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6th Annual Ohio Brass Arts Festival



(program cover)

March 23, 2012 7:00pm-9:30pm Free Event
March 24, 2012 Noon-8:30pm Tickets \$10-\$15

Northland Performing Arts Center
4411 Tamarack Blvd, Columbus Ohio

www.centralohiobrass.org

Andrew Seymour, Executive Director 614-214-6045

Ohio Brass Arts Festival Continues to Grow and Redefine Itself

In its early years, the Ohio Brass Arts Festival (OBAF) served as a pre-NABBA contest preparation for many bands. The first festival only had 5 bands at a high school auditorium. Guest Artists such as Helen Tyler (then Fodens Band), Mark Bousie (then Fairey Band) and Charles Couch (Cleveland Orchestra) were brought in to perform master classes.

Those in Ohio are familiar with the saying, “Time and Change will surely show...” Now in its sixth year the festival has moved from its recent home at The Ohio State University, to the newly remodeled Northland Performing Arts Center. The average audience has tripled in size and the festival continues to add new elements every year. As current OBAF executive director, Andrew Seymour, describes it, “Rather than being a set of concerts, OBAF is becoming a real event!”

This Year’s Line-Up

This year’s Ohio Brass Arts Festival will feature 9 of not only the best known bands in Ohio, but in North America. Featured will be the TBDBITL Alumni Band (who performed at the Durham Miner’s Gala last summer), The Brass Band of Columbus (10 time NABBA Champions), the Dublin Silver Band (winner of the US Open Most Entertaining Prize 3 of the last 4 years) and the host Central Ohio Brass Band (winners of the NABBA 1st section title 4 of the past 5 years)

Eclectic Mix

With the success of the New Orleans brass band *Bonerama* last year, OBAF turns to the local group of *New Basics Brass Band* to close the evening. OBAF founder, Dr. Patrick Herak, describes the event, “Sure there will be some groups performing serious contest music, but there will also be bands like TBDBITL, Scioto and Dublin putting on their most entertaining programs, Salvation Army affiliated groups putting on a more traditional and spiritual program, and New Basics bringing the New Orleans brass band feel. It is one of the most eclectic mixes a brass band fan can see.”

New Venue

The change of venue is meant to inspire a more festive feel. There is plenty of free parking, food and drink for sale in the lobby and bands on stage will be projected on an enormous 10 foot x 30 foot screen in the lobby area so you won’t miss any of the performances. Andrew Seymour shares his excitement, “Having such an intimate theatre yet the more informal lobby with vendors, food and beverage should make it a fantastic day out to enjoy some good brass playing.”

OBAF Eve

OBAF continues to sponsor a composition contest to support new music for the brass band repertoire. On the Friday Eve of the main festival, all brass players are welcome to come (free of charge) and read through the six finalists for the composition contest, which has been quite internationally accepted. Herak states, “It is not only a great opportunity to help support new music, but to bring musicians together to share a common love of the brass band genre. In fact, if you look at the list of composers that have one the first four years of the composition contest, many are now quite well known in brass band circles. Here’s hoping we can get a domestic winner!”

Promoting Brass

This year's OBAF sees two new competitions introduced in an effort to promote brass bands in the area. The first competition is the OBAF Youth Solo Competition. High School brass players who have received a I rating at District Solo and Ensemble contest are invited to compete for this award. There are cash prizes for both first (\$100) and second (\$50) place. Seymour explains, "There are so many talented high school brass players, some of which are playing in the bands at the festival. The OBAF committee believe it is very important to not only support these young players, but expose them to a community of brass players that they may wish to continue playing with even after high school." Herak elaborates, "It's really an opportunity to promote life-long learning."

The other new competition is the awarding of the OBAF Cup to the band that has the best performance of a slow melody. Seymour explains, "The tradition of brass banding is rooted in the march, solo, slow melody and contest piece. The most fundamental of these is the slow melody. So this year, we will be awarding a VERY large cup and \$200 to the band with the best performance of a slow melody."

Winning Formula

An eclectic mix, a great new venue and a hint of competitive juices should make this 6th Edition of the Ohio Brass Arts Festival the best yet. Herak exclaims, "We had a really good event the first three year. Andy and the committee took it to a new level last year for the 5th anniversary, and we initially thought this might be a down year after such a high. However, the new venue, the great mix...I can't wait until March 23rd. It's going to be even better!"

More information for the festival (include how to order tickets online) can be found at <http://centralohiobrass.org/obaf.htm>

Festival Schedule

Friday, March 23, 2012

Northland Performing Arts Center

Free Event

5:00pm	Load in
6:30pm	Doors Open
7:00pm	Repertoire Band (6 pieces)
8:30pm	Reception with Cash Bar

Saturday March 24, 2012

Northland Performing Arts Center

Ticketed Event - On Sale Soon

12:00pm	Dublin Silver Band
12:40pm	Chapel at Worthington Woods Salvation Army Brass Band
1:20pm	TBDBITL Alumni Band
2:00pm	Chapel Brass
3:00pm	Brass Band of Columbus
3:40pm	Scioto Valley Brass and Percussion Co.
4:20pm	Brass Band of the Western Reserve
5:00pm	Central Ohio Brass Band
5:40pm	Reception cash bar and food
6:15pm	Results in Lobby
6:30pm	New Basics Brass Band
8:00pm	After Party with cash bar and food
9:30pm	Conclusion

OBAF Competitions

OBAF Composition Competition

The 2012 OBAF Composition Competition prize of \$200 will be awarded to the composer producing an original piece not yet performed and not lasting more than 5 minutes. Finalists will be chosen by the OBAF Executive committee and the 2012 OBAF Repertoire Band will read each finalists' work and select the winner through a popular vote. Please send a PDF file of the score along with a MIDI or Mp3 file of the piece to ohiobrassarts@gmail.com. Deadline for entries will Friday, 2 March, 2012. Finalists will be asked to send a PDF of each part so that it may be played by the OBAF Repertoire Band on the evening of March 23, 2012.

OBAF Cup (2012 Rules)

The Inagural OBAF Cup (traveling award) and \$200 will be awarded to the participating band with the best performance of a slow melody piece with a metronome marking not greater than 100 bpm. The piece can be a treatment or arrangement of a hymn or slow melody, movement of a major work or original composition. Solo works can be used but please keep in mind that the judges will be instructed to judge, primarily, the performance of the ensemble not soloist. Bands wishing to be eligible for the prize should indicate "OBAF Cup Entry" next to the title of the entry when submitting your program. Only one piece in a band's program may be entered into the contest. Three (3) measure numbered judges scores must be delivered to Andrew Seymour, 257 Rugby Lane, Gahanna, OH 43230 at least one day prior to the competition.

OBAF Youth Solo Contest

Brass (not necessarily English style brass band instrument) students that earn a I "Superior" rating on a grade A solo at a OMEA High School Adjudicated Event are invited and eligible to compete for the Ohio Brass Arts Festival Youth Solo Contest held March 24, 2012 at the Northland performing Arts Center. The first place prize will be \$100 and the second prize will be \$50. Every participating soloist and their accompanist will receive a participant wristband to attend the festival. Three (3) measure numbered solo parts must be delivered to Andrew Seymour, 257 Rugby Lane, Gahanna, OH 43230 by March 17, 2012.