



Copper Street Brass Mission

The mission of the Copper Street Brass (CSB) is to represent the *Evolution of the Brass Quintet*. Through inventive concerts, engaging educational programs, and original musical arrangements, we bring a fresh perspective to instrumental music. To express our artistic voice, we use a dazzling fusion of brass, keyboard, guitar, percussion, and electronic instruments to appeal to a universal audience and go beyond ordinary.

Group Biography - 2023-2024 Season

The Copper Street Brass is the premier brass chamber ensemble in Minnesota and one of only a handful of self-sustaining brass groups in the country. We were founded in 2008 as a professionally trained classical chamber music ensemble (which means we perform *without* a conductor) with two trumpets, horn, trombone and tuba. We present exclusively our own music, which is an original blend of musical styles from Mozart to Madonna, in dozens of concerts and outreach programs each season.

Our group sound has been described by reviewers as “flawless”, “polished”, and “somewhere between magnificent and exquisite.” Our artistic excellence was widely recognized in 2013 when we were chosen as a finalist for the prestigious McKnight Artist Fellowship. Each of our individual artists is a master of his or her craft. Our 5 core musicians, Allison Hall, Josh Cameron, Tim Bradley, Alex Wolff and Nick Adragna have a combined 9 professional music and education degrees and thousands of performances under our belts. Our artists have performed with world-renowned classical ensembles like the Minnesota Orchestra, SPCO, Minnesota Opera, and Malaysian Philharmonic and also have the versatility to perform with jazz/blues groups such as Davina and the Vagabonds and Nooky Jones. Our individual musicians have recorded for Prince, Grammy-winner Big Walter Smith, and many other groups.

In a typical season we present programming in two main categories: our **Twin Cities Season** and **regional concert & outreach touring**. Our **Twin Cities Season** consists of self-produced themed concert programs bundled together as a ticketed Concert Series and a Free Family Series, giving our musicians agency to create one-of-a-kind programs and draw in new audiences to chamber music every season.

“We feel that The CSB’s Twin Cities Concert Series is among the most important in the area because it attracts audiences that are diverse in every way, and is held in unique performance venues that are easily accessible. The modest ticket price makes it possible for people of all ages to enjoy this excellent concert series, whether young families or retired music lovers.” - **Mike McCarthy, CSB patron**

The CSB tours annually to every corner of Minnesota and throughout the country to perform concerts and present outreach activities, often in communities underserved by professional artists. Our tour programming reaches *more than 15,000 people annually* from kindergarteners through older adults, at one to three-day residencies in communities both large and small.



The CSB has led over 1,200 educational programs since 2008, far more than any other small ensemble in the Upper Midwest. Our excellence in educational programming makes us a valuable partner. We've been a COMPAS Teaching Artist, served three times as Artists in Residence for Minnesota Public Radio's Class Notes program and presented educational services in partnership with The Schubert Club and Minnesota Orchestra.

"Any day that my students and I get to share with the Copper Street Brass is a great day. They are wonderful teachers, outstanding musicians, and are all around great people. I am lucky to know and work with them."

- *Charlie Preis, partner teacher at Northeast Middle School in Minneapolis*

To serve older adults and those facing dementia, we developed our own creative aging music program, Soundtracks. Soundtracks is a person-centered creative aging program designed to enrich the lives of older adults living with dementia. The program explores how music runs through our entire lives - like the soundtrack in a movie. Each activity features interactive live music performances brought directly to residents. Our program's goal is to provide services that are rooted in high-quality musical performances, are socially engaging and draw upon the rich life experiences of participants, and enrich quality of life using the power of music to spark joy.

"Soundtracks brought our residents out of their shell - their spirits just came to life. When you see moments like that, everything is worth it. Copper Street Brass playing for our residents was absolutely the best performance we've ever had in our building."

- *T Hanson, Active Life Manager, The Waters Senior Living*

CSB has been heard by thousands of people outside of the Twin Cities area on national concert tours, local concert series performances, summer music festivals, performances with school bands, and collaborations with other local arts groups. We have captured our exclusive arrangements on five commercially available records.

When not on stage with the CSB, our members are in high demand as educators, appearing as Teaching Artists in hundreds of classrooms and panelists for arts entrepreneurship panels at colleges and Universities across the country. The CSB's musicians teach individual lessons from their own studios and have taught at St. Olaf College, MacPhail Center for Music, and numerous public and private schools around the Twin Cities.

Copper Street Brass is:

Allison Hall, trumpet and keyboard

Josh Cameron, trumpet

Tim Bradley, horn, keyboard and guitar

Alex Wolff, trombone

Nick Adragna, tuba