



Style Guide & Printed Program Materials

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Updated October 2022

1. Style Guide (our name)

“**Boston Brass**” is the official name of the ensemble and refers to us in the singular.

For example:

Boston Brass was founded in 1986.

Please welcome Boston Brass to the stage.

The band’s collective members may also be referred to as “***the* Boston Brass**”, however “***the***” is not to be capitalized unless it begins a sentence.

For example:

You can meet and greet the Boston Brass at intermission.

The Boston Brass perform exclusively on Yamaha instruments.

Most importantly, we are **not** called “The Boston Brass Quintet”. That’s someone else.

2. Stage Introductions

We prefer the shortest introduction possible:

“Please welcome Boston Brass.”

If you feel the need to say more, please make your comments as personal as possible, perhaps relating to our visit to your venue. You may also use details from our biography, but please paraphrase. Do not read from it directly.

3. Musician Roster

Feel free to adapt our roster to your house visual style, but please use this order of names and don’t forget the diacritical mark (é) in José’s name.

Boston Brass
José Sibaja, trumpet
Jeff Conner, trumpet
Chris Castellanos, horn
Domingo Pagliuca, trombone
William Russell, tuba

4. Ensemble Biography **(Word Count: ~250)**

Since 1986 Boston Brass has set out to establish a one-of-a-kind musical experience featuring colorful classical arrangements, burning jazz standards, and the best of original brass repertoire. Boston Brass treats audiences to a unique brand of musical entertainment that bridges the ocean of classical formality, delighting regular concertgoers and newcomers alike with great music and boisterous fun in performances across all 50 U.S. states and over 30 countries to date.

Music education is at the core of Boston Brass's identity, and the quintet continues to conduct sessions around the world, including masterclasses and residencies, everywhere from your local high school to major music conservatories around the world, including in recent seasons a tour of major Chinese music schools in Shanghai, Chengdu, and Guangzhou, the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, Tokyo's Musashino Academia Musicae, Singapore's Yong Siew Tow, and Mahidol University in Bangkok.

The quintet's newest album *Blues for Sam* (2022) features a mix of classical and jazz arrangements alongside old favorites and is dedicated to the late Sam Pilafian who can also be heard on *Simple Gifts* (2018), *Reminiscing* (2016), and *Rewired* (2015). Other ongoing Boston Brass projects include performances of Gordon Goodwin's new composition *Perplexing Times*, which was commissioned alongside a consortium of wind ensembles and premiered September 13, 2022 at North Dakota State University's Challey School of Music.

Boston Brass is a Yamaha Performing Group and performs exclusively on Yamaha instruments.

Boston Brass plays mouthpieces by Pickett Brass.

5. Ensemble + Musician Biographies **(Word Count: ~600)**

Since 1986 Boston Brass has set out to establish a one-of-a-kind musical experience featuring colorful classical arrangements, burning jazz standards, and the best of original brass repertoire. Boston Brass treats audiences to a unique brand of musical entertainment that bridges the ocean of classical formality to delight regular concertgoers and newcomers alike with great music and boisterous fun in performances across all 50 U.S. states and over 30 countries to date.

José Sibaja brings an incredible level of artistry, humor and personality to Boston Brass. José has held positions in the Miami Symphony, the Sinfonietta de Caracas and the Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, and has performed as soloist with the Springfield Symphony, Orquesta Sinfonica Venezuela, and Orquesta Sinfonica Nacional de Costa Rica. He toured the world in Ricky Martin's band for 8 years and can be heard in countless recordings with artists such as Celia Cruz, Gloria Estefan, and Alejandro Sanz, and has performed on Late Night with David Letterman, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, Saturday Night Live, and the Grammys. José is currently Professor of Trumpet at the Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

Jeff Conner is the only remaining original member of Boston Brass. He founded the group with fellow Boston musicians while studying at Boston University and has engineered the meteoric rise of the ensemble in the world of popular chamber music. Jeff received his master's degree

in music from Boston University and his bachelor's degree in music from Boston Conservatory. He has presented his Entrepreneurial Clinic "The Portfolio Musician" around the world and is the author of *The Portfolio Musician: Case Studies in Success*, with co-author Grammy-nominated musician John Lavery.

Chris Castellanos hails from Las Vegas where he studied at UNLV and was formerly a member of the Las Vegas Philharmonic. Chris has shared the stage with the Utah Symphony, Miami Ballet, Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass, Nevada Chamber Orchestra, Las Vegas Jazz Connection, and the TAD Wind Symphony of Japan. In Vegas, Chris has played over 1,700 performances of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom – The Las Vegas Spectacular* and backed artists like Frank Sinatra Jr., Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Peter Cetera, Peabo Bryson, Kenny G, Robert Goulet, Olivia Newton-John, Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti, Michel Legrand, Mannheim Steamroller, Yes, Josh Groban, Michael Bublé, Charlotte Church, Ricky Martin, David Foster, and Andrea Bocelli.

