

Zephyr Brass Collective Setlists

Program Option 1

The Golden Brass Tradition

90 min, w/ intermission
(Classical)

Synopsis:

From the soaring lyricism of Gershwin and Bernstein to the rhythmic brilliance of Cheetham and Crespo, *The Golden Brass Tradition* traces the quintet's evolution through the twentieth century and beyond. Honoring its roots in symphonic and operatic transcriptions while embracing works written expressly for brass, the program weaves together Broadway's fire, America's folk spirit, and the virtuosity of contemporary literature—offering audiences a vivid portrait of the brass quintet as both a vessel for tradition and a voice of reinvention.

Program:

- John Cheetham – *Scherzo*
- Leonard Bernstein – *Dance Suite*
- Michael Kamen – *Quintet*
- Gershwin – Selections from *Porgy and Bess* (arr. Jack Gale)
- Efrain Crespo – *Suite Americana*

Intermission

- Efraín Amaya – *Angelica*
- Claude Debussy - *The Girl With the Flaxen Hair*
- Bernstein – Selections from *West Side Story* (arr. Jack Gale)
- Monserrat Caballé (trad.) – *La Virgen de la Macarena* (trumpet feature)

Encore: Gabrieli *Canzon per sonare*

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Program Option 2

Roadtrippin'

90 min w/ intermission
(Classical Crossover)

Synopsis:

From New York's bustling streets to the vibrant rhythms of Latin America, the sweeping landscapes of New Zealand, and the soulful strains of Americana, *Roadtrippin'* is a musical journey across cultures and continents. With stops that range from Bernstein's Broadway to Piazzolla's tango, Rodrigo's pop anthem to Copland's folk-inspired lyricism, the program highlights the brass quintet's ability to bridge genres and geographies. Closing with John Denver's *Take Me Home, Country Roads*, this concert offers audiences both a voyage abroad and a joyful return home.

Program:

- Leonard Bernstein – *Selections from West Side Story* (New York City)
- Enrique Crespo – *Suite Americana* (Latin America)
- Ryan Adamsons – *Aotearoa Sketches* (New Zealand commission)

Intermission

- Olivia Rodrigo – *Driver's License* (arr. Seb Skelly) – a road anthem in brass colors
- Aaron Copland – *Simple Gifts* (arr. O'Hara, Americana stopover)
- Astor Piazzolla – *Libertango* (Argentina)
- Björk – *New World* (arr. Ben Justis, commission)

Encore: *Take Me Home, Country Roads* (John Denver)

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Program Option 3

Brass Remix

90 min w/ intermission

(Crossover)

Synopsis:

Brass Remix reimagines the soundscape of today through the bold colors of brass and the pulse of percussion. This program moves seamlessly between genres—melding the raw intensity of rock, the groove of funk, the lyricism of jazz standards, and the chart-topping hooks of pop. With music from System of a Down, Billie Eilish, Silk Sonic, Simon & Garfunkel, and Queen, the concert celebrates the brass quintet as a fearless crossover ensemble—virtuosic, versatile, and unbound by category.

Set 1:

- System of a Down – *Toxicity* (tuba feature, high-energy opener)
- Alanis Morissette – *Uninvited* (moody, atmospheric rock ballad)
- Stevie Wonder – *I Wish* (funk classic, brass + percussion spotlight)
- Billie Eilish – *Bad Guy* (edgy, groove-driven pop, low brass riffs)
- Billie Eilish – *What Was I Made For?* (ethereal ballad, contrast)
- Sam Smith & Kim Petras – *Unholy* (dark, groove-driven)
- James Bond Medley (cinematic showstopper — set closer)

Intermission

Set 2:

- Hoagy Carmichael – *Stardust* (jazz standard, lyrical reset)
- Silk Sonic – *Leave the Door Open* (soulful R&B ballad)

- Camila Cabello – *Havana* (Latin pop, rhythmic drive)
- Simon & Garfunkel – *The Sound of Silence* (haunting, atmospheric ballad)
- Shanyse Strickland – *For Glasper* (commissioned jazz tribute)
- Britney Spears – *Toxic* (pop crossover, driving groove, high energy)
- Finale: Queen – *Bohemian Rhapsody* (theatrical crossover anthem)

Encore: Blink-182 – *What's My Age Again?* (pop-punk burst of energy to send the audience out smiling)

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Holiday Program

Brass Bells Ring: A Holiday Concert

90 min w/ intermission
(Holiday)

Synopsis:

Brass Bells Ring: A Holiday Concert blends beloved holiday traditions with the brilliance of brass and the sparkle of percussion. From the excitement of *Carol of the Bells* and the jazzy nostalgia of Vince Guaraldi to the warmth of *The Christmas Song* and the joy of *White Christmas*, the program embraces the full spectrum of holiday spirit. A signature moment arrives as the second half begins in darkness, the ensemble surrounding the audience while a single candle glows on stage for *Silent Night*—an intimate, unforgettable reflection. With festive favorites like *Sleigh Ride*, *All I Want for Christmas Is You*, and Anderson's rousing *Christmas Festival*, Zephyr Brass Collective invites audiences to celebrate the season with music that is both heartwarming and exhilarating.

Set 1:

- Traditional – *Carol of the Bells* (dramatic opener)
- Leroy Anderson – *Sleigh Ride* (quintet + percussion feature)

- Traditional – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* (lyrical, atmospheric)
- Vince Guaraldi – *Christmas Time Is Here* (jazzy, nostalgic)
- Mel Tormé & Robert Wells – *The Christmas Song* (“Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire”)
- Traditional – *Joy to the World* (grand set closer, audience sing-along optional)

Intermission

Set 2:

- Traditional – *Silent Night* (performed in the dark with quintet surrounding the audience — immersive opening)

***Silent Night* — Special Staging**

The second half opens in stillness and darkness. From around the hall, the quintet’s voices emerge, encircling the audience in the quiet beauty of *Silent Night*. At the center of the stage, a single candle glows—the only light—casting a warm, timeless aura. This simple yet powerful staging transforms the familiar carol into an intimate, communal moment, inviting reflection, reverence, and the true spirit of the season.

- Irving Berlin – *White Christmas* (classic crooner arranged for brass)
- Tchaikovsky – *Selections from The Nutcracker Suite* (arr. quintet — “Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy,” “Trepak,” etc.)
- Mariah Carey – *All I Want for Christmas Is You* (pop crossover, upbeat)
- Traditional – *The Twelve Days of Christmas* (humorous/clever arrangement, audience favorite)
- Finale: Leroy Anderson – *A Christmas Festival* (festive medley, triumphant closer)

Encore: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* (short, festive audience send-off)