North Central College

SEASON 2015-2016
FINE & PERFORMING ARTS

David Benoit with Jane Monheit

The Tenors

Canadian Brass

3rd Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert

“Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol”
Christmas time is here. Carols in the air.” For those of you who read my monthly missive in the programs, you may recall that I like to pull out a holiday lyric when writing the December letter. For some reason, this lyric seemed more than appropriate. The return appearance by David Benoit and his “Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown” marks an encore appearance by one of my personal favorite Christmas concerts.

I would wager that those from my generation can still remember that December evening when the Charlie Brown Christmas special came on TV for the first time. I even remember the commercials for Coke that were interspersed. If you are like me, that musical special is part of who we all are. Ok, I admit it; I’m a sap. The last time we had David Benoit here, I was working with a professional caroling group and had just finished singing at a local country club. I joined my wife for the second half of Benoit’s show and was still in my Dickensian caroling garb. At the end of the concert, the choir chanted “Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown” and the tears started rolling down my cheeks. I didn’t care! I was experiencing a childhood memory in this magnificent facility that I have the joy of managing. It could not have been better than that!

I’m also looking forward to Canadian Brass, whom I’ve wanted for its holiday show since I started booking artists. Plus, we are able to bring you The Tenors as part of their national tour. I am certain you will enjoy every performance you are seeing during the month of December. It’s that special time of year. It’s the time to look back and reflect, to take a moment to be grateful for what we have.

I am always thanking our sponsors and our Friends of the Arts, as I should. You give so much to us and we cannot thank you enough. I also want to thank the fine arts staff: Sam, Jon, Andrew (our newest addition), Jen, Jessica, Nickole and, of course, Tami. I could not do what I do without you. You make North Central College look great every time you help an audience member, book a hotel (in Naperville only!), guide the student workers through a load-out in the wee hours of the morning (hopefully, without much snow) and look out for each other. I want to thank the businesses in Naperville that welcome our audiences with open arms before and after the performances. Together we make an incredible team.

Finally, I want to thank you, our patrons. We are nothing without you, each and every one of you. Together we bring you the best artists in the industry in the best venues in the area. We always welcome suggestions for artists to appear here and need your help to make our next season even better! Please take a few moments to give your feedback by completing our survey online at surveymonkey.com/s/northcentralfinearts.

On behalf of the entire fine arts team at North Central College, we wish you a blessed and happy holiday season. May you enjoy this special time of year with those you love. It is, after all, “that favorite time of year.” And now, on with the show!

Brian Lynch
Fine Arts Director
North Central College
Join **Friends of the Arts** today and receive exclusive benefits.

Thanks to our many contributors, world-renowned artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Vienna Boys Choir, Wynton Marsalis, Celtic Woman and many more have performed in our venues. But the cost of performance tickets only covers half our expenses to bring these great artists to the College’s stages. The generous support from the Friends of the Arts ensures the College can continue to bring world-class performers to our world-class venues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUR GIFT</th>
<th>Sneak preview of next year’s season</th>
<th>Name recognition in program</th>
<th>Name recognition in Wentz Concert Hall lobby</th>
<th>Private Schoenherr Gallery showing and tour</th>
<th>Pre-Sale opportunity for select performances</th>
<th>Access to Impresario Lounge**</th>
<th>Pre-Show Recognition Dinner</th>
<th>Complimentary tickets to North Central College presented events (per season)</th>
<th>Backstage meet and great opportunity (subject to artist availability)</th>
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<tr>
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<td>($10,000 OR MORE)</td>
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<td>($500 - $999)</td>
<td>Ron and Mary Lou Rolland</td>
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<td>Adrian and Jacqueline Aldrich</td>
<td>Rosemarie Breske Garvey</td>
<td>Daniel and Christine Bukowski</td>
<td>Jeffrey A. Coros</td>
<td>Nick and Jane Dempsey</td>
<td>James and Deborah Godo</td>
<td>Troy and Sharlene Hammond</td>
<td>Jerald and Charlotte Johnson</td>
<td>Paul and Sue Loscheider</td>
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<td>($100 - $249)</td>
<td>Nancy A. and Brent Bandusky</td>
<td>Joni Wiltz-Berkeley and Ross P. Berkley</td>
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<td>($25 - $99)</td>
<td>Ashley L. Bartel</td>
<td>Juanita J. Bomstein</td>
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*Annual gifts made at the Standing Ovation level and above will also include membership into the North Central College Presidents Club. The Presidents Club consists of donors who make a minimum gift of $1,000 or more to one or more areas of the College. Presidents Club members are annually invited to the Presidents Club BBQ in September, and the Presidents Club dinner and theatre event in November.

