

Smoky Mountain BRASS QUINTET

P. Bradley Ulrich
TRUMPET

Travis Bennett
HORN

Daniel Cherry
TROMBONE

David Ginn
TRUMPET

Michael Schallock
TUBA

Greetings,

A performance and educational tour to China, expanded educational outreach programs, a restructured website, new recordings, and performances of newly commissioned compositions are but a few of the developing plans of the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet (SMBQ).

Since its inception in 1993, members of the Quintet have slowly but surely built a firm foundation of skill, diverse repertoire, and a loyal fan base. It is time to move into a more challenging and exciting future.

As the Quintet plans for the future, members will focus on:

- **Broadened International Travel with a goal to travel to China in 2010.** On April 20, 2009 Western Carolina University entered into an agreement with the Guangxi Normal University in Guilin, China to provide exchange programs for students and faculty. The SMBQ, in conjunction with WCU personnel, is planning an extensive visit to Guilin where members will perform, hold mini-clinics, and work in the schools.
- **An expanded emphasis on music from the Southern Appalachians.** In the past few years, the Quintet has commissioned pieces that reflect themes from the Cherokee Nation, Southern Hymn tunes, and familiar Appalachian themes. Members wish to broaden our repertoire of music that reflects the area in which we live by commissioning arrangements of authentic mountain music for the brass quintet that would include gospel, blue grass, and early African American music.
- **Capitalizing on school concerts and programs under the banner of “Instrument Petting Zoo.”** A future goal is to expand the Quintet’s presence in elementary schools. Newspaper articles and short video streams of past school programs can be found at www.smbq.org. Current cuts to music and arts programs make it vital to expand these and other educational programs into more schools.
- **Continuing community outreach opportunities.** Among our many performances for non-profit organizations the SMBQ quintet has helped to raise money for the new public library, for the local arts council, and for the local band program. On a beautiful afternoon in 2007, the Quintet hosted “Sunday in the Park” and raised \$14,500 for National Alzheimer’s Day.
- **Recording the best of the Quintet’s repertoire.** During the fall of 2009, the Quintet will engage in regular recording sessions with a CD as the final goal. This CD will be made available at future performances as well as on the website.
- **Expanding performance opportunities to new audiences.** The Quintet will work to expand performance opportunities to audiences by developing a more extensive publicity program using many

streams of information sharing, by relying on friends to spread the word, and by taking advantage of new technologies.

It is clearly evident that this is an ambitious vision for the future and the Smoky Mountain Quintet needs the help of old and new friends. International Tours, educational tours, concerts in different locals all require travel money. Commissioning new works for the Quintet requires a fund that will support that effort. Please consider supporting the Quintet by

- **Visiting our newly designed website** at www.smbq.org and sign up for our quarterly newsletter. The newsletter and regular visits to the website will keep you up to date about concerts and other activities.
- **Attending our concerts** at Coulter auditorium on the campus of Western Carolina University performed each fall and spring.
- **Identifying possible venues for future concerts.** Contact any member of the Quintet with ideas you may have for improvement, innovative opportunities, and music you would particularly like to hear.
- **And, of course, contributions!**

Finally, we wish to send you our heartfelt thanks for your continued support through the years and hope that you will help us “kick it up a notch.”