**The Brass Family**

Instruments in the brass family have the following in common:

1. Every instrument is made of metal called brass.
2. We create sound by buzzing our lips in a mouthpiece.
3. Brass instruments all have a bell in which the sound comes out.

**Some Interesting Facts about Brass Instruments:**

- To create a sound on a brass instrument, we blow air through closed lips. The lips vibrate and create a BUZZ. The instrument amplifies the buzz into a sound.

- On a brass instrument, the length of tube determines how high or low it can play.

- The shorter the length of tube means the higher the sound.

- The longer the length of tube means the lower the sound.

- To play higher notes on a brass instrument, you blow a faster airstream.

- To play lower notes on a brass instrument, you blow a slower airstream.
Here are the instruments that we perform on in Presidio Brass.

**Trumpet**

The trumpet has the highest range in the brass family. If you stretched a trumpet out, the tube would be four feet in length. Trumpets are among the oldest of instruments, dating back to 1500 BC. They come in different sizes – the smaller the size, the brighter the sound, and the bigger the size, the darker the sound.

Trumpets have three valves to press to change the length of tube.

**Flugelhorn**

The flugelhorn resembles a trumpet but has a wider bell and a conical bore (the tube is shaped like a cone). The first flugelhorn was created by Michael Saurle, in Munich, Germany, in 1832. Because of the large bell, the flugelhorn has a warm, dark sound.

**Piccolo Trumpet**

The piccolo trumpet is the smallest member of the trumpet family and has the brightest sound. It plays the highest because the tube is only 2 feet long compared to the 4 feet tube of the trumpet.

**Horn**

The horn is the only brass instrument that the bell faces backwards when you play it. If you stretched the tubing out of a horn, it would measure 14 feet long. Horns were originally used to signal hunters while on a hunt. Horn players hold their horn up by putting one of their hands inside the bell.
Trombone

Trombones are the only brass instrument that change notes by moving the slide instead of pressing down valves. Trombones can make a funny, smeary sound by moving the slide called a gliss.

Tuba

The tuba is the largest and lowest instrument in the brass family. If you stretched a tuba out it would be about 16 feet long! The tuba can play really low and requires a lot of air to play it. It is often used in band and orchestra. Tubas come in all different shapes and sizes.
**History of Film**

Our concert program is called *Sounds of the Cinema*. We feature some of our favorite music used in films. In movies today, music plays an important role in helping heighten the emotions we feel during scenes in a movie. But music wasn’t always used in movies. Motion pictures began in the late 1890’s with the invention of the movie camera. Most films before 1930 were silent, with no dialogue or music, and filmed in black and white. Some popular silent film stars are Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo, and Rudolph Valentino. During this time, movie theaters became very popular and were a cheap form of entertainment for people. In 1927, *the Jazz Singer* was the first movie that used dialogue and singing.

As time went on, cameras, film, acting, staging, and effects improved dramatically in the making of movies. Today, movies are one of the most popular forms of entertainment in the world. Today, there are on average more than 2500 films being made a year in the world.

**What Pieces Will Be Performed?**

*Star Wars* by John Williams

*Blue Rondo* by Dave Brubeck

*Green Hornet* by Billy May

*Incredibles* by Michael Giacchino

**Star Wars by John Williams**

One of the best film composers of all time is John Williams. He has written music for many films, including Star Wars, Harry Potter, E.T., and Raiders of the Lost Ark to name just a few. In his music, John Williams writes great themes – songs used to represent different characters or ideas. He uses lots of different tempos and dynamics to create exciting music. Composers throughout time such as Beethoven (*Symphony #6*), Berlioz (*Symphonie Fantastique*), and Wagner (*The Ring Cycle*), used themes to represent people or ideas in their music.

**Blue Rondo by Dave Brubeck**

Dave Brubeck was born in 1920 and is an amazing American jazz pianist and composer. In his music, Dave Brubeck would improvise on his piano. Improvising is making a melody up on the spot. In his music, *Blue Rondo*, Brubeck uses complex rhythms. See if you can tap your foot to the music!
Green Hornet by Billy May

Billy May wrote music for the television show, The Green Hornet, in 1966. He was a great trumpet player and performed in the 1940’s in the Big Band era. This music is a great trumpet feature. Listen and watch how fast Steve plays the melody on his trumpet!

The Incredibles by Michael Giacchino

The Incredibles is a computer-animated superhero comedy that was released in 2004 by Pixar Animation Studios. Animated movies have been around since 1899. Animated movies from that time were hand drawn. Today, computers help with animation. The music used in this movie was composed by Michael Giacchino. Listen how the trumpet uses a harmon mute (a small metal object placed inside the bell of a brass instrument to help change the sound). Also listen to how the music changes tempos from fast to slow, and then back to fast.

Key Music Terms

Here are some great music terms that can help describe what you hear in music.

Tone – how something sounds

Dynamics – how loud or how soft something sounds

Here are some examples of different dynamics and their symbols:

  soft – piano (p)
  medium soft – mezzo piano (mp)
  medium loud - mezzo forte (mf)
  loud – forte (f)

Tempo – how fast or slow music is performed

Here are some examples of different tempos:

  slow – adagio
  medium - andante
  lively - allegro
  really fast – presto
TRUMPET   HORN   TROMBONE   TUBA
BELL   BRASS   VALVE   SLIDE
BUZZ   MOUTHPIECE