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Central Ohio Brass Band poses at an art exhibit in Dublin, Ohio for the cover of "With Honors."

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From the Conductor's Podium *Jessica Sneeringer*

Another successful NABBA season has passed and we were, once again, very fortunate to come home as the 1st Section Champions. The competition was extremely tough as was evidenced by the scores: with two judges, we had 189.2, Georgia Brass Band (our good friends and a VERY fine band) had 188.2, and Massanutten Brass Band (another excellent band) had 188.0!

But, as exciting as it was to win our 3rd championship in 4 years, it was also bittersweet. This year's NABBA marked the end of an era for the Central Ohio Brass Band. This was Greg Weber's last year competing at NABBA with COBB before he and Dona retire to Florida.

If you aren't aware of whom Greg Weber is, let me explain. Greg (or Greggie, as I affectionately call him) is our concertmaster. Solo cornet, our corner chair, the big kahuna, Greg is quite simply the man who was instrumental in creating the attitude and vibe COBB has come to know and be known for.

About 6 years ago, COBB reorganized and Greg, already a 7-year veteran of the band, agreed to move to the corner chair. With this move, Greg brought musicianship, positivity, teamwork, and a general air of enthusiasm and support for one another. He was consistent musically. Unselfishly, he passed solos around to every capable member (something not every concertmaster does). Greg never rushed a decision as he always considered everyone's point of view.

But perhaps Greg's biggest contribution to COBB was and is his unwavering positive attitude! Always smiling and chanting "It's All Good" (which later became a band motto), Greg kept the band's energy light and cheerful. When COBB welcomes a new member the first thing he or she is told is that his/her personality and attitude are the most important considerations to being a member of this group. Everyone works together and trusts each other in the cornet section and it's because of Greg Weber.

However, don't be too sad too quickly! I am very glad to say that Greg will finish out this summer and will return each summer to COBB. Even better, Greg will be able to play with us again this winter. You see, when COBB won 1st Section at NABBA this year we also won an invitation to compete at Butlin's in England this upcoming January 2011! And it just wouldn't be right to go without Greggie Weber.

There are many memories, but I think those of us in COBB would agree that there are two that are the best. We'll all miss the kisses after our NABBA wins and who could forget 2007 right before we found out we had won our first championship? (You might have to ask a few folks about that one...)

So, thank you, Greg, for all you have done for COBB. We are a better band because of you. You leave us for warmer climates but you will never really be gone. Thanks for a GREAT 13 years!



OBAF 2010

Yes, it was the day before Easter. And for a change, it wasn't too terribly cold or snowy! And there was a lot of great entertainment enjoyed by one of our largest crowds ever.

Under the leadership of this year's Executive Director, Andrew Seymour, this year's Ohio Brass Arts Festival really shaped up to be an outstanding event. The festival took place at Weigel Hall at The Ohio State University for the 2nd year and included a number of very fine groups.

Friday's events included several small ensemble performances, a Horn clinic by OSU School of Music's horn professor, Bruce Henniss and culminated with a 65 piece brass repertoire group that read all the composition finalist pieces and voted to help determine the winner.

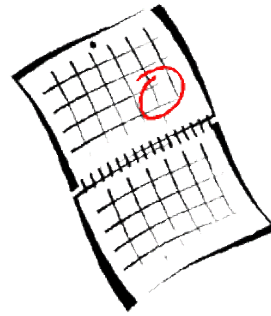
On Saturday, the TBDBITL Alumni Band started off the festival with a great performance consisting of a variety of songs including the *Thriller Fanfare & Billie Jean* arranged and guest conducted by OSU's own Jazz studies professor William (Ted) McDaniel. Dr. Keith Wilkinson had the busiest day as he directed 3 very fine groups: Chapel Brass, Chapel at Worthington Woods Salvation Army Band and the Brass Band of the Western Reserve. The committee was glad they were all able to attend.

The Brass Band of Columbus was guest conducted by James Curnow this year with a performance that didn't disappoint. The BBC performed several of Curnow's pieces including the piece they had commissioned, *Ellacombe Chronicles*. The host band, The Central Ohio Brass Band, was the final performer of the day debuting their NABBA Contest program and finishing with *Michelango* and guest Euphonium soloist Mark Bousie.

The most awaited performance of the day was from a very special band joining OBAF this year, out of the United Kingdom, The St. Helen's Youth Band. The band is composed of approximately 50 members between the ages of 12 and 19 and is directed by world renowned euphonium player and clinician Mark Bousie. The band had a busy schedule while they were in Columbus, including stops at the OSUMB band room for music and marching instruction to the Columbus Zoo.

