



krannert center

# YOUTH SERIES

## 18-19

SCHOOL DAY PERFORMANCES  
FOR PUBLIC, PRIVATE, AND HOME  
SCHOOLS, GRADES PreK-12

# CANADIAN BRASS



**I ILLINOIS**

College of Fine & Applied Arts



## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

With their “unbeatable blend of virtuosity, spontaneity, and humor,”

Canadian Brass possesses a uniquely engaging stage presence and rapport with audiences (The Washington Post).

Renowned for musical excellence, genre-bending versatility, and joyous performances for almost 50 years, Canadian Brass has truly earned the distinction of “the world’s most famous brass group.”

Canadian Brass is made up of five extraordinary talents: founding member Chuck Daellenbach (tuba), Caleb Hudson and Chris Coletti (trumpets), Achilles Liarmakopoulos (trombone), and Jeff Nelsen (horn). Beyond their unparalleled musicality, each player possesses the creativity, good humor, and love of performing that comprise the ensemble’s hallmark. The ensemble has strong Champaign-Urbana connections: University of Illinois School of Music professors Ronald Romm and Bernhard Scully are alumni of the ensemble.

## IMPACT

This season we invite school communities to explore the performing arts through a selection of topics that reveal the IMPACT of the Arts for Youth.

- Introduction to the arts
- Meaning and cultural context
- Production
- Art-making and creativity
- Careers
- Training

## T IS FOR TRAINING

Are you just starting out learning to play a brass instrument or another musical instrument? Playing music can be rewarding and fun, but it takes patience and persistence to learn. The musicians of the Canadian Brass have spent many years studying, practicing, playing, and creating. Most professional musicians have studied advanced music performance at a university, college, or specialized school of music. But everyone starts at the beginning. Here are some top tips about how to learn to play well:

1. **Listen to great music.** What you play is influenced by the music you hear and the music in your imagination.
2. **Perform.** Join your school band, play for your family or friends, and make sure you always have something you’re working on or preparing to perform.
3. **Share your music.** If you’re feeling nervous about performing on your instrument, remember that it’s all about sharing music with your listeners.
4. **Practice.** Use your practice time well: instead of “mindless practicing” where you just play through the music you’re working on, make sure you actually know what you are trying to work on when you play. (For example, “I’m working on playing long tones and supporting my sound by taking a good breath.”) If you find a tricky spot, focus on that one place to work it out.
5. **Play.** Be creative and have fun in your practice time by playing something you know with confidence or by making up something of your own to play. Even if you only have a few notes you can play on your instrument, you can try them out in different rhythms.

## BRASS CLASS

Did you know that the didgeridoo, the shofar, the vuvuzela, and the conch are all brass instruments? The didgeridoo, an instrument created by Aboriginal Australians, is typically made from a hard wood like eucalyptus or even from thick bamboo. Literally a horn from a ram, the shofar is the ancient instrument of Jewish tradition. The South African vuvuzela can be crafted from plastic or aluminum and a conch is the shell from a sea snail or a mollusk. But the saxophone is made of brass . . . and it’s a woodwind instrument. And some flutes are formed from brass too. So, what’s a brass instrument anyway?

**YOUR TASK:** investigate what makes an instrument suitable for the brass classification, then choose a brass instrument to research in more detail. You could choose one of the four instruments played by the Canadian Brass or choose a less typical member of the brass family. Part of your research can take place during the Canadian Brass concert as you listen and learn from the musicians. When you’re ready, share five things you learned about your instrument with your class!

## STRIKE UP THE TUBULOPHONE

You can marvel at the mallets zipping along a xylophone, see the 88 piano keys shift up and down, or follow a violinist’s nimble fingers as they flit over the strings, but how does a brass player make all those notes with only a few valves? Whatever their shape, brass instruments are just long tubes with a mouthpiece at one end and a flared bell at the other one. When players get their lips vibrating and blows into a mouthpiece, the air inside the connected tube starts vibrating as well. As soon as a player presses on a valve (or extends the slide of a trombone), the length of the tube changes—so air gets rerouted—and different tones come out. Longer cylinders generate lower sounds and shorter tubes create higher ones.

### IT’S TIME TO MAKE A TUBULOPHONE.

Here’s what you’ll need:

Different-length tubes from paper towel, wrapping paper, garden hose, etc.

If you have it, add a funnel to one end, too!

Now, buzz your lips (like making a raspberry), and blow into the tube.

Can you change the pitch that comes out and play a song?

Can you make one tubulophone play in tune with another?

What happens when you try a different length of tube?

What happens if you put your palm over the end and open and close the bottom of the tube?

# ON THE MAP

CANADIAN BRASS ORIGINATED IN TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA.

CURRENT MEMBERS LIVE IN CITIES ALL ACROSS NORTH AMERICA.



## Canadian Brass

Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at 10am

Foellinger Great Hall  
Approximately 60 minutes  
Recommended for grades 2-5

### Public Marquee performance

Sunday, April 7, 2019, at 3pm

### University of Illinois Wind Symphony and Canadian Brass Performance: Quintessence

Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 7:30pm

The Canadian Brass is represented by  
IMG Artists in New York.

### Endowed Sponsors

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GREENING THE ARTS

## LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has also partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to Canadian Brass on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

[www.champaign.org](http://www.champaign.org) | [www.urbanafreelibrary.org](http://www.urbanafreelibrary.org)

## SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE: TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Drop in for a self-guided, interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides in each room will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students tied to the themes of the Canadian Brass. The Spurlock Museum also has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at [ksheahan@illinois.edu](mailto:ksheahan@illinois.edu) or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

