

THE AVANT BRASS QUINTET

Musical ensemble, the *Avant Brass Quintet*, was created in 2006. Comprising of some of the finest brass instrumentalists in the New England area, the ensemble was created to promote new music for this idiom of instruments and the exploration of Latino music arranged for quintet. Since its inception, the quintet has begun to perform across the states of Connecticut and Massachusetts and currently has plans on recording a CD featuring their arrangements of Latin American music. The members of the group are:

International soloist, **James Ackley**, has enjoyed performing his trumpet around the globe. The list of continents includes the USA, Central and South America, Europe and Asia. On a recent tour through Venezuela, the critics named James “one of the best trumpet players in the world today”.

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, James received his BM from the Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music and his MM from the elite Cleveland Institute of Music, and additional studies under the tutelage of Mark Gould at the Julliard School. Presently, James has dedicated his career as a soloist, having released his premiere solo CD titled *Recital Music for Trumpet* under the Claronade label. His second CD, *Lírico Latino*, will be available in spring 2007. James also maintains a busy teaching schedule as Assistant Professor of Music at the University of Connecticut.

Having performed with numerous orchestras, he has also worked under some of the most distinguished batons such as Zubin Mehta, Jah-Jah Ling, Christoph Eschenbach, Plácido Domingo, Francisco Rettig and James Levin to mention a few. He has also distinguished himself as a composer and arranger. His material is published under the editorial visage of Cimarron Music Company. James and his wife Yesenia reside in Manchester, CT with their two sons, Kevin and Joshua.

Peter Olson graduated from the University of Connecticut having studied with William Babcock, Jeffrey Curnow, and Daniel Patrylak. Other teachers include Ray Mase and Charles Schleuter. Peter has performed with a wide variety of musical groups throughout the area including the Hartford Brass Quintet, the Constitution Brass Quintet, the Classic Brass, as well as with the Little Big Band, the Hartford Pops Band, the American Musical Theater, and the Connecticut Repertory Theatre.

As an orchestral trumpeter, Peter is a former principal trumpet of the Manchester Symphony Orchestra and has appeared with the Connecticut Virtuosi, the Eastern Connecticut Symphony, and the Waterbury Symphony. As a soloist, he has enjoyed playing with both the Windham Concert Band and the Manchester Symphony. Peter and his wife Lauren reside in the foothills of Ashford, CT with their two wonderful children, Ashlyn and David.

Lucy Colwell, horn, is a native of Massachusetts where she teaches instrumental music at Tantasqua Junior High School. Lucy earned a Bachelor of Music Degree in Performance from Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music in Winchester, VA. She continued her studies at North Texas State University and in 1994 earned an Artist Diploma from Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, CT. In the spring of 2003, Lucy graduated from Our Lady of the Elms College in Chicopee, MA, with her Master of Arts degree in Education.

Since 1994, Lucy has been the Principal Horn with the Thayer Symphony Orchestra. Lucy also performs as a free lance musician in her spare time and has performed for artists such as Dionne Warwick, James Ingram, Lorie Morgan, John Tesch and Clay Aiken. Lucy finds much joy in returning to her roots and teaching for the same school system from which she graduated in 1983.

Topher Logan, trombone, is an alumnus of the University of Connecticut and is the Director of the Community School of the Arts at UCONN. Topher received his Master of Music from Baylor University where he studied with David Gier. Other teachers have included George Sanders and Becky Bower. He is currently pursuing a PhD in Psychology, with research interests in music cognition and an empirical approach to musicology.

Mr. Logan is principal trombonist with the Thayer Symphony in Massachusetts as well as the Connecticut Virtuosi Orchestra and CT Lyric Opera. He has also performed with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra, CT Opera, Eastern CT Symphony Orchestra, Salt Marsh Opera, and the New Britain Symphony. Mr. Logan is also an active freelance jazz musician performing with area big bands, the CSA faculty jazz, and the Blue Lizard Jazz Combo. Topher resides in Willington with his wife, Sara.

Tubist **Adam Crowe** is a native of Guin, Alabama. He began his musical training at age 11 and later attended the University of Alabama where he studied with J. Michael Dunn, former U.S. Marine Band and Alabama Symphony tubist. Adam was a finalist in the Arnold Jacobs Mock Orchestral Competition and the Tuba Quartet Competition at the 1998 International Tuba Euphonium Conference.

In 1999 Adam joined the U.S. Coast Guard Band, where he regularly appears as soloist with both the band and the Chamber Players recital series. While in New England he has enjoyed performing with the Connecticut Virtuosi, Lighthouse Brass Quintet, and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and the International Tuba Euphonium Association. Adam also serves as conductor for Classic Brass, a British-style brass band consisting of the area's finest educators, students, and amateur musicians. In his spare time he enjoys frequenting brewpubs, dabbling in web design, and spending time with his wife Sabrina and son Lucas.