

C Performing Arts Participation:
Brass Quintet Course Content Document:

The Brass Quintet is a performing arts ensemble that consists of two trumpets, one French horn, one trombone and one tuba. [The literature for any Brass ensemble is somewhat limited due to the relatively recent addition of valves to the trumpet, horn and tuba. Most of the literature is adaptation of woodwind, or string works arranged for brass in the twentieth century.] The selection of works for the brass quintet to rehearse each week is done by the instructor after consulting with the group for preferences or suggestions. The selections span the full breadth of the capabilities of the members and generally the range of performance levels performed by any brass quintet.

The major sources of music to be played by the quintet are the Canadian Brass quintet arrangements, or traditional brass music from the classical literature found for free on the internet. Composers such as Hummel, Gabrielli, Bach, and others wrote music that has been successfully arranged for brass quintet. Each member of the ensemble may elect to contribute pieces to the quintet's literature.

The membership of the quintet is made up of the best brass players at OLLI Wilmington and are selected by the instructor through auditions or from working with the individuals in other ensembles at OLLI. It is expected that the membership is composed of advanced musicians.

The intention of this course is to provide an opportunity for the advanced brass players to enjoy playing in an ensemble of peers. The opportunity to work on tone, tuning, timing, technique, to produce a well-balanced blend of sound is necessary to advance each member's musicality and enjoyment of music.

As the course progresses, the members will learn from each other about musical terminology, history, in an ever expanding repertoire of the world's best music.