

## Spanish Brass

Trumpets, French horn, trombone, tuba

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024 | 7:30 P.M.  
CASPARY AUDITORIUM

**For more information about the concert series, please contact:**  
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## Program

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Sheep May Safely Graze, from *Cantata BWV 208* (arr. Carlos Benetó)

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

Carmen Miniature (arr. Thierry Caens)

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Le Coucou (arr. Thierry Caens)

Charles Chaplin (1889-1977)

Chaplin Suite (arr. Thierry Caens)

Gerónimo Giménez (1854-1923)

La Boda de Luis Alonso (arr. Francisco Zacarés)

INTERMISSION

(15 minutes)

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

Asturias (arr. Maxi Santos)

Manuel de Falla (1876-1946)

Nana (arr. Carlos Benetó)

Farruca (El Sombrero de Tres Picos) (arr. Pascual Llorens)

Émile Carrara (1915-1973)

Mon Amant de Saint Jean (arr. Thierry Thibault)

Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992)

Oblivion (arr. Thierry Caens)

Libertango (arr. Thierry Caens)

Lee Morgan (1938-1972)

The Sidewinder (arr. Jesús Santandreu)

Trad./Adam Rapa (b.1980)

The Bulería pa Spanish Brass

Program and personnel subject to change.

As a courtesy to the artists, please remain seated until they have left the hall.

Spanish Brass appears by arrangement with Lisa Sapinkopf Artists

## Featuring

### Spanish Brass

Carlos Benetó, Trumpet

Juanjo Serna, Trumpet

Manuel Pérez, French Horn

Inda Bonet, Trombone

Sergio Finca, Tuba

Founded in 1989 by five Spanish musicians as an innovative project that quickly gained world renown for performances, educational activities, and creative collaborations, **Spanish Brass** is one of the most dynamic and sought-after brass groups on the international musical stage. The group won the First Prize in the 1996 Narbonne (France) International Brass Quintet Competition, the most prestigious event of its kind in the world. In 2017, they earned the I Bankia Music Talent Award in Spain for the most influential musical artists. In 2019, they received the Espai Ter de Música Award, and the group most recently won the Spanish National Music Award in 2020.

Spanish Brass has participated in some of the most prestigious venues and festivals in the world. They performed at the gala for the Prince of Asturias Awards in 1995 and have recorded music for the play *La Fundación* by Buero Vallejo, at the Centro Dramático Nacional, as well as the score for the film *Descongélate* by Félix Sabroso, produced by El Deseo.

Alongside their activities as performers, Spanish Brass has been at the forefront of international music education. The band teaches courses and master-classes with the Spanish National Youth Orchestra, the Youth Orchestras of Catalonia, Valencia, Andalucía, and Madrid, the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Trumpet Lounge (Japan), the Showa School for Performing Arts (Japan), Lieksa Brass Week (Finland), the Eastman School of Music, University of Georgia, Venezuelan Youth Orchestra, Dartington International Summer School (England), International Winter Music Festival of Brasilia (Brazil), and Ibero-American Cultural Festival (Puerto Rico). They currently teach at the Berklee College of Music campus in Valencia and at the Universidad Europea in Madrid.

International in scope, Spanish Brass also organizes two festivals devoted to brass instruments: the Festival Spanish Brass Alzira and the Brassaround, where some of the most prestigious international brass soloists, groups, and teachers gather every year.

Spanish Brass is supported by:



## Program Notes

### Johann Sebastian Bach

One of the towering geniuses in the history of the arts, Bach produced a phenomenal amount of great music throughout his life. Wagner called him “nothing less than the most stupendous miracle in all music.” Bach can evoke the full range of emotions, and crystallize them in structural forms as intricate as their spiritual content is profound. The aria *Sheep May Safely Graze*, originally written for soprano, two flutes, and continuo, is the best known section of the cantata *Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd* (The lively hunt is all my heart’s desire). It is sung by the character Pales, a goddess of crops, pastures, and livestock. Spanish Brass member Carlos Benetó, who made this arrangement for the group, says he was inspired by pianist Khatia Buniatishvili’s performance of an arrangement by Egon Petri. Like *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*, *Sheep May Safely Graze* is frequently played at weddings. However, the cantata of which it forms a part was originally written for a birthday celebration, that of Christian, Duke of Saxe-Weissenfels. Bach is known to have used the music again for other celebrations, but it remained unpublished until after his death.