** The Impresario Lounge offers refreshments and appetizers in a private setting and is available for three events during the upcoming season. Impresario members will receive an e-mail message with details at the beginning of the season.

2015-2016 FRIENDS OF THE ARTS

**MAESTRO**
- Myron Wentz and Prudence Conley
- Dick and Deanna Mandel

**BRAVO**
- Ron and Mary Lou Rolland

**STANDING OVATION**
- Adrian and Jacqueline Aldrich
- Rosemarie Breske Garvey
- Daniel and Christine Bukowski
- Jeffrey A. Coros
- Nick and Jane Dempsey
- James and Deborah Godo
- Troy and Sharlene Hammond
- Jerald and Charlotte Johnson
- Paul and Sue Loscheider
- Laura Pohl
- Ronald and Kay Van Buskirk

**OVERTURE**
- Nancy A. and Brent Bandusky
- Joni Wiltz-Berkeley and Ross P. Berkley

**AUDIENCE**
- Ashley L. Bartel
- Juanita J. Bomstein

We apologize if we have inadvertently made an error concerning your gift. Please contact the box office at 630-637-7469 so we can correct our records.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DECEMBER 2015</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>3rd Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert</td>
<td>$25, $20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6</td>
<td>Canadian Brass</td>
<td>$50, $40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10, 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Organic Theater Company “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol”</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>David Benoit “Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown” with special guest Jane Monheit</td>
<td>$55, $40</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra “Holiday Concert”</td>
<td>$20.50 - $10.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>The Tenors</td>
<td>$85, $75, $65</td>
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<tr>
<th>JANUARY 2016</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>“The Merry Wives of Windsor”</td>
<td>$10, $8</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>Jim Peterik &amp; World Stage</td>
<td>$75, $65</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta “Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.”</td>
<td>$60, $48, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Saxophonist Mitch Paliga</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Spider Saloff “Spider Saloff Sings Irving Berlin”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28, 29, 30</td>
<td>“Fragments: A Theatrical Dance Experience”</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>“Sinatra Forever: Salute to Frank Sinatra”</td>
<td>$50, $40, $30</td>
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<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY 2016</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Revenge of the Rhythm Section with Drummer Jack Mouse &amp; Bassist Kelly Sill</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Jim Brickman</td>
<td>$40, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>28th Annual Gospel Extravaganza</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>“The Cherub’s Mask”</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Explore the Sound</td>
<td>$10, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Theatrworks USA “Aesop”</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra “Global Connections”</td>
<td>$37.50 - $14.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Tammy McCann “Ella Loves Gershwin”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25, 26, 27, 28</td>
<td>“Little Shop of Horrors” (Senior Musical)</td>
<td>$15, $10</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Chicago Jazz Orchestra “Duke Ellington’s First Concert of Sacred Music”</td>
<td>$45, $40</td>
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<tr>
<th>MARCH 2016</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Sounds of New Music Festival, “Spektral Quartet”</td>
<td>$15, $5</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Trombonist Tim Coffman</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Chords for Kids: Concert for Children with Autism</td>
<td>Free ticket required</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Giordano Dance Chicago</td>
<td>$35, $25, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Beckie Menzie and Tom Michael “That ’60s Show”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Theatrworks USA “Skippyjon Jones Snow What”</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>Concert Winds and Symphonic Band Winter Concert</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 10, 11, 12, 13</td>
<td>Organic Theater Company “The Good Doctor”</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta &quot;BYOB: Bring Your Own Beat&quot;</td>
<td>$60, $48, $10</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>“I Am Ireland”</td>
<td>$30, $20</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra “Celebrate the Season”</td>
<td>$37.50 - $14.50</td>
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Artists, dates, times, prices and locations are subject to change ★ North Central College performance
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<th>APRIL 2016</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Vocalist Janice Borla</td>
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<td>April 1</td>
<td>The Temptations</td>
<td>$75, $65, $55</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Theatreworks USA &quot;Alexander, Who's Not...Going to Move&quot;</td>
<td>$12, $6</td>
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<td>April 9</td>
<td>David Sanborn</td>
<td>$60, $50</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Marianne Murphy Orland “Pet Project”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>$75, $65, $50</td>
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<td>April 21, 22, 23, 24</td>
<td>“Late, A Cowboy Song”</td>
<td>$10, $8</td>
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<td>April 28</td>
<td>Chamber Singers “Metamorphosis”</td>
<td>$5, $3</td>
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<td>April 29</td>
<td>Moscow Festival Ballet &quot;The Sleeping Beauty&quot;</td>
<td>$40, $30, $25</td>
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<th>EVENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>“God of Carnage”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6, 7</td>
<td>DuPage Symphony Orchestra “Opera Gala” with Naperville Chorus</td>
<td>$37.50 - $14.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>An Evening with Jazz Vibraphonist Brad Stirtz</td>
<td>$20, $15</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Rodney Atkins</td>
<td>$85, $75, $65</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Joan Curto “Joan Curto Sings Cole Porter, From Major to Minor”</td>
<td>$35, $30</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Women’s Chorale “Finale!” Concert</td>
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<td>May 19, 20, 21, 22</td>
<td>“Machinal”</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Chicago Sinfonietta “Cosmic Convergence”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Concert Winds Final Spring and Alumni Concert</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Cardinal Chorus Spring Concert</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>The Spring Great Evening of Jazz</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 26</td>
<td>Concert Choir Graduation Concert</td>
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Artists, dates, times, prices and locations are subject to change  
North Central College performance
3rd Annual Jazz Faculty Christmas Concert

