



Gate City Brass, a professional quintet based in Atlanta, Georgia, is committed to reaching diverse audiences through chamber music. The quintet performs in a variety of settings and venues, presenting engaging music in all styles including Renaissance, Classical, Pop, and Jazz. Regular engagements include concerts, services, and music for special events, including a series of Christmas Concerts presented in the months of November and December. The quintet's extensive library contains standard quintet repertoire, transcriptions, and original arrangements, including arrangements written by Gate City Brass members.

WAYNE BENNETT, TRUMPET

Atlanta-based trumpeter and music educator Wayne Bennett performs as a soloist, chamber musician, and freelance artist throughout the United States. An endorsing artist for Bach trumpets, Dr. Bennett serves as an Artist/Faculty Adjudicator for the National Trumpet Competition and is an active member of the International Trumpet Guild, where he writes for the Journal's reviews staff. He has served as professor of trumpet at Guilford College and Elon University, where he coordinated the trumpet studio, taught brass instrumental methods, aural skills, music theory, and was Director of the Elon Brass Quintet. Active as a clinician and educator, Bennett offers master classes, sectional coaching, and collaborative performances uniquely tailored for students and groups of varying abilities. Dr. Bennett earned the Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Georgia, where he studied with former Canadian Brass trumpeter Fred Mills. He was a four-time semi-finalist in the Masters Solo Division of the National Trumpet Competition as a graduate student and, as a teaching assistant and student of Dr. Edward Bach, completed the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in Trumpet Performance at the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.

JAMES BREWER, TUBA

James Brewer, originally from Charlotte, NC, attended Elon University in Elon, NC where he received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where he received his Master of Music Degree in Music Education. After graduating Magna Cum Laude from UNCG, Brewer served as the Director of Bands at Walter M. Williams High School in Burlington, NC for seven years. During this time, Brewer also taught private tuba lessons as an Adjunct Professor of Music at Elon University. As a professional tuba player, Brewer has performed with the National Wind Ensemble at Carnegie Hall, NYC, the Church Street Brass and Phoenix Brass in Burlington, NC, and the GC Brass Quintet in Greensboro, NC. Currently, Brewer serves as Director of Bands at Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in Augusta, GA. Brewer continues to be an active, performing musician including his current position as Tuba player with the Gate City Brass Quintet and sub Tuba player with Orchestra Noir of Atlanta, GA. Brewer currently resides in Augusta with his wife, Dána, who is a professional Opera Singer currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts Degree at the University of Georgia in Athens.

RAY BUCK, TROMBONE

Ray Buck studied trombone with Steve Tyndall, Cecil Wilder, and Denson Paul Pollard before attending the University of Georgia. At UGA, he studied trombone with Dr. Philip Jameson as well as Joshua Hauser. Ray has performed with the American Wind Symphony Orchestra and the Clock Tower Jazz of Rome, Georgia. Mr. Buck has taught middle school bands since 1999 and is currently the band director at Jasper County Middle School in Monticello, Georgia. Professional associations include Georgia Music Educators Association and Music Educator's National Conference. In the 2017-2018 school year, he was selected as Jasper County Middle School's Teacher of the Year. In 2006, Ray joined the Abundant Life Jackson worship team, playing trombone. He is currently playing for the Forsyth Abundant Life Campus where he also serves as a Board Member.

TAYLOR HELMS, HORN

Taylor Helms is an active freelancer and music educator in the Atlanta Metro Area. Originally from Griffin, Georgia, he began playing the horn at age 12 and piano at age 14. A passionate music teacher, he currently serves as Director of Operations for Ztunes Music School, where he maintains a studio of approximately 25 piano students and also teaches in Ztunes' Preschool Music Academy. Mr. Helms is Instructor of Horn at Perimeter College at Georgia State University, and maintains a private horn studio of students throughout Atlanta. He is a frequent clinician and sectional coach at area schools and is a Brass Coach for the Atlanta Junior Wind Ensemble. He currently plays with Tara Winds, and has performed with the Ludwig Symphony, the Marietta Pops, the Atlanta Philharmonic, the Dekalb Symphony, the Sewanee Symphony, and the Gwinnett Symphony. Mr. Helms received the Bachelor of Music Degree in Composition and Master of Music Degree in Horn Performance from Georgia State University, where he studied with Brice Andrus and Jay Hanselman. He currently lives in Atlanta and when he isn't practicing or teaching, he likes to spend his free time running, cooking, or relaxing with his adorable German Shepherd, Hazel.

CHRIS SAVAGE, TRUMPET

Chris Savage comes from a family of musicians and began his own music education by starting the piano at the age of 6. When he was 10 he started playing the trumpet in St. Louis. After moving to Georgia a few years later, he eventually found his way to the University of Georgia where he had the opportunity to study with Fred Mills of the Canadian Brass. Mr. Savage graduated with a Bachelor's of Music Education degree from UGA in 2001 and has been the director of bands at Jasper County High School for the last 17 years. In addition to playing trumpet in various local churches and community ensembles, he was also a member of the Covington-based Alcovy Brass in the mid 2000's. Mr. Savage also holds a Masters of Arts in Teaching and Learning degree from Nova Southeastern University. Professional affiliations include the International Trumpet Guild, Georgia Music Educator's Association, and the National Association for Music Education. He is married to another UGA graduate and music teacher, Kim, and has two daughters who are already aspiring pianists and dancers.

CONTACT:

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