### Georges Bizet

The plot of the opera *Carmen* tells of a beautiful Gypsy girl, Carmen, who seduces the soldier Don José, stealing him away from his fiancée Micaëla. Don José is besotted by the beguiling Gypsy and, pledging his love, deserts the army to be with her. Carmen’s love is more fickle, and she soon tires of him, transferring her attentions to the famed bullfighter Escamillo. On the day of the bullfight, Don José begs Carmen to come back to him. When she refuses, he stabs her in the heart, and while the crowds cheer the Escamillo’s victory in the ring, Carmen dies. The plot’s perceived immorality and exploration of sexual desire met with fierce disapproval from critics and audiences alike at its premiere in Paris. This may seem hard to believe given the affection with which Bizet’s opera is now regarded. Despite encouragement and praise from both Saint-Saëns and Massenet, Bizet lamented his “definite and hopeless flop” and quickly fell ill. Tragically, he was never to see the eventual triumph of his opera; three months after its disastrous premiere, he died of a heart attack. Tchaikovsky rightly predicted *Carmen*’s meteoric rise, writing, “I am convinced that in ten years time, *Carmen* will be the most popular opera in the world.” *Carmen Miniature* is a wonderful arrangement by Thierry Caens, in which he takes us on a tour through the opera’s main themes.

### Louis-Claude Daquin

Louis-Claude Daquin was a French composer of Jewish ancestry who wrote in the Baroque and Galant styles. A child prodigy, he performed for the court of Louis XIV at the age of six, and conducted his own choral music at the age of eight. A dazzling performer, his great expertise at the harpsichord and organ drew large crowds to hear him. *Le Coucou* (The Cuckoo) is among his most famous works.

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### Charles Chaplin

In this medley, the French trumpet player and arranger Thierry Caens used the following music from films by Charlie Chaplin: “Titine” and “Smile” from *Modern Times*, “The Flower Girl” from *City Lights*, “Deux petits chaussons” (Two little slippers) from *Limelight*, and “Ballet of the Bread Rolls” from *The Gold Rush*.

### Gerónimo Giménez

Gerónimo Giménez was a child prodigy violinist who went on to become a leading composer and conductor. He took a special interest in the zarzuela, a form of Spanish opera, and as such his music is noticeably influenced by Spanish folk songs and dances. Giménez wrote *La Boda de Luis Alonso* (Luis Alonso’s Wedding) as a sequel to his previous zarzuela, *El baile de Luis Alonso*. Both are about the celebrated Spanish dancer and teacher, Luis Alonso. They are among Gimenez’s most famous compositions (and among Spain’s most popular zarzuelas).

### Isaac Albéniz

Born in Camprodon, Catalunya, Albéniz was a child prodigy who first performed at the age of four. At age seven, he passed the entrance examination for piano at the Paris Conservatoire, but was refused admission because he took out a ball from his pocket and broke a glass window while playing with it. At twelve, he stowed away on a ship to South America and began a life of touring and performing in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and eventually the United States, where he appeared in a vaudeville act playing piano behind his back. He finally settled in Paris, where he became close friends with the major impressionist composers. *Asturias* is the 5th movement of Suite Española. It is most famous these days as a classical guitar piece, even though it was originally composed for piano.

