

# Play On at St. George's featuring the Musicians of the Nashville Symphony Sunday, December 13, 2020 • 3:00pm



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020, AT 3:00PM ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CONCERTO IN C FOR 2 TRUMPETS AND ORGAN, RV 537

Antonio Vivaldi

Allegro Largo Allegro

> Alec Blazek & Jeff Bailey, trumpet Gerry Senechal, organ

THREE HYMN TUNE SETTINGS FOR HORN AND ORGAN

Paul Basler

Abide with Me Amazing Grace Shall We Gather at the River

> Leslie Norton, horn Gerry Senechal, organ

SUITE FOR BRASS QUINTET

Michael Praetorius/arr. Cottle & Ramm

Gaillarde Courante Aria Passepied

BETHLEHEM CAROL MEDLEY arr. Eberhard Ramm

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING arr. Jeff Anderson

O COME, O COME EMMANUEL arr. Aaron Weitekamp

SING HOSANAS! arr. Bob Burroughs

SILENT NIGHT arr. Jeff Anderson

JOY TO THE WORLD arr. Aaron Weitekamp

Jeff Bailey & Alec Blazek, trumpet Leslie Norton, horn Prentiss Hobbs, trombone Neil Konouchi, tuba

A MIGHTY FORTRESS Václav Nelhýbel

Jeff Bailey & Alec Blazek, trumpet Leslie Norton, horn Prentiss Hobbs, trombone Neil Konouchi, tuba Gerry Senechal, organ

# **Biographies**

Jeff Bailey first performed with the Nashville Symphony in 1979. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in 1981. His teachers include William Adam, Patrick McGuffey, Lou Ranger and Karl Zimmerman. Jeff has been a featured soloist with the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, and he was a member of the Nashville Contemporary Brass Quintet for nine years. He frequently performs with the Nashville Jazz Orchestra and is an active studio and freelance musician. A few of his record credits include Amy Grant, Michael W. Smith, Peter Cetera, Matchbox 20, Shelby Lynne, Billy Bob Thornton, Garth Brooks and the Neville Brothers. Jeff is married to principal second violinist Carolyn Wann Bailey and has two children, Elizabeth and Preston. His hobbies include cycling and motorcycles, and he is an avid caprine enthusiast.

New Mexico native **Alec Blazek** joined the Nashville Symphony in the fall of 2016 as its newest 2<sup>nd</sup> trumpet player. He has performed regularly with the Terre Haute Symphony, Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, New Mexico Philharmonic, Opera Southwest, and as guest principal of the Santa Fe Symphony. He has also performed on national tours with the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players, the Blue Knights, and Carolina Crown Drum & Bugle Corps. Alec has been a member of the National Orchestral Institute, the Rafael Mendez Brass Institute, and Aspen Music Festival, and has had the opportunity to work with many great artists, including Ray Mase, Kevin Cobb, Mark Inouye, Tom Hooten, and Susan Slaughter. Prior to joining the orchestra, Alec was pursuing his Master's at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, and he holds both Music Education and Music Performance degrees from the University of New Mexico, where he also performed the Arutunian Concerto with the UNM Symphony Orchestra. His primary teachers have been John Marchiando, Michael Ellzey, and John Rommel. When not performing or practicing, he enjoys going on scenic bike rides, reading, playing chess, and exploring the local food scene.

Principal horn **Leslie Norton** joined the Nashville Symphony in 1990, under the baton of Kenneth Schermerhorn. She has enjoyed a diverse musical lifestyle as a college educator, chamber music artist, and recording studio musician.

Upon graduating from the Eastman School of Music, Norton joined the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra as principal horn at age 23. She taught at the University of Evansville and Western Kentucky University before moving to Nashville. Along the way, she has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Atlanta Symphony, the Evansville Philharmonic, and the Grant Park Orchestra. She served on the faculty of the Eastern Music Festival for 20 years, and in 1989, she joined the faculty of Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, becoming an associate professor in 2010.

