



THE BRASSROOTS INSIDER

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Next Concert

Trumpets of Spring

Saturday May 6 at 7:30 PM

St. James Westminster
115 Askin Street

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - Music Director's
Message

Page 2 - Chair's Message

Page 3 - Sounds of Spring

Page 4 -6 - Upcoming

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE BY JEFF CHRISTMAS

Every member of Brassroots is a brilliant and accomplished musician. An important part of programming a season involves creating concerts where you can see our unique musicians in the spotlight. At Trumpets of Spring, you will hear the fantastic musicianship of Paul Stevenson and Julia Vaughan, two very influential and long-time members of Brassroots.

As well you will hear the ensemble in full force as we close out our season and herald in spring with the sounds of brass and trumpets.

See you at the concert - *Jeff*

www.brassroots.ca

Charitable registration #130746993 RR0001

Message from the Chair of Brassroots

By David Ennis, *Chair*

I'm writing this message in my basement office on a dreary Saturday morning while looking out at the rain. My briefcase and my desk are overflowing with work, the yard needs a lot of work and my 'to-do' list is long. You know the feeling. It's the Canadian rite of spring – taxes, summer tires, springtime work and more - while the warmth of a gentle summer day remains just out of reach.

There's an old saying that a break is as good as a rest, and you can always depend on Brassroots to be your best break for all seasons. Here we are, dear loyal members, on the verge of summer with one final, brilliant concert to soothe the soul and raise your spirits.

And we are going to deliver a great one! I've been dreaming of this concert for years. On May 6th, we'll get to hear the powerhouse duo of Julie Vaughan and Paul Stevenson, two members of our stellar trumpet section who will step forward and delight you with a range of duets to stir your souls. And let's not forget. They'll be accompanied by the rest of Brassroots courtesy of the rich arrangements and exciting conducting of Jeff Christmas.

Put down your rakes, everybody! Grab your keys and head to Wortley Village. It's time for a shot in the arm that doesn't involve Covid. Let's finish the season with a full house. This I can promise. You'll go home with a full heart and renewed hope for the warm summer days ahead.

Sincerely,

David Ennis, Chairperson of Brassroots



SOUNDS OF SPRING

Trumpets of Spring will live up to its title, there will be a total of **eight trumpet players** on stage at the concert. We have guest trumpeters joining the ranks for this concert, partly because Paul Stevenson and Julia Vaughan will be stepping to centre stage to be the featured soloists. Among the guest players is Paul Stevenson's son Riley, who is currently studying trumpet performance at Western University.

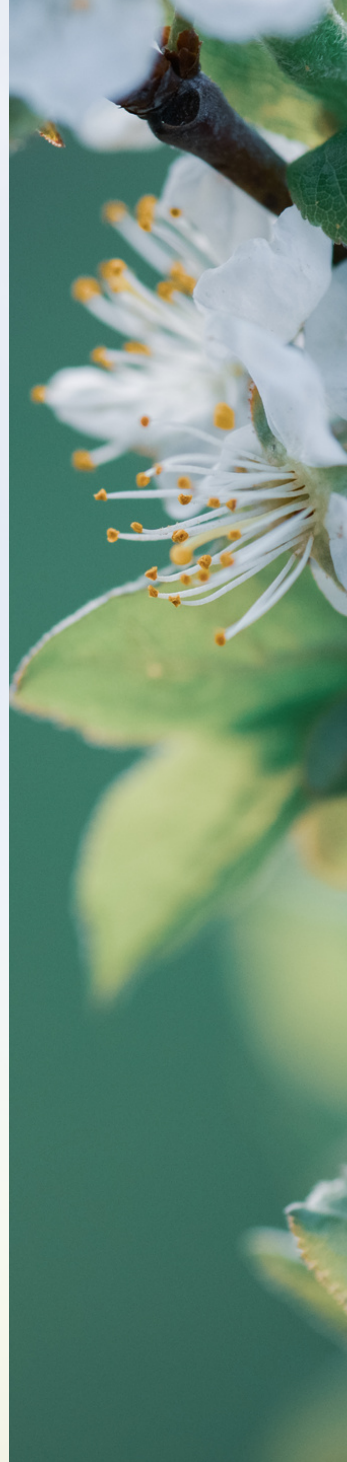
Paul Stevenson has been the Principal Trumpet with Brassroots since 1988; and Julia Vaughan is a founding member of Brassroots, having played in the ensemble since 1987.

One of the greatest opportunities over the last 30 years has been to play with the outstanding musicians of Brassroots. Having this evening to share the stage with Julie is a personal highlight! I have so much respect, admiration and love for her as a player and friend. She is an inspiration." - Paul Stevenson

"I am thrilled to join my Brassroots 'family' playing some of my favourite solos, and I am deeply honoured to share the stage with my favourite trumpet player and friend, Paul. I have always been awed and inspired not only by his outstanding talent but by his humbleness as a player! Thank you, Paul and Brassroots for the wonderful musical journey we have shared...so far. I look forward to creating many more musical memories together!" - Julia Vaughan

Congratulations Patrick Smithers!

Congratulations to a long time friend of Brassroots, Patrick Smithers on graduating from Juilliard School for the Arts and winning the second trumpet position with the Louisiana Symphony Orchestra in New Orleans. Brassroots is very proud of your accomplishments and artistry. We are delighted that Patrick is joining us as a guest trumpet player for Trumpets of Spring!