### Manuel de Falla

Manuel de Falla was the most distinguished Spanish composer of the early 20th century. His music achieved a fusion of poetry, asceticism, and ardor that represents the spirit of Spain at its purest. *Nana* is a lullaby from the *Siete Canciones Populares Españolas* (“Seven Spanish Folksongs”), a set of traditional Spanish songs originally composed in 1914 for soprano and piano. It is de Falla’s most-arranged composition, and one of his most popular. *Farruca*, or The Miller’s Dance, is from *The Three-Cornered Hat*, originally written for a ballet. The story breathes the warm atmosphere of Andalusia, and tells of a miller and his beautiful young wife, their flirtations and intrigues, and the trickery that ensues when the couple is visited one day by the magistrate (whose three-cornered hat symbolizes his authority). The magistrate quickly develops an eye for the beautiful young wife. He orders the miller arrested to clear his own path to the wife, but his flirtation ends in humiliation when he falls into a stream. The magistrate lays out his clothes to dry, and the returning miller discovers them and puts them on, then sets out in pursuit of the magistrate’s wife. It all ends happily: the police rush in

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and accidentally arrest their own magistrate, the miller and his wife swear their mutual devotion, and the ballet concludes as the happy townspeople toss an effigy of the magistrate in a blanket.

### Émile Carrara

The son of Italian immigrants to France, Émile Carrara was the music director of the Moulin Rouge, and toured worldwide as an accordionist. He composed the chanson *Mon Amant de St. Jean* in 1936. It was performed by many singers, including Edith Piaf, but it was Patrick Bruel's 2002 recording that made it Carrara's greatest hit.

### Astor Piazzolla

Astor Piazzolla was without question Argentina's greatest cultural export, both as a composer and as an unprecedented virtuoso on his chosen instrument, the bandoneon—a large button accordion that is a common folk instrument in Latin American countries. Most notably, he single-handedly took the tango, an earthy, sensual, often disreputable folk music that he enjoyed as a child, and elevated it into a sophisticated form of high art. *Oblivion*, from a score Piazzolla composed for a film version of Pirandello's play *Enrico IV*, is a haunting piece that exudes isolation and impassioned eloquence in a most gripping way. *Libertango*, composed in 1974, is one of Piazzolla's greatest hits. The previous year, Piazzolla moved to Italy, and his European agent pressured him to compose "airplay-friendly" pieces. The title is a portmanteau of the words "libertad" ("freedom," in Spanish) and "tango," and represents his break from classical tango.

### Lee Morgan

The Philadelphia-born trumpeter and superb bop stylist Lee Morgan apprenticed with Dizzy Gillespie and Art Blakey before emerging as a leader in his own right in the early '60s for Blue Note Records. Although Morgan owed a stylistic debt to both Gillespie and Clifford Brown, he quickly developed a voice of his own that combined half-valve effects, Latin inflections, and full, fluid melodies. *The Sidewinder*, Lee Morgan's 24-bar blues with an infectious bass line and backbeat, instantly became one of the most popular pieces in modern jazz history.

### Adam Rapa

Adam Rapa is an American trumpet-player who has shared the stage with several Grammy-winners and performed in more than 2,000 shows across North America, Japan, and the UK. The Bulería is one of the most complex flamenco dance styles, bustling and cheerful, characterised by a fast rhythm and a redoubled beat. Rapa says he does not know the exact origins of this bulería, or where he first heard it, but he wanted to create this version for his great friends, Spanish Brass.

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The concert series was founded in 1958 by Professor Theodore Shedlovsky and renamed in 1996 in memory of Peggy Rockefeller, wife of longtime chair David Rockefeller. The Rockefeller University gratefully acknowledges the following contributors who make it possible for us to offer affordable tickets for every performance, as well as subsidized tickets for students and postdoctoral fellows:

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## The Rockefeller University

The Rockefeller University is one of the world's foremost institutions dedicated to research and graduate education in the biomedical sciences, chemistry, and physics. Founded by John D. Rockefeller, Sr., in 1901 as The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, it was the first institution in the United States devoted exclusively to biomedical research. In the 1950s, the institute expanded its mission to include graduate education. It was renamed The Rockefeller University in 1965.

