

Coastal Symphony of Georgia 2020-21 Concert Series

Michelle Merrill, Music Director

Variations on a Season

Sunday, December 6, 2020

3:00 p.m.

Gascoigne Park – St. Simons Island

Festive Christmas Brass

Jacoby Brass

Tristan Clarke – Trumpet

Aaron Brask - Horn

Michael Harper – Trumpet

Chris Graham - Trombone

James Jenkins - Tuba

What can be more festive than holiday favorites played by a brass quintet! Somehow the high, merry sounds of the trumpet, the mellow strains of the horn, combined with the rich, and often jaunty, sounds of the trombone and tuba combine to make a perfect blend for familiar holiday tunes. That is especially true when the quintet, attired in holiday dress, is made up of five extremely talented and entertaining gentlemen.

All five members are well-versed in the classical repertoire and have played in orchestras across the country. Tristan Clarke says he has all he could ask for by being able to share his music with others. Michael Harper grew up listening to his father's recordings of Herb Alpert, Al Hirt, Miles Davis and others and was immediately smitten by the trumpet. You will often see the two of them playing their trumpets in entertaining scenarios on Facebook.

Aaron Brask plays third horn with both symphonies as well, but what you might not know is that he is also an experienced nine ball player. From a musical family, Aaron says his favorite career moment was watching Pavarotti standing onstage singing along with incidental music while cooling off with a hair dryer – all during the concert.

Chris Graham's favorite moment was playing Mahler's 3rd Symphony with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Zubin Mehta conducting. Chris and his brother Patrick both play for the Jacksonville Symphony which is very special since it is highly unusual for siblings to find themselves playing in the same orchestra.

James Jenkins is the principal tuba with the Jacksonville Symphony and founder of Body and Soul, an organization that works with health care providers to bring the gift of music to patients. He enjoys connecting with live audiences, and says if he weren't a musician, he would do something to help bring people together.