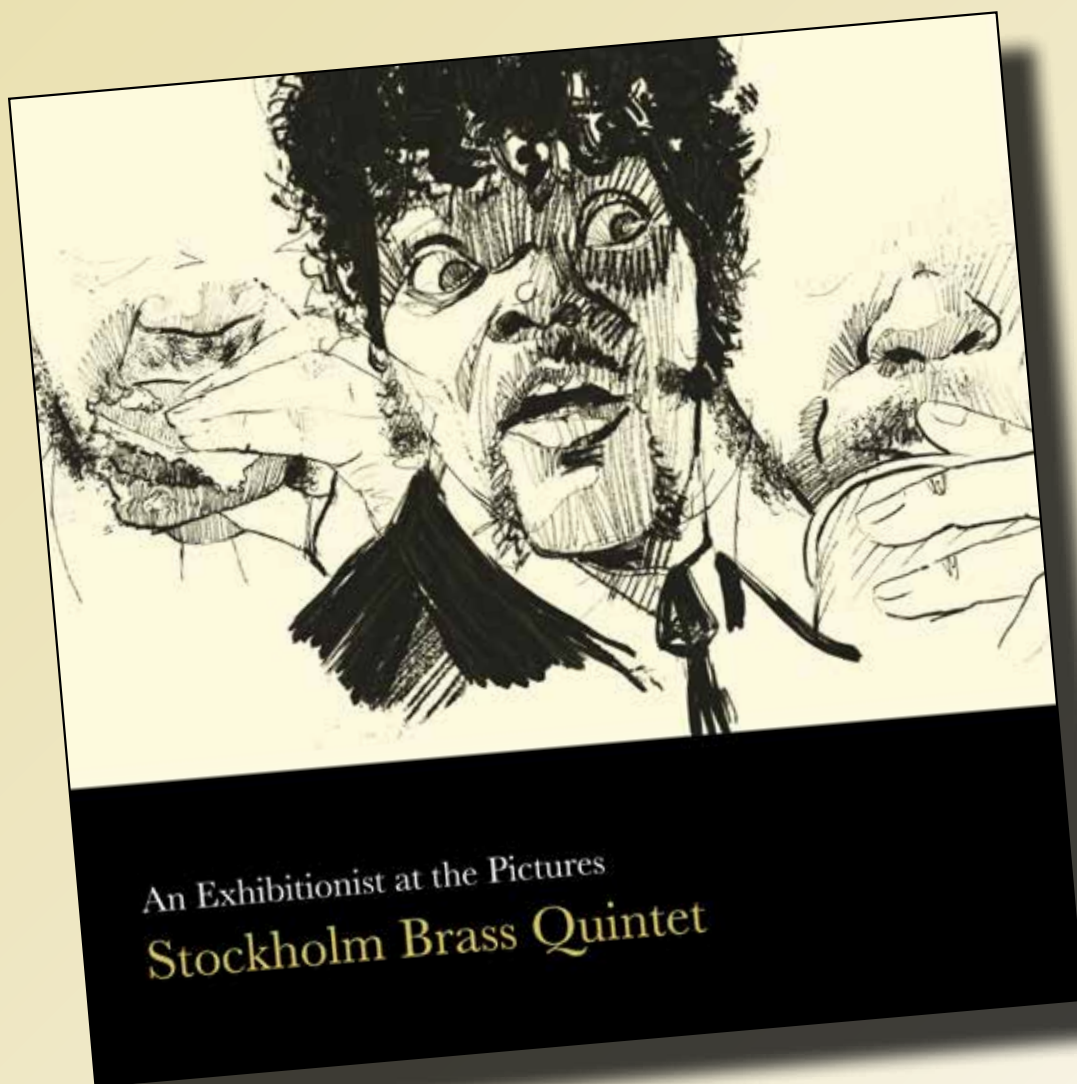


Stockholm Brass Quintet presents new music!



About the record

Our newest recording contains six incredibly well written pieces, composed by six outstanding composers. They all have a deep understanding of brass instruments and the instruments potential.

Within the last three years, four of the pieces were written for SBQ (Sandstrom, Borén, Björkman och Ek). The fifth piece was written in 2004 (Byström) and is therefore considered to be relatively new.

We also enjoy searching for older repertoire, that we find interesting. On this record, we have chosen a piece by the American composer George Walker (1922-2018), Music for Brass, sacred and profane, written in 1975. An original work by a composer we feel deserves greater recognition.