December 4, 8 p.m.
Madden Theatre
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

The 3rd annual jazz faculty Christmas concert will feature a collection of well-known holiday favorites with a jazz twist. The faculty artists include vocalist Janice Borla, saxophonist Mitch Paliga, trumpeter Art Davis, trombonist Tim Coffman, vibraphonist Brad Stirtz, pianist Chris White, bassist Kelly Sill and drummer Jack Mouse. At the top of their game, each faculty artist is a talented musician-educator in the College’s jazz studies program. They’re all successful as independent jazz artists, regularly performing in public venues and releasing new recordings.

Borla’s latest CD release “Promises to Burn” received numerous outstanding reviews and was named one of DownBeat Magazine’s “Best Jazz Albums of the Year.”

Paliga, an active performer and composer, continues to tour worldwide with actor/musician Gary Sinise’s Lt. Dan Band.

One of Chicago’s leading jazz trumpet artists, Davis toured extensively with Ray Charles and Frank Sinatra and has played with a “who’s who” of artists, from Dizzy Gillespie and Nancy Wilson to Kurt Elling.

An active trombonist in the Chicago area, Coffman has performed with the best, from Frank Sinatra, Natalie Cole and Stevie Wonder to Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga.

Stirtz’s reputation as an outstanding professional mallet percussionist has led to a career spanning the globe.

A busy freelance musician, pianist White has performed with David Baker, Jamey Aebersold and Oliver Nelson Jr. and frequently performs at the Jazz Showcase, Andy’s and other Chicago nightspots.

Sill has shared the stage with innumerable jazz icons, including Joe Henderson, Art Blakey, Jackie McLean, Freddie Hubbard, Chris Potter, Louis Bellson and Mel Torme.

Mouse has played with such jazz luminaries as Stan Kenton, Clark Terry, Bunker Green, Randy Brecker and received wide critical acclaim for his current releases “Range of Motion” and “Snakeheads & Ladybugs.”
Canadian Brass

December 6, 2 and 6 p.m.
Wentz Concert Hall
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
The game-changing brass quintet Canadian Brass has performed in virtually every major concert hall in the world, been seen by hundreds of millions of people on television, sold 2 million of some 100 albums worldwide and contributed nearly 600 new works and arrangements to the brass quintet repertoire. In addition to winning the German recording industry’s highest accolade, a Best Classical Album Echo Award in 2000 for “Bach: Goldberg Variations,” an Italian “Red Rose” Video Award for Home Movies, three Grammy nominations plus a 2000 win for music commissioned from Peter Schickele that was competing against another nominated Brass album, the Brass has scored a record-setting 15 Juno nominations. It’s one of the Canadian government’s go-to ensembles for official state events and have crisscrossed the globe as the brightest ambassadors of the brass repertoire. The first brass ensemble to tour China and the first to play the main stage at Carnegie Hall, it’s almost single-handedly responsible for elevating the art of the brass quintet to what it is today.