Norton is a founding member of Alias Chamber Ensemble and performs regularly with the Blair Woodwind Quintet and Blair Brass Quintet. She has released two chamber music CDs, *This Road We're On*, a collection of commissioned works for her and husband percussionist Chris Norton, and *Horn Trios*, featuring works by Lowell Liebermann, Gerard Schwarz, and Paul Lansky performed with Vanderbilt colleagues violinist Carolyn Huebl and pianists Melissa Rose and Mark Wait. When not working, she enjoys traveling with her husband and two daughters, Emily, 27, and Elise, 22.

**Prentiss Hobbs** is the Principal Trombonist in the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra Augusta. He is also Second Trombonist in the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra. Hobbs has also held positions with the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Ohio Light Opera, the Tuscaloosa Symphony, and the Knoxville Symphony, as well as one-year positions in the Alabama Symphony and the Nashville Symphony. He is also a substitute musician with the Louisville Symphony and the Grant Park Summer Symphony in Chicago.

Hobbs is also in demand as a recording session artist and has played bass and tenor trombone on over a thousand recordings. Some of his highlights include recording with Garth Brooks, Faith Hill, Ben Folds, Wynona Judd, Alan Jackson, The Nashville Symphony, and many others. Hobbs has also played on many movie soundtracks, including the Last Witch Hunter and Hoodwinked, and video games such as Halo, Madden Football and Star Wars. He is listed on the AMG website with close to fifty credits to his name.

Hobbs' first teacher was his father, David Hobbs, who at the beginnings of his musical path started him down the road to success with his vast knowledge of music and his wonderful ability to teach. He later continued his studies with Larry Campbell at L.S.U. and Dan Drill at the University of Alabama. Both of these fine teachers helped him to become the musician he is today.

**Neil Konouchi** has been freelancing on tuba in Tennessee since arriving Nashville in 2002. Neil attended the University of Southern California where he studied with legendary studio tuba players Tommy Johnson and Jim Self. After a short time playing tuba and bass trombone at Walt Disney World, he was encouraged to finish his degree at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he was selected to perform and tour with jazz great Phil Wilson's big band.

Since moving to Nashville, Neil has had the opportunity play with the Nashville Symphony, the Chattanooga Symphony, and has been a touring member of Mr. Jack Daniel's Original Silver Cornet Band. He can be heard on many studio recordings, as well as the Nashville Symphony's 2007 live recording of Pictures at an Exhibition, conducted by Leonard Slatkin. He has played for artists including Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, Kim Carnes, Donald Lawrence, The Supremes, hit songwriter Greg Barnhill, and several others. Neil also performed with gospel group Trin-i-tee 5:7 on their Dove Award-winning single "Listen" in 2008.

Neil is a founding member of Nashville's own second-line funky brass band, Halfbrass. Halfbrass plays private parties/weddings/receptions and has performed at events for ASCAP, BMI, Berklee College of Music, Paragon Studios, and Country Radio Seminar. The band toured the Northeastern US in 2003 where they were the opening act for Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

In addition to performing, Neil is an active low brass teacher and is a staff member for award-winning bands at Walton High School (Marietta, GA) and Father Ryan High School (Nashville, TN).

**Gerry Senechal** began his musical career at the age of eight when he became organist of his father's Episcopal church. Upon graduation from the University of the South, Gerry completed a two-year music internship at West End United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, before beginning ministry at St. George's Episcopal Church, Nashville, where he now serves as Associate Director of Music Ministries.



The Musicians of the Nashville Symphony consists of the professional musicians who are normally full-time employees of the Nashville Symphony. The Nashville Symphony has furloughed all musicians of the orchestra, so the Musicians are independently run and do not represent the Nashville Symphony. Regardless, the Musicians continue to serve their community through musical performance, education, and outreach, especially now when it is most needed.

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