

Fredericksburg Music Club

Presents

Seraph Brass Quintet

Two Trumpets, Horn, Trombone, Tuba

March 15, 2026

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Seraph Brass, now in its 12th season, was founded by trumpet soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden with a mission to showcase the excellence of women brass players and highlight musicians from marginalized groups, both in personnel and in programming. Winners of the American Prize in Chamber Music, the group has been praised for its “beautiful sounds” (American Record Guide), “fine playing” (Gramophone), and “staggeringly high caliber of performance” (Textura).

The ensemble tours nationally and globally, and the 2025-2026 highlights included the premiere of Steven Juliani’s new concerto for Brass Quintet and Wind Ensemble alongside Jerry Junkin and the Dallas Winds, performances in Japan and across the U.S., as well as residencies at universities such as the University of Texas in Austin. Members of Seraph Brass are passionate about music education, and hold faculty positions at Shenandoah Conservatory and Texas State University. In each of their tours, the group works to provide educational outreach to local schools.

Seraph Brass performs a diverse body of repertoire, ranging from original transcriptions to newly commissioned works and core classics. Seraph Brass is passionate about commissioning and premiering new works, and has released two albums showcasing these works, *Asteria* (Summit Records) and *Showcase* (Tower Grove Records).

Seraph Brass is a Yamaha Performing Group.

Mary Elizabeth Bowden, Trumpet

Classical trumpeter Mary Elizabeth Bowden is a highly in-demand soloist, praised for her “splendid, brilliant” playing (Gramophone Magazine) and her “pure, refined, and warm” tone (American Record Guide). A Gold Medal Global Music Award Winner, Opus Klassik Nominee, and Yamaha Performing Artist, Bowden works diligently to establish a new repertoire for the trumpet through creative, collaborative commissioning projects and award-winning albums.

Bowden has performed as a soloist across the U.S., appearing with ensembles including the Erie Philharmonic, Chautauqua Symphony, Waynesboro Symphony, Evansville Philharmonic, Peninsula Symphony (California), Chameleon Arts Ensemble (Boston), Springfield Symphony (in both Missouri and Ohio), Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, and San Juan Symphony, and at Montana’s Big Sky Festival. In 2019, she made her German debut in Eisenach at the Wartburg Castle, and her French debut at the Château de Courances, both through the World and European Brass Association.

She made her Russian debut with a performance in Sochi with famed trumpeter Otto Sauter’s handpicked “10 of the Best” trumpet soloists from around the world. Other international solo engagements have brought her to China’s Hunan Symphony Orchestra, Croatian Army Wind Band at the Velika Gorica Brass Festival, Lieksa Brass Week in Finland and The Banff Center in Canada, as well as residencies in Courances, France, and both Guadalajara and Cancun, Mexico. Bowden has collaborated in chamber music programs at the Marlboro Music Festival, Lakes Area Music Festival, the Banff Centre, and the Sydney Opera House (under the baton of Håkan Hardenberger).

Bowden has released two acclaimed solo recordings on Summit Records: her debut album, *Radiance* (featuring new American works), and her second solo album, *Rêverie*, with the Kassia Ensemble. *Rêverie* was featured as one of the Top Albums of the Year for the Global Music Awards and on *Textura Magazine’s* Top Ten Classical Albums of the Year.

Bowden’s many creative projects include her work as a founding member and artistic leader of both Seraph Brass and the Chrysalis Chamber Players. Seraph Brass, an ensemble of America’s top female brass players that was awarded the 2019 American Prize in Chamber Music, has performed at the International Trumpet Guild Conference, Busan Maru Music Festival, the International Women’s Brass Conference, Brevard Music Center, Tafalla Brass Week in Spain, and Lieksa Brass Week. The group’s debut album, *Asteria*, released on Summit Records, won the Silver Medal Global Music Award. Members of the ensemble also performed on Adele’s 2016 North American tour. Further accolades include the Gold Medal Global Music Award, First Prize of the International Women’s Brass Conference Trumpet

Competition, Second Prize of the 2019 American Prize in Instrumental Performance, and a nomination for the Opus Klassik awards in 2020.

An engaging orchestral musician, she is currently Principal Trumpet of the Artosphere Festival Orchestra and a member of the Iris Collective. She previously held a position with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra and served as Principal Trumpet of the Sarasota Opera Orchestra, Lakes Area Music Festival Orchestra, Auckland Philharmonia in New Zealand, Daejeon Philharmonic in Korea, Lucerne Festival Academy in Switzerland, and Seraphic Fire's Firebird Chamber Orchestra.