Canadian Brass is made up of five extraordinary talents: visionary founder, tuba legend and business specialist Chuck Daellenbach plus four of the next generation’s top brass stars—Caleb Hudson and Christopher Coletti (trumpets), Achilles Liarmakopoulos (trombone) and Bernhard Scully (horn). Beyond their unbelievable technical skills and musicality, each player possesses the creativity, good humour and genuine love of performing that has become the hallmark of Canadian Brass.

Indeed, owing to the ensemble’s versatility and charismatic showmanship, there is no other brass quintet that comes even close to having the name recognition that Canadian Brass commands. Yet rather than resting on their (unquestionably impressive) laurels, the five formidable players are continually innovating to expand the brass repertoire, satisfy and challenge their loyal fan base, use new media to connect to audiences worldwide, and guide young players through the opportunities and challenges of today’s exciting professional music scene via extensive educational outreach.

The varied Canadian Brass repertoire features brass standards as well as a wide-ranging library of original arrangements created especially for them and by them. These include the works of Renaissance and Baroque masters, classical pieces, contemporary compositions, marches, holiday favorites, ragtime, Dixieland, Latin, jazz, big band, Broadway tunes and Christian music as well as popular songs and standards. Having started with a very limited base, Canadian Brass has created its own musical world by transcribing, arranging and commissioning more than 600 works, including critically acclaimed compositions from Michael Kamen, William Bolcom, Gary Kulesha, Lukas Foss, Peter Schickele, Sonny Kompanek and more. They have transformed a previously neglected group of instruments with a limited repertoire into a versatile and vital ensemble that can play everything from Gabrieli to Gershwin. They played a critical role in establishing Scott Joplin with today’s audiences through their research, arrangements and recordings of his “rags” and other works. And for many people, it wouldn’t be Christmas without one of the Canadian Brass’ famous Holiday Concerts.
Their contributions to modern performance style are immeasurable. Fine performances are woven together with insightful asides about the program and light-hearted banter with the audience. Entertaining without ever pandering, the Brass exudes warmth, wit and joy, making every audience member a part of their family. Coming from the cool, hushed classical world, the Brass’ approach has been nothing less than revolutionary.

Canadian Brass’ storied past features a number of breakthroughs and its penchant for anticipating major cultural shifts continues to propel the group onward and upward. Being the first brass ensemble ever to play the main stage at Carnegie Hall, the Brass attracted a lot of attention when they opted to head to the hot downtown club Le Poisson Rouge during their last visit to New York City. And when the majors were struggling to keep up with the digital revolution, Canadian Brass took things into their own hands, transforming indie record company Opening Day Entertainment Group into the ensemble’s primary label with enormous success. “Stars & Stripes: Canadian Brass Salute to America” spent eight weeks in the Top 25 on the Billboard Classical Chart in 2010.

Exclusive artists for Conn-Selmer Musical Instruments, the five play on state-of-the-art 24K gold-plated Artisan Bach and Conn horns, hand crafted in the USA. This partnership has also become the cornerstone of the Brass’ extensive educational outreach. In addition to their work as official Conn-Selmer clinicians, Canadian Brass is ensemble-in-residence at the University of Toronto, where they have been developing a brand new patented course called Shape Your Own Musical Destiny. Aimed at helping young musicians navigate the brave new world of the self-creating musical professional, it is a perfect complement to their performance workshops offered under the banner of Effortless Performance. In addition, you’ll find each of the Brass members leading master classes and workshops across the globe in conjunction with the group’s packed touring schedule. Many young musicians’ have also benefited from the Brass’ numerous educational DVDs and videos on their YouTube channel. Having prospered through the volatile changes that have overtaken the musical world since the ensemble’s founding in 1970, Canadian Brass’ groundbreaking approach to education has influenced many conservatories to re-evaluate how they are training the future generations of classical musicians.

When not on stage, you can find the members busy behind the scenes, exploring new frontiers in the world of music performance and keeping up with fans via Canadian Brass YouTube Channel, Facebook, Twitter (@CanadianBrass), Flickr and their website, CanadianBrass.com.

Canadian Brass records exclusively for Opening Day Entertainment.
A mutual love for the arts

Monarch Landing is proud to support the Fine and Performing Arts programs for our neighbor in Naperville. Through a unique two-way community outreach program, residents work side-by-side with North Central College students. Together, we’re exploring a multi-generational approach to education.

