

Saint Louis Brass, One Of America's Longest Standing Brass Quintets

In Concert October 20, 2019

Brief History

Saint Louis Brass (SLB) was formed in 1964 by members of the Saint Louis Symphony, originally to play school concerts around the St. Louis area. Now more than 3,000 engagements later, the SLB is entertaining audiences worldwide and only one of the members actually lives in St. Louis. The quintet's annual schedule usually includes three, ten-day tours throughout the United States, plus international touring: Norway in 1994, Bombay, India in 1995, Japan in 1997, Mexico in 1999, Germany in 2001, and Sweden in 2003.

It was out of SLB that Summit Brass ("America's premiere large brass ensemble") got its start. In 1985, led by trumpeter David Hickman, who was at that time a member of SLB, personnel were chosen for this new group. Since its first concerts in 1986, Summit Brass has hosted an annual institute for brass players, performed dozens of concert tours in the United States and Europe, and has recorded eleven CDs.

Members of Saint Louis Brass

Allan Dean, Trumpet -- Professor of Music, Yale School of Music -- Allan lived for many years in New York City, performing with the New York Brass Quintet, and the New York Cornet and Sackbut Ensemble. As a top call freelance concert and recording artist he worked with Leonard Bernstein, Igor Stravinsky and a virtual Who's Who of the greatest musicians and composers of the 20th Century. He is a founding member of Summit Brass, and is also a renowned player of the cornetto in the group "Calliope: A Renaissance Band." He has performed at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Casals Festival, Spoleto Festival, U.S.A., Banff Centre for the Arts, and Prairie Home Companion. He formerly taught at the Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, and Indiana University, and he has students in key positions throughout the world.

Mikio Sasaki, Trumpet --New York - He is an active freelance trumpet player in New York City, having just earned his Master's Degree in trumpet performance at the Yale University School of Music after completing a Bachelor's Degree at the Juilliard School. He began playing trumpet at age 7, studying with his father, Ray Sasaki, and has become an active performer of various styles in addition to his dedicated work as an educator and arranger. He has performed with Music, Hudson Valley Philharmonic, Yale Philharmonia, Juilliard Orchestra, Axiom Ensemble, and Feist, among others, and has appeared as a soloist with the Austin Symphony. He has performed internationally with Music in Athens, and Thessaloniki, Greece, the Axiom Ensemble at the Helsinki Festival, and with fellow Juilliard students at Festival de Inverno in Campos do Jordao, Brazil. Mikio's teachers include Allan Dean, Mark Gould, Ray Mase and Ray Sasaki.

Victoria Knudtson, Horn - Born to a pianist mother and singer father, Victoria Knudtson has always been surrounded by music. As a pianist herself from the age of 5, it wasn't until she was 16 that she began to foster her love for the horn. It was then that she initiated solo and orchestral studies as a private student of Wayne Lu, who ignited her young musical career. She is a recent graduate of Indiana University Jacobs School of Music with a Bachelor of Music performance degree under the tutelage of Jeff Nelsen. Thanks to the horn department at the Jacobs School, she also benefited from the pedagogy of Dale Clevenger and studied early music performance on the natural horn with Richard Seraphinoff. Later pedagogues include Wolfgang Vladar of the Vienna Philharmonic, and Kendall Betts, formerly of the Minnesota Orchestra. At IU, she was awarded the Premiere Young Artist Award and Scholarship for the Class of 2018, along with the Camarata Scholarship. Knudtson holds the position of Principal horn of the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic. In 2016, Knudtson won the IU Brass Concerto Competition for her performance of Richard Strauss' 1st Horn Concerto, and was rewarded with a solo performance with orchestra under

the direction of Daniel Boico. She was invited to perform in the Outstanding Soloist Showcase at the 2013 IHSMA Solo contest, and was honored as the featured soloist at the Dorian Music Festival held at Luther College.

Melvyn Jernigan, Trombone -- Executive Director, Primo Concerts – For many years Mel was Bass Trombonist with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra, having joined the orchestra right after graduating from the Curtis Institute of Music. He is the founding member of the Saint Louis Brass and is also a founding member of Summit Brass. In addition to his performing duties, Mel manages Primo Concerts, which handles bookings for the Saint Louis Brass, Summit Brass and The RiverCity Ramblers, a Dixieland jazz group. He is a recording and television producer as well as an arts manager, and has served on various committees and/or boards of the Missouri Arts Council, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, ACUCAA, Young Audiences St. Louis, Summit Brass and Summit Records.

Daniel Perantoni, Tuba -- Provost Professor of Music, Indiana University - Dan, or “Mr. P,” as his students call him, is a legendary tuba artist, and master teacher, renowned worldwide as a solo recitalist, chamber musician, and jazz performer. He holds the Lifetime Achievement Award given by the executive board of T.U.B.A., and his former students hold prestigious positions in major ensembles and music schools around the world. He has been a featured artist at Carnegie Hall, the Monterey Jazz Festival, the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., the Adelaide Festival in Australia, the Montreux Brass Congress in Switzerland, and as a soloist throughout Japan. He is a founding member of Summit Brass, a member of Symphonia, the St. Louis Brass, and the Matteson-Phillips Tubajazz Consort and he has released numerous solo albums and chamber music CDs. Along with Robert Tucci, he has designed a line of low brass instruments and mouthpieces that has become the equipment choice of thousands of low brass players worldwide. Mr. P is a Buffet Crampon B&S Artist. Visit Mr. P’s website at: danielperantoni.com