WHERE TO SEE BRASSROOTS MEMBERS PERFORM THIS SUMMER!

Brassroots will be announcing our 2023/24 Season in the coming months, but in the meantime, there are a plethora of concerts where you can see members of Brassroots perform. Here is a rundown on what is coming up!

Bohemian Landscape - Waterloo Chamber Player

Sunday May 7 at 3:00 PM

Kitchener City Hall Rotunda, 200 King Street, Kitchener

Pay-what-you-can

Waterloo Chamber Players (which includes Brassroots trombonist **Susan Follows**) with guest conductor Kira Omelchenko, play selections from Bizet Carmen, Chaminade Callirhoë Suite, op. 37 and Dvorak Symphony 8.

Baddest Big Band plays The Beatles

Tuesday May 23rd at 7:30 PM

Wolf Performance Hall, 251 Dundas Street, London

www.baddestbigband.com

London's Baddest Big Band will be presenting a jazz tribute to the Beatles on Tuesday May 23rd, at 7:00pm at the Wolf Performance Hall at the Downtown Central Library. The Baddest Big Band is a project that came out of the need for musicians to try to bounce back after the lost musical and artistic opportunities during the pandemic. Brassroots trombone player **Seth McNall** took this opportunity and ran with it, forming the Baddest Big Band from a pool of some of the top jazz musicians in London and the surrounding area. With members ranging from current and retired school music teachers, university professors, and professional and semi-professional musicians from across Southwestern Ontario, they have performed at the Aeolian Hall Jazz Festival and recently played the complete Duke Ellington Jazz Nutcracker Suite for a sold-out crowd in December. This concert takes the iconic music of the Beatles and makes it swing, with new takes on the classics of the Lennon-McCartney songbook. With vocalist Paul Zubot joining the band for this outing it is sure to be an evening of unforgettable music!

Broadway With A Twist ~ Out of Bounds!

Sunday May 28 at 7:30 PM

Wolf Performance Hall, 251 Dundas Street, London

www.arts4allkids.ca/tickets

Don't miss our crazy, fun and zany annual fundraiser...a wacky Broadway Revue featuring London's very best musical talent...all on one stage for one night of incredible entertainment! Tickets are on sale now. Buy online in advance as the price goes up at the door. All proceeds support the London Food Bank's ARTS 4 ALL KIDS program (founded by Brassroots percussionist **Karen Pincombe**) which has been providing FREE FINE ARTS EDUCATION (piano, violin, guitar, dance, drama, creative writing, and visual art) to underserved children and youth in London for 34 years!

Organ Symphony - Stratford Symphony Orchestra

Saturday May 27 2023 at 7:30 PM

Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave, Stratford

www.stratfordsymphony.ca

Stratford Symphony Orchestra with conductor William Rowson presents a program of Jean Coulthard's Music on a Quiet Song, Koetsier's Concertino op.77, and guest organ soloist Owen Spicer performing Saint-Saens' pinnacle work, "Organ Symphony". Brassroots ensemble members who are also members of the Stratford Symphony Orchestra are **Julie Vaughan, Kevin Swinden, Tony Snyder and Susan Follows.**

On Theses Wings - Windjammers Pop Wind Ensemble

Sunday May 28 2023 at 7:00 PM

Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, 9280 Airport Road, Mount Hope

www.stratfordsymphony.ca

A concert conducted by Charles Cozens in support of Mission Aviation Fellowship. Included in the ensemble is Brassroots' **Susan Follows.**

L'Histoire du Soldat by Igor Stravinsky

Saturday June 3 at 7:30 PM

St. James Westminster, 115 Askin Street, London

Admission by Donation

Featuring Brassroots **Karl Hermann** and **Paul Stevenson** among many other accomplished musicians, Stravinsky's unique hybrid of orchestra and theatre tells the story of a soldier who trades his violin with the devil. This is a rare chance to see this beguiling work.

Big Bandemic

Monday June 12 at 7:00 PM

Lambeth Legion, 7097 Kilbourne Road, London

Admission by Donation

With the start of the pandemic in early 2020, all live wind instrument playing stopped. By the end of the year, musicians were restless to find a place to play, so Brassroots' Karl Hermann and John Thompson started a group that used the Internet to allow people to play together but from home. The musicians could hear and see each other online. What to call the Group? Big Bandemic — what else?

The 17-piece big band, which includes Brassroots' **Gwyn Beynon** (and occasionally **Paul Stevenson** grew out of necessity because of the pandemic, but we plan to play together for as long as the musicians enjoy the experience.

This concert will include "the Crooners" (Rick Kish and Connor Boa) as well as Denise Pelley!

MORE UPCOMING BRASS

- **June 10 - Hotsauce, Dixie Band at the Richmond Hotel in London**
- **July 1 at 11:00 am: Full House Brass Quintet Canada Day Program at Stratford City Hall**
- **July 15 - Superfly Funk band opens for Five Alarm Funk at Chatham FunkFest.**



Announcement
Coming Soon!

Email info@brassroots.ca
to be the first to find out when you can subscribe!



TRUMPETS OF SPRING

Saturday May 6 at 7:30

Music Director Jeff Christmas

Featuring Paul Stevenson and Julia Vaughan

St. James Westminster Anglican Church

115 Askin Street, London Ontario

Tickets available at

www.brassroots.ca