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ORGANIC THEATER COMPANY

“Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol”

December 10, 11, 12, 7:30 p.m.
December 12, 13, 2 p.m.
Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall
31 S. Ellsworth St., Naperville
“Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol”

By
Tom Mula

Director
Josh Anderson

Scenic Design
Terrence McClellan

Costume Design
Melanie Parks

Stage Manager
Angela Kring

Lighting Design
Ryan Breneisen

Technical Director
David Doherty

CAST
Richie Gross ................................................................. Jacob Marley
Colin Jackson ......................................................... Record Keeper, Cratchitt, Dick Wilkins, Shadow, Damned Soul, Fezziwig
Anthony Perrella Jr ................................................ Scrooge
Amy Powell .............................................................. Bogle
CAST BIOGRAPHIES

**Richie Gross (Jacob Marley)**
Gross earned his BA at the University of South Carolina and his MFA at Northern Illinois University. He is thankful and proud for the opportunity to tell this story with his Organic family. He has previously been seen in “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” “Bartleby the Scrivener,” “Man with Bags” and several other Organic Theater Company productions.

**Colin Jackson (Record Keeper, Cratchitt, Dick Wilkins, Shadow, Damned Soul, Fezziwig)**
Jackson joined Organic in 2010. Acting credits with them include “Caligula,” “Tartuffe,” “Macbeth,” “Bartleby the Scrivener,” “Rhinoceros” and “Theophilus North.” Originally from West Virginia, Jackson is a graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan and received his BFA from Northern Illinois University. He also studied a semester abroad at the Moscow Art Theater School.

**Anthony Perrella Jr. (Scrooge)**
Perrella joined the company in 2013 and has appeared in “Tartuffe,” “Caligula,” “Macbeth,” “Picasso at the Lapin Agile,” “Rhinoceros” and “Tomfoolery.” Perrella holds an MFA in acting from Northern Illinois University, a certificate of acting from the Moscow Art Theater School and a BFA of acting from the University of Central Florida. He is an instructor/applied artist at Northern Illinois University School of Theater and Dance, where he also serves as the undergraduate advisor.

**Amy Powell (Bogle)**
Powell is a new company member who started as an intern in 2012 and has since appeared in “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol” as the Bogle, “The Diviners” as Darlene, “Tartuffe” as Marianne and most recently in Organic’s adaptation of “The Haunter of the Dark”. Powell holds a BFA in acting from Northern Illinois University and has also studied at the Moscow Art Theater School. In her spare time she enjoys dabbling in photography and filmmaking.

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

**Josh Anderson (Director)**
Anderson has been a company member of Organic Theater since 2007. He works as a director, actor and is currently the managing director of the company. He has directed productions of “Picasso at the Lapin Agile,” “The Diviners,” “Chekhov’s The Bear,” “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” “Tomfoolery” and “Ancient History.” Favorite acting credits include “The Emigrants,” “Rhinoceros,” “Theophilus North,” “The Police,” “All in the Timing,” “Sexual Perversity in Chicago,” “The Secret Agent,” “Man with Bags,” “Bartleby the Scrivener” and “The $30,000 Bequest.” A film version of “The $30,000 Bequest” is currently in post-production.

**Angela Kring (Stage Manager)**
Originally from the hills of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Kring graduated from Northern Illinois University with a BA in theatre studies and a minor in Southeast Asian studies in 2011. Kring has been with Organic since 2010 when she began as an intern and is thrilled to be the company’s resident stage manager. Organic credits include: stage management “Bartleby the Scrivener,” “Caligula,” “Picasso at the Lapin Agile,” “Tartuffe,” “The Diviners,” “The Emigrants,” “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” “Macbeth,” “The Naked King,” “Rhinoceros” and “The Police.” Properties design “All in the Timing,” “The Naked King,” “The Police” and “Theophilus North.”
Melanie Parks (Costume Designer)
Parks is a professor of costume design in the School of Theatre and Dance and the associate dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Northern Illinois University. Parks costume designs have been seen in action at Lifeline Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Mordine Dance Company, the Moscow Art Theatre School, DanszLoop Chicago, The Organic Theatre Company and recently for the film “Hogtown” with 9:23 Films. Parks has received two Joseph Jefferson nominations and one After Dark Award.