The university's laboratory-based structure encourages collaborations between disciplines and empowers faculty members to take on high-risk, high-reward projects. No formal departments exist, bureaucracy is kept to a minimum, and scientists are given resources, support, and unparalleled freedom to follow the science wherever it leads.

### The Rockefeller University Community

- 70 heads of laboratory
- 200 research scientists
- 210 postdoctoral investigators
- 255 Ph.D. and M.D.-Ph.D. students
- 1,431 alumni
- 1,325 support staff

### Acclaimed Scientists

In the course of Rockefeller's history, 26 of its scientists have been awarded the Nobel Prize; 25 have received a Lasker Award; and 20 have garnered the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor.

### At Present, the Faculty at Rockefeller Includes

- 5 Nobel laureates
- 6 recipients of Lasker Awards
- 33 members of the National Academy of Sciences
- 4 recipients of MacArthur Fellowships
- 3 recipients of the National Medal of Science

### Some Clinical Concerns under Study

- Aging
- Alzheimer's disease
- Antibiotic resistance
- Autism
- Cancer
- COVID-19
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy
- Heart disease and stroke
- Hepatitis
- HIV/AIDS
- Multiple sclerosis
- Obesity, nutrition, and weight loss
- Parkinson's disease
- Skin diseases
- Vaccine development
- Vision and hearing disorders

### The Rockefeller University Hospital

Established in 1910, The Rockefeller University Hospital was the first hospital in the nation dedicated exclusively to patient-oriented investigations. Patients at the hospital are participants in clinical studies that build on basic research findings from Rockefeller laboratories. This allows the university to maintain an unbroken spectrum of research, from basic to clinical.

### Groundbreaking Accomplishments

Among the pioneering discoveries at Rockefeller are many seminal advances that have transformed science and reduced human suffering. Scientists at Rockefeller:

- Discovered that DNA is the basic material of heredity
- Developed vaccines against meningitis and pneumococcal pneumonia
- Determined that cancer can be caused by a virus
- Discovered blood groups and ways to preserve whole blood
- Isolated and first successfully tested natural antibiotics
- Developed methadone maintenance therapy for people addicted to heroin
- Developed the AIDS "cocktail" drug therapy
- Showed that an adult brain of a higher species can form new nerve cells
- Discovered an obesity gene and the weight-regulating hormone leptin
- Discovered the dendritic cell, a key regulator of the immune system
- Discovered the molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm
- Developed assays that paved the way for drugs that cure hepatitis C

### An Exceptional Place to Learn

Rockefeller's Ph.D. program offers training in the biomedical and physical sciences. With neighboring Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Cornell Medicine, the university also offers one of the nation's top M.D.-Ph.D. programs. In addition, Rockefeller provides intensive postgraduate training. At any one time, more than 200 postdoctoral investigators conduct research in university laboratories. Rockefeller's acclaimed Clinical Scholars Program, a three-year master's degree program, provides a unique opportunity for recent M.D. or M.D.-Ph.D. recipients to begin careers in patient-oriented research. Working with senior faculty members, clinical scholars develop and implement translational research studies at The Rockefeller University Hospital.

### Infrastructure that Fosters Collaboration and Interaction

Rockefeller invented the modern bioscience institute, and has spent the past 122 years perfecting it. The university's beautifully landscaped 16-acre campus includes nine research buildings containing roughly 500,000 square feet of laboratory space, where investigators employ the latest technology to answer the most challenging questions in their fields. The Stavros Niarchos Foundation–David Rockefeller River Campus, which opened in 2019 and features the Marie-Josée and Henry R. Kravis Research Building, provides a number of new amenities, including additional cutting-edge laboratory space, a river view dining commons, academic and conference centers, and magnificent rooftop gardens.

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