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Georgia Brass Quintet Kicks Off ABAC Virtuoso Series September 29

TIFTON – The Georgia Brass Quintet will be featured in the first performance of the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. in Howard Auditorium at Abraham
Baldwin Agricultural College. The performance is free of charge and open to the community.

ABAC Arts Connection Director Wayne Jones said the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series is designed to promote an appreciation for the tremendous expressive capacity of fine piano and chamber music. The series features skilled musicians drawn from outstanding regional and national professional artists.

The Georgia Brass Quintet is comprised of Philip Smith, Dr. Brandon Craswell, Dr. Jean Martin-Williams, Dr. Joshua L. Bynum and David Zerkel, who are all brass faculty from the University of Georgia (UGA) Hugh Hodgson School of Music. The quintet champions a broad array of repertoire from Renaissance to contemporary music, as well as arrangements of familiar jazz and pop tunes.

The quintet will perform a selection of contemporary pieces beginning with “Tarando” from composer and trombonist Nicola Ferro. Composer and trumpeter Anthony DiLorenzo’s “Fire Dance” will be followed by “Music Hall Suite” by British composer and conductor Joseph Horovitz, and “Music for Five Brass” by producer, conductor, performer and composer Brian Balmages.

In the second half of the performance, the group will perform noted classics including “April Showers” composed by Louis Silvers and arranged by Robert Elkjer; “Hungarian Dance 5” by Johannes Brahams and arranged by Robert Elkjer; “I Got Rhythm” composed by George Gershwin and arranged by Stephen Bulla; and “Georgia On My Mind” written by Hoagy Carmichael and arranged by Brett Bawcum.

Smith joined the UGA faculty in 2014 as the Prokasy Professor in the Arts. He was Principal Trumpet of the New York Philharmonic for 36 years, as well as being a former member of the Chicago Symphony. He has also been on the faculty of The Juilliard School and
Manhattan School of Music. He is an Honorary Member of the Royal Academy of Music. Smith has appeared regularly as soloist, recitalist and clinician worldwide.

Craswell is Associate Professor of Trumpet at UGA. He has played with the Atlanta, Charleston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, and Honolulu Symphonies, as well as guest principal trumpet with the Santiago, Chile Philharmonic. He was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago for two seasons and spent a year playing trumpet on the North American tour of the Broadway musical, “42nd Street.”

Martin-Williams has performed in many states and countries, including Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, and Russia. She has recorded with the New York Chamber Symphony, the New York Pops, the Georgia Woodwind Quintet and the Atlanta Symphony, including the Grammy-award winning Berlioz Requiem. A native of Decatur, Martin-Williams attended Lawrence University and the Manhattan School of Music, from which she was the first brass player to receive the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. At UGA, she is the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Professor of Music and Director of the Lilly Teaching Fellows.

Bynum is Associate Professor of Trombone at UGA. Bynum performs regularly with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Charleston Symphony Orchestra. He currently serves as the Journal Advertising Manager for the International Trombone Association and is an Artist and Clinician for the Edwards Instrument Company.

Zerkel joined the faculty at UGA in 2000. His students have distinguished themselves by winning international and national competitions and attaining positions with professional performing organizations. He enjoys an active performing schedule as an orchestral musician and soloist.
For more information on the Virtuoso Chamber Music Series, interested persons can contact Jones at wjones@abac.edu.

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