Every work on this album is its own universe. Enter each one of these universes and experience amazing musical structures, lyrical beauty, playfulness, seriousness, boldness and rhythmic virtuosity.

An Exhibitionist at the Pictures
Stockholm Brass Quintet

JAN SANDSTRÖM

A Winter in Mallorca

- I. Le Seu*
- II. Artista en acci3n*
- III. El Tram*
- IV. Todo al Padre*
- V. Mallorca 312*

BRITTA BYSTRÖM

La fugitive

HANS EK

Swedish Oak

- I. A fanfare of the old oak cask*
- II. Five drunken dinosaurs who do not get along*
- III. Nuances of dark chocolate*
- IV. Friends again*

GEORGE WALKER

**Music for Brass
Sacred and Profane**

- I. Invocation*
- II. Dance 1*
- III. Choral*
- IV. Dance 2*

SÉBASTIEN H BORÉN

Ballade

DAVID BJÖRKMAN

**Tarantino suite
An Exhibitionist at the Pictures**

- I. Promenade*
- II. Jules*
- III. Promenade 2*
- IV. Standartenführer Hans Landa*
- V. Promenade 3*
- VI. Mr. Blond*
- VII. Promenade 4*
- VIII. Rick Dalton*
- IX. The Bride*

About the works

JAN SANDSTRÖM

A Winter in Mallorca

The composition was commissioned by Stockholm Brass Quintet in 2020. A winter in Mallorca, refers to the diary (with the same title) written by George Sands when she accompanied Frederick Chopin to Mallorca in the 1830s. The piece describes different phenomena that take place during a winter in Mallorca.

I. Le Seu

Palma's Cathedral from the 20th century offers stunning architecture. Twice a year a light phenomenon occurs (El espectáculo del 8). If the sun is shining visitors may see a reflection of one rosette window which is reflected below the other and forms a colorful figure like an eight. This phenomenon occurs only on February 2 and November 11 at 8-9 in the morning.

II. Artista en acción

The artist Joan Miró's mother was from Mallorca, and he also married a woman from Majorca. He was therefore on holiday on the island several times, and felt very inspired by the light on the island. In 1956, at the age of 63, he moved to Mallorca, where he built the house Son Abrines. We follow the artist from his first brushstroke to a finished painting.

III. El Tram

From the town of Sóller, a tram goes to the coastal village of Puerto de Sóller. The music follows the tram through squares and winding streets down to the harbor.

IV. Todo al Padre

On the way out of the port of Puerto de Sóller, "Todo al Padre", "All to the Father" is written in red on the white wall of the last harbor house. A reminder that the boats take out on the stormy sea.

V. Mallorca 312

Mallorca is one of the most spectacular islands in the Mediterranean and a real cycling paradise. "Mallorca 312" is a recurring bicycle race that measures 312 km around the island.

Jan Sandström



BRITTA BYSTRÖM

La fugitive

La fugitive (the fugitive) for brass quintet was written for Stockholm Chamber Brass in 2003. The title was taken from the sixth book out of Marcel Proust's collection of novels In search of lost time. I thought the title suited the music's volatile character and how it sounds like it eventually sneaks away from the listener. There is a slow change of atmosphere in the piece: all the musicians start without a mute and as the piece goes on mutes are added. This gives the listener a feeling of the music gradually moving away, into the distance.

Britta Byström



HANS EK

Swedish Oak

A whiskey maker in the middle of Sweden has a type of whiskey that is called Swedish Oak (Svensk Ek). Its characteristics are: The taste is fruity and soft, with citrus, caramel and honey. A nuance of light oakiness can be felt towards the end. The aftertaste is pleasing and balanced, with tones of dark chocolate. The ancient oak cask and the pleasant aftertaste, together with the well documented intoxicating effect, is the inspiration for this piece.

Hans Ek

GEORGE WALKER

Music for Brass
Sacred and Profane

Music for Brass, Sacred and Profane was commissioned by the Hans Kindler Foundation and received its premiere in Washington, D.C. in 1975. The four sections of the work are, Invokation, Dance I, Chorale and Dance II. The fanfare-like quality at the beginning of the Invokation is succeeded by a fugal section in which two themes are eventually combined before the reiteration of the opening section of the piece. A pervasively rhythmic verve dominates the two Dances. In Dance II, popular elements emerge (fragments of the song, Once in A While) and are intertwined into the rhythmical fabric. The Chorale, a setting of Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, treats the introductory material as a ritornello.