Bowden earned her Bachelor of Music degree from The Curtis Institute of Music, where she studied with David Bilger, then principal trumpeter of the Philadelphia Orchestra. She earned her Master of Music degree in 2006 from the Yale School of Music, where she studied on a full scholarship with trumpeter Allan Dean. Bowden is currently Assistant Professor of Trumpet at Shenandoah Conservatory.

Learn more at www.maryelizabethbowden.com.

Morgen Low, Trumpet

Morgen Low is a freelance trumpet performer and teacher based in south Florida. Just prior to joining Seraph Brass, she held an appointment as acting Co-Principal Trumpet of the Sarasota orchestra during the 2024-2025 season.

Outside of the touring season, Morgen has spent summers performing as Co-Principal Trumpet of the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, acting Principal Trumpet of the Britt Festival Orchestra, and as a fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center. She has made guest appearances with the Indianapolis Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Charleston Symphony, and the Louisville Orchestra among others. In 2022 she competed in and was named the first prize winner of the Next Generation Trumpet Competition.

Morgen holds a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory. Her primary professors during these studies were Roy Poper, Robert Sullivan, Channing Philbrick, David Bilger, Thomas Rolfs, and Michael Sachs. She is

also an alumna of the New World Symphony orchestral fellowship program where she performed under the batons of artistic directors Michael Tilson Thomas and Stéphane Denève.

Layan Atieh, Horn

Layan Atieh is a Palestinian-Jordanian-American horn player currently residing in Chicago, Illinois. Layan is a member of Seraph Brass, a world renowned all-women brass quintet, as well the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. As an active freelancer, Layan has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She is passionate about chamber music and has performed at festivals around the world, including the Hidden Valley Festival of Winds, Domaine Forget, and the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival, as well as orchestra festivals such as the Music Academy of the West. In 2022, Layan completed her undergraduate studies at the Peabody Institute under the tutelage of Robert Rearden, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University. She earned her Master's degree in 2024 at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Richard King and Nathaniel Silberschlag.

Layan is passionate about community engagement and the intersection of politics and music, and is always finding ways to use music as a vehicle for connection across differences. Her work in Seraph Brass allows her to promote and highlight the artistry of marginalized identities, to bring performances and music education to underserved communities around the United States and across the world, and to open dialogue about the role of artists in society.

Lauren Casey-Clyde, Trombone

Lauren Casey-Clyde is an active freelancer, educator, chamber musician and soloist residing in Austin, TX. She has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Opera, Temple Symphony Orchestra, Central Texas Philharmonic, Waco Symphony Orchestra, Cambrian Symphony Orchestra and Round Top Festival Orchestra. She recently made her debut performance at SXSW performing with Density 512 as part of the Graham Reynolds Showcase, and has recorded and performed with New-Orleans style Boss Street Brass Band.

As a soloist, Lauren was selected as an artist to perform at the 2024 International Women's Brass Conference in Japan and was invited as a special guest to perform at the Texas State Capitol for the 2022 International Peace Concert. She was a finalist at the 2023 Big 12 Tenor Trombone Solo Competition, a finalist in the 2022 University of Texas Concerto Competition, and a prize winner in the Susan Slaughter Solo Competition at the 2019 International Women's Brass Conference.

Lauren serves as the Assistant Professor of Trombone & Euphonium at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX. She also serves as a private teacher in the Austin area to 6-12th grade students and regularly gives clinics and masterclasses around the area. Her students have consistently won positions at prestigious universities, region bands, all-state ensembles, honor bands, and summer festivals.

Lauren received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Texas at Austin in 2024, where she served as the trombone studio teaching assistant. She also holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University, where she received the prestigious Brass Department Award, and studied abroad at the Royal College of Music in London for a semester.

Robyn Black, Tuba

Robyn Black is a tubist based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is currently the Principal Tuba of the Milwaukee Symphony, a position she won at 18 years old. She regularly performs with music festivals such as the Lakes Area Music Festival and the Artosphere Festival Orchestra. As a chamber artist, Robyn also performs with Seraph Brass.

Recognized for her solo playing, Robyn was awarded first prize in "The President's Own" 2018 Marine Band Concerto Competition, and the student division of the 2018 Falcone Tuba and Euphonium Competition. For her undergraduate, Robyn studied at Rice University with Dave Kirk.

Source: Seraph Brass Quintet Website