

Borealis Brass Quintet

Ross Fugl · Aisling O'Sullivan Goel
Christian Howard · Beckett Shuholm · Graham Taylor

Nexus

Anthony DiLorenzo, b. 1967

Frost Fire

Eric Ewazen, b. 1954

- I. Bright and Fast
- II. Gentle and Mysterious
- III. Tense and Dramatic

-Brief Intermission-

Café 1930
from “Histoire du Tango”

Astor Piazzolla, 1921-1992
arr. Wes Hopper

Quintet for Brass, Op. 73

Malcom Arnold, 1921-2006

Nexus draws inspiration from a variety of musical traditions, including classical, jazz, and contemporary styles. The work is structured into a single, continuous movement that unfolds in several distinct sections, each showcasing different aspects of the brass quintet's capabilities. Themes of exploration, connection, and synergy permeate the music, reflecting the title "Nexus" and the idea of bringing together diverse elements into a unified whole.

Frost Fire by Eric Ewazen explores the contrasting elements of frosty, wintry landscapes and the fiery, passionate energy of the human spirit. This piece is structured in three movements, each showcasing a different facet of Ewazen's compositional style and the expressive capabilities of the brass quintet. While the standard brass quintet instrumentation includes two trumpets, horn, trombone, and tuba, this work was commissioned by the American Brass Quintet, which uses a bass trombone in place of a tuba. Consequently, Ewazen penned the bass part specifically to highlight the attributes of the bass trombone, making Frost Fire the only piece on the program written for the exact instrumentation of the Borealis Brass Quintet.

Originally written for flute and guitar, **Café 1930** is the second movement of Piazzolla's four-movement suite, "Histoire du Tango," which traces the history of the tango from its origins in 19th-century Argentinian immigrant neighborhoods to its evolution into a sophisticated concert genre. Piazzolla drew inspiration for "Café 1930" from his experiences growing up in Buenos Aires, where he was immersed in the vibrant tango culture of the city's cafes and dance halls.

Malcolm Arnold's **Quintet for Brass** is a staple in the brass quintet repertoire, performed by student and professional quintets alike. Since the 1961 premiere by the New York Brass Quintet, the work has appeared over 40 times on the recordings of major brass quintets and ensembles worldwide. Arnold was also a successful composer for film and television, with over a hundred scores to his credit. His experience in the film industry informed his compositional style, which often featured vivid orchestration, memorable melodies, and dramatic contrasts.