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An International Symposium

Declamation Versus Lyricism: The Idioms of Brass

Presented by
The Historic Brass Society
Bad Säckingen Trumpet Museum
Schola Cantorum Basiliensis, Basel
Historical Museum, Basel

To be Held in Bad Säckingen and Basel
Tentative Dates: June 11-13, 2004

The concepts of declamation and lyricism have been central elements of the brass idiom throughout history. Trumpet calls described in the Bible and other ancient writings embrace both qualities. Tower music, royal trumpet corps, and the ancient tradition of hunting have long embodied the declamatory quality of brass music. With the advent of the modern age of the Renaissance, lyricism and the replication of vocal styles became a dominant influence. The tension between the two concepts has continued, exemplified in many different aspects of brass music: alta cappella repertoire, Italian and German instrumental music of the seventeenth century, Italian trumpet music of the eighteenth century, virtuoso trombone music of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Germanic regions, orchestral brass language, brass band repertoire, the rise of the cornet in the nineteenth century, jazz, and the continuing trend toward greater volume in our own time.

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The Journal, published annually, contains articles, reviews, notes and queries on all aspects of musical instruments. Back numbers and an Index (I-LV) are available.

The Newsletter is issued three times a year, publishing future activities, reporting on recent ones, placing notices from members attending conferences, etc., and containing requests for information.

Visits are organized to instrument collections, many not normally accessible, in the U.K., Europe and beyond. The curators of important collections in universities, museums and conservatoires worldwide often allow visiting groups of members the privilege of seeing workshops, stores and conservation departments in addition to the collections. From time to time members are invited to visit the homes of private collectors.

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