



Mirari Brass Quintet

Long Bio (457 Words)

Engaging and eclectic, the Mirari Brass Quintet brings a spirit of joyful collaboration and innovation to music spanning many centuries and genres. Commissioners of multiple new works for brass, the group performs a spectacular tight-rope act, balancing intensity with levity and refined virtuosity with pure fun.

Founded in 2009, Mirari has performed extensively across the United States, forging connections with audiences through lively and polished performances. The group has performed and presented in 35 states on concert series as well as residencies at numerous universities including Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, University of Utah, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, University of Kentucky, Ohio State University, Cornell University, SUNY-Potsdam, and many more. Mirari has also been featured at a number of major conferences and festivals including the International Tuba and Euphonium Conference, the International Trombone Festival, and the International Trumpet Guild Conference. In 2017, the group made its first international trip to China, performing concerts and presenting educational programs in Beijing, Haerbin, Dalian, and Chongqing.

Since its inception, Mirari has added nearly two dozen works to the brass quintet repertoire, with group members also contributing a number of arrangements and original compositions. Their debut album, *Spires*, adventurously contextualizes works from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, re-imagines jazz standards, and features their commission from Rome Prize-winner and Guggenheim Fellow Eric Nathan. Their second album, *Renewed, Reused, Recycled*, features music not originally written for brass quintet and was released by Summit Records in 2018.

Beyond the recording studio, Mirari initiated a consortium between numerous universities and The Ohio State University Wind Symphony, which resulted in Clint Needham's *In These Hallowed Halls*, a four movement concerto for brass quintet and wind ensemble. Their most recent project is a Chamber Music America Residency grant to partner with Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless and Community of Note based in Baton Rouge, LA.

In addition to their commitment to outstanding performance, the members of the Mirari Brass Quintet share a unique passion for music education and are all collegiate professors of music. The group spends extended time interacting with young musicians through masterclasses, group and individual instruction, and specialized clinics. Through their educational endeavors, the quintet examines all aspects of life as an artist and helps to foster the development of complete musicians. Individually, the group members have been on faculty at colleges, universities, music festivals and camps all over the United States and overseas. As a way to share their knowledge and experiences with musicians and music lovers alike, Mirari created a podcast, *Mirari: UNMUTED*, available on Spotify and iTunes.

(Updated July 2023. Please discard previously dated materials and contact Matthew Kulas at matthew@arielartists.com before making any alterations or cuts.)

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As a central tenet of the group, and by their name's definition, all Mirari members share an admiration and respect for each other as performers, educators, and human beings.

Short Bio (291 words)

Engaging and eclectic, the Mirari Brass Quintet brings a spirit of joyful collaboration and innovation to music spanning many centuries and genres. The commissioners of multiple new works for brass, the group performs a spectacular tight-rope act, balancing intensity with levity and refined virtuosity with pure fun.

Founded in 2009, Mirari has performed extensively across the United States, forging connections with audiences through lively and polished performances. The group has performed and presented outreach programs as part of concert series, festivals, conferences, and residencies at universities in over 30 states and, in 2017, made their international debut in China.

Since its inception, Mirari has added nearly two dozen works to the brass quintet repertoire, with group members also contributing a number of arrangements and original compositions. Some highlights are included on their albums *Spires* (2012) and *Renewed, Reused, Recycled* (Summit Records, 2018). Mirari has also embarked on collaborative ventures, including Clint Needham's concerto for brass quintet and wind ensemble, *In These Hallowed Halls* (2015), which was commissioned by Mirari and the Ohio State University Wind Symphony and premiered in 2017.

Mirari is unique in that as well as being outstanding performers, they also share a passion for music education and are all collegiate professors of music. The group relishes and seeks out extended time to interact with musicians by leading masterclasses, offering group and individual instruction, presenting clinics, and through their podcast, *Mirari: UNMUTED*. Through their educational endeavors, the quintet examines all aspects of life as an artist and helps to foster the development of complete musicians.

As a central tenet of the group, and by their name's definition, all Mirari members share an admiration and respect for each other not only on stage and in music, but also in friendship.

Micro Bio (38 words)

Engaging and eclectic, the Mirari Brass Quintet brings a spirit of joyful collaboration with a passion for music education. Commissioners of many new brass works, Mirari performs a spectacular tight-rope act, balancing intensity with levity and refined virtuosity.

