



THE PINNACLE BRASS QUINTET

— MEDIA KIT —



The Pinnacle Brass Quintet is Victoria BC's premier professional brass ensemble. The group features the region's top talent drawn from some of the most venerated music institutions in Canada: the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Victoria Symphony, Vancouver Island Symphony, Naden Band of Maritime Forces Pacific, and the University of Victoria's School of Music.

John, Matt, Mike, Scott and Gene have merged expert musicianship and love for the genre with a charming dynamic. They share their big, bold, brassy sound with audiences from cathedral to concert hall. Since 2009, they have crafted their voice

and extended their repertoire—from Baroque to Tango, Beethoven to Pops—with their own arrangements, created by and for practitioners. By turns, playful, sombre, toe-tapping, brass is at home in the world's great performance halls and the neighbourhood pub.

Promoters and presenters help to bring their unique sound to a range of venues: theatres, churches, nightclubs, schools and private functions—corporate events, weddings and other celebratory occasions. The guys love hearing a recital is “like spending time with friends,” and are always willing to chat after a show.

THE PINNACLE BRASS

OUR STORY



A graduate of McGill University, John studied trumpet with Robert Earley and Charles Daval. His career has spanned performances with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, Ottawa Symphony, the Kingston Symphony and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival. John moved to Victoria in 1999 to take a position with the Naden Band, a Canadian Forces professional ensemble. Since his arrival to the Westcoast, he has performed with the Victoria and Vancouver Island symphonies. John has also collaborated on projects with Vancouver Island tenor Ken Lavigne, including the musician's 2009 Carnegie Hall debut.

JOHN ELLIS
TRUMPET



Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Mike is thrilled to call Victoria home. He joined the Victoria Symphony as second horn in 2007. He was previously with the Canton Symphony and appeared with the Cleveland Orchestra, Cleveland Pops Orchestra, Erie Philharmonic, and Shreveport Symphony. He has participated in festivals including: The American Institute of Musical Studies (Graz, Austria), Aspen Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra (Breckenridge, Colorado), Music Academy of the West (Santa Barbara, California) and the Kent/Blossom Chamber Music Festival in Ohio. In Aspen, Mike performed a number of Vivaldi and Telemann multi-instrument concertos with John Zirbel and Nicolas McGegan. He studied at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music with William VerMeulen and received his bachelor's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music as a student of Richard King.

MIKE OSWALD
FRENCH HORN



Scott completed his University of Toronto undergraduate degree in Classical Music Performance and has played bass trombone with the Victoria Symphony since 2005. Throughout his career, he has appeared with ensembles including: the Toronto Symphony, Orchestra London, the Thunder Bay Symphony, the Niagara Symphony, and the Hannaford Street Silver Band. Scott has taken on many styles of music—from jazz to R&B, folk rock to big band. He's also performed for British and Dutch royalty, the Pope, the Dalai Lama, and other heads of state. Scott is the trombone instructor at the University of Victoria and Principal Bass Trombone with the Vancouver Island Symphony Orchestra. He also performs with The Midnights Rhythm and Blues Band.

SCOTT MACINNES
TROMBONE



A native of Stratford, Prince Edward Island, Matthew completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of PEI, studying with Gregory Irvine and Mark Parsons. He earned an Advanced Certificate in Performance under the tutelage of Bart Woomert in Toronto and completed his Master of Music at the University of New Mexico, studying with Jeff Piper and John Marchiando. Matthew enjoyed lessons and master classes with many fine trumpeters including: Andrew McCandless, Vince Cichowicz, David Krauss and Paul Merkelo. He has performed with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, New Mexico Brass Quintet, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Victoria Symphony and the Orchestre de la Francophonie Canadienne. Matthew lives in Victoria and works for the Naden Band.

MATTHEW MCCRADY
TRUMPET



Eugene (Gene) studied with euphonium virtuoso Leonard Falcone and legendary pedagogue Arnold Jacobs, former Principal Tubist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. At Northwestern University, he studied conducting with the late John P. Paynter. For 25 years, Gene was Principal Tubist with the Victoria Symphony. He has been a faculty member of the University of Victoria's School of Music for more than 30 years. His recording *The English Tuba* on the Fanfare/Pro Arte label was nominated for a Juno Award and received North America-wide radio play. Under Gene's direction, the Victoria TUBACHRISTMAS ensemble has raised thousands of dollars for local charities. A recent sabbatical took him to Oregon, Alberta, Idaho and Vancouver, where he presented master classes to students in six universities, collaborated with resident professors and appeared as a recitalist. A Yamaha Artist, he maintains an active schedule as a soloist, clinician and chamber musician.

EUGENE DOWLING
TUBA

REVIEW: STEVE GEDROSE | WHITEHORSE CONCERTS WHITEHORSE, YUKON

Whitehorse Concerts had the pleasure of presenting The Pinnacle Brass Quintet as part of its “Classically Yours” concert season. During their visit, this talented group made a valuable contribution to the cultural fabric of our community. Pinnacle began by delivering a brass clinic to a local high school band class. The hour-long session saw a dramatic improvement in student sound and provided the young musicians with practical information to help them move forward.

Pinnacle also played an entertaining and educational show for an enthusiastic group of elementary school students from Whitehorse. These young Yukoners were thoroughly engaged with the music and enjoyed the opportunity to see and hold the brass instruments after the show. The learning was all the more valuable because it was delivered in such a casual and fun way. We hope this experience may spawn a future brass ensemble!

The Yukon Arts Centre was the venue for a Pinnacle evening concert. Following a pre-concert interview, the audience was treated to a diverse program of brass music. Many of the pieces were adapted and arranged for brass quintet by trombonist Scott MacInnes and trumpeter Matthew McCrady and explored the versatility and beauty of brass in a chamber music setting. The program highlighted the diversity of musical styles that work with this particular instrumentation. The performance showcased the skill and artistry of individual members and demonstrated the pleasure they take in coming together to play an extraordinary repertoire.

We only wish that more people from our community could have experienced this wonderful music and the joy with which these gifted artists perform it.

“WHITEHORSE CONCERTS HIGHLY RECOMMENDS THE
PINNACLE BRASS QUINTET TO AUDIENCES THAT ENJOY
SPIRITED MUSIC DELIVERED IN A PROFESSIONAL,
VIRTUOSIC, AND COMPLETELY ENTERTAINING MANNER.”



The Pinnacle Brass Quintet adds joy and sophistication to live performances of all kinds. Pinnacle appears by invitation at theatres, festivals, clubs and cathedrals and plays a number of corporate and private events each year. The group collaborates with promoters and presenters to get the elements of a performance just right and fosters the next generation of performers through educational concerts and workshops.

Pinnacle also offers an expanding repertoire of arrangements created by and for musicians. Members are set for a return to the studio to record their second album on the heels of their successful debut, *The Earth Shall Ring*.

BOOK THE BRASS OR CONNECT WITH US

CONTACT

pinnaclebrassquintet@gmail.com

250.686.9252