For more information on any of the bands, their schedules, or the Ohio Brass Arts Festival, visit

www.ohiobrassbands.com



UPCOMING DATES

Concert with Brett Baker
May 14, 2010 7pm

At The Chapel at Worthington Woods,
Worthington

Concert at Our Lady Of Peace
May 23, 2010 2pm

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Columbus

Concert at Ascension Lutheran
July 4, 2010

Ascension Lutheran Church, Columbus

July 4th Concert in Lakeside, OH
July 4, 2010

At the Gazebo in the Park

Concert in Fostoria
July, 11 2010

At the Stage in the Park

Waterfire
August, 6 2010 7pm

Genoa Park, Columbus

Final date not set yet,
but **OBAF 2011** it will
be in **March**. Check
website for details.

NABBA UPDATE

COBB takes Raleigh by storm in a Triumphant Rhapsody

Picture this: it is a cold day in January, the snow is beginning to fall, the roads are getting icy. You are probably cuddled up at home with some hot chocolate. Meanwhile, the member of COBB are sitting in the Columbus Academy bandroom, hashing out parts of the NABBA contest music.

Why were they working so hard? COBB was poised to take home their third first place award in four years. This year the first place award was not in the "Honors" Division, but in the newly renamed First Division, to match the British titles of the divisions.

If that wasn't enough, COBB just came off another win. This time in an online recording contest, hosted by Devilish Publishing Co., that paired them up against bands from the UK. COBB participated in this event and recorded a piece entitled "13.7 Billion Years Earlier" by James McFadyen. This piece depicts what may have happened in the moments leading up to the 'Big Bang'. COBB's recording has been played on a podcast presented by Brasscast.com.

While this was an impressive win for COBB, there is nothing like preparing a live performance of a test piece. The test piece for this year's contest was Gilbert Vinter's (1909-1965) "Triumphant Rhapsody". Originally entitled "A Matter of Seconds", Vinter explores the dissonance of the interval of a second and is able to turn it into something beautiful. The tension and release will keep you on the edge of your seat throughout the entire performance.

While you are listening to "Triumphant Rhapsody" you will hear bits and pieces of a musical journey that will have you experience; love, adventure, angst, sadness, and joy, just to name a few emotions. Vinter masterfully writes this piece for brass band even though his own musical experiences are as a chorister and bassoonist.

COBB studied Vinter and understood his piece very well. In *A Matter of Seconds* COBB took Raleigh by storm with a *Triumphant Rhapsody* by winning First Place and in the process, qualifying to participate in a Brass Band Contest in Butlins, England. COBB will now plan to take their winning ways across the pond.

Meet the Trombones

Todd Seymour:



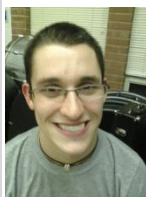
Todd joined COBB in 2002 and is the principle trombone for the group. For the last few years Todd has also acted as the assistant conductor of COBB. Todd is a teacher of Interactive Media at the Eastland Career Center. Before that he taught technology at Westfall High School. Todd was a band director for 18 years in the Westfall School District. Todd plays on a Getzen custom series 3047AR with an axial flow valve and red brass bell. His mouthpiece of choice is a Bach 5G (on loan from Jessica because his other one is a small shank...no jokes please). Todd enjoys music much more now that he is not a band director.

Andrew Wolf:



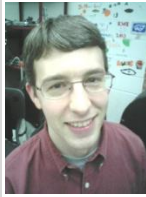
April of 2006 was Andy's first rehearsals with COBB. Andy has been brass banding ever since. Andy also plays in a few other brass bands in the area in his free time, since his days are filled being an IT/Network Administrator. Andy plays on a Getzen custom series 3047AF and a Binge 5G mouthpiece. Along with brass banding, Andy likes playing Wii, especially Guitar Hero, and building and flying RC planes.

Josh Jameson:



While this is Josh's first year in COBB, he has been brass banding for about 2 years as a player and his whole life as a listener. Josh plays on a Conn 88H with a Christian Lindburg valve and his mouthpiece is a Gregio 4.5. Josh is currently a student at Capital University studying Music Education. While he admits that music is his life, he says it is his hobby, his distraction, his job and his fall back. He listens to, performs, and writes music. Josh will be in his 4th year as a member of Glassman Drum and Bugle Corps out of Toledo, OH this year.

Scott Zigler:



Scott has been brass banding for 3 years now, 2 of which have been with COBB. Scott plays a Getzen custom series 3062AFR Bass Trombone and a Rath B1.5W mouthpiece. During the day Scott designs and builds computer servers for a central Ohio hospital system. Besides playing his trombone, Scott enjoys playing with his 2 children (2 years old and 18 months), building computers, and playing video games. Scott is also a member of the New Albany Symphony Orchestra and the Chapel Brass.



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