Domingo Pagliuca is a Latin Grammy Award-winning trombonist who was born in Venezuela and graduated with honors from the University of Miami with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Music. His versatility as an instrumentalist in different musical genres has led him to be one of the most in-demand musicians in Venezuela and Latin America for recording sessions and musical productions in the commercial field. Currently, Domingo serves as Principal Trombone of both the Palm Beach Symphony Orchestra and the Florida Grand Opera Orchestra.

William Russell is the newest member of Boston Brass, joining in 2017. William was a co-founder of the Chicago-based quintet Alliance Brass and is an alumnus of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. William has performed across the United States in venues from the Corn Palace to Carnegie Hall, and he has toured Europe with both the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and he can be heard on the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Grammy-winning 2008 recording of the Shostakovich 4th Symphony. At home in Chicago, William teaches tuba and euphonium at Northeastern Illinois University.

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6. Long Ensemble Biography **(For reference only, not for use in printed programs)**

Since 1986 Boston Brass has set out to establish a one-of-a-kind musical experience, featuring colorful classical arrangements, burning jazz standards, and the best of original brass repertoire. Boston Brass treats audiences to a unique brand of musical entertainment that bridges the ocean of classical formality to delight regular concertgoers and newcomers alike with great music and boisterous fun. The quintet has played to audiences in all 50 U.S. states, and over 30 countries. Though the band regularly concertizes as a quintet, Boston Brass also performs with orchestras, concert and marching bands, organists, and jazz bands, and regularly collaborates with composers to create new works for the brass canon.

Music education is at the core of Boston Brass's identity, and the quintet continues to conduct sessions around the world, including past masterclasses and residencies at such prestigious institutions as the Eastman School of Music, The Juilliard School, the Royal Academy of Music in London, and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory in Singapore. In conjunction with the Yamaha

Corporation, the quintet engaged in a 2018 tour of major Chinese music conservatories, and in 2021 the members of Boston Brass were appointed to the International Artist Advisory Council to the College of Music at Mahidol University in Thailand. The Boston Brass have been featured as educators and performers at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles, the American Bandmaster Association Conference, American Band College, Western International Band Clinic, and at innumerable state music education conferences. After a long hiatus, 2022 finally saw the return of the Boston Brass Summer Intensive in its new home at North Dakota State University's Challey School of Music.

The quintet's newest release *Blues for Sam* (2022) features a mix of classical and jazz arrangements alongside old Boston Brass favorites, and is dedicated to the late Sam Pilafian who can also be heard on the albums *Simple Gifts* (2018), *Reminiscing* (2016), and *Rewired* (2015). *Latin Nights* (2008) features a collection of some of the greatest classical and jazz works by Latin composers and features the legendary drummer Steve Gadd, the beautiful voice of Talita Real, plus percussion and guitar. Other albums include *Ya Gotta Try*, featuring music from Horace Silver, Chick Corea and Dizzy Gillespie, produced by legendary jazz recording genius Rudy van Gelder, and *Within Earshot*, featuring classical works by Shostakovich, Ginastera, Dvorak, Liszt, and others. Boston Brass has two holiday recordings, *Christmas Bells are Swingin'*, and *The Stan Kenton Christmas Carols*, featuring the Boston Brass All-Stars Big Band playing the phenomenal charts made popular by the Stan Kenton Orchestra. Boston Brass tours a vibrant holiday show each year featuring many of the Stan Kenton classics and sporting a full big band stocked with powerhouse guests, making this program a perennial audience favorite.

Boston Brass undertook a new project in 2022, forming a consortium of ensembles to commission a new work by Grammy winning composer Gordon Goodwin. Featuring the quintet with wind ensemble and jazz rhythm section, *Perplexing Times* is a new composition unlike anything before, yet brimming with Goodwin's trademark tongue in cheek compositional style.

2011 marked the 25th Anniversary of Boston Brass and was celebrated with the 25 Fanfares Project, wherein 25 fanfares were premiered by composers from all over the country. Boston Brass also premiered a new major commission by noted wind ensemble composer Brian Balmages and new arrangements by former member and tuba player Sam Pilafian. Additionally, Boston Brass was very excited to have the opportunity to collaborate in the 2010/2011 season with the fabulous Imani Winds in a program entitled "Sketches of Spain," featuring the music of Miles Davis and Gil Evans. In the 2012/2013 season the quintet began touring their "Notes from the Balcony" program with the Enso String Quartet featuring a program of music based on *Romeo and Juliet*.

In 2020, with the advent of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the massive cancellations of live concerts, Boston Brass started several projects with an aim to keep creative momentum while still serving the music education community. This started with the Summer Winds Seminar, an online course for high school and college students featuring dozens of masterclasses by artists from all corners of the music world. Then the "Happy Hour" and "Back to School" interview series showcased greats of the brass and band world in an informal, conversational setting, including interviews with legendary guests like Doc Severinsen and Arturo Sandoval. Then the Boston Brass "Flex" project, a packet of recordings and flexible instrumentation arrangements, was designed to allow students to play along and learn chamber music from home or from a school setting where larger bands required downsized instruction. And in October 2020, Boston Brass presented a nationally live-streamed concert from the Ramsdell Theater in

Manistee, Michigan in the hopes of renewing the joy of live arts during the depths of the pandemic.

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