Ryan Breneisen (Lighting Designer)
Breneisen is the resident lighting designer for Organic Theater Company, lighting such shows as “Jacob Marley’s Christmas Carol,” “Caligula,” “The Emigrants,” “Theophilus North” and “Man With Bags” to name a few. Other theatrical credits include “War and Peace,” “Disciples” and “Juliet.” Breneisen holds a staff position at Upstaging Lighting and Transport as well as touring extensively as both a designer and electrician for such tours as Bruno Mars, Death Cab for Cutie, Rodney Carrington and World Wrestling Entertainment. Breneisen holds an MFA in lighting design from Northern Illinois University.

ABOUT THE ORGANIC
The Organic is committed to staging bold and relevant productions of new and adapted works with a permanent group of artists over a sustained period of time and presenting productions as a rotating repertory. This approach, while unusual in the United States, is widely accepted in much of the Western world as the ideal way to create a body of theatrical work.

COMPANY MEMBERS
Josh Anderson        Angela Kring
Ryan Breinesen      Jose Ochoa
Will Burdin         Melanie Parks
Philena Gilmer      Anthony Perrella Jr.
Alexander Gelman    Amy Powell
Anna Hendrix        M. Anthony Reimer
Kendra Holton       Bryan Wakefield
Colin Jackson

ARTISTIC ASSOCIATES
Kristina Cottone    Amanda Jane Long
Angela Enos         Ryan Massie
Richie Gross        Joe Mikieta
Kaitlin Henderson   Joel Moses
Joel Stanley Huff   Patricia Skarbinski

EMERITUS COMPANY
Andrew Hampton Livingston, H. Lynn Kendziera, Megan Shea, Chris Wallinger, Jessica Webb
David Benoit
“Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown”
with Special Guest Jane Monheit

December 12, 8 p.m.
Wentz Concert Hall
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
DAVID BENOIT WITH JANE MONHEIT

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHY

In 1965, the first ever “Peanuts” animated special took place. It was a landmark event and it was the start of a tradition that would continue year after year. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” is a tradition enjoyed around the world by fans of all ages. Now, some 50 years later, contemporary jazz piano legend, David Benoit, along with acclaimed Grammy-nominated vocalist Jane Monheit, is paying tribute to this incredible piece of entertainment history with a David Benoit “Christmas Tribute to Charlie Brown” with special guest Jane Monheit.”

This inspirational tribute concert features the classic music of Vince Guaraldi along with “Charlie Brown Christmas” originals from Benoit. He took over the helm as music composer for the new Charlie Brown Christmas TV Specials more than a decade ago, as well as classics from his illustrious career as a multi-Grammy nominated solo artist. The show also features the young voices from Naperville’s Lincoln Junior High School Varsity Chorus, conducted by Ross Berkley, a 2005 alumnus of North Central College. This addition serves as a wonderful way of getting the local community involved. The heart-warming show is sure to get the audience in that Christmas spirit and bring out the kid in all of us this holiday season.
The Tenors

December 18, 8 p.m.
Pfeiffer Hall
310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville
Get ready to hear The Tenors like you’ve never heard them before. On their new album, “Under One Sky,” the multi-platinum, Juno award-winning foursome cowrote eight tunes, showing facets of themselves they’ve longed to share with their millions of fans. “We’ve had eight years together and we wanted to turn those memories into music,” says Clifton Murray, who is joined in The Tenors by Victor Micallef, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters.

The Canadian musicians have written a handful of songs for their previous three sets, but “Under One Sky” marks the first time their songwriting talents stand toe-to-toe with their vocal prowess. In the process, they’ve created a rich collection that expands on their earlier efforts, while delving deeper into their collective strength as artists. “That this band has been seen as just four singers is a bit of a misconception,” Pereira says. “When you peel away the onion, you get many layers. With each album, we built more confidence to write for ourselves.”

The four members wrote individually and in pairs, often teaming with top cowriters, including Walter Afanasieff (Mariah Carey, Josh Groban) and Steve Diamond (Faith Hill, Eric Clapton). “Tenor groups aren’t known for going out and writing like a band,” Micallef says. “We came to the table as singers, but we’re also songwriters and musicians and we’re using all our talents, not just our voices, onstage. We get to show all our colors.”

That’s not to say they are abandoning the blueprint that made them beloved. “Under One Sky’s” material covers the full range of tunes that have made The Tenors one of the most popular live draws across the globe. In addition to the originals, “Under One Sky” includes the foursome’s reinventions of contemporary classics like “Lean on Me” and “You Are So Beautiful,” a swoon-worthy duet featuring Walters’ wife, Kelly Levesque, as well as their glorious interpretations of classical pieces “Granada,” “Besame Mucho” and “Agnus Dei.”

