

# Canadian Brass blends music, humor, ballet dancing in A&M performance

By Karl Pallmeyer  
Music Reviewer

Some people might think a classical music performance stuffy and boring. The performance of the Canadian Brass Tuesday night in Rudder Auditorium was anything but stuffy and boring.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society brought the Canadian Brass to an audience of about 2,400 people. The ensemble's unique blend of music and comedy, which has entertained audiences around the world, received two standing ovations from the crowd.

It was obvious that the Canadian Brass was not going to give a conventional concert from the start when the five members of the ensemble, dressed in blue tuxedos with tails and white tennis shoes, marched down aisle toward the stage playing a New Orleans jazz-style version of "Just a Closer Walk with Thee."

The first piece on the program, a collection of three dance tunes by William Byrd titled "Music from the Fitzwilliam Virginal," was introduced by Daellenbach who explained that the final, odd note of each piece was to inform the dancers that the music was over and they should stop dancing.

Trombonist Eugene Watt introduced three movements of Antonio Vivaldi's "Four Seasons." Watt said they would not play all 12 movements because they just released the entire "Four Seasons" on album and didn't want to give it away.

The most outstanding performance of the evening was Johann Sebastian Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor. The piece, originally written for organ, was arranged for the ensemble by Mills. Mills and



Members of Canadian Brass perform Tuesday at Rudder Auditorium.

Photo by Doug LaRue

Romm played their parts so fast and clear that they received a healthy round of applause.

After a suite of songs in New Orleans jazz style and a short intermission, Daellenbach performed a 39 second rendition of "Flight of the Bumblebee" on the tuba. He probably wouldn't have made it through the piece without Romm helping work the valves of his horn.

The Canadian Brass' "Tribute to the Ballet" was the funniest part of

the performance. Daellenbach said that although they have been playing ballet music for years, they have never seen a ballet because they had been stuck in the orchestra pit and had to rely on what they have heard from a friend. Since ballet is dance as well as music, Daellenbach said they felt they should add some dancing. While playing music mostly from ballets by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, the ensemble would dance and leap, spin around and fall on the

floor in their attempts to be ballerinas. Watt's tutu was a nice touch.

The quintet left the stage after they played Romm's arrangement of Bach's Little Fugue in G Minor only to be called back for two encores. The first encore, a combination of "When the Saints Go Marching In" and the Hallelujah Chorus from George Frederic Handel's "Messiah," was a humorous, jazzy number, and they ended with "Have Yourself a Very Merry Christmas."

## All the classroom's a stage, storeroom for Houston schools

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Independent School District, faced with a shortage of classroom space in some areas, is holding some classes in storerooms, while one school has a class meeting on the cafeteria stage.

Ed Kline, assistant superintendent for elementary schools, attributes the situation in about 30 schools to the conversion of many adults-only apartment complexes to family apartments.

Joan Cullinane, principal at Elrod Elementary School in southwest Houston, said she prepared for a maximum of 800 students — but 974 showed up on the first day of school.

"Our enrollment has been moving steadily upward since 1983," Cullinane said. "We have used every available space."

Kline said the overcrowded conditions at some schools have caused district officials to ask the state to waive the maximum class-size requirement of 22 students

per teacher for 61 HISD classrooms.

Crowded conditions make putting classrooms in unusual places necessary, Kline said.

Cunningham Elementary, also located in southwest Houston, saw its enrollment grow from 500 students last year to more than 900 now, he said.

At Elrod, 15 pre-kindergarten students are meeting on the cafeteria stage. Two other classes at Elrod are meeting in storerooms and a small walkway leading to the cafeteria was enclosed to make room for music students to practice — two at a time.

Classroom space is only part of Elrod's problem.

Bathroom facilities are inadequate and cafeteria personnel begin serving lunch at 10 a.m. to accommodate 950 students.

Enrollment began to rise dramatically several years ago when a number of adults-only apartment complexes in the area began renting to families, she said.

## Galveston millionaire charged with fraud

HOUSTON (AP) — Federal grand jurors issued a 14-count indictment Tuesday against Galveston millionaire Shearn Moody Jr. and an assistant, charging them with mail and wire fraud in a scheme to bilk money from the Moody Foundation.

Moody and Norman Revie were named in all 14 counts, which include nine counts of mail fraud, four counts of wire fraud and one count of bankruptcy fraud. Each count carries up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The indictment stems from grants made to two foundations. It claims Moody, 53, used his position as a trustee of the Moody Foundation to get grants awarded to his friends and associates, who then kicked back money to Revie and Moody to pay legal fees and personal debts.

Moody's brother, Robert Moody, said "Shearn is innocent until proven guilty."

Moody reportedly is hospitalized in Rosenberg, Texas, assistant U.S. Attorney Steve Shaw said. Revie was not immediately available for comment.

An arrest warrant was issued for Revie, while a summons was issued for Moody to appear before a fed-

eral magistrate in Houston for arraignment.

The wire fraud counts allege that more than \$28,000 was transferred to Moody's bankruptcy lawyer in Houston and that \$1,500 was transferred to an unidentified place in Galveston.

The bankruptcy fraud count stems from the sale of a Galveston bowling alley. The indictment says Moody's share of the sale was \$201,000, and that he laundered the money through multiple bank transactions to hide it from creditors.

The indictment says the money is still hidden.

Moody and Revie were jailed in September on a civil contempt charge because they would not cooperate with a federal grand jury. A jury foreman said both men read a statement invoking their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and other constitutional guarantees.

The same grand jury issued Tuesday's indictments.

Moody and Revie were released after the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans granted them bond and then said the contempt order was too vague. A new contempt order is pending.

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