SÉBASTIEN H BORÉN

Ballade

Ballade was written for Stockholm Brass Quintet, winter 2021. A ballad can be defined in numerous ways but in general the most common expression can be a story that has a dramatic development, in this case without a structure or words. The first motif, played by the trumpets is slightly frustrated in character. This motif alternates with a different, rather melancholic, theme in the french horn and tuba. The motifs wander around the ensemble and it ends in a lament. The music intensifies and culminates in a playful, naive game, that is summarized in a cadenza that has a somewhat contemplating style, where the melodies seamlessly overtake one another.

Sébastien H Borén



DAVID BJÖRKMAN

Tarantino suite
An Exhibitionist at the Pictures



My idea for Tarantino suite is based on my great interest in film and my fascination of some seemingly simple words written on a piece of paper, being able to inject so much energy and imagination into skillful actors, creating immortal characters. Tarantino suite is a homage to the brilliant film director Quentin Tarantino and his many unforgettable movies, characters and scripts. The form of the work is a kind of Pictures at an Exhibition, a nod to Modest Mussorgskys masterpiece, but here just a few chosen characters are in focus. In between the characters, a promenading theme that symbolises Tarantino, is being played. Tarantino - the exhibitionist himself continuously shows up throughout the piece.

The figures are portrayed by their inherent power and their basic emotional states; Jules, confident and unstoppable, Hans Landa, generous, demonically cruel and at the same time cheerful, Mr. Blonde, relaxed and vicious, Rick Dalton, sensitive and full of self pity and The Bride, desperate and unbelievably sad.

The work ends with the theme of the exhibitionist, followed by celebratory chords, symbolising a tribute to the empty stage, the unwritten piece of paper – Le Carte Blanche.

David Björkman



JOHN AXELSSON Trumpet

Since the mid-1990s John Axelsson has been one of the most sought after trumpet players in Sweden. He regularly performs with orchestras such as the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the orchestra of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, to name a few. Since January 2011 he has been principal trumpet with the swedish grammy award winning (2017) Västerås Sinfonietta as well as head of trumpet department at Mälardalen University in Västerås. Together with Mats Agnelid, he runs Open Music Production. Follow John on instagram (johnaxelssontrumpet)



FILIP DRAGLUND Trumpet

Filip studied with Håkan Hardenberger and Bo Nilsson in Malmö and is the co-principal trumpet of Norrköping Symphony Orchestra. A winner of several competitions as well as a keen performer of new music. He has premiered several pieces, for example, Trumpet Concerto "Surprise" by Benjamin Staern. He has performed as a soloist in Spain, Switzerland, Italy, France and Germany.



JOHAN AHLIN French Horn

Johan Ahlin studied with Elving Jansson at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. After four years as a member of Norrköping Symphony Orchestra Johan became one of Scandinavia's most established horn players. He has performed in almost every major musical in Stockholm such as Phantom of the opera, Cats, JCS, Les Miserables, Chess and Kristina från Duvemåla. He is also one of Sweden's most experienced studio players and orchestral musicians. Johan has featured as a soloist performing most of the major horn concertos in the repertoire and has premiered B Tommy Andersson's "Concerto for horn and orchestra". He is a composer and arranger as well as being one of the founders of the Stockholm Concert Orchestra. Since 1999 Johan has been principal horn with Swedish Grammy Award Winning (2017) Västerås Sinfonietta. Follow Johan on instagram (ahlins)



MATS AGNELID Trombone

Mats Agnelid studied with prof Sven Erik Eriksson at the Royal College of Music and in 1998 embarked on a very successful freelance career. Equally at home in classical music, jazz and musical theatre, Mats regularly performs with some of Sweden's foremost orchestras, including the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra. On the jazz scene he has performed with Magnus Lindgren Big band, Blue House Jazz Orchestra and Bohuslän Big Band, amongst others. He has appeared in a number of musicals and shows in several of Stockholm's private theatres and he also runs, together with John Axelsson, Open Music Production.



KARL-JOHAN ELF Tuba

Karl-Johan Elf joined the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra as principal tuba in 2010. He held the same position with the Danish Radio Symphony Orchestra between 2006 and 2010. Karl-Johan studied at The Royal Danish Academy of Music in Copenhagen and the Malmö academy of music with professor Jens Bjørn-Larsen. Karl-Johan has performed as a soloist several times with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, playing repertoire such as John Williams tuba concert and Torbjörn Ivan Lundqvists Landscape for tuba, string orchestra and piano.

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