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Individual Bios

Joseph Cooper, the trumpet professor at Oklahoma State University, is a dedicated educator and an active performer with extensive experience in teaching students of diverse ages and backgrounds. He joins the Mirari Brass Quintet in the Fall of 2023. Cooper has been a highly active freelance musician for over twenty years. Since moving to Oklahoma, he is a substitute musician with the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, the Tulsa Symphony, and the Tulsa Ballet. Previously, he was highly active in both Austin and Houston appearing with the Austin Symphony, Austin Opera and the Houston Grand Opera, among others. Not confined by geographical boundaries, he has performed across the United States and internationally in Hong Kong, Japan, China, the United Kingdom, Austria, the Czech Republic, and Germany. Embracing the power of music to foster connections, Cooper endeavors to engage audiences through chamber music, commissioning new works, and fostering outreach initiatives. He is a respected clinician and has presented clinics and masterclasses for aspiring musicians at universities and for national and international conferences. In 2021, Cooper co-founded the Composite Brass duo, alongside saxophonist John Salinas. Together, they are commissioning and arranging new works, expanding the repertoire for trumpet and saxophone duo. Cooper actively serves both the International Trumpet Guild and the National Trumpet Competition, most recently providing book reviews for the ITG journal and as an adjudicator at the 2023 National Trumpet Competition. He holds music degrees from Indiana University-Bloomington (BM), Rice University (MM), and The University of Texas at Austin (DMA).

J. Peyden Shelton is currently the Associate Professor of Trumpet at the University of Utah. Before his current position, he has served on the faculties at the University of Rochester and Cornell University. Peyden has performed as both soloist and ensemble member with numerous groups including the Utah Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, Washington Concert Opera, Symphony Number One, New World Symphony and Salt Lake Symphony. He also is a member of several chamber ensembles including Fifth Bridge (fifthbridge.org), the Mirari Brass Quintet (miraribrass.com), and Nova Trumpet Collective (@novatrumpets). Peyden has a respected reputation as a clinician having presented for universities, schools, and conferences all over the world. He serves on numerous committees for the International Trumpet Guild including as the Chair of the ITG Orchestral Excerpt Competition. Peyden has written several articles for the ITG Journal and has been a featured presenter at their International Conferences. Peyden holds degrees from Virginia Tech (BA), the University of Miami (MM), and the Eastman School of Music (DMA). He can be heard on Summit Records, SNOtone Records, Mark Records, and in the 4th Edition of the Samuel Adler's *The Study of Orchestration* textbook by W.W. Norton & Company. Dr. Shelton is also a Yamaha Performing Artist.

Katy Ambrose is the Assistant Professor of Horn at the University of Iowa. In addition to teaching, she is an active soloist and chamber musician, and has held orchestral positions with the Delaware Symphony

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Orchestra, New Orchestra of Washington, Victory Hall Opera, Northeast Pennsylvania Philharmonic, Philly Pops, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, Albany Symphony, Lexington Philharmonic (KY) and performed as a guest musician with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Daejeon Philharmonic, Orchestra Iowa, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Detroit Chamber Winds, Pennsylvania Ballet, Hawai'i Symphony and Opera, Chamber Music Honolulu, Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia, Harrisburg Symphony, Vermont Symphony and the New Haven Symphony. During the Summers she taught at Kendall Betts Horn Camp, Curtis Young Artist Summer Program, the All-State at Interlochen and NOW SummerFest. A passionate chamber musician, Katy currently plays with the University of Iowa faculty brass quintet, the Lanta Horn Duo, and Conica, a transcontinental natural horn quartet. She was a co-founder of Seraph Brass and Izula Horns, was a member of the Philadelphia Chamber Brass, and has performed extended guest artist stints with District 5 wind quintet as a Featured Artist for the Virginia Arts Festival, and with Rêlache New Music Ensemble as a Resident Artist at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Trombonist **Sarah Paradis** is the Associate Professor of Trombone and Euphonium at Boise State University. Paradis earned her B.M. in Music Education from Ithaca College, her M.M. in Trombone Performance from Indiana University, and her D.M. in Brass Pedagogy from Indiana University. An avid orchestral musician, Paradis has been a member of the Richmond Symphony (IN), Springfield Symphony Orchestra (OH), and the Ohio Valley Symphony. She has also played with the Hawai'i Symphony Orchestra, Spokane Symphony, West Virginia Symphony Orchestra, Boise Philharmonic, Boise Baroque Orchestra, Opera Idaho, Akron Symphony (OH), and the Owensboro Orchestra (KY). She was a prizewinner in the Susan Slaughter Solo Competition, and was awarded the Trombone Fellowship at the Aspen Summer Music Festival. Paradis practices yoga daily and incorporates the benefits of yoga and meditation into her own performance and teaching. Her "Yoga for Musicians" masterclass helps high school and college students explore the many ways in which yoga can augment their musical journey. Paradis is an S.E. Shires performing artist and lives in Boise with her family. To learn more, visit Paradis's [website](#).

Steph Frye-Clark (they/them) is a highly sought-after and internationally recognized performer and educator. They are currently Associate Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at East Tennessee State University where they have been on faculty since 2013. Steph is regarded as a leading commissioner and performer of queer-centered identity composers and is breaking ground for underrepresented commissions. Steph is a member of the acclaimed Mirari Brass Quintet and has performed with the Milwaukee, Green Bay, Knoxville, Johnson City, La Crosse, Manitowoc, and Fox Valley Symphony Orchestras as well the Symphony of the Mountains. They received the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Tuba Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013. They received the Master of Music degree from UW-Madison and Bachelor's degrees in Tuba Performance and Biology from Lawrence University. Steph Frye-Clark is a Miraphone Performing Artist.

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