Over the years, The Tenors’ musical diversity has become one of their primary strengths. “There used to be hesitation because we didn’t want to confuse our audience by introducing too many different genres into one show or CD, but we’ve learned that this was one of our greatest strengths, which, in fact, the audience craves,” Micallef says. “We’re not targeting any one audience, we’re just playing from our heart.”

Walters began writing the title track, credited to all four Tenors, as a theme for the Pan Am Games, reflecting on Walters’ experience on Canada’s national track and field team 15 years ago. But the reflective upbeat tune morphed into something more universal. “It’s a song with a big message,” Walters says. “The goal for anyone who hears it is to realize that in our world, we have a choice to focus on our differences or on our similarities. It’s an anthemic song about bringing people together.” He also sees the song as emblematic of The Tenors themselves and the way they have brought their different styles together into one harmonious blend. “Cliff and I are more pop singers, Vic and Remi are more classical,” Walters says. “We meet in the middle.”
The album’s emotional centerpiece is “My Father’s Son,” a song written by The Tenors with Asher Lenz as a tribute to their own dads. “We just finished our PBS special and during that song, we all had moments where we broke down,” Micallef says. “It was emotionally challenging to sing while watching images of our fathers on screen, for those of us who have lost them. It was made even more difficult to look into the eyes of my son just after the fact. It’s a powerful tune.” That poignancy and ability to express such feelings through their euphonious voices is what deeply connects The Tenors to their fans. “Our songs are inspirational. They’re about goodness and helping others and about love,” Pereira says. “A lot of people who listen to us have come through a lot of strife and they find wisdom and hope in our music.”

Since their formation in 2007, The Tenors have performed more than 500 concerts on five continents and made more than 150 television appearances, including “The Oprah Winfrey Show” (with Celine Dion), at the 2014 National Christmas Tree Lighting at the White House, at the 2014 Stanley Cup Finals, the 2012 Emmy Awards, the Queen’s 2012 Diamond Jubilee at Windsor Castle in England, and the 2010 Vancouver Olympic opening ceremonies. Among the artists with whom they have performed are Paul McCartney, Sting, Sheryl Crow, Andrea Bocelli and Sarah McLachlan.

The Tenors’ first album is certified double platinum, and their holiday album is certified triple platinum in Canada. Their third album, 2012’s “Lead With Your Heart,” went double platinum, won a 2013 Juno Award for Adult Contemporary Album of the Year and debuted at No. 1 on Billboard’s Classical and Classical Crossover charts. They have sold almost 1 million albums around the world. The foursome created “Under One Sky” over an 18-month period, recording in Ontario, Los Angeles and Nashville with seven producers, including David Foster (Michael Buble, Celine Dion), Bob Ezrin (Peter Gabriel, Pink Floyd) and Keith Thomas (Blake Shelton, Luther Vandross). “For every producer, it really came down to looking at their track record, their sounds, their strengths and fitting them with the right songs,” Murray says.

Regardless of the producer, The Tenors exposed their vulnerability through their music, giving it their all in the studio. “The songs have everyone’s blood, sweat and tears on them,” Pereira says. “This is what we want to show people. It’s very humbling. It’s like walking out of your house naked. You’re opening yourself up and you’re bearing yourself.” Concurrent with the album’s June release, PBS stations across the country will begin airing the quartet’s third special, “Under One Sky.” The special gives a taste of what to expect when The Tenors hit the road. “In the past, the PBS sets didn’t have anything to do with the tour,” Micallef says. “This time, the ideas are the same, the stage design is similar.”

The Tenors kicked off a 70-city North American tour in September and can’t wait to perform their new material. “We were thinking about the live show with this album,” Walters says. “When you come to the live show you get so many pockets of different styles, and we love to show our humor by interacting with our audience. That’s why people seem to gravitate toward us. You’ll hear us go from something more pop to something that’s in Italian or Spanish with a big sound.”

As they continue to evolve, The Tenors have a firm grasp on moving forward, while never forgetting what unites them with their audience. “Our goal is longevity—to be doing this in 15 to 20 years’ time,” Murray says. “The only way to do this is to create memorable music that people cherish.” With “Under One Sky,” The Tenors have once again done just that, bringing all their musical worlds together for all to enjoy.
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Visit northcentralcollege.edu/show for dates and times of artist receptions.